

# Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

AUGUST 2012



## Sam Gary Library Opens Aug. 11

Elizabeth King and her son, Brendan, 5, enjoy a book together in the new Sam Gary library, which features kid-sized furniture and space for kids to move around and interact. They are seated near the

King Family Children's Exploration Area and the Stapleton Pediatrics Children's Reading Area, which are two of the many spaces named for major donors to the library. Naming opportunities for other spaces are still available.

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

The eagerly awaited Sam Gary Branch Library celebrates its Grand Opening Celebration from 9am–5pm on Saturday, August 11. (See sidebar for schedule of activities). Perhaps no one is more excited

than Kit Cusker, senior librarian, and Kristi Harder, librarian, who have been anxiously awaiting the opening of the new library.

Harder and Cusker, who are part of a 19-person staff, think there will be a few things that may surprise people. “The building looks a lot smaller outside than it is on the inside,” says Harder.

“And, it’s full of nice, new, yummy good stuff!” Cusker feels people will be surprised by the amount of technology at this branch and the mid-century modern feel to the architecture and furniture.

The structure was “built green” and is aiming for Gold LEED certification with VOC paint, recycled carpeting, and fixtures that encourage and diffuse natural light. Clear panels in various spots on the floor reveal the inner workings of the heat and water system below; something interesting to see but also required for LEED certification.

Harder says this library’s design is one of the most open she’s ever seen, noting that bookshelves at varying heights contribute to that feeling. Bookshelf height also hints at the intended age range of books to (continued on page 26)

## How Denver Became a Good Place for Pre-Schoolers

By Carol Roberts

“I was raised on public assistance for a very funny reason, so it was very, very important to me to make sure that people had the opportunity to go to work if they wanted to,” says Ann Jo Haynes. “My father was really old when I was born. He had an incredible background. Both he and his brother are listed in the Western History section of the public library because they were pioneers. He ran an employment office, but then things in the economy were horrible and he could not find any work because he was old. My mother had to divorce him and go on welfare for us to be able to survive. He always lived nearby and stayed in my life, but he couldn’t live with us.

“Having grown up like that I’ve realized how important it was for people to be able to be self-sufficient if they could be.” So 47



Anna Jo Haynes, who helped found Mile High Montessori, is pictured with preschoolers at Mile High Montessori in Lowry.

childhood care and education.

In 1965, Anna Jo Haynes was caring for her five children and working in her northeast Denver home as a childcare provider when she got a call from Bea Romer, founder of Montview Preschool (and 21 years later, first lady of Colorado), asking her to help start up a Head Start program in Denver. Haynes couldn’t say no.

After five years as a volunteer helping to get the Head Start program going, Haynes realized there was (continued on page 8)

years ago, when Haynes saw an opportunity to help create preschool and childcare options for low income families, she jumped in and has been a worker and advocate for the cause ever since—and her efforts have changed the lives of countless children. United Way even created an award named for her: the Anna Jo Haynes Caring About Kids Award to annually recognize those who exemplify the highest level of commitment to early

## East 23rd Avenue Will Trade Cars for Bikers and Walkers

By Nancy Burkhart

Viva Streets Event to Be Held August 12

Society today is dependent on cars, a situation that has taken a toll on overall health, with obesity an issue for both adults and children.

Two nonprofit organizations with similar goals to offer ways to achieve good health have united to demonstrate how people can live well in urban settings. LiveWell Colorado, which works to reduce obesity, and BikeDenver, which promotes bicycling, are co-sponsors of Viva Streets, an event that will close East 23rd Ave. from Colorado Blvd. to Syracuse Street on Sunday, August 12, from 10am to 4pm. (continued on page 3)

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Photo from the 2011 Beer Festival on the Green in Stapleton.



## CALENDAR

Events listed below are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC or support nonprofits.  
(Additional events are listed on pages 15-19. Recurring events are listed on page 17.)

### AUGUST

#### Every Monday–Thursday

Family Fun Night 6–8pm, at the pools. Mon. at Jet Stream\* Tue. at Puddle Jumper\* Wed. at F15\* Thu. at Aviator\* pools@stapletoncommunity.com

#### Every Monday & Wednesday

Yoga on The Green 9:30am & 6pm.  
The Green\* www.loveyogacolorado.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 Sunday thru Oct 14

Farmer's Market 8:30am–12:30pm  
The Green\* www.coloradofreshmarkets.com

#### Friday, August 3

First Friday Flight (French Wine Tasting) 7–9pm  
F15 Pool\* events@stapletoncommunity.com

#### Saturday, August 4

Concert on The Green "Control Tower" & "Dotsero" 5–8pm. The Green\*  
events@stapletoncommunity.com

#### Saturday, August 4

25th Birthday Carnival at Young Americans Bank, 11am–2pm. 3550 E. 1st Avenue, Denver  
www.yacenter.org (see page 15)

#### Saturday, Aug 4 & Sept 1

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

#### Saturday, Aug 4 & Sept 1

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

#### Sunday, August 5

City Park Jazz at Bandstand/Pavilion, 6–8pm  
Info about bands at CityParkJazz.org  
Chris Daniels and the Kings

#### Tuesday, August 7

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

#### Thursday, August 9

Active Minds Seminar "Princess Diana: 15 years later" Potluck starts at 6pm and Seminar starts at 7pm. Stapleton MCA Community Room\*  
events@stapletoncommunity.com

#### Thursday, August 9

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

#### Thursday, August 9 & 23

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

### AUGUST

#### Friday, August 10

Movie on The Green "The Help" Starts at dark  
The Green\* events@stapletoncommunity.com

#### Saturday, August 11

Stapleton Sam Gary Library Opens  
Grand opening celebration, all-day entertainment and activities (see page 1)  
2961 Roslyn St. Mon & Fri 10am–6pm; Wed 12–8pm; Sat 9am–5pm. Closed Tues, Thurs, Sun

#### Sunday, August 12

Stapleton Kids Triathlon 8am–12pm. Jet Stream\* & Central Park. events@stapletoncommunity.com

#### Sun, Aug 12 & Mon, Aug 20

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

#### Wednesday, August 15

Free Swimming Stroke Clinic Aviator Pool\*  
denverstingrays@gmail.com (see page 15)

#### Saturday, August 18

Beer Fest & Concert "Tommy & the Tangerines" "Chris Daniels & the Kings", 4–8pm  
The Green\* events@stapletoncommunity.com

#### Wednesday, August 22

Free Swimming Stroke Clinic Jet Stream Pool\*  
denverstingrays@gmail.com (see page 15)

#### Friday, August 24

Movie on The Green "The Lorax" Starts at dark  
The Green\* events@stapletoncommunity.com

#### Saturday, August 25

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

#### Sunday, August 26

Active Minds Music Seminar & Brunch  
"Tchaikovsky" 10am–12pm F15 Pool\*  
events@stapletoncommunity.com

#### Sunday, August 26

Family Fun Day in celebration of Sand Creek Regional Greenway's 10 year anniversary  
SCRG Smith Road Trailhead (Smith Rd 1/2 mile west of Havanna/Smith Rd intersection)  
1–5pm. www.sandcreekgreenway.org (see page 19)

#### Tuesday, August 28

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

\*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.



#### Stapleton Summer Strolls

The Summer Strolls will continue every Friday from 5:30–8:30pm. Stroll down 29th Avenue Parkway and get to know other people in the community!

#### First Friday Flights

Awaken your wine senses and dive into this educational opportunity. The third wine tasting will be held at F-15 on Friday, August 3 and will showcase wines from France. Tastings are divided into sections around the pool—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 for Stapleton residents and \$20 for nonresidents. All patrons must be at least 21 years of age and present a valid ID to enter.

#### Concerts & Movies

The outdoor concert series continues through August on The Green. Performances by local favorites Control Tower and Dotsero are scheduled for Saturday, August 4. Tommy & The Tangerines and Chris Daniels & The Kings will perform during the Stapleton Beer Festival on Saturday, August 18. Local food trucks will be stopping by and concerts will begin at 5pm.

*The Help* is scheduled for August 10. *The Lorax* will be featured on August 24. Games 2U will be joining us during movie nights with two inflatable hamster balls! A concessions stand will be available and will benefit local nonprofit organizations. Popcorn, candy, sodas and water will be offered at the stand. Movies will begin at dark.

#### Yoga on The Green

Love Yoga Colorado will now be offering yoga classes twice a day on Mondays and Wednesdays at 9:30am and 6pm! Experience a mind/body connection through movement and breathe in the beautiful natural wonder of outdoor Denver. Appropriate for all levels. Bring a yoga mat, beach towel and water. A yoga block and strap may enhance your practice. For more information about these classes, visit loveyogacolorado.com.

#### Active Minds Seminar & Potluck

##### Princess Diana: 15 Years Later

It will be 15 years this August since the death of Princess Diana. Join Active Minds as we review her life and legacy. We will cover her rise to royalty, including her troubled marriage to Prince Charles. We will look at the two issues she championed: AIDS and landmines. We will conclude with a look at her tragic death and the lasting impact she has had on the world.

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 Tuesday, August 9 in the MCA Community Room. Active Minds seminars are free and open to the public!

Tchaikovsky's *Triumph*! It's hard to avoid the glorious music of Tchaikovsky. Each holiday season, *The Nutcracker* seems to be everywhere. We feel our hearts race whenever we hear his *1812 Overture* and we're moved by each hearing of the eternally romantic *Swan Lake*. Learn about Tchaikovsky's remarkable and tragic life as you listen to familiar and unfamiliar works by this musical giant.

The last music seminar begins on Sunday, August 26 at the F-15 Pool. 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.

#### Kids Triathlon

The Kids Triathlon is scheduled for Sunday, August 12 at the Jet Stream Pool. Space is limited for this event. Participants will be divided into two age groups (ages 6–8 and 9–13). Registration is \$40 per participant and athletes will receive a T-shirt, timing chip, finishers' medal and swag bag. We need adult volunteers for this event! Please email dmead@stapletoncommunity.com if you would like to volunteer. 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

This event brings the community together to celebrate! Come and sample Colorado's finest beer and some fabulous food (provided by local food trucks). The Stapleton Beer Festival is on Saturday, August 18 from 4pm–8pm on The Green. Enjoy live music at The Green and find a new favorite beer at one of the 15 selected breweries. Tickets are only \$35 and entries include a commemorative tasting glass, food truck coupons and tastings at the booths! 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

#### EDITORS and PUBLISHERS:

Carol Roberts and Steve Larson  
303-526-1969

FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com

PHOTOGRAPHY: Steve Larson

AD SALES: Karissa McGlynn 303-333-0257

KarissaMcGlynn@gmail.com

## Front Porch

www.FrontPorchStapleton.com

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Riders head down E. 23rd Ave. at the 2011 Viva Streets event.

## Viva Streets

(continued from page 1) Viva Streets is a ciclovía. The word is Spanish for a bicycle path in Colombia, and today describes a ritual during which people reclaim the city streets. With the street closed to motorized vehicles, event attendees will be able to bike or walk on the street to enjoy food, health classes, bike safety activities and many other events. Last year's event was attended by about 7,500 people.

"The purpose is to showcase the role of our city streets as being a key part of a healthy city," said Tracy Boyle, vice president of marketing and communications for LiveWell Colorado. "It's a combination of encouraging people to use their streets, get out and be more active," she said. "Also it's partnering with the city to encourage more pedestrian and bike-friendly use for the streets in the future."

The second annual Viva Streets event starts with a bike parade at East 23rd Ave. and Kearney Street.

"We encourage everyone from the very young to the very old to decorate their bikes," Boyle said. "It's a fun, friendly community atmosphere. We have dancing, yoga, food, an activity tent to learn healthy cooking, and a giant health mobile learning lab where families can learn about how to be healthy. There also will be bike safety activity areas."

Other events will include a Cigna Go You! Wellness Zone, a Delta Dental Healthy Smiles Photo Booth, yoga, Zumba, B-cycles, a face painter, water station, garden demos, kids bike rodeo and activity zone, classic bike display, Nuggets Fun Zone, jump rope demos, health screenings, food trucks and bike mechanics. All these events will be in the middle of East 23rd Ave. and at Fred Thomas Park at East 23rd Ave.

and Quebec Street.

LiveWell Colorado's mission is "to create an atmosphere that nurtures education and policy, social and environmental change" by paying "special attention to underprivileged communities and working toward making healthy lifestyles a reality despite physical and mental barriers."

Volunteers are needed to help with the jobs listed below. To sign up, go to [www.vivastreet.org](http://www.vivastreet.org).

Roving Marshals who ride their own bikes, answer questions and ensure safety of bikers on the street.

Course Marshals who patrol intersections to give directions.

Activity Zone Volunteers will work either the morning or afternoon shift to help guide people to events.

Hospitality Volunteers will check in volunteers, give them supplies and lunch.



# STEP OUT AND GET YOUR SUMMER ON!

## 36th Annual Horsefeathers Classic Car Show

August 4th • 10am–3pm • Northfield's Main Street

- Mustangs, T-Birds, Falcons and more
- Main Street DJ
- Silent Auction
- Northfield Stapleton giveaways

## Get prepped for school with Northfield Stapleton

August 11th • 10:30am–1:30pm • Northfield's Main Street

Join us on Northfield's Main Street Plaza for a day of back-to-school fun, fashion and giveaways!

- "Believe in the Bieber Fever" with 
- Check out fall's hottest looks for every age
- Teen Vogue giveaways
- Text to win back-to-school shopping gift cards





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Andy Ganick stands in the patio at The Berkshire in the E. 29th Ave. Town Center.

## Berkshire Featured on Two TV Shows

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Go ahead, ask the folks at The Berkshire Restaurant ([www.theberkshirerestaurant.com](http://www.theberkshirerestaurant.com)) for their autographs. They won't mind. Owner and operator Andy Ganick and his staff were chosen to be on two new Travel Channel shows. "All You Can Meat" premieres mid-August, and "Bacon Paradise," part of the popular Food Paradise series, makes its debut in the fall. Filming took place earlier in the summer and it was an experience that taught Ganick how tough it is to be a star.

"We hear actors and actresses complain about the rigors of filming and you think 'Oh, cry me a river,' but it was pretty rigorous," he recalls. When it was over, he was surprised by how exhausted he was. "It was more

of a collapsing than a sitting down."

For both shows, the crew worked from around 11am to 10pm. "They would film hands going to mouths, plates of food, preparing and re-preparing things, microphone checks and interviews," explains Ganick. Filming was especially tough because the nearly five-year-old restaurant was open for business during filming. They had to stop sending food out from the kitchen for short periods, but diners didn't seem to mind, especially since some were filmed and interviewed.

Ganick was first approached by the shows several months ago. It was purely coincidental and rare that two shows from the same network were interested in the same restaurant. Meat was the theme for both, so when Travel Channel staff started searching for restaurants to feature, their search for "Denver restaurants," "meat" and

*The Berkshire restaurant will be featured on the Travel Channel. The "All You Can Meat" episode will air Sept. 9 and "The Food Paradise" episode is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 24.*

(continued on page 6)



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People Who  
Make a Difference

# The Oil Man and Philanthropist

The unassuming manner and quiet voice of Sam Gary belie his success in the rough and tumble world of the oil business. Gary formed the Piton Foundation to share his unexpected good fortune with the community. Among the many causes he has supported was ensuring that Stapleton would be a planned community and would not become urban sprawl.

Interview by Steve Larson, edited by Carol Roberts (Editor's notes are in italics)

Q: You grew up in New York City and were in the Merchant Marine. How did your background shape the person you became?  
Sam Gary: I've tried to answer that question and came to the conclusion I would call the story "I've never done anything on purpose" because it seems like so many of the things I've done and places I've been were not based on some predetermined sense of, "This is what I ought to do," and there was probably a lot of what I shouldn't have done.

Toward the end of World War II, I found myself in Yugoslavia and Italy and other places and saw the population that was left in a defeated country in terrible disrepair...children and families that had nothing. I really hadn't been exposed to a lot of that. So I couldn't celebrate (*the US winning the war*) all the time. It was hard to believe, when you live in a world where everyone is doing OK, and see the devastation when things happen that people don't have control of. I didn't start praying or doing anything, it just had an impact on me.

Q: What did you study? Petroleum engineering?  
SG: I had a friend from a very early age and he was at Syracuse and he was my favorite fishing partner. They didn't have anything where you majored in fishing but that was, in part, what



Sam Gary holds a copy of the Stapleton Development Plan (the Green Book) at the new Sam Gary library.

brought me there. I wasn't a very serious student. My major was liberal arts or something. I was not really engaged particularly, but I got through very quickly.

Q: What drew you to Denver and the oil business?  
SG: About a year before my time was up (in the Coast Guard), I met my wife and fell in love. She was very young and didn't know better, so we ended up, much to her parents' dismay, getting married. I loved to fish and hunt and ski, so we decided to take a look at the bigger world and we drove out to Denver. In the middle of the night we drove down Col-fax and stayed in the Fitzsimons Motor Court.

I was interested in looking for oil. It's kind of like hunting and it seemed like that was something I could do. But I didn't have very many qualifications. Marvin Davis was also from New York and I got a very menial job over there doing some field work in the land department. I was a scout, actually, and you'd go out and get information. There were hundreds of rigs going in this area, so if someone were successful and you knew about it, there was land you could buy and things you could do. And there were other parts: buying leases, settling damages and dealing with the authorities—so that's what I did for awhile.

Q: Then you started your own oil exploration company? I heard you had 10 dry holes.  
SG: There were 22. Drilling dry holes is not a sin in the oil business and it allowed me to become more involved in different parts of the oil business. I had the feeling there was a very strong need to have a more imposing resume than the one I had. So I de-

cided the thing I really wanted was to go into the best building in town. I had the smallest office there and it didn't have any windows. It was originally designed as a closet.

In the yellow pages there were millions of independents, but there was a special category there—oil producers. I started putting these deals together and I was pretty fair at it and was getting wells drilled. But I had the same problem—dry holes. I was having pangs of conscience about my name, oil producer, but then I found a small well and decided to keep my business name, Samuel Gary, oil producer.

Leases were much more expensive in Wyoming because there was much more oil in Wyoming and there was hardly any in Montana. Then the industry turned down and I went up to Montana and started drilling just north of the state line. I knew that oil didn't stop at the state line (although I damn near proved it did) and started drilling these wells. I had been back there and had sworn it off three or four times. But I ended up drilling one more time because a small well I had drilled three miles south of the border was productive. So all my pledges went out the window and I went up and put together another deal. That was one of the wells that discovered Bell Creek, which at that time was the 67th largest in the country and we owned most of it, in large part because I couldn't sell any more.

Q: How did that change your life?  
SG: I became very engaged in getting it drilled

up. We retained the operations up there. I'd be damned if I'd turn my operation over to a major oil company. It was a pristine area and I had a strong commitment to not leave it a mess. We had to bring a lot of people in to operate this thing, 400 wells over a wide area and no other resource until a town 45 miles down a dirt road—and not much at the town. I ended up building a little town there. Instead of the typical trailers, I built a school and a store and it had some community activities. (Editors note: Sam Gary worked with an architect to create a land use plan to create a company town with modern buildings for the people there...his first work in community development.)

It was easy because it was a very small community and it was exciting there. One of the interesting things was that, unlike a lot of oil towns where there's a lot of conflict with the ranchers, this thing worked beautifully. There was a strong sense of community there. I felt a part of it—Bell Creek Town (*built in 1967*). That field has produced almost 200 million barrels of oil. It's depleted but with new technology they're going back in so it's not through yet. But if you were to go there today, you'd never know there was an oil field there. It's beautiful.

Q: What led to the Piton Foundation?  
SG: We had enough money to get by, but suddenly this plethora of wealth descended on me. It became very clear to me that it was more money than I needed or could use. I thought I should give some of this back somehow. The lawyer said I should start a foundation. So I did—Piton Foundation. They don't use pitons anymore—they put holes in the rocks. But I decided I wasn't going to change the name. Pitons help people move up. I thought symbolically that works.

I really was not particularly anxious to take on anything else because I had a lot of stuff. But I think there may be some connection going back to the Coast Guard and seeing that. So I started giving money away and ended up with a fairly large staff of people—and I really kind of got hooked (continued on page 19)

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## Berkshire on TV

(continued from page 4) “bacon” led them to The Berkshire. Ganick was interviewed by phone and was test-filmed to gauge his stage presence. He then received word that The Berkshire had been chosen.

As interesting as Ganick and The Berkshire may be, the food was the star of both shows. The producers wanted to feature the Hangover Helper, a plate of bacon with a Pabst from the weekend brunch menu, but Ganick insisted there wasn't much to show in terms of creation with that one. Instead, he suggested items that showcased bacon but were also more involved and aesthetically pleasing, such as the Heritage Breed Bacon Flight, bacon four ways (garlic, cinnamon-chipotle, curried and balsamic) served with accompaniments; The King sandwich with peanut butter, caramelized bananas and crispy bacon; and the Bloody Mary with bacon vodka and a bacon straw. “Nine times out of 10, they went with my recommendation,” Ganick says. “I watch a lot of food shows so I had an idea of what to expect and what they needed.”

Throughout both experiences, Ganick didn't feel he had to perform. “Everything I said was honest and from the

heart and is about concepts I've created here with the help of staff,” he explained. The menu comes “from what I thought of years and years ago when I'd scribble down ideas on the back of a gas receipt while on road trips with my buddy. A lot of it is ingrained in me so I didn't feel like I had to act.”

One of the things that intrigued the producers most about Ganick was that he's “a nice Jewish boy who grew up to own a pork restaurant,” Ganick says, laughing. If he views it from a psychological standpoint, Ganick figures he was drawn to open a pork-centric restaurant because the meat was forbidden fruit growing up. “Plus, there just aren't many people out there who don't love bacon, sausage and pork chops. What's not to like? It's such tasty food!”

Ganick and his staff are honored to be on national TV and to be on the level of some of the more prestigious restaurants in the county. Ganick is also excited that both shows shot video of the neighborhood, which will give Stapleton attention and recognition. “I'm glad they'll be showcasing this great neighborhood that's a model for up-and-coming communities.”

Like *Front Porch Newspaper* on Facebook to get reminders when the Berkshire programs will be on TV.

## Local Author Just Wants Us All to Relax

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

“I'm so stressed out!” How many times have you heard someone say that? Or maybe that was you talking to yourself in the mirror this morning. Being under a lot of stress seems to be the natural condition for most of us these days.

“Our levels of stress are much higher than they've ever been, mainly because the pace of life has increased and we have less downtime,” says Sandra Thébaud, PhD, Stapleton resident, author of the new book, *The Art of Loving Life*, and founder of Paramount Transitions, a stress management resource company. “What little downtime we do have gets filled with guilt over not using the time to be ‘productive.’” Thébaud says people don't realize that taking time to recharge and recover from stress *is* productive.

Thébaud has made it her business to help people manage stress. Through Paramount Transitions (<http://paramounttransitions.com/>), she works with companies to provide stress management training to their employees that she says has a “return on investment in terms of increased productivity and morale and decreased conflict.”

When she first started working in the field, as a Navy psychologist, Thébaud found that there were misunderstandings and myths people unconsciously believed that kept them from reducing their stress to the lowest level possible. She decided to focus her workshops on helping people discover their beliefs about stress while learning effective stress management.

When Thébaud wrote *The Art of Loving Life*, her challenge was how to make it as powerful in book format as it was in her workshops. She feels she accomplished that through her conversational writing style. “I didn't want the book to be an academic style of presenting information but instead, wanted readers to feel like I'm talking directly to them and understand what they're going through.”

What people are going through, Thébaud says, is stress caused by a wide variety of factors. In the workplace, she says issues with co-workers are the biggest stressor, followed by deadlines and trying to balance home and work, especially for women and single parents, saying “It's a delicate balance that's never fully met.” The stressors in one's personal life tend to be more varied and unique to the individual. “It can range from illness to neighbors to in-laws to finances.”

We're most familiar with the negative effects of stress. They can be physical such as fatigue, back pain or migraine headaches. Or mental, emotional or behavioral including pessimism, low self-esteem or increased eating.

Despite the litany of negative effects, there are some positive aspects to stress. “Too little stress causes boredom,” points out

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Sandra Thébaud in her "home office," a nook in the living room of her Stapleton townhome

Thébaud. "An optimal amount of stress leads to increased motivation, greater focus, clearer thinking and decision-making, higher states of alertness and a greater likelihood of reaching your goals."

In the book, Thébaud lays out terminology and then doable solutions. She explains that there are "stressors" and there is "stress" and that the first step to controlling stress is to identify your stressors. A stressor is an event such as heavy traffic, discrimination, aging or deadlines. Stress is the response of the body to any demand, she explains. The connection between the stressor and our experience of stress is the reason why what one person finds stressful, another does not. We all process events differently so the way one person processes the event of being laid off determines their level of stress. The way another person processes an argument determines their level of stress.

The differences in reaction to stress are also divided between the genders. She says men and women are equally stressed but express it differently and cope with it differently. She adds that women are more likely to express their stress and seek out social support while men repress or ignore their stress and channel their energies into trying harder to succeed at work, which, Thébaud points out, contributes to why women outlive men.

Once Thébaud helps her readers understand the mechanics of stressors and stress, she proceeds to provide doable methods to

manage stress including breathing, visualization, being aware of your body's reactions and even showing gratitude. "I believe that understanding stress management is a foundation for getting through life and enjoying it as much as possible. This book is aimed at anyone who believes that life is supposed to be better than what it's like now, but just needs the skills to make it happen."

*The Art of Loving Life* is available on Amazon.com in paperback and on Kindle.

*Courtney Drake-McDonough is a Denver-based freelance writer and editor and is practicing her deep breathing right now.*



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About The Denver Preschool Program

The Denver Preschool Program (DPP) offers tuition credits that help nearly 6,000 Denver families each year send their children to the preschool of their choice. The program is open to all Denver families with a child in their last year of preschool before kindergarten, with the amount of monthly support each family receives depending on level of attendance (part-day, full-day, or extended-day), family size and income, and the quality of the preschool chosen.

The quality ratings and descriptions of more than 250 participating preschools—public and private—can be found on the Denver Preschool Program’s website: [www.dpp.org/preschools](http://www.dpp.org/preschools). Tuition credit estimates can also be calculated there.

Research confirms that students who attend high-quality preschool are more likely to do better in school and work. According to a recent independent evaluation, the vast majority of children leave the Denver Preschool Program ready for kindergarten—socially, emotionally and academically.

The Denver Preschool Program independently rates participating preschools for quality so Denver families can choose the best option for their children. Last year 91% of

participating four-year-olds were enrolled in top quality preschool classrooms. The program also promotes quality by offering coaching and quality improvement grants to participating preschools.

Since January 2007, the city has collected approximately \$10.5 million per year in sales tax revenue for the program. For more information on the Denver Preschool Program, visit [www.DenverPreschoolProgram.org](http://www.DenverPreschoolProgram.org). (Information provided by Denver Preschool Program.)

- Participating preschools in NE Denver include:
- Anchor Center for Blind Children • Knowledge Beginnings • Montessori Children’s House of Denver - Stapleton • Primrose School of Stapleton • Bill Roberts Elementary (DPS) • Swigert-McAuliffe International School (DPS) • Westerly Creek Elementary (DPS) • Ashley Lowry (DPS) • Mile High Montessori - Lowry Early Learning Center • Montessori Children’s Village • Montclair School of Academics & Enrichment (DPS)
  - Montview Community Preschool and Kindergarten • Blessed Sacrament (Archdiocese of Denver) • Montessori Children’s Village • Park Hill (Denver Public Schools) • Park Hill United Methodist Church Children’s • Montessori Children’s House Park Hill • Paddington Station • Temple Emanuel Early Childhood Center • Steck (DPS) • Smith (DPS) • Hallett Fundamental Acad. (DPS)

Preschool

(continued from p.1) another big need. “The need was to help the families who wanted to get off of public assistance and go to work. For me, that was sort of like a Head Start for families. I wanted to be a part of that. I wanted to say, ‘Yes you can go to work and yes, you can learn those skills and you don’t always have to be on public assistance.’ We have a lot of people who were Head Start kids and now their kids are in Head Start. It’s very hard to get out of poverty. But at least people are working and their kids see them working. To me that was really important.” To address this need, she helped found Metro Denver Childcare (now Mile High Montessori).

“So that was my pull to Mile High Montessori. The other pull was that there was an extraordinary outcry of people who wanted to help the Head Start parents, and so there were people from the business community, the faith community, activists of all kinds came together to put Mile High together. The things that have happened in early childhood in this city are just amazing over the years. Really spectacular.”

The original plan was for Mile High to be a resource and referral agency, but, in 1970, there was no place to refer low-income families for childcare. The only childcare was in settlement houses that were funded by United Way and by the goodness of private individuals. Settlement houses had come into existence in neighborhoods all around the country in the early 1900s to help new immigrants learn English, find jobs, get immunizations, and provide a multitude of services, including childcare.

Mile High obtained federal funding to provide childcare to low-income families using church facilities around the city—but in a couple of years that funding ran out. By merging with the settlement houses to reduce overall administrative costs, Mile High was able to continue their program with United Way funding.

The city then found a way to build childcare facilities. “HUD (Housing and Urban Development) money became available in 1973, and the city of Denver was the only city in the nation that took the HUD dollars and built facilities for childcare. They just renovated them with the bond about four years ago,” says Haynes.

Haynes helped train childcare workers through Mile High in a program that offered community college credit. “We had 200 family child-

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Anna Jo Haynes and preschoolers at Mile High Montessori in Lowry have fun imitating a gorilla.

care homes as satellites to our childcare centers. We had 10 childcare centers and each of those had a cadre of childcare homes, because at that time the license didn't allow putting infants in childcare centers," explained Haynes. Some of these were Head Start parents who wanted to do in-home childcare. Mile High even had a family childcare home in each quadrant of the city for sick children whose parents would lose their job because they had no sick leave, with the caretakers trained by the Red Cross.

When the money dried up for the childcare training program, Haynes says they came up with the idea of training through videos. "I remember going to Sam Gary at Piton and asking them if they would fund a video that could be used for training." Piton agreed, and the videos were used not just in the U.S, but were made in other languages and used around the world. Mile High ended up making about \$100,000 a year on the sale of the videos. "Sam was the first funder of this," says Haynes, adding, "Of course, he was the first funder of a bunch of other things."

Haynes says Mile High, along with many others (including the Piton Foundation), worked with the city to get the Denver Preschool Program approved by the voters. Twice the ballot initiative was unsuccessful, succeeding the third time in 2007. That initiative (see article at left) is for a 10-year period, when it will need to be voted on again.

Haynes stepped down from her position as president and CEO at Mile High Montessori two years ago. Now at age 78, after 47 years working in the childcare field, she says, "Even though I've stepped down I haven't retired, I re-wired. I still

work for Mile High Montessori as President Emeritus, I work for United Way on school readiness, and I work for the Women's Foundation on inclusivity and diversity." If she's moving as fast as she talks, she may not have much time for reflection, but when she does pause we hope she can savor the satisfaction of having made countless lives better.

*Haynes' daughter Happy Haynes was Denver's first African American woman elected to City Council and is now on the Denver School Board and the Stapleton Development Corporation. Daughter Khadija co-founded The Urban Farm, was executive director from 1994–2005, and is now co-chair of Stapleton's Citizens Advisory Board. Both were also active in the early planning of Stapleton.*

### Mile High United Way

was one of the earliest supporters of Mile High Montessori. They are the oldest United Way in the country, celebrating their 125th anniversary this year.

The organization identifies school readiness as a primary focus so children can enter kindergarten ready to learn and be able to read at grade level or beyond by third grade.

Other main areas of focus are: having students graduate high school ready for college or training so they can enter the workforce; and having opportunities for all individuals and families to move toward economic self-sufficiency.

Mile High United Way provides direct funding to 112 nonprofits in the Denver metropolitan area. For more information visit [www.UnitedWayDenver.org](http://www.UnitedWayDenver.org).

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by Jon Meredith

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## Can We At Least Have a Conversation?

The screaming headlines, photos of families in excruciating anguish, crosses being erected, silent prayer vigils, politicians offer-

ing redundant sympathies and wall-to-wall television and media coverage. Most people who were not directly impacted just went on about their business, their own lives. We know this is out there and can ruin our lives at anytime or anywhere, but we have become desensitized to it. The ongoing and long-lasting horror that was Columbine,

just 13 years ago, has now become commonplace. To insulate ourselves, we put down the newspaper and turn off the TV and radio. We don't talk about it around the water cooler and it is the last topic for dinner conversation. It didn't get us this time so we can keep on keeping on acting as if somehow this is a real-life video game that we can turn off.

If a conversation does start, it is immediately rebutted by hackneyed statements like "it wasn't the gun that killed those people, it was the gunman," or "if tomatoes killed those people, would we outlaw tomatoes?" Tomatoes don't kill people and guns are made specifically to kill. Guns with automatic triggers and large capacity magazines are killing machines meant for war and law enforcement. Why does the average citizen need access to that kind of weaponry?

If the madman in Aurora could buy only single-shot handguns or rifles, how many people in that theater would still be alive or unwounded? If he had to stop shooting and reload, someone would have had the time to be a hero and confront him. That may not help the first five or six shot, but it sure would help the last six and the 58 who were wounded. The argument that is overused by gun advocates is that everyone should be carrying a gun. Pundits asked over the weekend after the shootings why nobody in the theater returned fire? Thankfully, despite several

military members being in the audience, no one did return fire. A gunfight, in a smoky, dark theater, would no doubt have ended in a disaster much worse than what did happen.

We have submitted as a nation and a society that these kind of murderous rampages are part of our life and our culture. A congresswoman is critically injured and several of her constituents die when a troubled gunman fires shots outside a Tucson shopping center. The president arrives, speaks eloquently and then returns to Washington where the conversation about trying to stop this, someday or somehow, completely stops. Any type of conversation about gun control or regulation is a nonstarter in Congress. Politicians steer clear of it because the gun lobby is all powerful.

The Fast and Furious investigation revealed that the Mexican drug cartels purchased huge numbers of weapons in Arizona. A recent *Fortune* magazine article about this investigation revealed that a 20-year-old recently bought \$20,000 worth of automatic weapons at a local Phoenix gun shop. The young man works at Subway and isn't old enough to buy a beer, yet he can legally purchase automatic weapons and ammo to his heart's content.

The murderer in Aurora who killed 12 and injured 58 bought all of his weaponry legally. (continued on page 12)



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# Stapleton Has A “New” King Soopers

By Carol Roberts

The Stapleton King Soopers renovation project is over and shoppers are seeing a wide range of improvements from a more aesthetically pleasing environment to a wider range of products—particularly natural and organic products.

“I’ve always shopped there, but I’ve had to supplement by going to other places like Sunflower Market and Sprouts. I was so excited about the Boar’s Head deli counter. They have a wonderful selection of Boar’s Head products that are all natural and have no nitrates in them. The new King Soopers selection is far greater even than Sunflower Market,” says Krista Meikle, who has lived in Stapleton with her husband and two kids for over six years. “I think they did a great job with the organic produce section, there’s a lot more to choose from. They also did a great job with the prepared meat—and the sushi counter is a wonderful addition.” Meikle says the sushi was delicious and the sushi chef even “whipped up” a custom order for her while she was shopping. She hopes the store will listen to the community and be open to getting additional products that are requested. “It would be nice if there were a way that they can gather comments and feedback on different products.” She adds, “I was so pleasantly surprised when I walked in there a couple weeks ago. I think they did well.”

“Our strategy is to create stores that aren’t one-size-fits-all, because every neighborhood and every community is different and our goal is to build stores that are relevant to each community and neighborhood that we serve,” says Kelly McGannon, spokesperson for King Soopers. Asked if King Soopers has any plans to build another store on the east side of Stapleton since the Quebec store is so crowded, McGannon said there are no immediate plans to build another store in Stapleton at this time, but “their real estate group continues to evaluate the markets in every area on a consistent basis and that would be no exception to this location.”

What was it that caused King Soopers to do this remodel? “It wasn’t any one specific thing,” says McGannon. “It’s a competitive market. We have to make sure that our customers have stores that are visually appealing



Geoffrey Martin, head cheese steward, Shon Agnew, store manager and Greg Krosky, produce manager, pose for a picture in the newly renovated King Soopers store in Stapleton.

as well as easy to shop and that offer the products they’re looking for and a little bit more on top of that. The store has gotten a facelift. It’s like a remodel on a home. The floors are different. The cases we have the products in are updated and

have a different style. There’s a new Starbucks in the store, a cheese destination, sushi, a continued focus on expanding our natural and organic products, and the convenience of a Little Clinic.” The store also has “an optimum wellness center which is a vitamin shop, a store-within-a-store concept. It will be a separate area that allows us to expand on more varieties of those types of items.”

Changes have also been made in the checkout process to improve the overall customer experience. “I think customers have begun to notice that they’re spending a lot less time in line,” says McGannon. “Recognizing that time is one of the things customers are short on, we’re trying to be respectful of that and get them through our checkout lanes faster.”

A grand opening celebration was held on July 25 to celebrate the completion of the renovation.

## Connecting Buyers and Sellers

I love connecting buyers and sellers in all kinds of markets. As owner of the Sweet William Market and a Broker Associate at Perry & Co., it's been very rewarding to help people discover why it's so great to live in Stapleton. Give me a shout if I can help you, too!

— Kim Kouba  
Owner of the Sweet William Market  
and a Broker Associate with Perry & Co.

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Premium Fishwrap

(continued from page 10) As a society we go to great lengths to protect and keep safe our fellow man. We are obsessed with the safety of our children. Yet, the only talk about mitigating these types of mass murders is to arm everyone. Do citizens who choose not to arm themselves have a say in this conversation? Not at this time.

As much as we try to isolate ourselves from what happened on July 20 in Aurora, we really can't. It is the second time it has happened here and this was much too close to home. The accused murderer lived a few miles from us and was a part of the community at the medical center campus, where many *Front Porch* readers work. Media reports say the weapons were purchased locally. Those who died, were injured or were in the theaters are people many of us know.

Is it not time for at least a discussion on why an average citizen can go into a gun shop and buy automatic weapons and magazines that hold a hundred rounds?

Artist Teachers Share Their Passion



By Nancy Burkhart

Art students learn best from teachers who are artists themselves and who bring their passion and intuition to the classroom, according to Lowry resident Jennifer Meyerrose-Devlin and Stapleton resident Heather Delzell.

Meyerrose-Devlin has been teaching art at Regis Jesuit High School-Girls Division for the past 10 years. She is an abstract expressionist painter. Delzell joined her at the

Pizza with the Principal every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 6:00pm. Please call if interested. All parties welcome!

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**Roses are red,  
Bacon is too.  
Rhyming is hard,  
... I like bacon!**





**Left:** Jennifer Meyerrose, left, and Heather Delzell display their paintings on the front porch of Delzell's Stapleton home. Meyerrose-Devlin lives in Lowry. The two are best friends and teach art at Regis Jesuit High School, girls division.

**Below:** *Carpenter's Still Life*, by Jennifer Meyerrose-Devlin.

school nine years ago. She is a postmodern figurative oil painter.

Even though the two art teachers' works are opposing styles, they had similar beginnings as artists as early as kindergarten. And, they agree that the girls they teach react to their teachers' passion for art.

"We bring our passion to teaching, and then they get excited," explained Meyerrose-Devlin. "There's a continual exchange between teacher and student. We're all learning from one another."

Meyerrose-Devlin puts relationships and intuition into her art. "Even though my work looks abstract, I do start with an object, oftentimes a tool," she said. "Each painting becomes a self-portrait. I don't rely on a figure. It's very much about objects and relationships. My father's a contractor, and I have been around tools a lot, so I think there's a thread that has made its way through. I think there is a symbolism with those objects as well.

"It's about color relationships and shape relationships, about how the painting is balanced. It's even how the brushstrokes relate to themselves. Everything becomes essential to the finished painting. It is emotional. It's very in the moment. It's very intuitive. I think the dialogue begins each time I approach the canvas, and in order for me to hear what's happening, I have to be in the present."

Delzell's art and teaching center around her art masters' training. However, she uses

her talent to tell stories.

"There's a hybrid of genres and styles in my work, mixing allegory and portraiture and history and still life," Delzell said. "I like to think that I'm telling stories of the human condition that most people can relate to by the way the figure is posed and the way the figure gazes at us. There's all of this still life going on that tells us little bits of story. I feel that I'm a storyteller with pictorial information.

"My work appears to be pretty heavy and introspective, and sometimes a little dark," she said. "But I'm told that with my students, I have a bubbly, outgoing personality. I try to bring my love of painting to these girls that I instruct. I feel that it's important to share my master painting to these girls so that the technique isn't lost. We give them tons of space to explore

their energy. I do push an old-fashioned, nuts-and-bolts technique."

"The biggest thing we both had was our parents' support," Meyerrose-Devlin said. "Art students need their parents' encouragement and that of their teachers. It can change someone's direction."

Meyerrose-Devlin has an exhibit

through Aug. 19 at CORE New Art Space, 900 Santa Fe Drive. Delzell's work will be in a show at the Gilmore Art Center, 2119 Curtis St., from Sept. 6 through Oct. 6.

For art show or instruction information, email Jennifer Meyerrose-Devlin at [jennifer-meyerrose@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer-meyerrose@gmail.com) and Heather Delzell at [hdelzell@regisjesuit.com](mailto:hdelzell@regisjesuit.com). Jennifer Meyerrose-Devlin's art can be viewed at: [www.corenewartspace.com](http://www.corenewartspace.com).

Heather's work can be viewed at: [www.heatherdelzell.carbonmade.com](http://www.heatherdelzell.carbonmade.com)



## Northfield Celebrates Bridge Opening



"We are pleased to see a marked increase in our monthly sales since the bridge opened," said Kem Blue, regional vice president, operations, Forest City commercial management. He also observed that traffic is noticeably heavier and more visitors are arriving on bicycles.

The bridge-opening celebration on July 14 featured music by Kahuna Beach Party (left), wine tasting for the adults (above), and a variety of activities for kids. The event, a fundraiser for Dumb Friends League, raised \$4,000 and resulted in five pet adoptions.

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Like most women, you are probably used to getting your annual Pap smear. However, the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF) recently updated the timeline for how often women should be screened. The Pap smear is the most effective cancer screening test for cervical cancer. Cervical cancer is almost always caused by a virus called human papillomavirus (HPV).

### What is new about the recommendations?

Previously, the Pap smear was recommended every one to three years. New recommendations from the USPSTF indicate:

- Women under the age of 21 do not need a Pap smear, regardless of sexual history.
- Healthy women ages 21 to 29 only need a Pap smear once every three years.
- Healthy women between the ages of 30 and 65 need a Pap smear only once every five years, IF they combine it with an HPV test.

### Does this mean I can skip my annual OB-GYN visit?

No, it is still very important for all women, regardless of their age, to visit their OB-GYN for annual exams including a blood pressure check, breast exam, etc. However, you may not need a Pap smear or swabbing of the cervix every year.

### What if I have had abnormal Pap smear test results?

These guidelines are for most women, but not all. Talk to your doctor about which types of screening and frequency are right for you.

### Why the change in recommendations?

The change in recommendations is to reduce the rate of false positive findings which can lead to unnecessary interventions and emotional distress.

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







## Take a Hike by Marko and John Babiak

### Tantalizing Turtles

Turtles occupy special places in our lives. My first pet reptile was a 99 cent, F.W. Woolworth's department store-brand red-eared slider turtle. Every time I savor a Peppermint Pattie, I remember "Troy" who, when full grown, was about the diameter of a king-sized Peppermint Pattie. My neighborhood touch football team was named the Terrestrial Tortoises ... and yes, we did lack speed. A decade ago, while scuba diving with my wife off of Maui's Molokini Crater, we were mesmerized by several graceful hawksbill sea turtles that joined our open water dive. Then a few years later, I stood speechless in a cavernous U.S. Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement warehouse staring at a mountain of confiscated exotic turtles that had been illegally poached, and converted into wildlife merchandise. Marko's home library still has a collection of his previous favorite Franklin the Turtle story books. More recently, I heard him share with his pals a painful encounter he had with a snapping turtle at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. He tempted the pint-sized turtle with his worm-like index finger. The lake-savvy critter took his bait and, in a nanosecond, its clinching bite brought my tough Nature Ranger down to his knees.

Colorado is home to one native terrestrial turtle and four species that prefer making their primary residence in water. The land-loving ornate box turtle, complete with its dome-shaped shell and big "Puss in Boots" eyes, makes its habitat in our prairies and all along the Arkansas and South Platte rivers

to our east. In Colorado's farming canals, creeks, wetlands, ponds and many lakes, we find the mustard yellow mud turtle, the pancake-shaped spiny soft-shell turtle, and menacing snapping turtle varieties. The fourth species, our official state reptile, is the western painted turtle.

Turtles were present on Earth when the first dinosaurs appeared. Their armor-fortified bodies have remained unchanged for nearly 200 million years. The colorful bony upper carapace, or shell, is fused to flattened ribs and the spine. The curvature of the ribs dictates the shape of the carapace. Individual square shields make up the geometric shell. Like the rings found in tree trunks, age-defining growth rings can be seen on the shields. The shell is connected to a hard undercarriage called the plastron. Both will enlarge as the creature grows.

Turtles are cold-blooded animals. During our spring, summer and fall months, they warm their bodies by sunning themselves, or by soaking up radiant heat from a hot rock or warm soil. In the winter they will hibernate in underground dens, or by burying themselves in loose sand or wet mud.

Most turtles mate in the early spring. Females will use their sharp front claws and webbed feet to excavate a soil nest. Here they lay and cover their fertilized amniotic eggs. The warm earth incubates the clutch for two or three months. The emerging hatchlings receive no parental support. They are, in effect, on their own from birth.



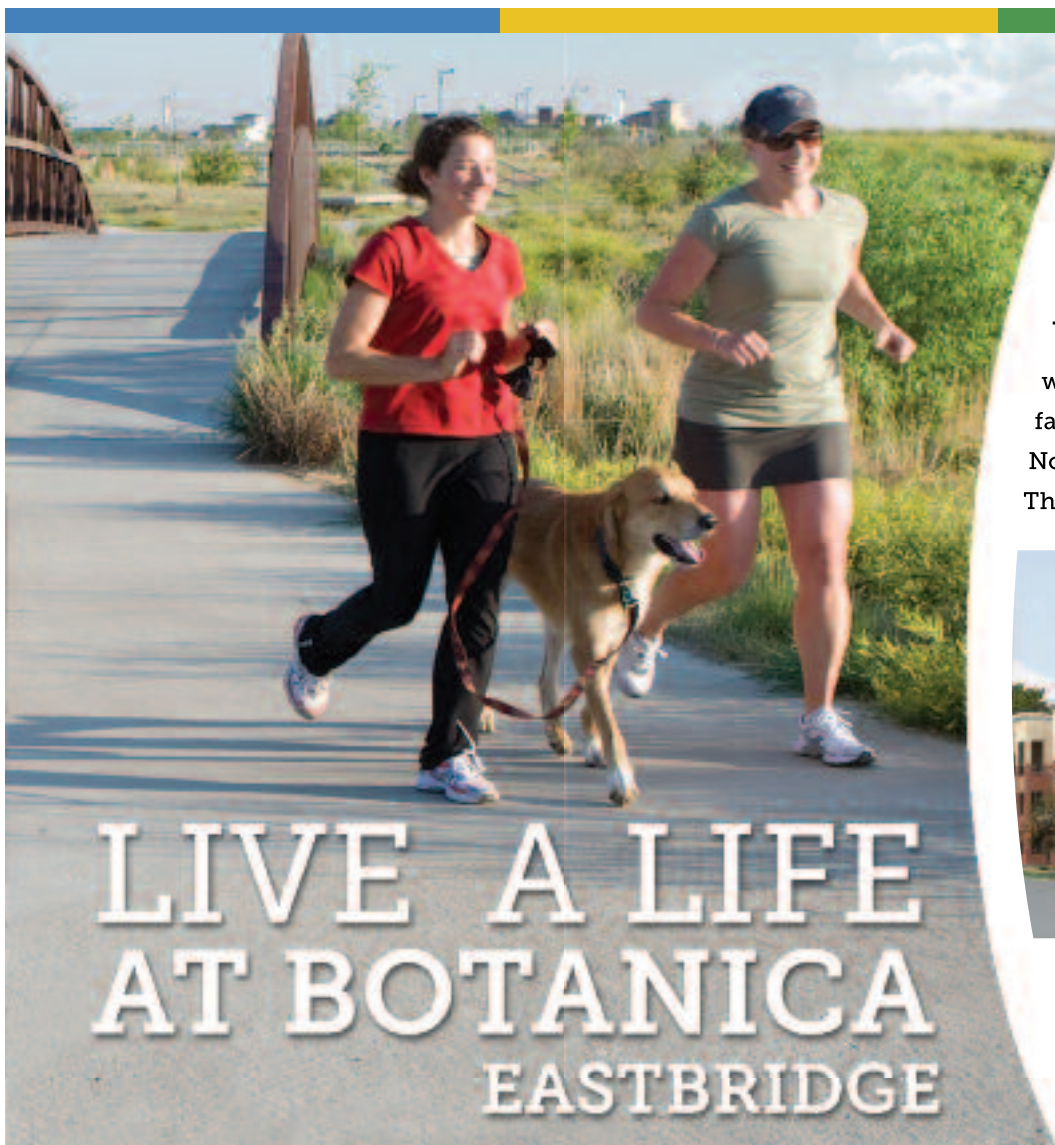
Photo by Marko Babiak

A well-camouflaged western-painted turtle takes cover in between cattail leaves and clumps of freshwater algae near Sand Creek.

Young and old turtles often fall prey to garter snakes, herons, owls, hawks and eagles, raccoons, foxes and coyotes. Snakes and water fowl swallow small prey whole. Felines, canines and raptors break open the shell with their powerful jaws and teeth or beaks, then extract the tissue, chew and swallow. No flossing necessary.

Turtles are toothless reptiles. Instead, they rely on their powerful horny beaks to tear both plant and animal foods. Their diet ranges from wild berries, mushroom and moss, to leeches, snails, spiders and earthworms, frogs and toads, and even an occasional tantalizing human finger!

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



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Don't Miss These Events...

Aug 2 & 4—Walk2Connect

All day (8am-2pm) group walks in Park Hill will be offered on August 2 and August 4 by Walk2Connect, creating opportunities for unique people to connect with others, their surroundings and ultimately themselves while traveling 3mph on-foot. Email walk2connect@gmail.com or call 303-908-0076.

August 4—Free Public Carnival at Young Americans Bank

Young Americans Bank, the only bank in the world for kids, will host a 25th birthday carnival on Saturday, August 4 from 11am–2pm. Free and open to the public, the entire event will focus on money and finances. Many of the games, food and activities will be provided by current young entrepreneurs. Enjoy free hot dogs, cotton candy and popcorn all day. Share stories, open accounts, win prizes and celebrate a unique bank that has served 70,000 young customers and has 16,000 current ones (average age 13) Youth can make deposits, write checks, swipe their credit cards and take out loans. The bank will open its first branch on the DPS Evie Dennis Campus in Green Valley Ranch in January 2013. The carnival will be held at 3550 East 1st Ave. Free parking at the bank and lots to the east and north. For more, visit www.yacenter.org.

August 5—Free Mountain Melodies Music Festival Outdoors at Buffalo Bill Museum

The sounds of string bands and bluegrass music will drift across Buffalo Bill's grave at the 9th Annual Mountain Melodies Music Festival. Sponsored by the Buffalo Bill Museum, this free event, with a view of the Continental Divide, will be on Sunday, August 5 from 12–5pm. Established and new musical talent from Colorado's Front Range communities will be featured. The Pahaska Tepee café will serve buffalo burgers, root beer floats and more. Stop in the Buffalo Bill Museum (admission fee), named True West magazine's Best Western Museum of 2011 (new exhibit includes 75 dime novels about Buffalo Bill). The festival will take place at the Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave, located on Lookout Mountain off of I-70, just 30 minutes from nearly every part of metro Denver. For more, call 303.526.0744 or visit www.buffalobill.org.

August 10–12—Denver County Fair Returns for Second Year

The Denver County Fair, to be held Friday to Sunday, August 10–12, will celebrate the creativity and personality of Denver, with events, exhibitors, blue ribbon competitions and more that have been part of county fairs for over 100 years—but in an urban pioneer kind of way. This

year there will be 14 interlocking indoor pavilions, each with its own exhibitors, vendors, stage demonstrations, entertainment and open competitions. Even the carnival will be indoors, so no 100 degree heat! New for 2012: The only county fair in the world with a Geek Pavilion for brainiacs, techies, sci-fi nerds, with fighting robots, zombies, spelling bees and more. A Kids' Pavilion with kids' stage, competitions, art and more. More competitions: pie eating, diaper a baby, etc. Hours: Fri./Sat. 10am–10pm; Sun. 10am–6pm. National Western Complex, 4655 Humboldt St. Parking: \$10. Take RTD Bus #48 to the complex. No dogs allowed (unless service or in a competition). Prices listed at www.denvercountyfair.org

August 11—Yard Sale at Venture Prep for Senior Class Activities

The upcoming senior class at Venture Prep is organizing a yard sale at Venture Prep to help pay for senior activities that will include an Outward Bound excursion, homecoming dance, prom, graduation, and honors award night. The sale will be held from 8am to 2pm at Venture Prep, located at 25th and Holly (by the Smiley tennis courts). The community is requested to drop off donations the week before the event, starting on Monday, August 6, from 9am–3pm. For more information, contact Molly Couture at 303.983.0805.

August 13—Play Golf to Benefit Bluff Lake Nature Center

The inaugural Bluff Lake Open will tee off at the Fitzsimons Golf Course on Monday, August 13. The historic tree-lined golf course, designed by the Army Corps of Engineers, is less than a mile east of Bluff Lake. The nature center (www.blufflakenaturecenter.org) provides hands-on environmental education experiences for nearly 5,000 schoolchildren each year. Enjoy a morning of history and golf. The tournament will be a "shamble." Each team player tees off; then all four players hit a shot from the position of the best drive. Each player then plays his/her ball all the way to the hole. Afterwards, stop by Bluff Lake for lunch on the bluff. Foursome: \$400 includes 18 holes of golf, cart, lunch, prizes and support of the center's activities. Sponsors are needed. Call John Metzger at 720.708.4274 for more information. The Fitzsimons Golf Course is located at 2323 Scranton St., Aurora.

August 15 and 22—Free Swimming Stroke Clinics

The Denver Stingrays Swim Team, a USA Swimming year-round club team for kids ages 6 to 18, is offering free stroke clinics for improvement of your child's swimming fundamentals as well as to showcase the swim program for potential candidates interested in starting in the fall. Must be able to complete 25 meters freestyle as well as backstroke to be eligible. Dinner and refreshments will be pro-

vided immediately following the clinic. Clinics will be held Wed., Aug. 15 at 6pm at the Aviator Pool, 8054 E. 28th Ave., and Wed., Aug. 22 at 6pm at the Jet Stream Pool, 3574 Alton St. If interested in signing up, or to learn more, please contact denverstingrays@gmail.com.

August 18—Rocky Mountain Kidz Festival at Swigert-McAuliffe School to Benefit Youth with Heart Disease

The first Rocky Mountain Kidz Festival will celebrate and benefit children in the Denver-metro area and beyond to raise awareness and funding to improve the lives of youth with heart disease and heart-related illnesses. Free and open to the public, the festival will be held on Saturday, August 18 from 11am–4pm. It will feature games, crafts, youth entrepreneurs, local businesses, nonprofits and entertainment. Admission into the event is free and open to the public. Tickets sold to play games will raise funds to contribute to research for heart disease and other heart-related issues at Children's Hospital. There will be a raffle for Denver Nuggets and Colorado Rockies merchandise, a \$1,000 gift certificate to Stapleton Orthodontics and much more. The event will take place at Swigert-McAuliffe International School, 3480 Syracuse St. For more information, visit www.mannyfoundation.org or call 720.877.1221.

August 24—Celebration of Cultures at Aurora Human Rights Center

The Aurora Human Rights Center is hosting "Crossing Cultures," a free community event to highlight performers and nonprofits within the local community, celebrate all the cul-

tures in Aurora, and to promote a feeling of inclusivity. The event will be held on Friday, August 24 from 4:30 to 7:30pm at the Aurora Human Rights Center, located at 1400 Dayton Street in Aurora. Admission and food is free! All ages are welcome! For more info., call Marcie Landreth at 720.288.1770.

August 24 and 25— Mayfair Resident to Perform Locally with Internationally Known Folk Quartet

Mayfair resident Leslie Anne Harrison, flutist, teacher and composer, is co-founder of New Time Ensemble, a quartet that plays a mix of musical styles "with Irish traditional music at its heart." The group, comprised of fiddle, flute, cello and guitar, was formed in western Ireland while the members pursued advanced music degrees at the University of Limerick. New Time Ensemble will perform on Friday, August 24, 8pm. at the Mercury Café in Denver and Saturday, August 25, 7pm, at Broomfield Auditorium. For more about New Time Ensemble, visit www.NewTimeEnsemble.com, call 303.618.0717 or email NewTimeEnsemble@gmail.com.

August 26—Free Family Fun Day Celebrates Sand Creek Greenway Anniversary

To celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the Sand Creek Regional Greenway, a Family Fun Day will be held on Sunday, August 26. Come to the SCRG Smith Road Trailhead in Stapleton (on Smith Road, 1/2 mile west of the Havana St./Smith Rd. intersection) from 1–5pm for a ducky derby, games and activities for kids, a climbing wall, farm animals, hula hooping, live music, local food and more. This event is free and open to everyone. For more information, visit www.sandcreekgreenway.org.



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

## DENVER METRO EVENTS

### Art Walks and Exhibits:

**8/2 Thursday to 8/19 Sunday CORE New Art Space.** Lowry resident Jennifer Meyerrose—New Paintings. First Friday event 8/3, 6-9pm. Reception 8/17, 6-9pm. 303.297.8424 900 Santa Fe Drive.

**8/3 Friday- Santa Fe Arts District.** Santa Fe Dr. between 10th and 6th. [www.artdistrictonSantaFe.com](http://www.artdistrictonSantaFe.com)

**8/3 Friday- North Denver's Tennyson Art Walk.** Tennyson St. and 44th Ave. [www.denverartwalk.squarespace.com](http://www.denverartwalk.squarespace.com)

**8/3 Friday- Old South Pearl Art Walk.** [www.oldsouthpearl-street.com](http://www.oldsouthpearl-street.com)

**8/3 Friday- Cherry Creek Arts District.** [www.cherrycreeknorth.com](http://www.cherrycreeknorth.com)

**8/3 Friday- Highlands Square First Friday.** 32nd and Lowell, North Denver. [www.highlands-square.com](http://www.highlands-square.com)

**8/10 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).

**8/31 Friday- Final Friday at Denver Art Museum.** 6-10pm. General admission applies; members free. Bands, munchies and cash bar. [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

**8/4 Saturday- Festival 38.** 38th Ave. street festival from Fox to Sheridan. Bands, kids' activities, more. [www.w38avedenver.com](http://www.w38avedenver.com)

**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](http://www.scottishgames.org)

**8/9 Thursday- Denver Film Society Raise the Roof Block Party.** FREE. Live music, entertainment; food/drink for purchase. 5-9pm. Lowenstein Complex rooftop, 2510 E Colfax. [www.denverfilm.org](http://www.denverfilm.org)

**8/9 Thursday- P.E.O. International local chapter meeting.** Philanthropic group supports women's educational opportunities. Meets 2nd Thursday monthly. 7pm. Free. [copeojc@gmail.com](mailto:copeojc@gmail.com)

**8/10 Thursday- Mile High Global Bazaar.** 11am-7pm. Skyline Park, Arapahoe and 16th St Mall. FREE. [www.coloradoevents.net](http://www.coloradoevents.net)

**8/10 Friday to 8/12 Sunday- Denver County Fair.** National Western Complex. [www.denvercountyfair.org](http://www.denvercountyfair.org)

**8/11 Saturday- KUVU's Mambo at the Vineyard.** Baliestrei Vineyards, 1946 E 66th Ave. KUVU Jazz 89 Radio's fundraising event, 6-10pm. [www.baliestreivineyards.com](http://www.baliestreivineyards.com)

**8/11 Saturday- Art and Magic of Paper Crafts.** 1-4:30pm. Use cardboard, cotton liners, balloons, string, waxed paper to make ornaments, greeting cards, framed art, earrings or bowls! Colorado Free University, 7653 E 1st Pl. 303.399.0093. \$57; \$47/CFU member; \$8 materials fee.

**8/11 Saturday- 4th Annual Cherry Creek North Food/Wine Festival.** Grand tasting 5-9pm. [www.cherrycreektoday.com](http://www.cherrycreektoday.com)

**8/11 Saturday- South Broadway Antique Row Summer Festival.** 1100S-1800S Broadway. [www.antique-row.com](http://www.antique-row.com)

**8/17 Thursday- Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs.** For all gardeners. 3rd Thursday. Grace: 303.455.0839

**8/17 Friday and 8/18 Saturday- 16th Street Arts and Crafts Fair.** 11am-7pm. 16th St Mall. FREE. [www.coloradoevents.net](http://www.coloradoevents.net)

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

**8/17 Friday and 8/18 Saturday- Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival.** Midway, parade, Zoppe Italian Circus. [www.wheatridgearnation-festival.org](http://www.wheatridgearnation-festival.org)

**8/18 Saturday and 8/19 Sunday- Golden Fine Arts Festival.** 11th St. and Arapahoe St., Golden. [www.goldenfineartsfestival.org](http://www.goldenfineartsfestival.org)

**8/18 Saturday- An Evening of Seudah with Bosnian Singer Azra.** Mercury Café, 2199 California St. Tickets \$15/door. Reservations recommended. 303.294.9258

**8/19 Sunday- First Annual World Kugel Day Festival.** 2-5pm. Music by Rocky Mountain Jewgrass, kugel cook-off/tasting, community art project, noodle art for kids. \$10/members/\$15/nonmembers/\$25 families. Mizel Museum, 400 S Kearney St. 303.394.9993, [www.mizelmuseum.org/celebratekugel](http://www.mizelmuseum.org/celebratekugel)

**8/24 Saturday to 8/26 Sunday- 2012 Rocky Mountain Airshow.** Rocky Mountain Metro Airport in Broomfield. [www.RMAirshow.com](http://www.RMAirshow.com)

**8/24 Friday- New Time Ensemble.** Irish folk quartet performs Irish, Scottish and French music. 8pm. \$10/5. Mercury Café, 2199 California St. 303.294.9281. Repeats Saturday 8/25 7pm. Broomfield Auditorium, 3 Community Park Rd, Broomfield. 303.4645835

**8/24 Friday to 9/3 Monday- Colorado State Fair.** Pueblo Fairgrounds, Pueblo, CO. [www.coloradostatefair.com](http://www.coloradostatefair.com)

**8/25 Saturday- Volunteer Vacations.** 9:30am-12pm. Explore USA and world and work on human and economic development projects. Learn about volunteer organizations, fees (most tax-deductible), what to expect. Colorado Free University, 7653 E 1st Place. 303.399.0093. \$46 or \$34/CFU member.

**8/31 Friday to 9/3 Monday- A Taste of Colorado.** Civic Center Park, downtown Denver. [www.atasteofcolorado.com](http://www.atasteofcolorado.com)

**9/10 Saturday- Old House Society Sidewalk Stroll.** 10:30am. Featuring homes in Bellevue-Hale neighborhood, 12th and Dexter. Tickets: \$15 at King Soopers or [www.denversoldhousesociety.org](http://www.denversoldhousesociety.org)

**Through 8/31- Titanic Tours at the Molly Brown House.** Additional Titanic events through the month. [www.mollybrown.org](http://www.mollybrown.org)

**Wednesdays in August- 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.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)

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

**Monday Movie Madness at Infinity Park.** FREE movies at Infinity Park in Glendale, 8pm. [www.infinityparkatlendale.com](http://www.infinityparkatlendale.com)

**Wednesdays through September- Denver Cruisers Costumed Pub Crawl.** Downtown Denver. [www.denvercruiseride.com](http://www.denvercruiseride.com)

**Mile High Movies in Skyline Park.** FREE movies: Skyline Park, 16th St Mall at Arapahoe, at dusk. [www.denvergov.org/parksandrec](http://www.denvergov.org/parksandrec) for dates/titles.

**Free Bowling-** Up to 2 games a day, Elitch Lanes in N. Denver. Shoe rental not included. [www.kidsbowlfree.com](http://www.kidsbowlfree.com)

**Civic Center Bike-In Movie Series.** FREE family-friendly movies in downtown Denver's Civic Center Park. [www.civiccenterconservancy.org](http://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](http://www.denverurbanhomesteading.com) for classes/seminars

**Denver Botanic Gardens Summer Concert Series.** Concert lineup, tickets: [www.concerts.botanicgardens.org](http://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](http://www.SmallBizChamber.org)

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

**Volunteers of America Foster Grandparent Program.** 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](http://www.voacolorado.org), 303.297.0408 (Naomi Taggart)

**Assistance League of Denver.** Seeks members to help underserved in metro Denver. Programs for victims, students, children and seniors. [www.denver.assistanceleague.org](http://www.denver.assistanceleague.org) or 303.322.5205

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

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

**Denver 2 for 1 Tix** provides weekly 2 for 1 ticket and admission discounts for metro Denver arts and entertainment. [www.denver2for1tix.com](http://www.denver2for1tix.com)

More ideas on what to do in Denver: Visit [www.denver.org](http://www.denver.org) or [www.GalleryGuideDenver.com](http://www.GalleryGuideDenver.com).

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

**8/16 Thursday- HIV testing at Rocky Mountain Cares non-profit for holistic HIV care.** FREE. 1-5pm. 3rd Thursday monthly. 4545 E 9th Ave, #120. Adrian Pilarski: 303.393.8050

**Free Car Seat Inspections.** Most car seats are used incorrectly. Children's Hospital Colorado offers free inspections at our Aurora Main Campus by child passenger safety professionals. Wednesdays 1-3pm, Saturdays 9am-12pm. To schedule appointment, call 720.777.4808.

## LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

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

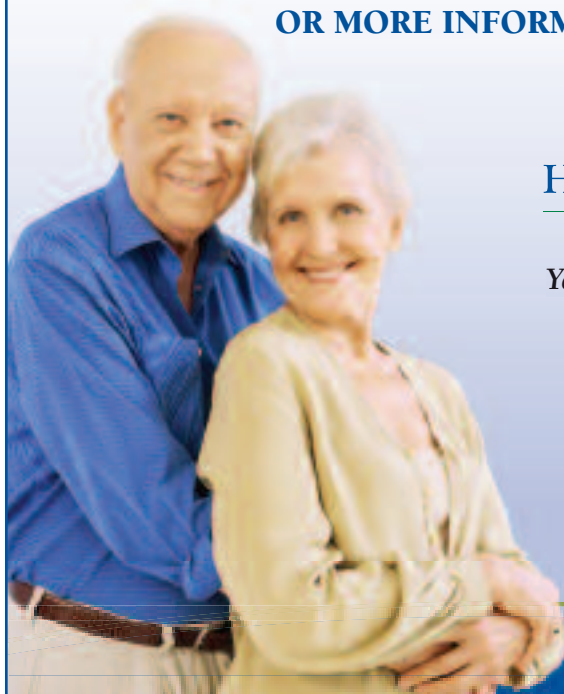
**8/7 Tuesday- China! The Superpower.** 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center. 350 S. Dahlia St. Lil Shaw: 303.316.6359

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**~ Save the Date ~  
Middle School Open House  
Sat, Sept 22, 10am–12pm**

**Call 303-340-3647 or email  
[admissions@dmischool.com](mailto:admissions@dmischool.com) to  
schedule a campus visit or Shadow  
Day for your 5th–7th grader  
206 Red Cross Way, Lowry • [www.dmischool.com](http://www.dmischool.com)**





**Thursday- Diana: 15 Years Later.** 7pm. Potluck 6pm, bring dish to share. Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 2823 Roslyn St. RSVP: 303.388.0724

**8/26 Sunday- Tchaikovsky's Triumph!** 10am program; 11am potluck brunch. Stapleton F15 Pool, 2831 Hanover St. FREE. 303.388.0724

**9/4 Tuesday- Aviation: From Kitty Hawk to Today.** 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center. 350 S. Dahlia St. Lil Shaw: 303.316.6359

**9/11 Tuesday- Al-Qaeda.** 11am-12pm (10:45 refreshments). Temple Emanuel, 51 Grape St. RSVP: Jodi, 303.388.4013 x307

**9/11 Tuesday- Myanmar (Burma).** 12:30-1:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax. 303.322.7727

## LIBRARIES

Visit [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org) for children's story hours, book club info, library crafts sessions and complete programing listing. All branches closed Friday 8/31 for City furlough day and Sunday 9/2 to Monday 9/3 for Labor Day.

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

**Stapleton's Sam Gary Branch Library,** 2961 Roslyn St. Opens Saturday, Aug 11. Hours: Mon & Fri 10am-6pm; Wed 12-8pm; Sat 9am-5pm. Closed Tues, Thurs, Sun

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

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

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

**8/12 Sunday- Make and Take Studio.** Book page wreath. 2-3pm. Registration required.

**8/18 Saturday- Geeks Who Read Book Club.** 2-3pm.

**8/20 Monday- Cooking from the Farmers Market.** 6:30-7:30pm.

**8/26 Sunday- The "I" in Pompeii and the "US" in Vesuvius.** History and Genealogy presentation. 2-3pm.

**Central Library.** 10W 14th Parkway. Hours: Mon/Tues 10-8; Wed-Fri 10-6; Sat/Sun 1-5.

**8/3 Friday- Facebook 101.** 11am-1pm.

**8/4 Saturday- Ask the Gadget Guy!** Get answers to your computer/tech questions.

**8/5 Sunday- Wordpress I: Blogs.** Must have email address to attend. Sign up for free account at [wordpress.com](http://wordpress.com) before class.

**8/12 Sunday- Wordpress II: Websites.** 2-4pm. Must have Wordpress account to attend. Attending Wordpress I first recommended.

**8/19 Sunday- Do-It-Yourself Legal Forms.** 2-3pm.

**8/19 Sunday- Wordpress III: Nextsteps.** Need Wordpress account to attend. Attending Wordpress I & II first recommended. 2-4pm.

**8/22 Wednesday- Behind the Cover: Tour Denver Bookbinding and Build Your Own Book Workshop.** Denver Bookbinding, 2715 17th St. \$15 materials fee (all supplies included). Register at <http://denverlibrary.org/fresh#craft> or call 720.865.1206.

**8/26 Sunday- Internet Safety for Parents.** 2-4pm.

## KIDS AND FAMILIES

**Apple Camp-** 3-day FREE workshop where kids become filmmakers. Various August dates. Ages 8-12 shoot footage, create original song in Garage-Band on iPad and make iMovie on a Mac. At metro-area Apple Stores. Ends with their films at

Apple Camp Film Festival. Space limited. [www.apple.com/retail/camp](http://www.apple.com/retail/camp)

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

**Through August- Tales of Brer Rabbit.** Denver Puppet Theatre, 3156 W 38th Ave. Tickets: \$7 ages 3 and up. 303.458.6446, [www.denverpuppettheater.com](http://www.denverpuppettheater.com)

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

**Mile Into The Wild Walkway at Wild Animal Sanctuary.** Largest carnivore sanctuary in Western Hemisphere: 300 lions, tigers, bears and mile-long, 30-foot-high walkway gets you up close. \$10/adult, \$8/kids. Keensburg, CO. [www.wildanimalsanctuary.org](http://www.wildanimalsanctuary.org)

**8/4 Saturday- Home Depot Kids Workshop.** 9am-12pm. FREE how-to clinics first Saturday monthly for ages 5-12. Get Home Depot apron, wooden project and project pin. Metro-area Home Depot stores. [www.homedepot.com](http://www.homedepot.com)

**8/8 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](http://www.denverartmuseum.org) or 720.865.5000

**8/9 Thursday to 8/11 Saturday- Rocky Mountain Children's Theatre Presents Hairspray.** Colorado Heights University Little Auditorium. 3001 S. Federal Blvd. 303.476.0222 [www.RMTOnline.com](http://www.RMTOnline.com)

**8/11 Saturday and 8/25 Saturday- Lowe's Build**

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

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

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

Press releases for suggested stories should be sent separately to [FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com](mailto:FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com)

**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](http://www.lowesbuildandgrow.com)

**8/12 Sunday- Junior Rangers: Life in a Pond.** 1:30-3:30pm. Ages 6-12. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd, Aurora. Reservations required. 303.739.9428, [www.auroragov.org/nature](http://www.auroragov.org/nature)

**8/17 Friday- Nature at Night.** Night Insects. 7:45pm. All ages. FREE. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd, Aurora. Reservations required. 303.739.9428, [www.auroragov.org/nature](http://www.auroragov.org/nature)

**8/24 Friday- Denver Botanic Gardens Family Fun Night.** 4th Friday (continued on page 18)

## RECURRING EVENTS

### 1st Mon. after 1st Tues.

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

### 4th Monday

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

### Every Tuesday

Stapleton Rotary Club - 7:30am Stapleton Community Room 2823 Roslyn St. [www.denverstapletonrotary.org](http://www.denverstapletonrotary.org)

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

AA Open Meeting 6:00pm St. Thomas Episcopal Church. 22nd and Dexter. Shirley 303-726-2998

### 1st Tuesday

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

### 2nd Tuesday

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

### 3rd Tuesday

Greater Stapleton Business Assoc. 8am MCA, 2823 Roslyn St [www.stapletonbusiness.com](http://www.stapletonbusiness.com) 303-393-7700

### 4th Tuesday

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

### Every Wednesday

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](http://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](mailto:stapletonneighbors@msn.com)

### 2nd & 3rd Wednesday

Lowry Peak Speakers Toastmaster Club. Noon-1pm, Pinnacle Assurance: 7501 E. Lowry Blvd, Denver 80203. [lowrypeak.free-toasthost.org](http://lowrypeak.free-toasthost.org) [lpstoastmasters@gmail.com](mailto:lpstoastmasters@gmail.com)

### 3rd Thursday

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

### Last Thursday

Stapleton Power Partners Networking for home and other Stapleton businesses 2:30-4pm. The Berkshire in the 29th Ave. Town Center Rich Ouellette 303- 488-3975 [rich.ouellette@ubs.com](mailto:rich.ouellette@ubs.com)

Dee Brown 303-997-7744 [deeindenver@aol.com](mailto:deeindenver@aol.com)

### 1st Saturday

Neighborhood Partners Environmental Team 9am-12pm Clean up Westerly Creek. Contact Lcorrell@dotnet.net for location and other info. [CFry@Sandcreekgreenway.org](mailto:CFry@Sandcreekgreenway.org)

### 1st Saturday

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

### 2nd Saturday

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

### 3rd Saturday

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

### 4th Saturday

Parkinson Support Group in Northeast Denver 9:30am Hiawatha Davis Recreation Center 3334 Holly St. Regina Jones 720-298-5760 or visit [www.parkinsonrockies.org](http://www.parkinsonrockies.org).

### Periodically

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



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(continued from page 17)

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/non-member family of 4, \$4 extra person. Children 2/under free. [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**8/25 Saturday- Stewardship Saturday.** 9am-12pm. Learn about nature and participate in a service project. Ages 8+ 16002 E Smith Rd, Aurora. Reservations required. 303.739.9428, [www.auroragov.org/nature](http://www.auroragov.org/nature)

**9/8 Saturday and 9/9 Sunday- Exhibit/Sale of Miniatures, Dollhouses and Dolls.** Free kids' workshops, low-cost adult make-it/take-it projects. Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 11am-4pm. Adults \$7; Kids \$4. Doubletree by Hilton DTC Hotel, 7801 E Orchard Road, Greenwood Village. Marjorie Smelt, 720.206.5545 or [Comments@DMMDT.org](mailto:Comments@DMMDT.org). Sponsor: Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys.

#### KIDS CAMPS AND CLASSES

**8/5 Sunday- Let's Camp!** Overnight camping experience for families new to camping. Sponsored by

Colorado State Parks. Chatfield Reservoir. \$30. [www.parksstore.state.co.us](http://www.parksstore.state.co.us)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Stapleton All Sports-** [www.stapletonallsports.com](http://www.stapletonallsports.com)

**Sol Vida Dance Studio and Dance Summer Camps-** Kid and adult classes, workshops, camps, etc. [www.solvidadance.com](http://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](http://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.

**8/8 Wednesday- For the People of Colorado: Colorado's Constitution Walking Tour.** The constitution is the state's blueprint, but a product of its time. Why was it written? How does it affect us today? Journey around Civic Center Park and downtown to find out. 10:30-11:30am. \$5.

**8/18 Saturday- Sweet Summer Saturdays for Families (good for kids 8+).** Learn Colorado's history with sticky sweetness of sugar—the sugar beet industry. Sample and make and sculpt with edible chocolate “modeling clay.” 1-3pm. \$20 adults; \$5 kids.

**8/30 Thursday. Helen Ring Robinson: Colorado Senator and Suffragist.** Author-former Colorado Sen. Pat Pascoe discusses her biography of Colorado's first woman state senator. 1-2pm. \$5.

#### DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE

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

**8/5 Sunday- Curiosity Landing Event.** Mega rover launched 11/11; lands on Mars 8/5/12. 8pm. \$8 member/\$10 nonmembers/\$5/child

**8/16 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](http://www.dmns.org/planetarium/current-shows)

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

#### EVENTS

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

**8/4- Saturday- 36th Annual Horsefeather Classic Car Show.** Featuring Ford Mustangs, Falcons, T-Bird and all Ford-powered cars and trucks. 10am-3pm.

**8/11- Saturday- 10:30am-2:30pm.** Teen Vogue's Back To School Shopping Saturday featuring Radio Disney, text-to-win giveaways and more. Visit [NorthfieldStapleton.com](http://NorthfieldStapleton.com) for details.

**Bass Pro Events-** 720.385.3600, [www.BassPro.com](http://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](http://www.HarkinsTheatres.com)

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

**Toby Keith's I Love This Bar and Grill-** 303.728.9468, [www.countrybarco.com](http://www.countrybarco.com)  
Local and regional live music acts Wed.-Sat.  
National acts: 8/2- Katie Armiger; 8/3- Easton Corbin; 8/7- Brantley Gilbert; 8/10- Matt Stillwell; 8/16- Steve Holy

#### 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/](http://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.

**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](mailto:Ichickos@blufflake.org). [www.blufflakenature-center.org](http://www.blufflakenature-center.org)

**8/9 Thursday- Buggy Basics! Fireside Chat!** 6:30-7:30pm. The Butterfly Pavilion's Marissa Copan explores the amazing world of arthropods! Suggested donation \$1/nonmembers.

**8/23 Thursday-Wildlife Safety Fireside Chat!** 6:30-7:30pm. Learn safety tips for co-existing with local wildlife that may not give us a warm, fuzzy feeling. Suggested donation \$1/nonmembers.

#### SPORTS AND FITNESS

**Tuesdays in August- Sunrise Tai Chi at Botanic Gardens.** 7-8am. \$8/garden members, \$10/nonmembers. Hosted by Tai Chi Project. [www.taichidenver.com](http://www.taichidenver.com), 303.744.7676.

**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.trifortheure-denver.com](http://www.trifortheure-denver.com)

**8/5 Sunday- I run Colorado 5K.** Washington Park, [www.iruncolorado5k.com](http://www.iruncolorado5k.com)

**8/11 Saturday- DaVita Kidney Rock 5K Run/Walk.** Kid zone, costume contest, music festival, more. Coors Field. [www.davitakidneyrock.org](http://www.davitakidneyrock.org)

**8/11 Saturday- 25th Annual AIDS Walk Colorado.** Cheesman Park. [www.aidswalkcolorado.org](http://www.aidswalkcolorado.org)


**8/26 Sunday- Retro Run.** 1980s inspired 5K. Sloan's Lake. [www.retrorundenver.com](http://www.retrorundenver.com)

**9/8 Saturday- Hope Center's Annual 1K/5K Walk and Run-a-thon.** Stapleton Central Park, \$25/adults; \$15 kids 6-17; 5 & under/60 & over Free; charge for T-shirt. [www.hopecenterinc.org](http://www.hopecenterinc.org), [www.runningguru.com/event/roadrunner](http://www.runningguru.com/event/roadrunner).

**Sundays in August- Yoga Rocks the Park.** 9:30am-12pm. Various parks. \$10 advance; \$15 at park. [www.yogarocksthepark.com/denver](http://www.yogarocksthepark.com/denver)


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

**8/20 Monday to 8/26 Sunday- U.S. Pro Challenge.** 7-stage pro cycling tour through Rocky Mountains, finishing in Denver Sunday 8/26. [www.usprocyclingchallenge.com](http://www.usprocyclingchallenge.com)




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8/17 Friday- Free Conscious Movie *Fierce Light*. Movie about impact/necessity of spiritual action in today's world. 7pm. Free.

8/23-8/25 Spiritual Events with Father Peter Bowes. Call 720.308.9944 for details of programs.

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

8/4 Saturday- Youth of Union Baptist Church Walk-a-Thon. 7-11am. Union Baptist Church, MLK and Dahlia. Fun/fellowship and help support our youth. 303.333.4566

8/11 Saturday- Breakthrough Breathwork Meditation Workshop. 11am-2pm. Breathing meditation to find love/peace/passion of your divine nature. \$55; \$95 for 2. Unity on the Avenue, 4670 E 17th Ave. 303.322.3901, www.unityontheavenue.org. Kris: 719.200.2929. www.BreakthroughBreathwork.com

8/11 Saturday- Cockpit Demo Day. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-12pm. www.wingsmuseum.org.

8/11 Saturday- Lowry Fiesta. Free concert, wine walk, kids' activities and more. www.lowry.org

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

8/17 Friday- Supper & Movie. Potluck supper 6 pm; then 7pm movie *Finding Joe*. Love offering. Unity on the Avenue. 4670 East 17th Ave. 303.322.3901, www.unityontheavenue.org

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

THEATRE

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

8/5 to 8/7- *Oklahoma!* Presented by Central City Opera. Newman Center for Performing Arts, 2433 E. Iliff. www.centralcityopera.org

8/10-8/18- *Mekong Joe*. Aurora Fox 9900 E Colfax Ave. www.auro-rafoxartscenter.org

9/4-9/16- *La Cage Aux Folles*. Buell Theatre, 14th and Curtis, Denver Center for Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

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

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

8/18 through September- *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Nile*. Presented by Spotlight Theatre Company at the John Hand Theater. www.johnhandtheater.com

Through 8/18- Colorado Shakespeare Festival. www.col-oradoshakes.org

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

Q&A with Sam Gary

(continued from page 5) on that. It became not a problem to deal with but something I really became engaged with.

Q: I've read your philosophy is you have to drill some dry holes before you discover things that work.

SG: It's not something you want to say at a petroleum convention. I was pretty good at getting those drilled. Unfortunately, I was not inhibited by my lack of skill, but I was always satisfied that I could get these wells drilled. I'd have some sense of why I thought it was good place to drill—they call it geology today.

I drilled enough wells that people knew me and I got to know a lot of people.

I think Stapleton struck me as being a huge opportunity because I'd lived in New York City and seen urban sprawl in other cities in America. I'm thinking, "There's this beautiful place and I love it here and here's the airport." I saw it simplistically...that if one could somehow wrest it away from the normal processes, it would be a huge opportunity to break the pattern (of urban sprawl). It was simplistic but I found it simplistic enough that I could understand it. So I embarked on this very naïve journey that involved a number of friends who believed there was no such thing as "How?" but it was "Why not?"

If I knew then what I know now, I'd have said, "This is a dumb idea," but I think there was a relatively small group of people in the political area and the city that you couldn't deny. Mind you there was no plan...it was an extension of East Colfax.

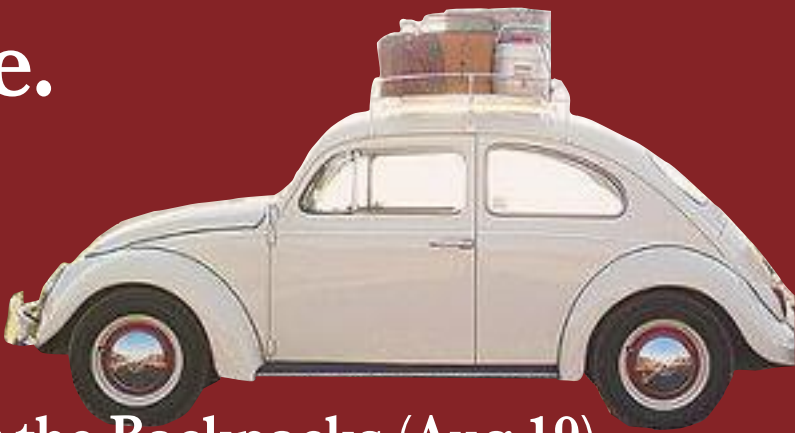
The City had been responsible for this and time went on and nothing happened and the new airport was being built. By the time the natives were getting restless about what to do with this, we'd sort of gone through the process of that book (*most of the writing of the Green Book was done from 1992 to 1995*) and we'd raised some money and I had some money and I put it in. It wasn't an easy sell. (Editors note: Sam Gary was the driving force in getting major businesses, foundations and community leaders in Denver on board to donate and work on a plan for the old Stapleton airport. Four million dollars was raised, \$2 million from Gary's company, Gary Williams, to develop the Green Book.)

In the spring of 1995, I got a call and learned that the plan would become a reality. I went out to Stapleton and the place was packed with press and Mayor Wellington Webb was there. They announced that City Council had just accepted the Green Book without changing one word of the plan for Stapleton.

Q: What was your first reaction when you heard the Stapleton library was named for you?

SG: I've not spent a lot of time in libraries (*due to childhood memories of being told "Shhh"*). I was thrown out of libraries (*for being too loud*). But what I saw at Green Valley Ranch, that's no library. It's the key to literacy for children, the most incredible thing I've ever seen. When you go there and you see these kids and you see the dynamic between the parent and the kids, that's what a library needs to be. (*The Sam Gary branch is modeled on the new Green Valley Ranch library.*)

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## Fusion/Rapids Merge to Form the Colorado Rapids Youth Soccer Club

By John Babiak

The Colorado Rapids and the Colorado Fusion Soccer Club announced on July 9 that the two organizations have joined forces to form an expanded Colorado Rapids Youth Soccer Club. Fusion, the largest youth soccer club in Denver and Aurora, serves over 4,000 players.

The announcement was made by Tim Hinchey, president of the Major League Soccer (MLS) Colorado Rapids and Jon Goldin-Dubois, executive director of the Colorado Fusion Soccer Club. "By joining with the Colorado Rapids, we're offering our many players and families the chance to become affiliated with a professional soccer organization while remaining true to our mission and goals," said Stapleton resident and Colorado Rapids Youth Soccer Club Executive Director Jon Goldin-Dubois. "By combining our efforts, we will be able to offer the best youth soccer programming in the state for kids at every level, the most complete player developmental path, and the most comprehensive programs for training and retaining the best youth coaching staff," continued Goldin-Dubois.

"Our program will continue to offer boys and girls of all abilities a safe and encouraging place to develop their passion and talent in the sport of soccer," said

Colorado Rapids Youth Academy Director Brian Crookham. Opportunities for boys and girls to learn and have fun playing soccer will begin with quality camps, clinics, and leagues for players as young as three years old. Enhanced recreational, developmental and competitive programs will be available as players grow older. This fall the club intends to launch "Soccer for Success" an after-school enrichment program. The program initially aims to underwrite 1,200 underserved youth in Denver and Aurora neighborhoods with no access to organized sports.

The Rapids and Fusion have worked closely over the past two years. The Rapids have shared age-appropriate practice plans and curricula with Fusion coaches, conducted in-service coaching clinics, and hosted parent education classes on topics including player development, health and nutrition, and injury prevention. "The combined club will create one of the most unique partnerships in the nation between a professional sports organization and a youth sports organization," said Rapids' Technical Director and Stapleton resident Paul Bravo.

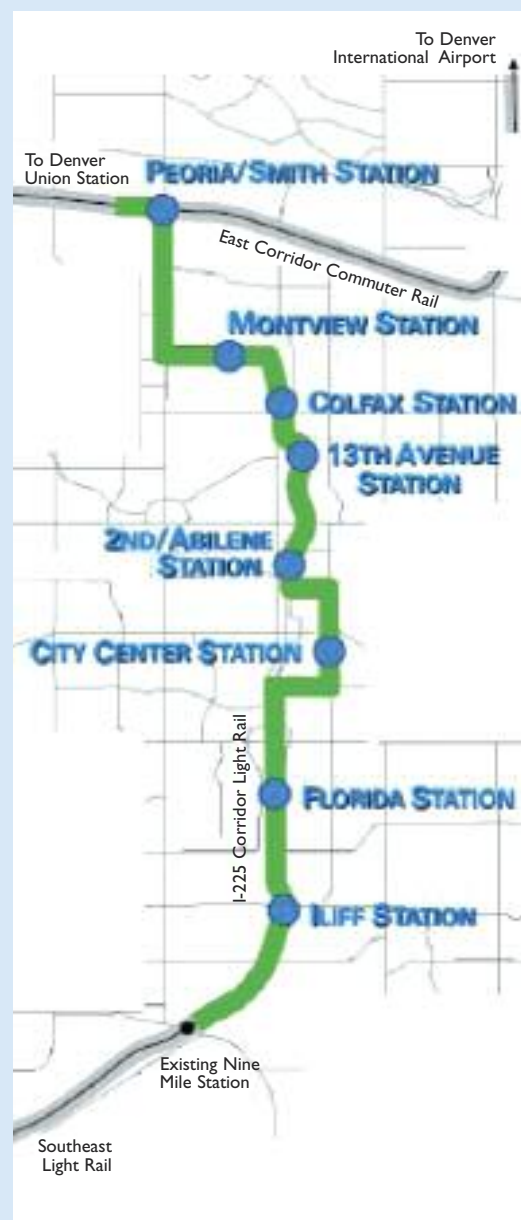
The club also announced that it has renewed its partnership with the Positive Coaching Alliance, a national organization that promotes positive coaching, parenting and player behaviors.

## RTD Board Approves Plan for Light Rail from I-70

By Carol Roberts

2016 will be a very good year for commuters and travelers in East Denver. Not only will the commuter rail to the airport and downtown open, the RTD Board voted 14-0 at their July 24 meeting to move forward with a proposal from Kiewit Infrastructure Co. to complete the I-225 Light Rail Line to Peoria. That line is expected to be open in mid-2016.

The light rail line will cross Colfax just west of I-225 and will have a station platform over Colfax. The line will then run north on the east side of Fitzsimons Parkway, cross Montview Blvd. and head west on the north side of Montview, with a station in the heart of the Fitzsimons/Anschutz campus. It will then continue west to Peoria, turn north on the east side of Peoria to 25th, where it will cross to the west side of Peoria and then continue north to join the East Rail Commuter Line at the Peoria/Smith Rd. Station.



Map courtesy of RTD Fasttracks

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## Stapleton Update

### Vandals Leave Broken Glass In Pool

By John Babiak

Hundreds of visitors to Aviator pool were turned away in early July because broken



Photo by Marko Babiak

An MCA staff member vacuums broken glass from the concrete deck of Aviator Pool while the pool is being drained.

glass was found both on the pool deck and at the bottom of the pool. According to Keven Burnett, Executive Director of the Stapleton Master Community Association (MCA), after hours "pool hoppers" scaled the Aviator perimeter fence, and tossed liquor bottles onto the concrete pool deck. Broken bottles were found on the deck in the early morning by Aviator pool staff and some pieces found their way into the lap pool area. For safety reasons, the 275,000 gallon pool had to be drained and cleaned, then refilled, chemically treated and heated. The entire deck was vacuumed and thoroughly cleaned with high pressure hoses. The labor intensive process required the pool to be closed for three days. All aquatics programs and scheduled events were cancelled and rescheduled to later dates.

According to Burnett, the incident came with significant expenses to the MCA and the greater community. "Water replacement costs are estimated at about \$2700. Lost customer revenue could be as much as \$1000 per day. And our pool staff lost about \$1000 per day in payroll income too." Since the event, the MCA has requested that the Denver Police Department include all four of the Stapleton pools on their evening patrol routes. The MCA is also considering adding higher pool security and a monitoring service.

The first pool rule listed on MCA's website (Stapleton-Community.com) and posted at Aviator pool is, "Absolutely no glass allowed in pool area." Pool staff ask all customers if they brought in glassware of any kind (including glass-faced scuba masks or small items such as nail polish bottles). To accommodate those unfamiliar with the no-glass rule, the pool staff will exchange glassware with suitable plastic ware while visitors are at the pool. During after hours poolside functions, all food and beverages must be served and eaten on non-glass plates and cups.

Pool cleaning is done at night and, with evening functions, staff may be at the pool until midnight. The morning staff arrives about 5am. Burnett asks members of the community to call 911 if they see anyone in the pool areas between midnight and 5am. He points out that if people enter the pool area when it is closed, it is trespassing and the MCA will prosecute trespassers.

### Fire in Electrical Room Closes Pool for a Week

By Carol Roberts

An unexplained fire broke out in the electrical room at Stapleton's Puddle Jumper pool at about 6pm on July 19. Kevin Burnett, executive director of Stapleton MCA, stated, "Somehow, something in proximity to the boiler caught fire. Nobody saw the start. We don't know what the element was that ignited. It's a mystery at this point. The new boiler that we just installed is a current model. Today's boilers are made with zero clearance, which means something can't accidentally get under the boiler. The previous boiler, although appropriate when it was installed, wasn't zero clearance. Zero clearance models weren't manufactured at that time." Burnett says it's possible something got under the boiler and caused the fire, but the insurance company considers it an accident and is covering the damages. The room is inspected daily by staff who check that the area around the boiler is clear, and the boiler is inspected annually.

The pool was still closed when this paper went to the printer but was expected to open after seven days of closure. A new boiler was installed, water lines were worked on, and

electrical work had to be done. Pumps then could be restarted, chemicals in the water rebalanced and heat turned on to ready the pool for visitors.

(More Stapleton Update on next page)

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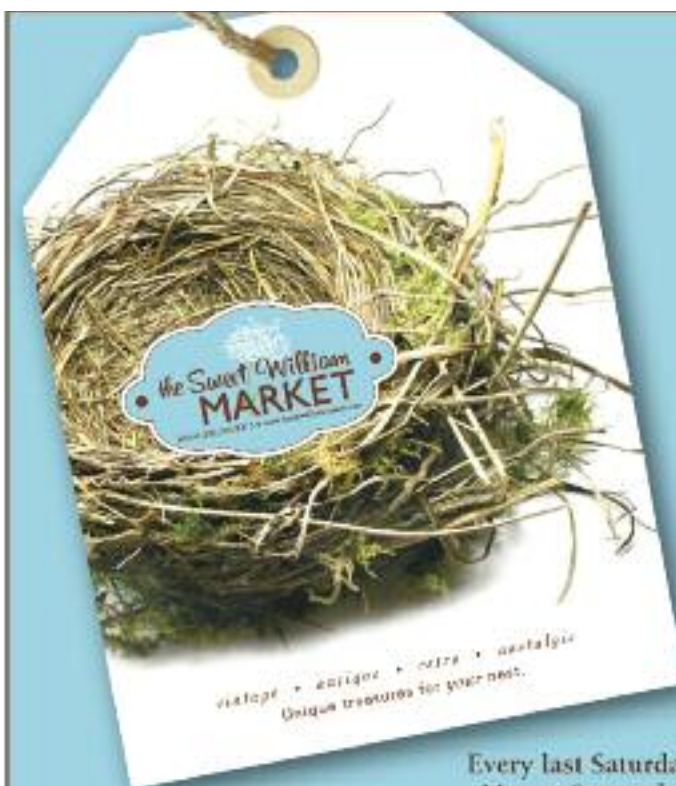
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Horizon Development Group from Madison, Wisconsin is exploring the feasibility of constructing a 108-unit independent senior living facility at MLK and Uinta. The concept rendering above is similar to senior apartments the company has built in Wisconsin. The above view faces Uinta.

108-Unit Senior Apartment Building is Proposed

A proposed independent living senior housing facility was presented at the July 10 meeting of the Zoning and Planning committee of the Citizens Advisory Board. Horizon Senior Housing has placed a contract on land at MLK and Uinta to explore the feasibility of constructing a 108-unit building with mostly one- and two-bedroom rental apartments for seniors.

The apartments, call Greenways at Stapleton, will be independent units at market rate (in line with other units at Stapleton) and will not include meals. Parking will be underground, one space per unit and storage units will be available. Automobile access will be from the south on E. 29th Place. Some of the units will have front door entry from MLK and Uinta, some will face an interior court-

yard and the upper floors will be accessed from interior halls. The developer, Horizon Development Group, has been in business in Madison, Wisconsin for 28 years and has built senior apartments in 14 states. This project will be their first in Colorado.

The 1.5 acre plot of land will require a zoning change to allow higher density than the current CMU-20 allows. If the project moves forward, construction is expected to start in the spring or summer of 2013. For more information about this proposed project, contact Charlie Johnson at 720.350.4680 or cjohnson@wcjre.com.

More Senior Housing

Look for more information in upcoming issues on two additional senior housing projects. A developer is exploring the feasibility of a luxury senior living facility at MLK and Syracuse with 150 units and potentially another 80 units in a second phase, according to Troy Gardner, Forest City development director. Another developer, who previously held a community meeting to explore interest in a continuing care type facility (reported on in the Jan. 2012 issue on page 1), is continuing to gather information on that potential project.

How Commercial Development Works at Stapleton

“Because somebody goes under contract, it doesn’t mean they are 100% sure to come to Stapleton,” says Troy Gardner, development director for Forest City Stapleton, Inc. To help residents better understand what it means when a business is “under contract,” to develop at Stapleton, Gardner, at the July Zoning and Planning meeting, explained Forest City’s commercial development process.

1. A potential developer expresses interest in Stapleton to Forest City and looks at potential parcels of land that would work for both parties.
2. Forest City writes a non-binding Letter of Intent (LOI) that is a “starting point for both parties” that outlines the terms including sales price, feasibility period, security deposit, closing date, etc.
3. Most often, in a week or two Forest City writes a contract that the parties review and negotiate.
4. The buyer puts up earnest deposit.
5. Negotiated feasibility period (Forest City generally provides for 90 days, buyers often ask for more)—A time for the buyer to evaluate the property for all aspects of development, including verifying the market, environmental conditions, grading, utilities, feedback from Design Review and

Zoning and Planning committees. 6. At the end of the feasibility period, the buyer either goes forward or they can walk away from the project without losing their security deposit. 7. When the buyer chooses to move forward, Forest City generally tries to close within 30 days after the end of the feasibility period.

Gardner points out that some buyers require a confidentiality provision so their name won’t be released until the sale is final.

Grocery Store on the East Side of Stapleton

“We haven’t given up on a grocery store in Eastbridge, but we have some attractive traffic counts on Peoria that would be of interest to retailers potentially interested in serving south Stapleton,” Troy Gardner, development director for Forest City Stapleton, Inc. told the Zoning and Planning Committee in July. He pointed out that the proposed design on the just-approved I-225 light rail (to be completed in 2016) shows the light rail crossing Peoria at 25th Ave., where it will actually ‘clip the toe’ of the southeastern portion of Stapleton.” (See I-225 Light Rail article on page 20.) Gardner said Forest City is marketing a nine-acre parcel for mixed use commercial development in that portion of Stapleton as one of two alternatives, including the Eastbridge Town Center, to attract potential grocery anchors to southeast Stapleton.

Construction of Street Extensions Between Stapleton and Aurora To Begin This Fall

The construction of three streets, Fulton, Iola and Kingston, is scheduled to begin this fall, Kim Proia, project manager at URS engineering, reported at the July 19 Citizens Advisory Board meeting. “We’re hopeful to have them built by the end of the year or early next year, which would be within the guidelines of the IGA. (Inter-governmental Agreement\*).” The IGA on construction of these streets states Fulton and Iola are required to be built by September 1, 2013 and Kingston by June 1, 2014. The fourth connection, Dayton/Emporia, must be built by June 1, 2017. All three are being paid for with funds from Aurora and Denver. Proia says construction documents for all three streets have been submitted to the

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Kim Proia of URS engineering shows the plans for construction of Fulton, Iola and Kingston streets at the July Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) meeting.

City of Aurora for their review and they have received comments. Denver is doing a limited review of the connection plans since 26th Ave is the boundary between Denver and Aurora and the construction will be taking place in Aurora.

Iola and Fulton will have four-way stops where they meet 26th Ave. There will not be a stop sign at Kingston and 26th. All three new streets will have two traffic lanes with parking, a tree lawn and a sidewalk on both sides they and will connect to Aurora sidewalks. Lighting will be installed along one side of all three streets. In Aurora, Fulton will have a new stop sign where it meets 25th Ave. The other two streets will keep the current signage in Aurora.

West of Fulton, Proia says a lot of grading will be done to keep the drainage toward Westerly Creek. She says there were always plans for a channel through the park, and this project is planned to be cohesive with the plans for that channel in the future park. There will be minimal other grading and it will be right at the streets.

M.A. Mortenson, construction manager for the Park Creek Metro District, will oversee the construction.

An overview of the URS construction plans for the three streets is posted at [www.FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://www.FrontPorchStapleton.com) -> Supplemental information

*\*The intergovernmental agreement is between Denver, Aurora and Park Creek Metro District (PCMD, the special district created to finance the construction of the infrastructure at Stapleton).*

## Westerly Creek North Park

*Barriers to Prevent Dumping*

SDC is investigating locations where they can place barriers to prevent vehicle access, according to Tammi Holloway. She said at the June 28 meeting that SDC followed up with an individual who was photographed dumping, and they will continue to follow up if residents provide information that can assist them in finding people who are dumping.

### Funding for Cleanup

DIA still owns the parcel planned for the future North Westerly Creek park. At the June 28 meeting of the Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC), there was a discussion of the issue that responsibility for removal of surface debris not affected by the environmental remediation has yet to be determined.

SDC Board Chair King Harris observed, "It isn't as if we have funds from some place else to work on this. They (DIA) have some restrictions they have to live within in terms of their agreement on the disposition of the land. This may be one of those areas where we were so excited about getting everything done (referring to the original contract for the development of Stapleton), nobody thought about it. From the airport's technical standpoint, rubble is not what they're talking about."

SDC member John Moye added, "When we did the MLD (Master Lease and Disposition Agreement), the focus was on envi-

ronmental cleanup. It was not on debris or removal of existing stuff at Stapleton."

### Phased development

At the July 10 Parks Advisory Group meeting, the question was raised whether the Westerly Creek North park could be built in phases. Charlie Nicola from Forest City and Dennis Piper, parks consultant to Park Creek Metro District confirmed phased construc-

tion would be much more expensive, especially with the creek being moved, which is the most expensive part of the project. Nicola explained that to change the flow of the streambed requires a permit, which would probably require that the whole piece be done at one time, which would require that the site is graded, which (continued on page 25)

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

## Stapleton Kickball Tournament on September 15

By Bryan Penny

The 9th Annual Stapleton Kickball Tournament, presented by SUN, MCA, Forest City and Jim ‘N Nick’s, is just around the corner. The tournament will be held in Central Park on Saturday, September 15, between 10am and 2pm. This is one of the oldest Stapleton events and a great way for Stapleton residents to get some exercise while enjoying the company of their neighbors and friends. Players of all abilities are encouraged to sign up; it is all about having fun!

If you and some of your neighbors and friends are interested in having a team, go to [www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com/SUN-Kickball](http://www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com/SUN-Kickball) and register. Teams can have up to 20 people; 9–14 players can be on the field at any time. There must be four males and four females playing at all times. Registra-

tion for each team is \$175 and includes 10 T-shirts and lunch for all participants (each additional T-shirt is \$10). Because SUN is a 501(c)(3), this is a tax-deductible donation. We only have room for 20 teams, so sign up today!

This year all proceeds of the tournament will be used to purchase additional trees for planting in Stapleton parks. On Earth Day 2013, SUN will be working with Denver Parks and Rec and MCA to plant the new trees in key areas around our neighborhood.

We currently have MCA, Forest City and Jim ‘N Nick’s sponsoring our event, but would like more sponsors. If you are interested, please visit our sponsor page with information at [www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com/SUN-Kickball/kickballsponsors](http://www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com/SUN-Kickball/kickballsponsors). There are various sponsorship levels, so contact SUN at [stapletonunitedneighbor@gmail.com](mailto:stapletonunitedneighbor@gmail.com) for information.

In addition to the kickball, we are planning to have a DJ and fun activities for kids. Whether you choose to play in the tournament or just want to bring the family out to watch and participate in the other festivities, this is a great community event.

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## Letters to the Editor

### Park Hill and Stapleton School Disparities

After reading your article on the “difficulties” with the schools in Stapleton and Park Hill and hearing about all the pussy-footing around the topic that apparently went on at the community meetings, I can help you out by clearly and directly stating the issues no one seems interested in stating. Park Hill is poor and colored (brown and black); Stapleton is rich and white.

If there is any doubt about whether this is the issue, take a quick look at two schools that are less than a quarter mile apart on the same street. The kids on the Ashley Elementary playground are almost entirely brown and black. The kids on the Bill Roberts playground are almost entirely white. Now take a look at the homes those kids come from. South of Montview the houses are small and, judging by the cars and the upkeep, clearly not the homes of wealthy individuals. In Stapleton, many of the homes are lavish and nice cars abound.

Of course, here in DPS we do have the option to “choice” into other schools—if there is space. This seems like a good option. Until you see what this sort of “choice” does to a child. It is no fun to be the only brown or black kid in a whole class of whites. . . it is also no fun to pile poverty into that mix. Imagine being the only black kid, and also being the only one who is poor enough to qualify for free or reduced lunch. Imagine how much fun it is to be the only one whose parents are not contributing to lavish gifts for the teachers or buying random unnecessary items at the nearly constant school fundraisers.

As a parent, consider the unintentional (but nevertheless clear) attitude of the Stapleton parents that you are pushing your way into “their” school by choicing in. Imagine being the only one to pick your child up in a beat-up ancient Honda, and having to wait with the Stapleton nannies.

Now imagine how much better it would be if the school boundary lines were more reasonably drawn and there were a variety of colors and income levels at all the schools in the area. Yes, I hear that little voice in your head—“Better for whom?”  
*Jane Smith*

### Theft of Newspapers

Sometimes when you see something that is wrong, you know you need to do something about it. Nine years ago, I was serving as the state representative in District 56, representing the people of Eagle, Lake and Summit Counties in the Colorado House of Representatives. Someone was upset about something written in one of the free distribution newspapers in my district and decided the best way to stop everyone else in town from seeing it would be to steal all the newspapers.

The theft of those newspapers was damaging to virtually all of my constituents. The people who depended on that paper for news and information were victims as the thieves effectively violated their First Amendment rights to benefit from a free press when they censored that newspaper by stealing all the copies. The businesses that advertised in the paper spent hard earned money and made business decisions based upon the advertisements they’d purchased were hurt when the entire run of that newspaper was stolen for the express purpose of making sure that no one, including their customers and potential customers, would ever see anything printed in it. Finally, the newspaper itself was hurt. It lost financially as its investment to make the newspaper available was stolen, but even more so by a thief who stole the paper’s right to communicate with its community.

When local prosecutors declined to prosecute the case because they said they no crime had been committed under Colorado law because they couldn’t establish a value for newspapers that were distributed to the public without cost, I knew something had to be done.

Working with representatives of law enforcement, business organizations and newspapers, Senator Jack Taylor and I introduced House Bill 1057 in 2004. The bill made it a crime to steal newspapers for the purpose of depriving other people access to information. It passed the legislature by huge margins and was signed into law by Governor Bill Owens.

I was shocked to hear earlier this year that a task force of the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice was considering recommending doing away with the newspaper theft law and was even more amazed that the full commission has now recommended repeal to the legislature.

It seems pretty simple to me. You don’t take things that don’t belong to you. But beyond that, we carefully crafted HB 1057 to only bring the law into these crimes when it could be proven that the theft took place to deprive other people the right to read what was printed in the newspaper. If the legislature accepts this ill-conceived recommendation to repeal the law, it will create open season on a free press as stealing papers for the purpose of censoring information will be legalized in Colorado. I urge the CCJJ to reconsider its very flawed recommendation, but if it goes forward, the legislature owes it to my former constituents and all Coloradans to swiftly kill the bill and leave existing protections in place.

*Carl Miller served in the Colorado House of Representatives from 1997 until 2004.*

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# Stapleton Update

(continued from page 23) would require seeding, which would require irrigation. Some jobs may lend themselves to phasing (like 26th Ave. Park), but not this park. However, new plans are being drawn for this park and they will see if any phasing could be possible.

## 26th Ave. Park

Forest City has not yet taken down the land for the park. According to Tom Gleason, "We have not yet made decisions about the park development scope and schedule. To the degree possible, work on the street extensions and future work on the park will be coordinated for both engineering and cost savings." He confirmed that Mortenson, as construction manager for PCMD, will oversee the construction of the streets and the park.

At the July Citizen's Advisory Board meeting, Gleason stated they will have 26th Ave. Park plans to submit to Aurora, "probably in mid-September."

## Stapleton Parks Yahoo Group

A Stapleton Parks Yahoo Group has been formed to facilitate discussion of parks and park development in the Stapleton community. The group is open to all. Visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/StapletonParks/>, click on "Join this group," and sign in with your Yahoo, Facebook or Google ID.

## 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](mailto:FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com). Submit by the 15th for consideration in the following month's issue.

## Forest City Lobbies for Patent Office in Stapleton

Tom Gleason confirmed that Forest City's marketing efforts to get the new US Patent Office are focused on Stapleton, either near the Central Park Rail Station or in the commercial area near I-70 and Central Park Blvd. In announcing Denver as one of three locations that will get a new satellite office, The Patent Office stated "Selection of the sites was based upon...criteria including geographical diversity, regional economic impact, ability to recruit and retain employees, and the ability to engage the intellectual property community...Denver is a sought-after place to live and work with relatively low cost-of-living—a critical combination for the recruitment and retention of top talent. Denver also boasts an above average population of potential Veteran employees."

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To create a well-organized classified page where readers can quickly find what they need, the Front Porch requires that every ad starts with the generic term for whatever is being advertised. Categories may vary based on ads received that month. For more information visit [www.FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://www.FrontPorchStapleton.com) -> Advertising -> Classified

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**Below:** Max Makovsky, 10, son of Stapleton pediatri-  
cian and Lowry resident Dr. Noah Makovsky, gets lost  
in a book he found in the kids' area, which is spon-  
sored by his dad's practice, Stapleton Pediatrics.  
**Right:** Kit Cusker, head librarian, at her desk.  
**Below right:** Media:scape, an area for collaboration.  
**Middle right:** Marshall Burrows, 10, and his dad,  
John, check out an adult/child computer station.  
**Far right:** The adult nonfiction area, with seating  
around a fireplace, is at the far end of the library.  
*Photos were taken at a preview event for donors.*



Check out the video on  
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## Library

be found on them. Board books, for instance, will be in bins that toddlers can easily access. Some of the children's bookshelves are placed within view of the adult new releases, allowing parents a chance to browse near their kids.

A lot of thought went into what would be placed on all those shelves. Joan Hansen, senior librarian in the Collections Development Office and Stapleton resident, considered the needs, interests and diversity of the Stapleton and surrounding neighborhoods' residents when choosing almost 100,000 new books and electronic media to purchase for the Sam Gary Branch.

If you have trouble finding a book or need to do some research, the librarians are a resource for you. If what you want isn't at this branch, they can have it delivered to the Sam Gary Branch from another library. "I enjoy showing somebody that they can get resource materials they might not know about just by using their library card," explains Cusker. For example, if someone is looking for a topic from Consumer Reports, they can look



at print copies or search DPL's database of the magazine for free.

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computer tables, in collaboration with others in the “media:scape” area or using the interactive SMART Board for presentations in a meeting room. Bring your laptop and connect to free Wi-Fi throughout the library or outside. There is also a wide selection of downloadable media like movies and books for e-devices. Cusker says “the focus was on providing updated technology here that the older branches just aren’t able to accommodate.”

Eight self-check stations allow visitors to check out multiple items simultaneously. Because self-check is so quick and easy, Cusker and Harder encourage people to use the self-check stations even though there will be two librarian check-out stations. Returning items

will be a snap too, with an automated book sorter that checks in books instantly. The librarians remind everyone to place items in the automated book sorter one at a time and spine-side first.

Starting in the fall, the Sam Gary Branch will offer a variety of programs including storytimes for children that teach early literacy skills; teen activities; and, for adults, DPL’s popular Fresh City Life My Branch with cooking demos, author visits, craft programs and more.

Visitors will find plenty of seating conducive to either curling up with a good book or for conversation, including around a fireplace. But when quiet time is a must, study rooms are available. Rooms that accommo-



date up to 100 people for community meetings can be rented for a minimal price.

Of all of the things that make the Sam Gary Branch forward-thinking and unique, perhaps the biggest one is the vision for how visitors will interact with each other. Cusker and Harder want the library to be a place where people hang out and visit. “That whole ‘shushing’ library thing has become a myth,” says Harder. “We would like people to use their indoor voices though,” she adds, laughing. They realize that means it could get a little boisterous at times and that some people might be bothered by it. “This branch may not be for you in that case, but there are other branches nearby that have a quieter atmosphere,” explains Cusker. “This

one is designed for people to interact.”

When you go to the Sam Gary Branch, be sure to introduce yourself to the staff. They can’t wait to meet you. “I am thrilled to be here and I’m looking forward to having everybody enjoy the space,” says Cusker. Harder agrees. “It’s a beautiful library and we hope everyone in the community will come in and love it and use it again and again.”

Sam Gary Branch Library will be open Mondays, 10am–6pm; Wednesdays, 12–8pm; Fridays, 10am–6pm; and Saturdays, 9am–5pm. They will be closed Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. The phone number is 720.865.0325. The website is [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org).



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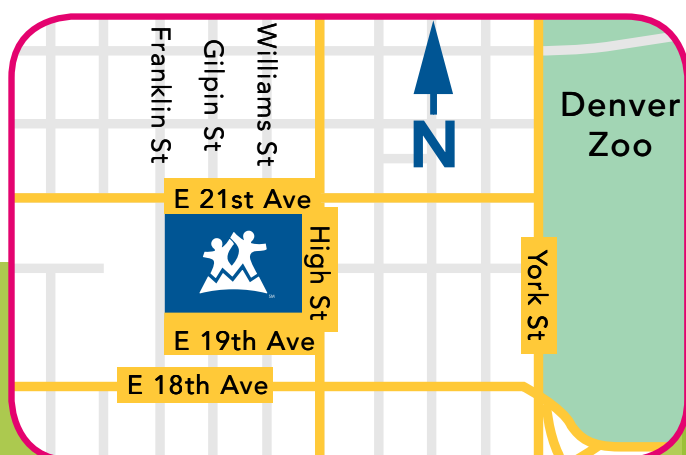
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