

# Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

SEPTEMBER 2012

## McAuliffe Middle School Opens



McAuliffe sixth-graders Salik Matthews and Kawannis Pullins (foreground) concentrate on learning to use their new “clickers” in math class. Karlos Castaneda-Castanon and Cera Rowe are seated in the second row.

Teachers can present new information using an electronic whiteboard and get students’ responses immediately, allowing them to see which students didn’t understand the lesson just taught.

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

The first day of school is always a bundle of nerves and excitement. Throw into the mix that it’s a brand-new

school and the energy is palpable. The new McAuliffe International School opened on August 20 with 184 students coming from 20 different elementary schools. The school

is comprised of only the sixth grade this year, adding seventh next year and eighth the following year.

The initial challenge, explains Principal

Kurt Dennis, is helping the students make the transition from elementary school to middle school. “We were very intentional during the first week to do a lot of work around what’s different, expectations-wise, between elementary and middle school such as having lockers, seven different teachers versus one all day, (continued on page 30)

## Innovative Artwork Brings Sunlight into New Library

By Barbara Neal

From the complex sun-tracking device or “sundolier” on the roof of the new Sam Gary Branch Library to the large light sculpture in the children’s library area, Steven Appleton’s public art gives light an active character. Entitled “LaminaLight,” the artwork distributes the intense light brought down the large aluminum tube from the sundolier outside into the interior space of the library. Carefully placed mirrors and other reflectors bounce this light against the elliptical fabric elements, or pods. Graceful bentwood arms connect the aluminum tube to the pods and high-efficiency LED lights that will interactively dim with the changing light levels during the day.

Appleton believes that animating space with light, “enlightenment,” expresses beautifully the unique role of libraries in our community—to stimulate the imagination and the intellect. An avid reader as a child, he took to science experiments and building things, wanting to wrestle with materials. As an artist, he was initially intrigued by found objects and glass, (continued on page 3)



Artist Steven Appleton adjusts the reflectors that direct light collected by a sunlight harvester on the roof of the library during the installation of his “LaminaLight” sculpture. The sunlight illuminates the fabric disks on the sculpture that hangs in the children’s section. Appleton says the light animates the experience of being in the building. The light changes with the strength of sunlight, time of day and clouds.

## DPS Board OKs Bond for November Vote

6-12 School at Northfield Included—Along with Many Projects Throughout District

By Carol Roberts

At the end of the Denver Public Schools (DPS) board meeting on August 23, after hours of often emotional public testimony, the board voted five to two to put the \$466 million bond and \$49 million mill levy on the November ballot. The board listened to both parents and children make their pleas for why the bond should or shouldn’t be passed, with the majority speaking in favor based on specific needs from their schools.

The \$466 million bond will, if passed, invest \$230 to improve the sustainability and energy (continued on page 4)

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Photo from the 2011 Stapleton Rocks event on the Green.



Photo by Adrian Diuabaldo

## CALENDAR

Events listed below are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC or support nonprofits.  
(Additional events are listed on pages 19-23. Recurring events are listed on page 21.)

### SEPTEMBER

#### Every Monday & Wednesday

Yoga on The Green 9:30am & 6pm.  
The Green\* [www.loveyogacolorado.com](http://www.loveyogacolorado.com)

#### Every Sunday thru Oct 14

Farmer's Market 8:30am–12:30pm  
The Green\* [www.coloradofreshmarkets.com](http://www.coloradofreshmarkets.com)

#### Monday, September 3

DJ @ the Pools/Pools Close Noon–4pm  
All Pools, [events@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:events@stapletoncommunity.com)

#### Tuesday, September 4

Children's Museum, Target Tuesdays  
1st Tuesday nights free, 4–8pm, [cmdenver.org](http://cmdenver.org)

#### Friday, September 7

First Friday Flight (Spanish Wine Tasting) 7–9pm  
Jet Stream Pool\*  
[events@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:events@stapletoncommunity.com)

#### Saturday, September 8

Stapleton Rocks... a Concert for a Cause  
Noon–10pm The Green\*  
[events@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:events@stapletoncommunity.com)

#### Saturday, September 8

Denver Art Museum - SCFD Free Day  
720-865-5000 [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

#### Sunday, September 9

Dog Daze 1pm–3pm F-15\* Pool  
[events@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:events@stapletoncommunity.com)

#### Thursday, September 13

Active Minds Seminar 7pm–8pm  
MCA Community Room\*  
[events@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:events@stapletoncommunity.com)

#### Saturday September 15

9th Annual Stapleton Kickball Tournament  
Central Park\*, 10am–2pm  
[stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com)

#### Sunday, September 16

Technology Trot First Annual Fun Run & Walk  
9am, Stapleton Central Park  
Register: <http://technologytrot.eventbrite.com>

#### Sunday, September 23

Park Hill Home Tour 11am–5pm  
Street Fair 1900 block of Forest Parkway  
(more info on page 12)

#### Monday, September 24

First Annual Bluff Lake Open Golf Tournament  
(rescheduled from original date in Aug.)  
Celebrating Bluff Lake Nature Center and  
Fitzsimons Golf Course  
John Mezger at [jmezger@blufflake.org](mailto:jmezger@blufflake.org)

### SEPTEMBER

#### Saturday, September 29

Sweet William Market 9am–2pm  
The Green\* [events@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:events@stapletoncommunity.com)

### OCTOBER

#### Monday, October 1

Colfax Corridor Connections Initial Public  
Meeting to identify mobility and transit  
solutions between I-25 and I-225, 5:30-7:30pm  
Anschutz Medical Campus, Tri-Visible Conference  
Room, Research Building 2, 2nd floor  
12700 East 19th Avenue, Aurora  
[Info@ColfaxCorridorConnections.com](mailto:Info@ColfaxCorridorConnections.com)  
(303) 223-6595

#### Thursday, October 4

Colfax Corridor Connections public meeting  
to identify mobility and transit solutions  
between I-25 and I-225, 5:30-7:30pm  
Knights of Columbus Hall, 5:30-7:30pm  
1555 Grant Street, Denver, CO 80203  
[Info@ColfaxCorridorConnections.com](mailto:Info@ColfaxCorridorConnections.com)  
(303) 223-6595

#### Monday, October 1

Denver Botanic Gardens - SCFD Free Day  
720-865-3500 [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

#### Thursday, October 4

2nd Annual Education Expo 6:30pm  
(doors open 6:15pm)  
Swigert-McAuliffe International School  
3480 Syracuse Street  
[www.stapletonunitedneighbors.org/education](http://www.stapletonunitedneighbors.org/education)  
(more info on page 28)

#### Saturday, October 6

Chipotle Cultivate, 10am-6pm  
Free festival in the meadow at City Park  
(more info on page 19)

\*More information at [Events@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto: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.  
F-15 pool: 2831 Hanover St.  
Jet Stream pool: 3574 Alton St.  
Central Park: Cross streets are Martin Luther King Jr.  
Blvd and Central Park Blvd. in Stapleton

**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.**



#### DJ at the Pools—All Pools Close for the Season

The summer is coming to an end and all pools will close on Monday, September 3. Each pool will be equipped with a DJ on that day from noon–4pm to celebrate the summer season with music and games!

#### First Friday Flight

The last wine tasting at the pools will be held at Jet Stream on September 7 from 7–9pm and will feature wines from Spain and Portugal. Tastings are divided into sections around the pool and will feature 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 must present a valid ID to enter.

Tickets can now be purchased for the “October Wine & Food Pairing” on Friday, October 5 at the West Crescent. This event will feature four wines and a variety of small food plates designed to enhance the flavor profiles within the wine. Tickets are \$20 for residents and \$30 for nonresidents. There will only be 150 tickets available for this event and it will be the last tasting of the season

#### Stapleton Rocks...a Concert for a Cause

This event is scheduled for Saturday, September 8. The concert will begin at noon and conclude at 10pm on The Green. It will be a day filled with live music, food trucks and fun! All proceeds from the quad bungee, the giant slide and the concession stand will benefit the Denver Children's Home.

The bands participating in the concert are also raising money for this great cause. Bands that raise the most money will perform before one of our headline concerts next summer!

The Binding	12:15–12:45pm
Park Hill	1–1:30pm
Agrionius	1:45–2:15pm
SNNAB	2:30–3pm
Mossgatherers	3:15–3:45pm
*BREAK	4–4:30pm
School of Rock	4:45–5:15pm
Mitch Lehn Folk Trio	5:30–6pm
Wabash Cannonballs	6:15–6:45pm
Starcar Sunday	7–7:30pm
3 Star Monday	7:45–8:15pm
Outta My Alley	8:30–9:15pm
Northside Tragedy	9:30–10pm

For more information about this event, visit our website at [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com) or call the MCA office at 303.388.0724.

#### 4th Annual Dog Daze

On September 9, before winterizing the pool for the season, F-15 will open its gates once again to offer an afternoon of fun for our furry friends. All dogs will have plenty of room to run, swim, fetch and socialize throughout the afternoon. A DJ will be poolside pumping out fun-themed tunes and taking special requests from the crowd.

Registration is \$5 per dog (if registered before the day of event) or \$10 per dog on the day of the event (if space available). To register, visit [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com) or call 303.388.0724.

**Dog Daze schedule** (determined by size of your dog):

- Small Dogs (less than 40lbs) 1–1:45pm
- Pool Cleared 1:45–2pm
- Large Dogs (over 40lbs) 2–3pm

#### SNL...Kids' Night Out!

The Stapleton MCA and Central Park Recreation Center are partnering to host a night of entertainment for children between the ages of 7–12. The event will be held at the Central Park Recreation Center on Saturday, September 15 from 6–9pm. Bring your swim gear and an appetite! A nacho bar will be available along with snacks, music and games. Pre-registration is \$10 per child and registration will close on Thursday, September 13. To register, visit [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com) or call 303.388.0724.

#### Donation Yoga Class

**Saturday, Sep. 1, 9:30am on The Green\***

Staying in town for Labor Day weekend? Start the day with a rejuvenating yoga flow practice with Lora of Love Yoga Colorado. All donations from this class will benefit local Stapleton schools.

**Sunday, Sep. 16, 5pm on The Green\***

Experience yoga from the heart and come support the Aurora Victim Relief Fund. Please provide a donation to support the families affected by the Aurora shooting on July 20.

Bring a yoga mat and/or towel, water bottle and your donation to benefit either of these organizations. For more information, visit [www.loveyogacolorado.com](http://www.loveyogacolorado.com).

#### Sweet William Market

The final market of the season is scheduled for Saturday, September 29 from 9am–2pm on The Green. The Sweet William Market is a stylish outdoor market that hosts a variety of artsy vendors and local food trucks. This unique market is a perfect place to meet up with friends and browse handmade crafts and gifts, while enjoying a refreshing beverage and snack from one of the food trucks

If you have questions or would like more information about the events above, please contact [events@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:events@stapletoncommunity.com), visit our website at [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com) or call the MCA Office at 303.388.0724.

Dani Mead  
Communications Coordinator



Sponsored by Stapleton MCA

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## Front Porch

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

The Stapleton Front Porch is published by Stapleton Front Porch, LLC, 2566 Syracuse St., Denver, CO 80238. 33,000 papers are printed. The free paper is distributed during the first week of each month to homes and businesses in Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair, Hale and East Colfax.



Library

which then led to ephemeral materials and light as components of sculpture.

The “LaminaLight” functional sculpture activates the building with light as the sun moves and entices the viewer to notice the craftsmanship, the materials and the symmetry of the piece. The sculpture appears to enter into a dialogue with the space and surrounding architecture.

A resident of Los Angeles, Appleton has completed numerous public art works in California and internationally, in Denmark and Brazil, many involving the innovative use of technology. He received his bachelor of fine arts degree from the University of California at Santa Cruz.

Barbara Neal, the public art consultant for Stapleton, can be reached at [barbneal@mindspring.com](mailto:barbneal@mindspring.com).

*This public art project, managed by Arts and Venues Denver, was funded by the Better Denver Bond Program. A City of Denver ordinance directs that 1% of any capital improvement project over \$1 million undertaken by the City be set aside for the inclusion of art in the design and construction of these projects. The city’s public art collection, now numbering more than 300 works of art, enables Denver residents to experience art in public places, thereby creating more visually pleasing environments.*

**Below:** “LaminaLight,” the public art in the new Sam Gary library. **Right:** The “sundolier” on the roof of the library that moves with the sun to collect light that is directed to the sculpture.



Photo by Adrian Diubaldo

**Left:** Mike King, Denver Public Library Friends Foundation (left rear), joins Mayor Michael Hancock and Sam Gary for the official ribbon cutting at the opening of the new Sam Gary Library on August 11.  
**Below:** A young visitor looks through the movie selections on opening day.



Photo by Adrian Diubaldo

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## DPS Bond

(continued from page 1)

efficiency of all schools, \$119 million for new construction in areas with the greatest population growth (including \$38 million for a 6-12 school at Northfield Stapleton), \$78 million to renovate and expand due to overcrowding, and \$39 million for enhancing technology and infrastructure.

The \$49 million mill-levy override will, if approved, increase enrichment programs (art, music, physical education), increase full-day preschool and kindergarten, expand instructional support (tutoring, small groups), and update classroom technology.

The board meeting and vote concluded a 15-month-long process that started with a survey of school principals regarding their schools' needs. DPS then convened a Community Planning and Advisory Committee (CPAC) that first determined whether DPS should pursue a bond and then how the needs should be prioritized. As noted by Board Member Happy Haynes, that committee worked for months to develop the recommendations. "There were 28 or more meetings, hundreds of hours, thousands of pages of information and documents that this committee sorted through on behalf of all of us in this city. I think...the package they presented to this board was thoughtful, it was balanced, it was responsive and it was thorough."

The Board then engaged in weeks of intense analysis that included visiting schools, public meetings, and ultimately, compromise that added board member Jeanne Kaplan to the majority voting for the bond. Kaplan called the vote, "one of the hardest decisions I've made in my life." Haynes "affectionately" referred to the board's negotiations as "sausage," but it is sausage that we can all cook and eat and offer to the rest of our citizens."

Board President Mary Seawell spoke about the final efforts to unify the board, days before



Days after the board vote, yard signs supporting the bond started appearing in the Stapleton neighborhood.

their vote. "Our responsibility is reaching out, saying, 'We're really close and I want this to work.'" She referred broadly to other institutions where a majority might say, "We have the votes. We can do what we want to do." And you have a minority who gets used to not having to be accountable for outcomes and decisions. We can't do that with an investment in public education. We are betraying the very reason we were elected to these positions when we do not say, 'I know this isn't how you would have built it but I know you can help me make this better, make it faster, make it work more for the city and the students and children of Denver.'"

The two board members who opposed the bond were Arturo Jimenez and Andrea Merida. Merida expressed that her minority constituents didn't fairly benefit from the bond improvements. Jimenez said he did not support the new construction, believing money should be going to existing schools and that the proposal doesn't address the inequity between high and low performing schools.

Board member Nate Easley observed, "This is about investing and I can guarantee that investment will pay off. A kid who can't read in third grade is significantly more likely to end up in prison than a kid who can read in third grade. We spend \$29,000 a year for each prisoner. And now we're debating over pennies for our kids?"

The bond and mill levy override come at a time when DPS, with an average facility age of 55 years, is the fastest growing district in the state—but from 2009-10 to 2012-13, funding from the state declined by \$800 per pupil. If the ballot measures are approved, it will mean approximately \$140 annually in additional property taxes (or about \$12 per month) for the owner of a Denver home valued at \$225,000.

Look for more information on this and other ballot issues in the October Front Porch.

Questions or comments? Visit Facebook at Front Porch Newspaper, email [FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com](mailto:FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com), or call 303-526-1969.

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# Michael Carrigan: At the Helm of CU Regents

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Michael Carrigan is one busy guy. In addition to being a husband and father of two young children, he's a partner in the Denver-based law firm of Holland and Hart and chair of the University of Colorado Board of Regents (and a fiercely loyal alum). His role at CU adds 40 hours per month to his already demanding schedule—but he doesn't mind. With 10 CU degrees under the belts of Carrigan and his immediate family, he says, "Public education has opened so many doors for me and my family and I'm so grateful for what it has done for us." Carrigan says he ran for the Board of Regents so he could give something back to the school he loves.

The \$3 billion budget is one of the primary responsibilities of the board, which governs all four CU campuses: University of Colorado at Boulder, at Colorado Springs, at Denver and the Anschutz Medical Campus. The amount of money received from the state is down 50 percent from what it was 10 years ago. The balance of the money comes from tuition, fees, auxiliary operations such as dining halls and student housing, private donations and research grants. Carrigan reports that, between CU Boulder and the Anschutz Medical Campus, CU ranks in the top 10 nationally in getting research grants. "It's remarkable to me...that we get more in private donations than we do from the State of Colorado," he says. He also notes that Anschutz is the largest economic development project in the Rocky Mountain West, ultimately generating 30,000 jobs in an area close to Stapleton.

In-state students pay about one-third the amount of tuition as out-of-state students but, by law, only one-third of the student body can be from out of state. So, Carrigan explains, CU does benefit from having out-of-staters help fill that financial gap.

When the state cuts funding, the university's options are to decrease spending (e.g., by increasing class size at the risk of decreasing quality) or ask families to make up some of that revenue. In addition, Carrigan says the university faces some of the same pressures businesses have when fixed costs (such as energy prices) go up or a new building is needed. "Students looking at elite schools like ours expect a nice recreation center, dining hall and dorms. To compete, we need to provide similar amenities."

One of the challenges of the board is to maintain finan-



Ellie, 5, Sarah, Michael and Daniel, 3, Carrigan take an evening stroll near their Stapleton home.

cial options for students of middle and lower incomes. Carrigan says as tuition increases, a portion of that additional revenue is set aside for students with middle and lower incomes. "The result is that tuition increases for most families are rather nominal once student aid is factored in."

Carrigan opposes suggestions that CU consider becoming "private." In his view, "there are enormous benefits to being a public institution, such as no local or property taxes and we receive certain legal protections." To help offset the effects of decreased state funding, CU has been freed from some state regulations. After the legislature let them out of the state procurement system a few years ago, Carrigan says CU was able to be "more nimble in how we contract for goods and services that serve the university better. So that's a way to remain public but be free from some of the larger controls of the State that can add to the overhead."

Carrigan personally has a long history with CU. When asked if he has any regrets about CU moving out of the Big 12 and into the Pac-12, he replied, "My vote to move to the Pac-12 is one of the easiest decisions I've made on the board. I think it was a great decision. Everywhere I've gone it's been

a source of great conversation and excitement among CU alumni. People love it. It's been good for fundraising and outreach. For example, we have 600 alumni in the state of Nebraska. We have 25,000 in California."

In 2005, following a football recruiting scandal at CU, the president resigned and the athletic director and football coach lost their jobs. In light of the Penn State situation, is Carrigan confident that the balance is right at CU now, with the board and president being in control of the athletic department? Carrigan first pointed out that CU was never sanctioned by the NCAA for recruiting violations, and went on to say, "I am confident in the leadership team we have overseeing athletics. We are committed to making sure that we have excellent athletes, but first and foremost they should be outstanding students."

Carrigan, now serving his second six-year term, was first elected in 2004. In June 2012 he started a one-year term as chair, the first time in 10 years the board has elected a Democrat to that position. With five Republicans and four Democrats on the nine-person board, Carrigan says political views are rarely an issue. He believes his election as chair of a board that has a Republican majority is a tribute to the board itself. "The regents represent the width of the political spectrum," he says. "We are representatives of the university and work across party lines, as it should be."

For certain issues, such as the right to carry guns on campus, Carrigan acknowledges that votes fall along party lines, but says as soon as the vote is over, they move on. "No one holds grudges." He adds, "Few issues are defined by Republican or Democrat—they are usually nonpartisan issues like budget, where political views aren't necessarily relevant."

Board members are elected from each of Colorado's seven congressional districts with two from the state at-large.

Even with the challenges the university and board face, Carrigan remains steadfast in his belief that the University of Colorado is an excellent educational option. Would he send his children there? "Absolutely!" he responds, with enthusiasm. His niece and nephew are there now and "couldn't be happier."

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Carrigan can be reached at [mcarrigan@hollandhart.com](mailto:mcarrigan@hollandhart.com) or 303-601-7667.



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# Second Annual Stapleton Kids' Triathlon

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Photos courtesy of Stapleton MCA



By Andrea Felsher

Two hundred young triathletes, ages 6–13, competed in the 2nd Annual Kids Triathlon. The event, sponsored by the Stapleton Master Community Association, was held Sunday, August 12, and included a swim in the Jet Stream pool, followed by a bike ride through Central Park, and finished with a run along the Westerly Creek Trail. Family, friends and neighbors lined the finish line to cheer the racers on.

*Felsher was the organizer of the triathlon event.*

## Top Finishers in the Stapleton Kids' Triathlon

### 6-year-old boys

1st: Ren Garfield  
2nd: Chase Ford  
3rd: Caleb Merson

### 6-year-old girls

1st: Anna Witzel  
2nd: Elizabeth Rebber  
3rd: Olivia Tencate

### 7-year-old boys

1st: Cole Younoszai  
2nd: Knox Leonard  
3rd: Peter Thompson

### 7-year-old girls

1st: Abby Dembeck  
2nd: Lily Najmowski  
3rd: London Bachelet

### 8-year-old boys

1st: Nate McHugh  
2nd: Sergio Delgado  
3rd: Beckham Blew

### 8-year-old girls

1st: Bayden Eddy  
2nd: Leah Hill  
3rd: Julia Lo

### 9-year-old boys

1st: Ben Parent  
2nd: Fritz Link  
3rd: Elliott Lehn

### 9-year-old girls

1st: Christina Doolan  
2nd: Anya Clifford  
3rd: Riley Buese

### 10-year-old boys

1st: Colby Thomas  
2nd: Ronan Stevens  
3rd: Benjamin Winchell

### 10-year-old girls

1st: Ava Baumann  
2nd: Ellie Clifford  
3rd: Lily Martin

### 11-year-old boys

1st: Sandis Seale  
2nd: Ryder Bechtold  
3rd: Connor Doolan

### 11-year-old girls

1st: Marley Anderson  
2nd: Gabrielle Garcia  
3rd: Paige Small

### 12-year-old boys

1st: Noah Hill  
2nd: Nathaniel Seale

### 12-year-old girls

1st: Drew Felsher  
2nd: Kate Thomas  
3rd: Elizabeth Price

### 13-year-old boys

1st: Trevor Gritton-Adkins  
2nd: Ethan Ruterbories

### 13-year-old girls

1st: Nora Nix



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# The Fire Captain

**Jon Meredith:** When you were growing up, your dad was a fireman. Did you always want to become a fireman?

**JM:** How does your immediate family feel about you being a firefighter and the dangers that go with the job?

JM: How do you assess the severity of a fire when your trucks roll up to it?

**Barker:** Read the smoke and its magnitude. Big fire means big smoke. We also assess the level of panic in the people around the



fire. We do what is called a “size up.” We look at the building, the type of construction, the size of the fire, how volatile it is and the color of the smoke. We take all those things into consideration in a matter of seconds and make a determination as to how to attack the fire. Denver is aggressive; we go into a lot of fires because saving lives is our priority. We will not risk a firefighter’s life to save a structure. How we attack it depends on whether it is a room-and-contents fire or an actual structure fire.

**Barker:** A room-and-contents fire can burn for an hour as long as it doesn't get into the structure. Once it gets into the structure, that is when the clock really starts ticking. It starts breaking down the components of the structure of the building. That is why drywall ratings are so important. Two-hour drywall ratings keep trash can fires from getting into attics and collapsing homes. Trusses in homes in Stapleton will collapse in less than two minutes when exposed to heat because the metal plates holding them together pop off.

**Barker:** Police officers have a much higher call volume than we do. They usually have calls waiting. Denver Fire Department is set up to get a piece of apparatus on the scene anywhere in Denver in less than four minutes. All of our guys are certified EMTs.

**Barker:** Number one is called EDITH, an acronym for Exit Drills in the Home. This teaches family members to have a planned escape if they do have a fire and where to meet outside. (*Note: There are*

**Barker:** Over 70 percent of our business is now medical responses. Fire prevention has been very effective. New building codes, alarms and detectors have all helped. The disadvantage is that guys do not get as much experience in actually fighting

**Barker:** Every day. Two meals a day for one 24-hour shift. Each guy puts in \$10 a shift for food. Most people think the City pays for the food, but we actually pay for it ourselves. We alternate who cooks each day.

**Barker:** I'm the wrong guy to ask that question to. I think it is not so much the guys as it is the profession. We are life-savers, so I guess that might be it.

**Barker:** The worst calls are any time a kid is involved, whether it is a fire or medical call. It just tugs at my heart when a child is involved.

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# New Medical Practice Focuses on Weight Loss

*How many diets have you tried?*

*How much weight have you gained back?*

By Nancy Burkhart

Stapleton resident Angela Tran is a doctor of osteopathic medicine who, in August, is opening a medical weight loss clinic called Med-Fit. Dr. Tran decided to specialize in weight loss after seeing many of her family members, as well as her patients, experience obesity that led to diabetes and other poor health conditions.

"My typical patients would be women 18 and older, although I also work with men," Dr. Tran said. "These are women who are classically frustrated with their weight. They are tired of having low energy. A lot of them have metabolic conditions like diabetes, PCOS, high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

"Research has shown that patients are more likely to be



Dr. Angela Tran

successful under the supervision of a physician in an organized program," Dr. Tran said. "Sure, you can do it on your own, but ask your girlfriends how many diets they have tried and how much weight they have gained back. We hope to get you on the right track the first time and keep it long term. This program is geared more toward healthy living, which is what Stapleton represents. I wanted to have a preventative approach."

"I have been in primary care for the last five years and am certified in internal medicine," she said. "I've found in my practice that obesity is often the root cause for many of these medical conditions." Med-Fit is a physician-supervised weight loss program that is designed to help patients achieve the normal standards of good health. That includes 1) normal body index; 2) normal cholesterol; 3) normal blood pressure; 4) normal blood sugar.

According to Dr. Tran, Med-Fit combines the three components to weight loss success: 1) a comprehensive diet program; 2) on-site training center with a fitness personal trainer; and 3) physician supervision.

"You want to participate in a diet and fitness program that is safe," Dr. Tran said. "By having a physician supervise a weight loss program, not only are you losing weight, but I can address the metabolic conditions and any other medical conditions that can serve as barriers to weight management. It's not just an eat less, exercise more equation. It's much more beyond that."

Weight-loss patients in Dr. Tran's care will be purchasing a long-term care program, she explained.

"Typically it takes three to six months on average, and more, depending on how much weight you need to lose," she said. "I have several different levels of the diet program. The first level is where I teach them what they should eat by using their own food. The second level is where I tell them exactly what to eat through meal templates. The third level is where I give the patient what they will eat.

"Based on the overall medical picture, I will prescribe a diet based on what I think they will do best on within that three-to-six-month time frame. The ones who need to lose only 10 to 15 pounds will be on the first level. The third level is 50 pounds and up."

After going through weight loss and fitness exercise with Dr. Tran, patients will be able to utilize an online program that will aid long-term maintenance with health tips.

Dr. Tran provides her patients with Optifast products, which are made by Nestle and are available only through a physician, she said.

Dr. Tran's office will open in mid-August. She is offering the first consultation, which normally costs \$99, for free through September.

Dr. Tran's clinic is located at 2373 Central Park Blvd., Suite 300. For information or appointments, call 720.220.3452, email dr-trangela@gmail.com or visit [www.denverweightlossclinic.com](http://www.denverweightlossclinic.com).

Questions or comments? Visit Facebook at FrontPorch Newspaper, email [FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com](mailto:FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com), or call 303-526-1969.

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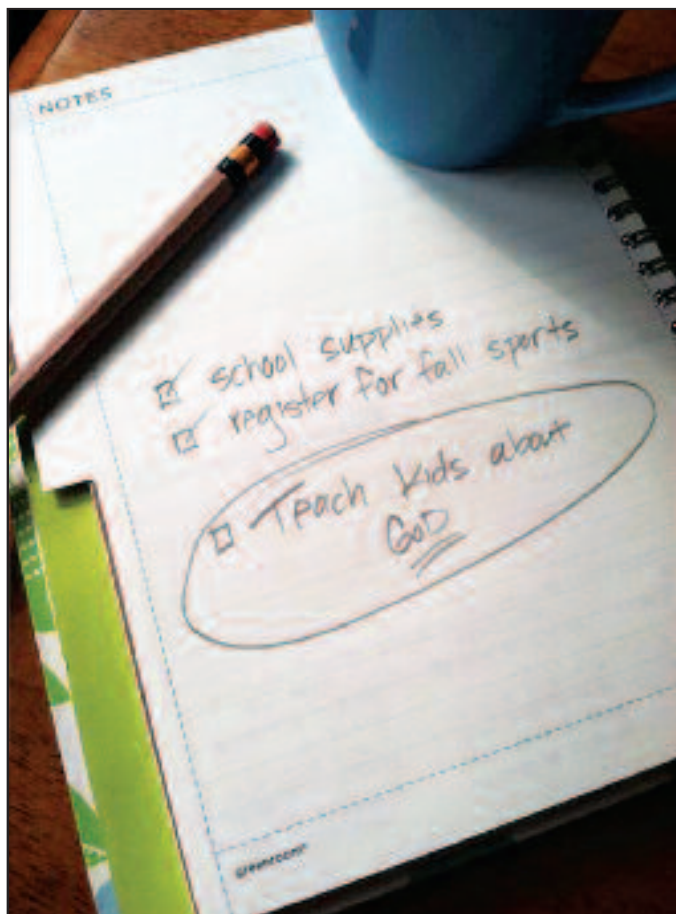
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Dentist Margie Williams sits in front of her new dental practice, which she had built in Stapleton's Eastbridge neighborhood near East 29th Ave. and Havana. Her practice is just a short walk from her home.

## A Dentist for the Whole Family

By Nancy Burkhart

There are many dentists who specialize, a fact that often leaves a family with several dentists – one for the children, one for the teenagers, one for Mom and Dad and one for the grandparents. But, Stapleton's Margie Williams, DDS, is working to solve that problem by being the one dentist for an entire family at Williams Family Dentistry, 2979 N. Iola St.

"We have several patients who said their kids have gone to a specialist, but they want to find a place where the whole family can go," Williams said. "It centralizes the dentist's chair for the whole family. Most serious types of issues for any specialty can be treated by a specialist, but general dentists are trained to treat all general problems for any age. Complicated surgical procedures are what require a specialist."

Williams, who has more than 20 years of dental experience, offers services such as crowns, bridges, night guards, athletic mouth

guards, dentures, fillings, implants, root canals, clear braces and whitening.

Williams and her husband, Mike, a physician, live at Stapleton, two blocks from the dental office, with their two children, three-year-old Luke and two-year-old Zoe. When Williams and her husband moved to Stapleton in 2005, the thought of moving her dental practice to Stapleton became a goal.

"When we moved here, we were told that there would be a town center with restaurants and services, and we thought it was a pipe dream to be able to have a dental practice there too," Williams said. "But several years later the opportunity presented itself and, with lots of input from Stapleton residents, it has come to fruition. I love to see the people that I treat at the grocery store, at the pool or at the park."

"We want to be able to provide what Stapleton residents are looking for," she said. "We want to be able to know our neighbors. We want to know (continued on page 11)

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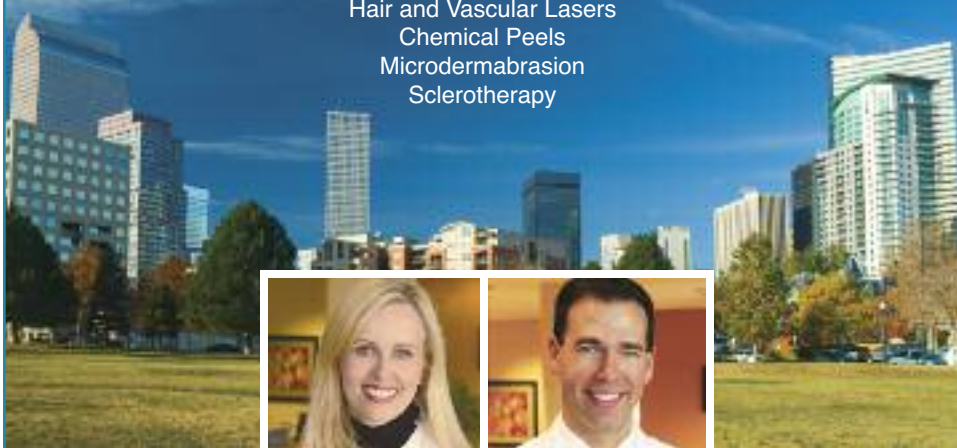
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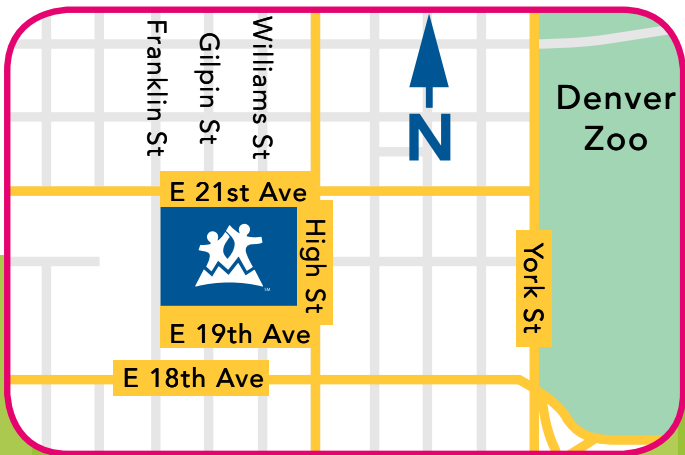


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# Moms Work Out with Strollers



Caren Elenowitz, owner of Stroller Strides, leads a boot camp-style workout for moms in Stapleton's Central Park.

By Nancy Burkhardt

Finding time to take fitness classes often escapes mothers who have no time to themselves without their children. That's when Stroller Strides becomes a priority.


"It's a bunch of moms, some who are on their third or fourth child, some on their first," explained Caren Elenowitz, who has just taken over ownership of Stroller Strides in the Stapleton/Lowry/Park Hill area. "We meet every day but Sunday. It's a boot camp-style class. We use resistance bands, which I bring with me. We also do a lot of body weight exercises like push-ups, squats, hill runs. We're working the body so it's ready for lifting the stroller, the kids, and carrying in the groceries—everything we have to do as moms. We have a lot of second-time moms. They have their first child in the stroller and are awaiting their second. We've had moms working out until the day they go into delivery. Stroller Strides mainly is to lose the baby weight and to get into shape for the next baby."

Elenowitz and her husband, Doug, are Stapleton residents. They have two children, Evan, 6, and Abbey, 3. Elenowitz started taking Stroller Strides classes when Abbey was four months old.

"It's not just for ultra-fit moms. I had been on bed rest for nine weeks, so I didn't have any muscle. I started when Abbey was four months old. I took the class for eight months and then became certified to teach."



Many mothers start Stroller Strides as early as six weeks postpartum, with a doctor's OK, Elenowitz said. Some moms take the fitness course to lose weight after their first baby and to become fit for the second one. Some had their first child at the age of 22, while others just had their first child in their 40s, she said.

"We modify everything," she explained. "We have one girl who can't go to the ground because she gets lightheaded. We have one who has wrist issues. We modify for it. We leave you feeling good and wanting to come



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back, and maybe just a little tired and sweaty.

"I think the tagline for Stroller Strides is sisterhood and motherhood," she said. "I really feel like these are my sisters. We're out there sweating, complaining and enjoying each other's company."

Elenowitz says Stroller Strides also offers moms other moms to talk with about their experiences.

"We have a lot of nurses in the group," according to Elenowitz. "If someone asks a question about nutrition for themselves or their child, someone there will have an answer. We will have a nutritionist come talk to the group.

## New Family Dentist

(continued from page 9) our patients as our friends and neighbors and have that whole community feel in the office."

In answer to her Stapleton neighbors' requests, Williams has set flexible hours.

"We've made our office hours as early as 7 a.m., and we'll work as late as 6 p.m. on weekdays so that people can catch the early morning or later appointments," she said. "We have a great location and a really nice office that had a lot of community input. We have massage chairs in each room. They're so popular that people ask if they can come in and just sit in the chair for an hour."

Williams Family Dentistry accepts most insurance plans, according to Williams.

For further information about Williams Family Dentistry, go to: [www.margiewilliamsdds.com](http://www.margiewilliamsdds.com) or email: [info@margiewilliamsdds.com](mailto:info@margiewilliamsdds.com). To make an appointment, call 303-945-2699.

We have playdates and moms' nights out. We chat on Facebook, supporting each other. It's a lot of fun."

The kids in their strollers have fun too, Elenowitz said.

"For the most part, the kids are happy, watching us jump around and tickle them," she said.

The first Stroller Strides class is free. An unlimited monthly pass costs \$55, allowing attendance as many days

as the holder wishes. A 10-class pass is \$95 for those who sign up on the first day. Classes are held at 9:15am at Central Park in front of the playground (MLK Blvd. and Xenia) every day but Sunday.

For information about Stroller Strides, go to [www.strollerstrides.net/denver](http://www.strollerstrides.net/denver). Call Caren Elenowitz at 303.619.9915 or email her at [caren@strollerstrides.net](mailto:caren@strollerstrides.net).



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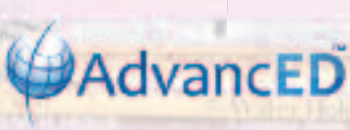

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**5280** Denver's Magazine **Top Dentist 2008–2012**



Mark and Nina Kuhl couldn't pass up the chance to buy the 1950s' tri-level on a huge (by Park Hill standards) lot, even though it was, according to Mark, "the ugliest house on the block" (small photo at right). But they had a plan.

With the help of HomeWrights, a company that acts as consultants to homeowners who want to be their own general contractor, the Kuhls created a Mid-Century Modern home

with an open floor plan (above). The first order of business was installing a flat roof, then clerestory windows and beige stucco that replaced the old wood siding (above right). The renovation also added green features, including extra insulation, passive solar and new windows.

They now have a wonderful and large Park Hill home for their two daughters, Isabel, 9, and Lillian, 7, to grow into and it's no longer "the ugliest home on the block."

By Carol Roberts

The Park Hill Home Tour will be held Sunday, September 23 from 11am to 5pm. Home Tour Chairperson Roberta Locke says, "At 34 years, I believe it's the longest-running home tour in the state." Accompanying the home tour will be a street fair with food vendors, a beer and wine garden, entertainment and "lots of activities for kids this year," promises Locke.

Over 2,000 people attended last year's event, which featured almost 70 vendors, two bands and a wide selection of food options. The street fair will be held in the 1900 block of Forest Parkway.

The tour will include seven homes that range in age from 1908 to 2004. Some of the homes are the original footprint, updated, but mostly as they were when built. At the other end of the spectrum is "a scrape,

a new-build in 2004 that fits well into the neighborhood," says Locke. "One has an open floor plan with an Asian flair. And there is a small bungalow that shows ways to live within a small space by knocking down a few walls."

One of the homes shows off an environmentally friendly clay process applied with a trowel that adds texture over plaster or dry-wall, with a custom color mixed into the clay. The woman who did the clay work will be at that home to answer questions about the process.

"Some of the homes have significant additions—one addition is almost 1,400 square feet, including a kitchen and family room with a big master suite above," explains Locke. "The contractors and architects will be on hand to answer questions and talk to people about the

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# Park Hill To Host 34th Annual Home Tour on September 23



design, the house and the materials they used.”

Locke added that a number of contractors and people who have products for existing homes will be at the street fair this year, so people who are thinking about remodeling or re-decorating will find helpful information there.

Adult pre-sale tickets are \$13, \$8 senior and \$5 child. Tickets will be available starting September 1 online at [www.GreaterParkHill.org](http://www.GreaterParkHill.org), at area King Soopers, Park Hill Bookstore at 23rd and Dexter, Park Hill Library and the Greater Park Hill office at 2823 Fairfax. Day-of-tour tickets are \$15 and will be available near the silent auction at the street fair (in the middle of the 1900 block of Forest Parkway).

For additional information call Roberta Locke at 303-355-4492 or email [robertalocke@aol.com](mailto:robertalocke@aol.com).

Questions or comments? Visit Facebook at Front Porch Newspaper, email [FrontPorchNewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:FrontPorchNewspaper@gmail.com), or Stapleton@gmail.com, or call 303-526-1969.

Dorothy and Gary Crowe-Willard's Tudor Revival-style home (above right), built for milliner magnate Otis W. Lyman, was completed in 1908. They purchased it in 1994. Changes the Crowe-Willards have made to their home include:

- Tearing down an old plywood structure by the garage and replacing it with a "ballet/ping-pong room" for their daughters Emma and Maya
- Upgrading the kitchen
- "Fixing up" the upstairs because it was "in terrible shape" when they moved in, says Gary
- Removing carpet and re-finishing the living room floor and adding a wood floor in the piano room (right). Gary Crowe-Willard says the piano room and study were probably originally covered porch spaces that were enclosed and made part of the house.



The Crowe-Willards' 3,600-square-foot home (above) has four bedrooms (all upstairs) and two and a half baths. The unusual tree fort entrance at left started with two spruce trees that succumbed to beetles. The Crowe-Willards hired sculptor Tom Carillo who came up with the idea of the elaborate tree house entrance between the trees. The design is inspired by Tlingit and Haida Indian art and adapted to incorporate themes from their family—including pets and hobbies such as music and dance that have been significant in their lives.



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# Premium Fishwrap\*

by Jon Meredith

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## The Lives Shattered by a Preschool Teacher

Although it was 20 years ago, I distinctly remember my daughter's first day of kindergarten at the Stanley British Primary School. Our family pulled up to the red-brick schoolhouse on 13th and Quebec with excitement and trepidation. Excitement, because this was our daughter's first day of "real" school; trepidation, regarding her moving on to a different era in her life. Would she like school, how would the teachers be with her and would she be safe? Most of my fears were immediately eased when the head of the school, Carolyn Hambidge, greeted my daughter by her name and asked her a personal question.

I was surprised Carolyn knew her name and shocked when she went on to greet every student by name. In the classroom, teachers and interns nurtured the children, often reading to them on pillows and on their laps. They promoted an atmos-

phere that was comfortable and safe for the kids, allowing them to progress at their own pace in an environment that was non-threatening. The school may not have been the best choice for all children and their parents. However, the parents who did send their children to Stanley clearly bought into the environment of learning that is at the core of the British Primary philosophy, which includes a trusting environment between staff, teachers, interns and parents that is for the benefit of the children. A place where a teacher or intern kissing a boo-boo on a child was not just tolerated but encouraged.

During our first years at Stanley, Carolyn's daughter Pippi Hambidge started a pre-school that had much the same philosophy as Stanley. Paddington Station was born out of demand for preschools and modeled on the success of Stanley. Since its inception, more than a thousand children have had their initial school experiences at Paddington.

On July 24, all the built-up trust and the preschool's reputation came crashing down instantly, when one of the longtime teachers at Paddington, David Moe, was arrested for allegedly possessing child pornography. It is a heinous crime when anyone is arrested on those charges. When a pre-school teacher is arrested, anyone who has ever had contact with him feels violated,

questions their own judgment and looks to their child for answers. "Did anything inappropriate happen when you were with David?" This question may be asked by parents or counseling professionals. No matter what the answer is, questions will remain.

For David Moe, if he is convicted, life as he has known it is over. No one tolerates pedophiles, especially inmates. In the end, he may only be charged with possessing child pornography, which may carry, for a first-time offender, a very light sentence, probation and the requirement to register as a sex offender. Looking at explicit images of young children may, to some people, not be much of a crime. But the possession of such images encourages those who profit from exploiting young children to continue to do so, which is exactly why the federal government tries its best to stop child pornography.

Mr. Moe will not be made to account for the lives he has devastated—thousands of parents of the children who attended the school, all their children, his coworkers, his own family and friends and, moreover, the Hambidge family. I remember well, parents of those at the tender age of pre-school and K-2 have a fierceness about them that at times may not seem rational. It is a natural instinct to protect the most vulnerable among us. Pippi Hambidge has been the target of this intrinsic fierceness. I doubt anything most of us have ever faced in our lives is as difficult as what she and her family have had to deal with over the last month. The criminal justice system will handle David Moe while Ms. Hambidge is left to pick up the pieces of her life due to someone else's actions.

Should she have known there were concerns or seen signs of Mr. Moe's alleged proclivities? Absolutely. Should she have attended a recent meeting with school parents? Certainly yes. Whoever gave her the advice to step down and miss that meeting may be good at warding off liability but is certainly terrible at public relations.

Should the parents of students who are encouraged to be in the classroom with their kids been more proactive about reporting any concerns regarding Moe? Absolutely, as well. Everyone who came into contact with David Moe at Paddington Station should look themselves in the mirror and ask, "What could I have done to recognize what this guy was allegedly all about?"

Bea Romer and Carolyn Hambidge founded the Stanley British Primary School almost 40 years ago at Montview Presbyterian Church. As well as the Romer family is known for politics, the Hambidge family is known as being educators and physicians. Despite the seriousness of the allegations against David Moe, we should not forget the extraordinary accomplishments and contributions the Hambidge family has made in our community, as proven by the successes of our children.

*Jon Meredith lives in Stapleton. He can be reached at jon.meredith@q.com. \*Fishwrap is a slang term that started in the '30s and refers to the transient value of yesterday's newspaper.*



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by Jennifer Watts, MD




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Snacking has gotten a bad rap, thanks to our tendency to choose empty-calorie snack foods like candy or chips to ease between-meal cravings. But when your stomach starts growling hours before your next meal, a healthy snack is actually a good idea, to help hold off hunger and keep energy levels high.

### What should I look for in a healthy snack?

- Choose foods that are high in dietary fiber, calcium and vitamins A and C.
- Avoid foods high in saturated fat and cholesterol.
- Look for whole grains and other complex carbohydrates (whole wheat flour, brown rice and old fashioned rolled oats). These have higher nutritional value and will stick with you longer than foods with simple or refined sugars.
- Practice portion control. A healthy snack is not meant to replace a meal.

### Healthy Snack Ideas:

**Breakfast Cereal** – Either dry or with low-fat milk, whole-grain cereals like Cheerios, Grape-Nuts, Raisin Bran and Frosted Mini Wheats make good snacks. Look for cereals with no more than eight grams of sugar per serving.

**Smoothies** – When using nonfat vanilla yogurt and fresh fruit, smoothies are packed with nutrients. Use yogurt, orange juice and a banana as the smoothie's base, then experiment with cut-up fresh or frozen fruit.

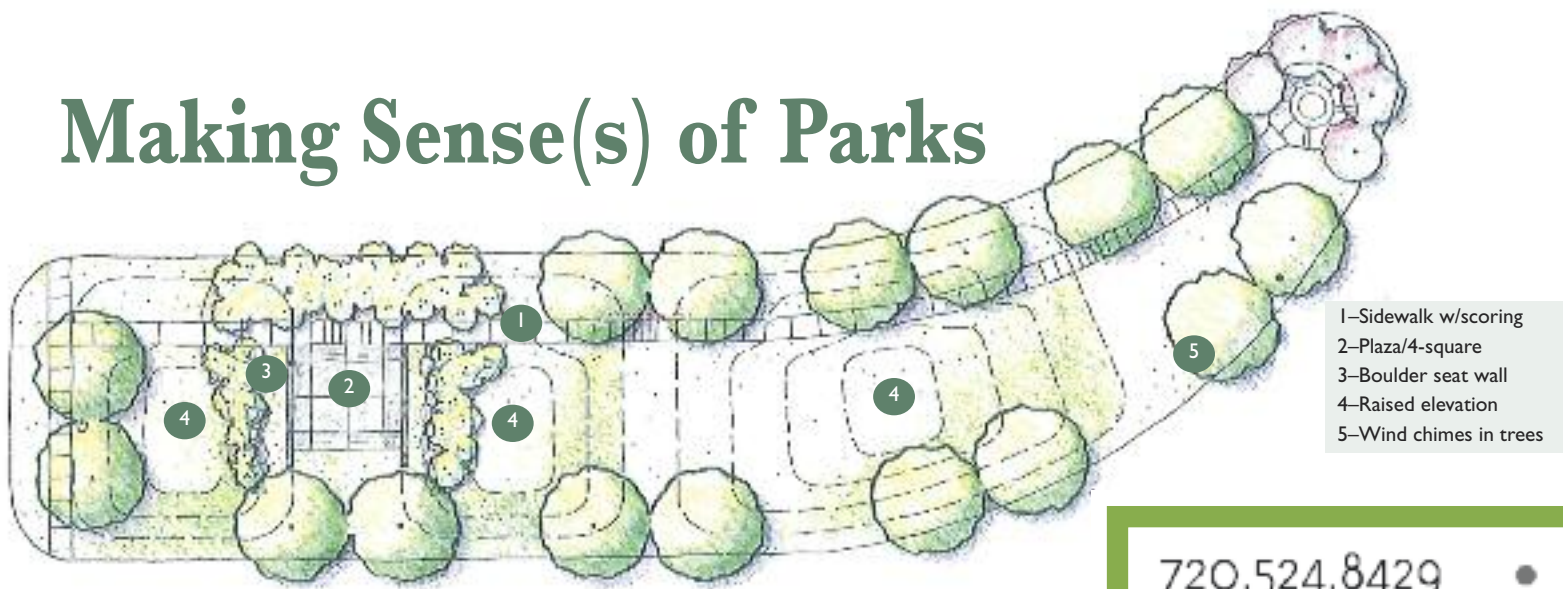
**Snack Mix** – Toss together a combo of nuts, whole grain cereal, banana chips, dried fruits, etc. for a quick, portable snack. Nuts contain must-have minerals such as magnesium, iron and zinc.

**Yogurt or Cheese** – Low-fat dairy products have impressive levels of two nutrients many of us need: calcium and protein.

*If you would like to make an appointment with Dr. Watts, please contact the Stapleton Family Medicine office directly.*



# Making Sense(s) of Parks



By Carol Roberts

Rumble Park and Cherry Pie Park are the newest pocket parks coming to Stapleton. Pocket parks, the small neighborhood parks sprinkled around Stapleton have, from the beginning, been based on inspirations or themes, says Heidi Majerik, Director of Development for Forest City, Stapleton. “The seasons parks are themed after spring, summer, winter, fall. Songbird park was all about attracting songbirds. And three pocket parks south of 35th were based off Charleston squares.”

The latest inspiration is the five senses. “The design of Bluff Lake neighborhood is embracing the five senses, which are sight, sound taste, touch and smell. Those senses will be incorporated using pocket parks and specific landscape guidelines for the homes. Currently there are two parks designed, one of which embraces the sense of sound, Rumble Park, and the second, which embraces the sense of taste, Cherry Pie Park. As the neighborhood develops, the other two senses, touch and



At Rumble Park, currently under construction, “rhythmic scoring” is visible in the recently poured concrete sidewalk. The four-square area is shown in the background.

smell, will be incorporated into the neighborhood.”

Rumble Park, illustrating the sense of sound, has a sidewalk with “rhythmic scoring” that will create sound as scooters and bikes pass over it. And there will be wind chimes in the trees. Cherry Pie Park, reflecting the sense of taste, will have Montmorency cherry trees (that have grown well elsewhere in Stapleton) and other edible plants interspersed with rows of grasses.

Home builders in the Bluff Lake neighborhood have been given landscape guidelines that incorporate plants that bloom red in spring, summer or fall—using a red theme to highlight the sense of sight.

Rumble Park, located near 27th and Jamaica St., is .43 acres and is expected to be completed in mid-September. Cherry Pie Park, to be located near 27th and Kenton, will be .52 acres and is expected to be finished by November.

Majerik states the pocket parks, which are managed by the Stapleton Master Community Association, are public parks. Though they tend to be used just by the neighborhood, they are not private to Stapleton residents. “From my vantage point it’s an entire system that works well together for everybody. We’ve got this mas-

sive system of parks and open space and pocket parks are one part of it. You’ve got the pocket parks, then the pool parks, then the town green, which is popular with the older kids. Then you go to our regional parks and greenways and then our big 80-acre urban park at Central Park. With the whole set, all levels of programming are provided at Stapleton in a really comprehensive way.”

The fact that 33% of Stapleton home buyers are second time buyers, says Majerik, shows that the needs of different types of households are being met.

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# Denver Civic Center Nominated for National Historic Landmark



The Denver City and County Building sits on the west side of Civic Center Park.

By Barbara Neal

National Historic Landmarks are nationally significant historic places designated by the Secretary of the Interior because they possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. The nomination of Denver Civic Center for such designation resulted from an extensive multiyear process led by Historic Denver. The landmark area encompasses 33 acres bounded by Grant Street on the east, 14th Avenue on the south, Cherokee Street on the west and Colfax Avenue on the north. Principal features include Civic Center Park, Veterans Park, the 1910 Denver Public Library (now known as the McNichols Building), the City and County Building, Lincoln Park and the Colorado State Capitol. Although development of Denver Civic Center began in 1890 and was considered completed in 1935, Denver Civic Center is today one of the most fully realized City Beautiful designs for civic centers in the U.S.




Historic Denver's research revealed as much about the political and civic climate of Denver at the turn of the 20th century as it did the design and construction of the State Capitol and its grounds, Civic Center Park and the City and County Building and its grounds. Cities in the late 19th century were plagued with problems of public health and corruption; the chaotic effects of rapid development. The City Beautiful movement that emerged from the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago encouraged a rebirth of community spirit and civic responsibility with efforts to beautify and create order, and stimulated the rise of city planning.

The Colorado State Capitol, Renaissance Revival in design, was under construction by 1890, creating also the opportunity for a larger urban park to function as an environment for the business of state and local government. In 1902, Denver became the City and County of Denver. In 1904, Mayor Robert W. Speer became mayor and his progressive vision for Denver, encouraged by William Henry Read, the head of the Denver Art Commission, embraced City Beautiful concepts. Mayor Speer commissioned a series of ambitious plans for buildings and landscaping that would reform the environment and be a means to improve the social order and give form to civic participation. Despite occasional setbacks, the mayor proceeded to engage a series of respected and talented architects, landscape architects and recognized artists to fill the Civic Center with grand structures and works of art. These included the neo-classical forms of the Voorheis Monumental Gateway on the north (1921), the Greek Theater and Colonnade of Civic Benefactors on the south (1919), and the Denver Public Library (1910) and numerous sculptures.

Architect and planner Edward H. Bennett's 1917 plan synthesized the work of many designers and artists by resolving practical and aesthetic concerns creating the ultimate design for Civic Center and confirming the location for the Georgian Revival City and County Building. Construction began in 1929 and the building and grounds were completed by 1935. The most recent Master Plan, developed in 2005, and bond issues continue to provide

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# Designation

maintenance and other Civic Center improvements. It is remarkable that all the various ideas and spaces over time became the coherent elegant environment we enjoy from the Colorado State Capitol to Lincoln Park to Civic Center Park to the City and County Building and surrounding areas.

Civic engagement was the goal for the Civic Center in the 1900s and it still fulfills that purpose. As in the past, political and civic events take place regularly as well as festivals, parades and other entertainment such as plays, films and concerts. The newly renovated McNichols Building was the site for the 2010 Bienial of the Americas and will be the center for this international event in 2013.

What does the future hold? According to Lindy Eichenbaum Lent, executive director of the Civic Center Conservancy, the nomination has been approved by both the national Landmarks Committee and the National Park Service Advisory Board, and Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar will make the final decision on the National Historic Landmark designation in the next nine months. Lent says the designation would not only enable Civic Center to compete for federal Save America's Treasures grants, but the prestige of the designation would help ensure that Civic Center continues to welcome people to enjoy its vibrant programming and beautiful environment.

For more information about Civic Center, visit [www.civiccenterconservancy.org](http://www.civiccenterconservancy.org). "The Park" section has information to aid in a self-guided tour. A map and brochure can be viewed or downloaded at [www.FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://www.FrontPorchStapleton.com) -> Sep2012 Content Summary

Barbara Neal is the Public Art Consultant for Stapleton and may be reached at [barbneal@mind-spring.com](mailto:barbneal@mind-spring.com).

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## What's Elvis Doing in the Mayor's Office?

By Carol Roberts

I'm no expert on Denver's City and County building, but surely one of the most impressive spaces in it is the oval-shaped mayor's office. As Mayor Hancock said in his first press conference after taking office, when asked what surprised him most, "You have to remember, I was president of council for two years so I met with the mayor every Tuesday morning...I never realized how physically large the mayor's office is. I walked in on the first day and I thought, 'This is a *big* office.'"

And when I walked in to a meeting of metro area community newspapers in the mayor's office (above photo), my first thought was, "This is a *big* office." I stepped it off and estimated it's 30' by 39'. By comparison the White House Oval Office is 36' by 29'. Perhaps the massive size was the architects' way of encouraging Denver's mayors to think big.

The most surprising item in the mayor's office is a life-sized statue of Elvis. It's a joke among metro area mayors. It gets delivered to the most recently elected mayor, who gets to add his or her autograph and keep it for awhile...then pass it on to another new mayor. We were there during the stock show so Elvis is wearing a western hat. As sports seasons and other events occur, the hat (and presumably other accessories) change.

We asked Amber Miller, the mayor's press secretary, whether Denver mayors substantially redecorate when they take office. It turns out the changes are primarily the artwork and the memorabilia, though Mayor Hickenlooper added the gold line shown below the ceiling



molding and labeled it, "*One Mile High*." The same desk has been there since Peña's administration. Hancock remembers when it arrived—he was working as an intern for Mayor Peña at the time.

The Denver Public Library has loaned photos that hang all around the City and County Building. From those photos, Mayor Hancock selected two old west images by Sumner Matteson to hang behind his desk—one of buffalo and one of cowboys driving cattle. According to a Denver librarian, legend has it that these Matteson photos were in Teddy Roosevelt's White House.

Matteson (1867-1920) was an interesting character. His family expected him to follow in their footsteps and be a banker. But after trying that a few years he quit to sell Victor bicycles in St. Paul. He then transferred to the Denver branch of the bicycle company, which also sold Kodak cameras and supplies. Matteson fell in love with photography and, combining his passions, took some of the earliest photographs of the American West while on bicycle excursions.

Hancock's favorite painting, according to Amber Miller, is *Mount of the Holy Cross*, attributed to Thomas Moran. (The mountain is in Eagle County, CO.) It hangs in a beautiful gold frame and, to a non-expert, looks like it could be an original by the well-known artist. However, we understand that a Moran expert believes the style and brush strokes differ from Moran's.

Another of Hancock's favorites is a watercolor by Willie Matthews. Matthews, known for his paintings of working cowboys, loaned the artwork to Hancock to help decorate his new (big) office.



Left: Meeting of community newspapers in the mayor's office

Above: "One mile high" line added by Mayor Hickenlooper

Below: Photo of buffalo by Sumner Matteson



Above: *Mount of the Holy Cross* attributed to Thomas Moran

Below: Cowboy watercolor loaned by Willie Matthews



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# Take a Hike by Marko and John Babiak

## Spider Dragons, Goldfinches and Smiling Dragonflies

### How we blended summer soccer with nature excursions

Youth soccer has made great headway in our country. This summer I observed how the sport has taken over many of our local green spaces. Soccer indeed is encroaching on America's summer pastime- baseball. Whomever is behind this campaign to include America in the 'world's game', should be commended. Then again, I must admit, when my two sons were invited to join summer tournament soccer teams, I felt a bit threatened. Their practice, travel and play would take a bite out of our summertime tradition: taking hikes and exploring our natural world. At first I resisted. Then I surrendered to their persuasive efforts. I agreed to let Nick join a group of 9 year-old boys who have the unique capability of morphing into menacing Spider Dragons; while Marko earned an A-Okay to join a Boulder-based team, whose brilliant yellow colored jerseys reminded me of the coloration of the American goldfinch. Perhaps these wildlife themes appealed to my subconscious, and pushed me over the top...

Between you, me and a red rock, what really motivated me to say yes was the prospect of mixing of their play with excursions, before, after and in between matches into wild Colorado. You see, their games were slated to be played in beautiful surroundings, including Steamboat Springs and Vail Valley. The deal that I brokered with my

duo was you get to play soccer and we get to immerse ourselves in nature. There would be no resort condominiums and all the perks including swimming pools, arcades and Wi-Fi. Instead, we would campout under the stars, wade in local waters, cook on a stove and take in sounds, smell, sights and delights of nature. The pact was consummated, and three agreeing smiles broke out in unison.

Our first stop in Steamboat was not to a tournament welcome tent, but the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station. The real deal Nature Rangers here directed us to lodging sites at Dry Lake, Buffalo Pass and picturesque Summit Lake campgrounds, located no more than 15 miles from town. All campsites are surrounded by tall groves of aspen, fir and spruce trees. The spectacular drive boasted breathtaking views of the North Park and Yampa Valleys, and Mt. Zirkel. Waiting for us at 10,400 feet was a pristine alpine lake, hiking trails, soaring hawks, millions of glimmering stars, and absolute silence from the soccer fanatics on the valley floor.

When Spider Dragon Nick needed relief from the high country heat and his defensive play, we turned to the refreshing Yampa River. He gleefully swam with the natives and slid down the mild rapids, right there, behind Steamboat's Bud Werner Memorial Public Library in the center of town. When his strained muscles started to ache, he soaked



A striking male paddle-tailed darter dragonfly perched at a pond at the Avon Walking Mountains Science Center. Photo by Marko Babiak

them in the soothing waters at Strawberry Park Hot Springs, and nature did the rest.

Now playing soccer in Vail Valley presented several challenges and many tempting off-field distractions for Marko. Playing 3 days of the 'worlds game' at 8,200 feet, and moreover, with fields that are bordered by mountains, a creek and flower garden, nature centers, darting hummingbirds and smiling dragonflies was no easy assignment for my Ranger-photographer.

When performing at altitude got the best of him, it was Gore Creek's cold water that came to his rescue. Here I reliably found him sitting in the creek, goldfinch uniform and all, reviving himself, like bird in a water bath. Before his morning matches he lugged his camera around the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens and photographed wildflowers and eye-catching hummingbirds. One evening we trekked up the east side of the valley to the Wilder Gulch Creek meadows at the Vail Pass Summit rest area. With our flashlights we admired the engineering feats and waterways constructed by Colorado's finest beavers. After the tournaments award's ceremony, we paid a visit to Avon's Walking Mountains Science Center, a natural sciences center located along Buck Creek. At a wetlands area we were greeted by dozens of smiling Paddle-tailed darter dragonflies. I could not resist smiling too. I knew then and there, that our deal had paid us all off with life-long dividends.

Marko and John Babiak are Stapleton residents. Marko, 12, is an avid wildlife photographer. John teaches Nature Rangers ecology classes to students at Steck, Roberts Westerly Creek and Odyssey. He can be reached at NatureRanger-John@aol.com.



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Don't Miss These Events...

**September 8—Denver Art Museum Friendship Powwow Plus Free Admission**  
The 23rd Annual Friendship Powwow and American Indian Cultural Celebration will take place Saturday, Sept. 10 and feature American Indian dancers dressed in many styles who will perform competitively; drum groups; working artists; hands-on art activities such as design a mini skateboard, add to a community mural, beading and paint a Hopi tile; vendors and more. Plus free admission to the museum will enable visitors to go inside and enjoy the most comprehensive American Indian art collection in the country and other new and ongoing exhibits in both DAM buildings. The Powwow will be outside the museum from 10am–5pm on Acoma Plaza, 13th Ave. between Broadway and Bannock. For more: 720.865.5000 or visit [www.denverart-museum.org](http://www.denverart-museum.org).

**September 8—Hope Center “Roadrunner to a Healthier Life” Walk-and-Run-a-thon**  
Hope Center will hold its 2nd Annual “Roadrunner to a Healthier Life” 5K/1K Walk-&-Run-A-Thon fundraiser from 8–10:30am on Saturday, Sept. 8. The 50-year-old agency serves Denver’s East and Northeast communities with early childhood education and vocational programs for adults with developmental disabilities. The goal: raise awareness about and reduce the incidence of overweight and obesity in children. The community “walk it off” will be at Stapleton’s Central Park, 9651 MLK Blvd. and have vendors, music and a special kids’ walk/run. Cost prior to 9/8: adults \$25; kids 6–17/seniors 60+ \$15; 5 and under free. Can register in-person 9/4 at Hope Center, 3400 Elizabeth St. For more: 303.388.4801, [www.hopecenterinc.org](http://www.hopecenterinc.org), or <http://www.RunningGuru.com/Event/rr2012&SourceCode=EventsList> for the registration and pledge link.

**Free 10-Week Citizens Policy Academy Starts Sept. 11**  
District Two will host a Citizens Police Academy at the District Two Police Station, 3921 Holly St., beginning Tuesday, Sept. 11 and continuing each Tuesday evening from 6–9pm for 10 weeks. The program includes how investigations are conducted for homicides, assaults, property crimes, etc. Participants will experience what it’s like in a police car when traffic stops are conducted. The program looks at gangs and gang-reduction interventions. Attendees experience live demos of shoot/don’t shoot scenarios using the state-of-the-art Range 2000 mobile training bus—and more. The free class is for the first 40 students. For questions/application, contact Amy Esten (720.913.1095, [Amy.Esten@denvergov.org](mailto:Amy.Esten@denvergov.org)) or Reyes Trujillo (720.913.1094, [Reyes.Trujillo@denvergov.org](mailto:Reyes.Trujillo@denvergov.org)).

**September 18—Free Lowry Speaker Series Features Colorado’s Poet Laureate**  
The Lowry Speaker Series fall season begins Tuesday, Sept. 18, with a presentation on “Poetry and the Public” by David Mason, Colorado’s Poet Laureate. Mason will show why

poetry is a singularly unique vehicle for human expression and how it can be found in unexpected places. Colorado’s five poet laureates since 1919 have served as advocates for poetry, literacy and literature. Mason has won numerous national and international awards. His verse novel, *Ludlow* (2007), was named best poetry book that year by the Contemporary Poetry Review and National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, and won the Colorado Book Award. The free event takes place from 7-8:30pm at Lowry’s Eisenhower Chapel, 293 S. Roslyn. For more: Sandra M Hittman at [smhittman@aol.com](mailto:smhittman@aol.com) or 720.838.3830.

**September 19—U.S. Women’s National Soccer Team to Play Against Australia at Dick’s**  
The U.S. Women’s National Soccer team’s post-Olympic tour will bring them to Dick’s Sporting Goods Park on Wednesday, Sept. 19 to play Australia. The U.S. has faced Australia 21 times and holds a 19-0-2 record in a series dating back to the USA’s 6-0 win in 1987 in Taipei, Taiwan. They last played on June 15, 2008, in Suwon, South Korea; the U.S. won 2-1 in its opening match of the 2008 Peace Queen Cup. Tickets: [ussoccer.com](http://ussoccer.com) and Ticketmaster

**September 21—Denver Children’s Home Gala to Celebrate 136 Years of Helping Kids**  
Colorado’s oldest charity (older than Colorado) will recognize its 136th anniversary with a “Put Your Hats On to Take Your Hats Off to DCH” theme at its 11th Annual Gala fundraiser on Friday, Sept. 21. The nonprofit Denver Children’s Home, originally created to house children brought in on orphan trains to work in the coal mines and railroads in 1876, serves the state’s abused, neglected, and traumatized youth and their families, over 5,000 people yearly. There will be wine, hors d’oeuvres, dinner and special entertainment. Cost: \$150/ticket. To purchase tickets, become a sponsor, or donate auction items: [www.denverchildrenshome.org](http://www.denverchildrenshome.org) or Lindsay Leuthold at 720.881.3366. The event will start at 6pm at the Sherman Street Event Center, 1770 Sherman.

**Citizens Emergency Response Trainings (CERT) Offered Twice in September**  
For National Preparedness Month and “Deaf Awareness Week” in September, Denver will hold two free Denver CERT classes. The disaster preparedness/response training (FEMA course G317) will include how to plan for a disaster and teach basic response skills (fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations). Upon completion, participants are encouraged to support emergency response agencies in emergency preparedness projects in the community. Anyone can sign up; up to 40 in each class. The first 3-session training starts Sept. 7, specifically for the deaf and hard of hearing community. The other begins Sept. 21. Location: Denver Police District 3, 1625 S. Univ. Blvd. Information/register: <http://www.denvergov.org/DenverCERT>; Carolyn H. Bluhm at 720.865.7600 or [DenverCERT@denvergov.org](mailto:DenverCERT@denvergov.org).

**September 23—Mile High Down Syndrome Walk and Talent Show**  
MHDSA will host its 16th annual Step Up for Down Syndrome Walk on Sunday morning, Sept. 23 at Denver City Park to raise critical funds to support programs/services for the over 6,000 people

with Down syndrome in Colorado and their families. New this year—a Talent Show for self-advocates, showing their skills and abilities; auditions will be Saturday, Sept. 8, at Mullen High School, 3601 S. Lowell Blvd. To sign up for the talent show and auditions, contact [maryannb@mhdsa.org](mailto:maryannb@mhdsa.org). The event will include a bluegrass band, family activities, crafts, local sports celebrities, mascots, Miss Colorado 2012 and 7am Pancake breakfast for registered participants. To register for the walk (1- or 2-mile loop) or donate: [www.StepUpDenver.org](http://www.StepUpDenver.org) or 303.797.1699.

**October 6—Chipotle’s Free “Cultivate Food, Ideas and Music” Festival Comes to City Park**  
Cultivate Denver is Chipotle Mexican Grill’s way to spread the word about ways to enjoy food while instilling an appreciation for sustainability, and for farmers and food artisans who are changing food culture for the better. The free, festival on Saturday, Oct. 6 from 10am -6pm in the Meadow of City Park will include sampling of an array of foods, with Chipotle dishes created special for the festival and from their Chophouse Southwest Asian

Kitchen. It will also include cooking demos by celebrity chefs, live music, films, textiles, food artisans and fresh and affordable food. Kids are crucial to the future of food, so Cultivate Denver will feature interactive exhibits such as a Kids’ Tent with activities like guacamole-smashing and an “Eat the Rainbow” fruit/vegetable experience with the “renegade lunch lady.” Attendees can sample microbrews and wines. Each brewery will create a special Cultivate beer. Proceeds from beer/wine sales benefit Chef Ann Cooper’s The Lunch Box, which helps transition school lunchrooms from processed foods to made-from-scratch meals. All-day free band music will include: Okkervil River, Tennis, Group Love, Best Cost and Zach Heckendorf. From eco-friendly food containers to sour cream from pasture-raised cows, Chipotle hopes to share their eco-wisdom and help others adopt new, environmentally friendly habits in their own lives. More at [www.chipotle.com/cultivate](http://www.chipotle.com/cultivate).

Questions or comments? Visit Facebook at Front Porch Newspaper, email [FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com](mailto:FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com), or call 303-326-1969.

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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.

## FALL FESTIVALS-

**Through 9/3 Monday- A Taste of Colorado.** Civic Center Park, downtown Denver. [www.ataste-ofcolorado.com](http://www.ataste-ofcolorado.com)

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

**9/3 Monday to 11/15 Thursday- Miller Farms Fall Harvest Festival.** Corn maze, petting zoo, fire truck, tractor rides, harvest vegetables included in admission (see website). 9040 Hwy 66, Platteville. [www.millerfarms.net](http://www.millerfarms.net)

**9/6 Thursday to 9/9 Sunday- Longs Peak Scottish-Irish Highlands Festival.** Pipe bands, Irish and folk dancing, parade, much more. Estes Park. [www.scottfest.com](http://www.scottfest.com)

**9/8 Saturday- San Rafapalooza.** Live music, food, kids' activities. 2-8pm. 23rd and Emerson. [www.sanrafapalooza.com](http://www.sanrafapalooza.com)

**9/8 Saturday- Sunnyside Music Festival.** Chaffee Park, NW Denver. [www.sunnysidemusicfest.org](http://www.sunnysidemusicfest.org)

**9/8 Saturday and 9/9 Sunday- Belmar Festival Italiano.** Italian food, wine and artisan vendors. 10am-7pm. [www.belmarcolorado.com](http://www.belmarcolorado.com)

**9/14 Friday to 10/28 Sunday- Botanic Gardens Corn Maze.** Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield, 8500 W. Deer Creek Canyon Rd. [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**9/18 Tuesday to 10/31 Wednesday- Fritzler Corn Maze.** 7 miles south of Greeley on U.S.85. [www.fritzlermaze.com](http://www.fritzlermaze.com)

**9/21 Friday to 9/23 Sunday- Fall Fest Boulder.** Music, microbrews, kids' carnival/activities, artisan booths. Pearl St. Mall. [www.boulderdowntown.com](http://www.boulderdowntown.com)

**9/21 Friday to 9/23 Sunday- Denver Oktoberfest.** Repeats 9/28-9/30. Ball Park Neighborhood. [www.thedenveroktoberfest.com](http://www.thedenveroktoberfest.com)

**9/22 Saturday to 10/31 Wednesday- Anderson Farms Fall Fest.** Pumpkin patch, corn maze, barrel train and more. 6728 County Rd 3 1/4, Erie. [www.andersonfarms.com](http://www.andersonfarms.com)

**9/22 Saturday to 10/31 Wednesday- Cottonwood Farms.** Straw bale maze, 1 1/2-acre corn maze, pumpkin patch, farm animals, wagon rides (\$3); admission free. 75th and Arapahoe, Boulder. [www.cottonwoodfarms.com](http://www.cottonwoodfarms.com)

**9/29 Saturday to 10/31 Wednesday- Rock Creek Farms.** U Pick-em pumpkin patch, straw bale maze, corn maze with 5 miles of paths, farm animals. Admission Free. 2005 S. 112th St, Broomfield. [www.rockcreekfarm.com](http://www.rockcreekfarm.com)

**10/5 Friday to 10/13 Saturday- Denver Beerfest.** Tastings, tours, paired dinners, more. Multiple locations. [www.denverbeerfest.com](http://www.denverbeerfest.com)

**10/6 Saturday and 10/7 Sunday- Pumpkin Harvest Festival at Four Mile Historic Park.** 10am-4pm. FREE admission; charge for some activities. [www.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)

**10/7 Sunday- 10th Annual Balistreri Vineyards Harvest Festival.** Balistreri Vineyards, 1946 E 66th Ave. 12-6pm. Kids' grape stomping 2pm. Tickets: \$58. [www.balistrerivineyards.com](http://www.balistrerivineyards.com)

**10/11 Thursday to 10/13 Saturday- Great**

**American Beer Festival.** Colorado Convention Center. Tickets: [www.greatamericanbeerfestival.com](http://www.greatamericanbeerfestival.com)

**Through 10/31 Wednesday- Sunflower Farms Kids Farmfest.** Pony rides, collect eggs, farm animals. Mon.-Fri. 9am-1pm, \$6. Sundays 10am-3pm. \$10. 11150 Prospect Rd, Longmont. [www.sunflowerfarminfo.com](http://www.sunflowerfarminfo.com)

**Saturdays/Sundays through October- Rocky Mountain Pumpkin Ranch Fall Festival.** Hay bale maze, corn maze, petting zoo, pony rides. 9057 Ute Hwy/CO 66, Longmont. [www.Rockymtnpumpkinranch.com](http://www.Rockymtnpumpkinranch.com)

## DENVER METRO EVENTS

### Art Walks and Exhibits:

**9/7 Friday- Santa Fe Arts District.** Santa Fe Dr. between 10th and 6th. [www.artdistricton-SantaFe.com](http://www.artdistricton-SantaFe.com)

**9/7 Friday- North Denver's Tennyson Art Walk.** Tennyson St. and 44th Ave. [www.denver-artwalk.squarespace.com](http://www.denver-artwalk.squarespace.com)

**9/7 Friday- Old South Pearl Art Walk.** [www.oldsouthpearlstreet.com](http://www.oldsouthpearlstreet.com)

**9/7 Friday- Cherry Creek Arts District.** [www.cherrycreeknorth.com](http://www.cherrycreeknorth.com)

**9/7 Friday- Highlands Square First Friday.** 32nd and Lowell, North Denver. [www.highlands-square.com](http://www.highlands-square.com)

**9/14 Friday- Aurora's East End Second Friday Art Walk.** Gallery openings, music, theater, food and more. 5-8pm. Map to venues at Fletcher Plaza/MLK Library (E Colfax at Elmira).

**9/28 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)

**9/1 Saturday- Hay Bales and Tall Tales at Four Mile Historic Park.** 11am-1pm. Free with admission. [www.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)

**9/7 to 9/16, Friday, Saturday and Sunday- Meet the '60s, A Musical Revue.** Music from 1960s and Broadway shows by talented Windsor Gardens residents and others. 7pm Fridays/Saturdays; 2pm Sundays: \$15. Windsor Gardens Auditorium, 595 S. Clinton St. 720.862.1534

**9/7 Friday- Brew at the Zoo.** Sample Colorado-brewed beer with food from well-known restaurants; dance under the stars. 7-10pm. \$70 general admission; \$30 designated-driver ticket; \$100 preview ticket. No one under 21 admitted. [www.denverzoo.org](http://www.denverzoo.org) or 303.376.6741

**9/8 Saturday- 23rd Annual Friendship Powwow and American Indian Cultural Celebration.** Indian dancers, drum groups, artists, vendors and more. Denver Art Museum, Acoma Plaza, 13th and Bannock. FREE admission. 10am-5pm. [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

**9/8 Saturday, Mile High Movies in Skyline Park.** FREE movie: *Moneyball*. Skyline Park, 16th St Mall at Arapahoe, at dusk. [www.denvergov.org/parksandrec](http://www.denvergov.org/parksandrec)

**9/10 Sunday- Aurora Fox Season Sampler Gala with Aurora Chamber of Commerce.** Business leaders and arts influencers can mingle at catered dinner, wines, treasure hunt, silent auction plus sample of upcoming shows. \$50/person. Formal attire encouraged. Reservations: 303.739.1970

**9/11 Tuesday- League of Women Voters Denver (LWVD) Kick-Off Meeting.** Speaker: Mayor Hancock. 7pm. Central Presbyterian Church, 17th and Sherman. [www.LWVDenver.org](http://www.LWVDenver.org). 303.321.7571 or [info@LWVDenver.org](mailto:info@LWVDenver.org)

**9/12 Wednesday- For the People of Colorado: Colorado's Constitution Walking Tour.** Journey around Civic Center Park and downtown to find out why the Constitution was written and how it affects us today. 10:30-11:30am. \$5. [www.history-colorado.org](http://www.history-colorado.org) or 303.866.4686

**9/14 Friday- Vintage Theatre 10-Year Gala.** Live band, Dishwater Blondes and Season 2013 news. 6pm. \$25/person, \$40/couple. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora. 303.856.7830, [info@vintagetheatre.com](mailto:info@vintagetheatre.com)

**9/14 Friday- Handmade Colorado Market.** 11am-7pm. Skyline Park, Arapahoe and 16th St Mall. FREE. [www.coloradoevents.net](http://www.coloradoevents.net)

**9/14 Friday- Rojo Cancion, Museo de las Americas Annual Concert/Fundraiser Event.** Musical guest: Pistolera. 5pm. Su Teatro. [www.museo.org](http://www.museo.org)

**9/14 Friday- Last Civic Center Bike-In Movie.** FREE family-friendly movie in downtown Denver's Civic Center Park. [www.civiccenterconservancy.org](http://www.civiccenterconservancy.org)

**9/14 Friday to 9/16 Sunday- 45th Annual Denver Gem and Mineral Show.** Denver Merchandise Mart, 451 E 58th Ave, I-25, exit 215. Tickets: \$4-\$6, under 13 free. Cash/check only. [www.denvermineralshow.com](http://www.denvermineralshow.com)

**9/15 Saturday- Ovarian Cancer Summit at Univ. of Denver's Knoebel School of Hospitality Management.** Subjects: treatment, early detection, survivor speeches, clinical trials, nutrition, exercise and the mind/body connection. Register online till 9/7 at [www.colorado-ovariancancer.org](http://www.colorado-ovariancancer.org). Space is limited. Wear teal on 9/7 for Ovarian Cancer Month.

**9/16 Sunday- CelebrARTE: Viva!** Family-focused, bilingual program of art and creativity of Latino artists, cultures and experiences at Denver Art Museum, third Sunday of month. 1-4pm. Included with admission. [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

**9/20 Thursday to 9/23 Sunday- Just Between Friends Kids' Gear & Clothing sale.** Denver's largest kids' gear/clothing resale event. National Western Complex, I-70 & Brighton Blvd. [www.jbfsale.com/denver](http://www.jbfsale.com/denver) for hours/admission. \$2 off with copy of *Front Porch* listing. [tracey@jbfsale.com](mailto:tracey@jbfsale.com) or 303.884.9198



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Lowry Family Medicine is our ninth urgent care and family medicine location. We strive to offer affordable medical care to all families. Our costs are significantly lower than the cost of going to an emergency room, and quite often, lower than the costs charged by other local urgent care centers. We also offer an affordable Discount Health Plan that allows you access to reduced health care costs at all of our locations

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**9/21 Friday to Sunday 9/23- Denver Silent Film Festival.** The King Center on Auraria Campus. [www.denversilentfilmfest.org](http://www.denversilentfilmfest.org)

**9/22 Saturday- Dumb Friends League Wag N Trail.** 1.6 mile hike with your dog to help homeless pets at Buddy Center. 8am-12pm. Glendale Farm Open Space, Castle Rock. [www.ddfl.org](http://www.ddfl.org) or 303.751.5772 x1378

**9/22- Botanic Gardens Fall Plant and Bulb Sale.** 9am-2pm. Over 10,000 bulbs, pansies shrubs and trees for sale. Denver Botanic Gardens. [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**9/22 Saturday- Urban Homesteading Tour.** Presented by Denver Botanic Gardens. Tickets \$5, various Denver locations. Maps available 8/22. [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**FREE Learn to Compost classes.** By Denver Recycles, various Sept. Wednesdays and Saturdays. Registration required: 720.865.6810 or [www.denvergov.org](http://www.denvergov.org)

**Denver Film Society-** Daily movies and programs. Lowenstein Complex, 2510 E Colfax and various locations. [www.denverfilm.org](http://www.denverfilm.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

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

**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 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.soiled dove.com](http://www.soiled dove.com)

**Denver Public Art Tours.** FREE tours by foot, bike, scooter, for art/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

**9/20 Thursday- HIV testing at Rocky Mountain Cares nonprofit for holistic HIV care.** FREE. 1-5pm. 3rd Thursday monthly. 4545 E 9th Ave, #120. Adrian Pilarski: 303.393.8050

**9/30 Sunday- Free to Breathe Denver 5K Run/Walk at Washington Park.** Registration/check-in 8am; starts 9am. Family-friendly event to inspire hope for all impacted by

lung cancer. Proceeds help support the National Lung Cancer Partnership's research, education and awareness programs. \$20 online reg. by 9/26; \$25 at event. 701 S. Franklin St., Denver. [www.FreetoBreathe.org/denver](http://www.FreetoBreathe.org/denver)

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

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

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

**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

**9/13 Thursday- Afghanistan.** 7pm. Potluck 6pm; bring dish to share. Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 2823 Roslyn St. RSVP: 303.388.0724

**9/25 Tuesday- Colorado Ballot Issues 2012.** 5:30-6:30pm. 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 program list. All branches**

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)

**closed Friday 8/31 for City furlough day and Sunday 9/2 to Monday 9/3 for Labor Day.**

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

**Pauline Robinson Library,** 5575 East 33rd Ave. 720.865.0290. Closed Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

**Monday through Thursday every week- After School Is Cool.** 4-5pm. Crafts, games and more. See website for specific daily programming. (continued on page 22)

### RECURRING MEETINGS

#### Business Groups

**GREATER STAPLETON BUSINESS ASSOC.** 3rd Tuesday, 8am. MCA, 2823 Roslyn St. 303-393-7700. [www.stapletonbusiness.com](http://www.stapletonbusiness.com)

**WORK-FROM-HOME GROUP.** 1st Wednesday, 12-1pm. Smartspace, 2373 Central Park Blvd #100. Brown bag or group order for lunch. [www.stapletonhomebusiness.com](http://www.stapletonhomebusiness.com)

#### Civic Groups

**NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERS ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM.** 1st Saturday, 9am-12pm. Clean up Westerly Creek. Contact Lcorrell@dotnet.net or CFry@Sandcreekgreenway.org for location and other info.

**P.E.O. INTERNATIONAL LOCAL CHAPTER MEETING.** Supporting women's educational opportunities. 2nd Thursday, 7pm. [copeojc@gmail.com](mailto:copeojc@gmail.com)

**STAPLETON ROTARY CLUB.** Every Tuesday, 7:30am. Stapleton Community Room, 2823 Roslyn St. [www.denverstapletonrotary.org](http://www.denverstapletonrotary.org)

**BLUFF LAKE SITE STEWARDS.** Every Wednesday, 8-11am. Bluff Lake Nature Center. 303-945-6717

#### Interest Groups

**HOUSE DIST 7 REPUBLICANS.** 7pm, 1st Mon. after 1st Tues. Islamorada Fish Co (inside Bass Pro). [chrismaj@gmail.com](mailto:chrismaj@gmail.com)

**STAPLETON WINE APPRECIATION GROUP.** Periodically. [meighanm@aim.com](mailto:meighanm@aim.com)

**COLORADO FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS.** 3rd Thursday. Grace, 303-455-0839

**BLUFF LAKE BIRDERS.** 1st Saturday, 7-9am. Nature Center. [BluffLakeNatureCenter.org](http://BluffLakeNatureCenter.org)

**DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.** 3rd Saturday. Adagio Bed and Breakfast, 1430 Race St. Prospective members welcome- rsvp to Helen Strader, 303-997-6788

**LOWRY PEAK SPEAKERS TOASTMASTER CLUB.** 2nd and 3rd Wednesday, noon- 1pm. Pinnacle Assurance, 7501 E. Lowry Blvd, Denver 80203. [lowrypeak.free-toasthost.org](mailto:lowrypeak.free-toasthost.org) [lpstoastmasters@gmail.com](mailto:lpstoastmasters@gmail.com)

#### Stapleton Groups

**PARKS ADVISORY GROUP.** 2nd Tuesday, 7:30am. 7350 E 29th Ave, 3rd Fl. [Lcorrell@dotnet.net](mailto:Lcorrell@dotnet.net)

**SUN TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.** 2nd Wed. (odd-numbered mos.) 6:30pm. MCA 2823 Roslyn St. [stapletonneighbors@msn.com](mailto:stapletonneighbors@msn.com)

**STAPLETON CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD MTG.** 3rd Thursday, 7:30-9am. 7350 E. 29th Ave., 3rd fl. 303.393.7700

**STAPLETON POWER PARTNERS.** Networking for home and other Stapleton businesses. Last Thursday, 2:30-4pm. The Berkshire in the 29th Ave. Town Center. Rich Ouellette 03-488-3975, [rich.ouellette@ubs.com](mailto:rich.ouellette@ubs.com) Dee Brown 303-997-7744 [deeindenver@aol.com](mailto:deeindenver@aol.com)

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

**STAPLETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION MTG.** 4th Thursday, 7:30-9am. 7350 E. 29th Ave., 3rd fl. 303.393.7700

#### Support Groups

**ADOPTEEES IN SEARCH GENERAL MEETING.** 4th Tuesday, 7:30-9pm. Montview Presby. Church, Study Group Room. [AISCTC.org](http://AISCTC.org) 303-232-6302.

**PARKINSON SUPPORT GROUP IN NORTHEAST DENVER.** 4th Saturday, 9:30am. Hiawatha Davis Recreation Center, 3334 Holly St. [www.parkinsonrockies.org](http://www.parkinsonrockies.org) Regina Jones 720-298-5760

**AA OPEN MEETING.** Every Tuesday, 6pm. St Thomas Episcopal Church, 22nd and Dexter. Shirley 303.726.2998

**NE DENVER/PARK HILL MS SELF-HELP AND SUPPORT GROUP.** 2nd Saturday, 10:15-11:45am. Dist. 2 Police Station, 3821 Holly St. 303-329-0619

**BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP.** 1st Tuesday, 5-6:30pm. AF Williams Family Medicine Clinic Conf Rm. (West entrance) 3055 Roslyn (at MLK). 720-848-9000.

**AA OPEN DISCUSSION MTG.** Every Tuesday, 7:30pm. MCA, 2823 Roslyn St. 303-912-7075

**ADOPTEEES IN SEARCH SUPPORT GROUP.** 2nd Wednesday, 7-8:30pm. Montview Presby. Church, Robinsom Rm. [AISCTC.org](http://AISCTC.org) 303-232-6302.

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## LOCAL EVENT LISTINGS

(continued from page 21)

**Sam Gary Library**, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325. Closed Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

**Mondays beginning 9/10- Tales for Twos Story Time.** 10:30-11:00am.

**Wednesdays beginning 9/12- PJ Story Time.** 7-7:30pm.

**Fridays beginning 9/14- Book Babies.** 10:30-11am.

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

**9/6 Thursday- Tech Open House.** 10am-12pm.

**9/11 Tuesday- Tuesday Technology Night.** 6-7pm. Repeats 9/26 Tuesday

**9/17 Monday- Cooking with Whole Grains.** 6:30-7:30pm

**9/22 Saturday- Bringing the Butterfly Pavilion to You.** 2-3pm.

**9/24 Monday- Authors Series- Barry Fey.** 6:30-7:30pm.

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

**9/8 Saturday- Art for the Masses: Henri Matisse and the Paper Masse Coupes (cutouts).** 1:30-4:30pm.

### NORTHEAST DENVER EVENTS

**By 11/1 submit nominations for Lowry Family Center's Community Spirit Award for someone who has improved opportunities for children, youth and families.** Latoya@lowryfamilycenter.org, 303.641.8759

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

**9/5 Wednesday- Prayers for World Peace.** Interfaith prayers to join one heart/mind to create peace in our world. 7:30pm. Free. Center of Light, 2300 Forest St. Denver@centersoflight.org, 720.308.9944

**9/8 Saturday- Cockpit Demo Day.** Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-12pm. www.wingsmuseum.org.

**9/8 Saturday- Lowry Montessori Early Learning Center Open House and Enrollment Fair.** Learn about Montessori program and

tour facility. Refreshments/games. Spaces available for kids ages 6 weeks to 4 years; financial assistance available. 11am-2pm. FREE. 957 Ulster Way. Vivian Bean-Haynes, 303.340.1296

**9/8 Saturday-Temple Emanuel Open House.** For perspective new members. 9am. Sisterhood Lounge. 51 Grape St. www.emanueldenver.org

**9/14 Saturday- Auditions for local performance of the Nutcracker.** 1-5pm. Ages 7-adult. Dance Institute 4601 Quebec St. 303.525.0011

**9/15 Saturday- Mike Giles Family Karate's 7th Year Anniversary Open House.** 11am-1pm. 7506 E. 36th Ave. (Syracuse). Demos, raffles, prizes, sign-up specials and info on character development and martial arts programs; after-school programs, etc.

**9/16 Sunday- Technology Trot First Annual Fun Run & Walk.** Proceeds benefit grants for assistive technology for schools. 9am. Stapleton Central Park. Register: http://technologytrot.eventbrite.com

**9/16 Sunday- Rosh Hashanah Unplugged.** Temple Emanuel, 51 Grape St. 6:30pm. FREE. Registration required. www.emanueldenver.org

**9/18 Tuesday- Lowry Speaker Series.** Colorado Poet Laureate David Mason, "Poetry and the Public." 7-9:30pm. Eisenhower Chapel, Lowry. smhittman@aol.com, 720.838.8330

**9/22 Saturday- 25th anniversary celebration of Commerce City Recreation Center.** 6060 E Parkway Dr. 9am-1:30pm. FREE food, games and prizes. www.c3gov.com

**9/24 Monday- First Bluff Lake Open Golf Tournament.** 8:30am shotgun start. Spend time with peers from Denver business/philanthropic communities celebrating historic Bluff Lake and Fitzsimons Golf Course. \$400/foursome. Fitzsimons Golf Course, 2323 Scranton St. (off of Peoria). jmezger@blufflake.org, www.blufflakenaturecenter.org

**9/27 Thursday- Denver Meditation Meetup.** Discuss and practice ways to still your mind and enter meditation of the stillness within. 7:30 pm. FREE. 2300 Forest St. Denver@centersoflight.org

**9/28 Friday- Free Conscious Movie As We Forgive.** 7pm. Center of Light, 2300 Forest St. Denver@CentersOfLight.org, 720.308.9944

**Temple Micah-** Taking reservations for High Holy Days. Donations suggested for nonmembers. 2600 Leyden. www.micahdenver.org, 303.388.4239

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

### DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE

**Montview and Colorado Blvd.** www.dmns.org

**9/14 Friday to 1/13/2013- A Day in Pompeii.** Ticketed exhibit.

**9/20 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, Realm of Light. 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

### NORTHFIELD EVENTS

**Events at The Shops at Northfield Stapleton-** 303.375.5475 www.NorthfieldStapleton.com

**Bass Pro Events-** 720.385.3600, www.BassPro.com

Hunting, fishing and marine seminars offered throughout the month.

**Harkins Theatres 18-** 720.374.3118, www.HarkinsTheatres.com

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

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

### ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

**Reservations required for events marked\* at 303.289.0930. Free unless noted. Hours: Mon.-Sun., 6am-6pm. Visitor Center: Tues.-Sun., 9am-4pm. REFUGE CLOSED TO PUBLIC THROUGH 9/21. Directions to Refuge: www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal/**

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

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

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

### SPORTS AND FITNESS

**9/2 and 9/9 Sundays- Yoga Rocks the Park.** 9:30am-12pm. Various parks. \$10 advance; \$15 at park. www.yogarocksthepark.com/denver

**9/3 Monday- Aetna Park to Park 5 and 10 Mile Run.** Denver City Park, 7am. www.Aetna-parktopark.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, www.runningguru.com/event/roadrunner.

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

**9/9 Sunday- Denver Trail 1/2 Marathon and 10K.** 8 am. Cherry Creek Reservoir. www.denver-half.com

**9/16 Sunday- Fans on the Field 6th Annual Denver Stadium 5K and 10K Walk/Run.** Benefits National Sports Center for Disabled. Run through Denver's 3 sports stadiums. Register: www.fansonthefield.com

**9/16 Sunday- Colorado Pulmonary Hypertension 5K Fun for PHun.** 8am. City Park. www.firstgiving.com/phassociation/colorado

**9/23 Sunday- Denver Rock 'n' Roll Marathon, 1/2 Marathon and Relay.** Register: www.runrocknroll.competitor.com/denver

**9/23 Sunday- 5th Annual Hop Skip and a Jump Start.** Stroller and family-friendly 5K and Expo. Starts 9am. Benefits Children's Museum of Denver. Register: www.mychildsmuseum.org

**9/30 Sunday- Denver ALS Walk.** 3K walk. 9am. City Park. www.alsa.org

**9/30 Sunday- Free to Breathe Denver 5K Walk/Run.** To raise lung cancer awareness. 8am. Washington Park. www.freetobreathe.org

### THEATRE

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

**9/7 to 9/30- The Cider House Rules.** Vintage

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Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. 303.839.1361, [www.vintage theatre.com](http://www.vintage theatre.com)

**9/7 to 10/28- Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson.** Aurora Fox, 9900 E Colfax Ave. [www.aurorafoxartscenter.org](http://www.aurorafoxartscenter.org)

**9/8 to 10/18- The Value of Names.** Presented by Theatre Or and Mizel Arts and Cultural Center. 350 S. Dahlia. [www.theatreor.com](http://www.theatreor.com)

**9/11 to 9/30- Dirty Rotten Scoundrels.** Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada. [www.arvadacenter.org](http://www.arvadacenter.org)

**9/14 to 10/14- Picasso at the Lapin Agile.** Aurora Fox 9900 E Colfax Ave. [www.aurorafoxartscenter.org](http://www.aurorafoxartscenter.org)

**9/14 to 10/27- Murder Most Fowl.** Avenue Theater, 417 E. 17th Ave. [www.avenue theater.com](http://www.avenue theater.com)

**Through September- Agatha Christie's Murder on the Nile.** Presented by Spotlight Theatre Company at the John Hand Theater. [www.johnhandtheater.com](http://www.johnhandtheater.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](http://www.denvercenter.org)

**10/5 Friday to 10/28 Sunday- Visiting Mr. Green.** Cherry Creek Theatre, 2414 E. 3rd Ave. [www.cherrycreektheatre.org](http://www.cherrycreektheatre.org)

KIDS AND FAMILIES

**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)

**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)

**9/8 Saturday and 9/9 Sunday- Exhibit/Sale of Miniatures, Doll-houses 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 Rd., Greenwood Village. Marjorie Smelt: 720.206.5545 or [Comments@DMMDT.org](mailto:Comments@DMMDT.org).

**9/8 Saturday and 9/9 Sunday- Day Out with Thomas the Tank.** 25-minute ride with Thomas, meet Sir Topham Hatt, storytelling, live music. Colorado Railroad Museum.org. Tickets: \$18 ages 2 and up. [www.ticketweb.com/dowt](http://www.ticketweb.com/dowt) or 866.468.7630. Repeats 9/15-16, 9/22-23.

**9/8 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)

**9/9 Sunday- Junior Rangers.** 1:30-3:30pm. Ages 6-12. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd, Aurora. Reservations required. 303.739.9428, [www.auroragov.org/nature](http://www.auroragov.org/nature)

**9/12 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

**9/15 Saturday and 9/29 Saturday- Lowe's Build and Grow Kids Clinics.** Bring kids to a Lowe's store to build FREE wood project: free apron, goggles, project-themed patch, merit certificate on completion. 10am. [www.lowesbuildandgrow.com](http://www.lowesbuildandgrow.com)

**9/20 Thursday to 11/25 Sunday- Little Red Riding Hood.** Denver Puppet Theatre, 3156 W 38th Ave. Tickets: \$7 ages 3 and up. 303.458.6446, [www.denverpuppettheater.com](http://www.denverpuppettheater.com)

**9/28 Friday- Denver Botanic Gardens Family Fun Night.** 4th Friday monthly nature at night in Mordecai Children's Garden. Monthly themes, performers in Sagebrush Stage, snacks by campfire, night 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)

KIDS CAMPS AND CLASSES

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

**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)

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



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Free Bike Rides and Bike Repair Workshops



**Free Group Rides:** Cyclists gather at Cycleton in Stapleton's 29th Ave. Town Center at 7am on Saturday mornings for a two-hour ride. The fast group rides 40 miles in two hours. A second group rides 20-30 miles at 15-17 miles per hour. In a recent ride, the group rode by a large field of sunflowers located south of DIA on 56th Ave. Photo by 15-year-old Darcy Neureiter of Park Hill.

**Free Repair Workshops:** On the second Tuesday of each month, Cycleton conducts a free bike repair and maintenance workshop for anyone seeking to keep their bike in top condition. Cycleton is located at 7480 E. 29th Ave. in the Stapleton Town Center, [www.cycleton.com](http://www.cycleton.com) or 303.329.0069.

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2012 Proficiency and Growth Scores for Northeast Denver DPS Schools

Grade	School	Address	2012 Percent Proficient				2010-2012 Change				2012 Median Growth Percentile			Free & Reduced Lunch	
			Reading	Math	Writing	Science	Reading	Math	Writing	Science	Reading MGP	Writing MGP	Math MGP	FRL	%
3-5	Ashley	1914 Syracuse St.	31%	34%	14%	2%					51.0	44.0	54.0		95.48
3-5	Denver Green	6700 E Virginia St	63%	74%	48%						69.0	68.0	57.0		58.11
3-5	Denver Language	451 Newport St	76%	71%	55%						-	-	-		17.7
3-5	Hallett	2950 Jasmine St	56%	56%	33%	24%	-10%	-2%	-10%	5%	54.0	59.0	52.0		88.92
3-5	Lowry	8001 E. Cedar Ave.	71%	66%	54%	38%	3%	-3%	-4%	-4%	52.0	41.0	52.0		37.82
3-5	Montclair	1151 Newport St.	64%	57%	53%	39%	1%	0%	6%	-5%	68.0	66.0	56.5		60.57
3-5	Odyssey	6550 E. 21st Ave.	85%	78%	66%	56%	8%	0%	-4%	-5%	43.0	48.0	29.0		35.11
3-5	Palmer	995 Grape St.	64%	56%	48%	18%	0%	2%	-1%	-28%	61.0	67.0	73.0		60.57
3-5	Park Hill	5050 E. 19th Ave.	75%	71%	68%	65%	8%	4%	8%	23%	63.0	60.0	65.5		29.96
3-5	Polaris	410 Park Ave West	99%	99%	97%	95%	0%	2%	2%	3%	70.0	80.0	65.0		7.83
3-5	Roberts	2100 Akron Way	88%	89%	78%	67%	12%	9%	8%	18%	60.0	62.0	59.0		14.83
3-5	Smith	3590 Jasmine St.	37%	32%	23%	8%	14%	12%	10%	1%	50.5	49.0	51.0		97.8
3-5	Stedman	2940 Dexter St.	44%	44%	33%	15%	12%	6%	5%	1%	62.0	55.0	59.0		88.79
3-5	Westerly Creek	8800 E. 28th Ave.	84%	84%	72%	75%	1%	-4%	2%	75%	60.0	59.0	51.0		19.7
6-8	DSA MS	7111 Montview Blvd.	91%	70%	85%	72%	0%	4%	2%	-1%	45.0	54.0	39.0		15.42
6-8	DSST MS	2000 Valentia St.	82%	80%	77%	77%	2%	3%	-4%	-1%	62.0	62.0	75.0		44.82
6-8	Odyssey	6550 E 21st	86%	61%	68%	50%	-2%	-12%	-9%	-14%	58.5	72.0	51.5		35.11
6-8	Roberts	2100 Akron Way	69%	56%	60%	68%	1%	-7%	1%	22%	56.0	61.0	50.0		14.83
6-8	Smiley	2540 Holly St.	39%	29%	30%	8%	-2%	-2%	1%	-11%	49.0	40.0	50.0		83.33
6-8	Venture Prep MS	2540 Holly St.	40%	24%	28%	26%	11%	0%	3%		50.0	52.0	51.0		90.17
9-10	DSA	7111 Montview Blvd.	93%	57%	83%	77%	-3%	3%	-1%	5%	54.5	54.0	61.0		13.74
9-10	DSST HS	2000 Valentia St.	88%	74%	67%	79%	5%	12%	-3%	6%	67.0	61.0	81.0		44.04
9-10	East High	1600 City Park Esplanade	76%	41%	59%	61%	2%	1%	-1%	1%	53.5	56.0	53.0		35.5
9-10	George Washington	655 S. Monaco Parkway	61%	37%	48%	48%	6%	6%	7%	15%	56.0	59.0	45.0		54.77
9-10	Manual	1700 E 28th Ave	30%	4%	12%	11%	-2%	-11%	-9%	-11%	36.0	34.0	53.5		93.87
9-10	Venture Prep HS	2540 Holly St.	41%	15%	24%	20%					55.0	62.0	85.0		86.34

By Carol Roberts

Denver Public Schools announced the results of the 2012 proficiency tests on August 8. The above spreadsheet shows the results of these Colorado standardized tests for northeast Denver DPS schools. The tests are now being called TCAPs (Transitional Colorado Assessment Program). The state is using transitional tests while they are being modified to reflect national core content standards.

The numbers in yellow show the percent of students proficient in each of the areas in 2012.

The numbers in orange show the percent change from 2010 to 2012 tests.

The numbers in green show the Median

Growth Percentile (MGP) in 2012—the middle percentile for all

students in that school, with half the students above this percentile and half below. The scale is from 1 to 100. A number higher than 50 indicates the school has higher than average growth.

MGP is a measure of students' year-to-year ac-

ademic growth compared to students across the state who are performing at a similar academic level. Every student has their own MGP. Regardless of the level at which a student starts the year, this measurement shows how much

that student grows in a year compared to students across the state who started the year in a similar place—whether they are ahead, struggling, or at any point in between.

The far right column in blue shows the percentage of free and reduced lunches in each school.

The original district-wide spreadsheets are posted at [www.FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://www.FrontPorchStapleton.com).

Questions or comments? Visit Facebook at FrontPorch Newspaper, email [FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com](mailto:FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com), or call 303-526-1969.



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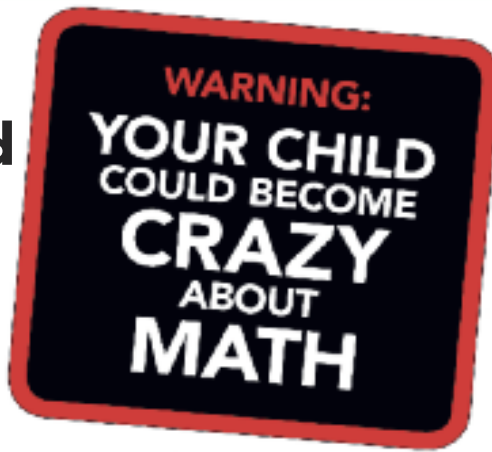
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## Jabari Holland Selected for Prestigious Sports Management Program

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

This summer, 17-year-old JaBari Holland flew across the country to get a



Jabari Holland

head start on his dream career. He spent a month at the prestigious Wharton Sports Business Academy on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania to study sports marketing. The opportunity was suggested to the East High School senior and football player by Project Greer Street, founded by Park Hill residents Yvette and Ron Sally. The Sallys encouraged him to apply to “expose him to one of the elite business schools in America while simultaneously gaining invaluable experience and personal development outside of Denver prior to going to college,” says Ron Sally.

From more than 1,000 applicants, the program hosted 93 students from all over the world. Holland was the only Colorado student to attend. Classes were taught by some of the top sports business educators in the country. “We had discussion groups on topics that included the business of college sports, negotiating tactics, marketing, television deals, and understanding collective bargaining agreements,” recalls Holland. “We also had sports agents, chief executive officers, chief marketing officers, presidents, owners and professors come by and speak with us.” On the weekends, they visited pro sports stadiums

and met team employees who spoke about their job responsibilities.

Holland’s experience was part of Project Greer Street’s mission to teach African-American high school males the skills and tactics for success in the areas of academic achievement, college preparation, life skills training, networking expertise and employment. Ron Sally adds that one of their goals is to “eradicate ‘unfulfilled promise’ among this segment of the student population by providing the critical building blocks for success.” Project Greer Street is named after the notorious neighborhood Ron Sally grew up in, in North St. Louis, Missouri.

Holland says he came away from the Wharton experience having learned what he has to do in order to enter the sports business and the high level of competition that exists there. “I also learned that there are a lot of very smart and impressive high school students in this country,” he adds.

Holland, a Stapleton resident and oldest of three sons, says of his dream job: “I want to be the chief marketing officer of an NFL or NBA franchise.” To get there, he knows he’ll have to apply to colleges with very good business programs. For now, Holland is grateful for the support he has received from Project Greer Street. “My thoughts about my future educational and career choices have expanded. It’s a great program.”

For more information about Project Greer Street, contact [projectgreerstreet@gmail.com](mailto:projectgreerstreet@gmail.com).



Contest photo submitted by Sarah Plummer

## Sarah Plummer Wins “Random Acts of Fusion” Contest

By Judith Schwartz

Sarah Plummer, a former Marine Corps Captain and disabled veteran, won a Ford Motor Company promotional contest as part of their Random Acts of Fusion program. She submitted the photo below and explained why she deserved a break: “Observe my upside down/wacky pose: I need a break—gimme a break! break me off a piece of that Canyon Ranch because I am a disabled veteran who just started my own biz

so I’m working hard for the\$ plus play soccer& Gaelic& Aussie Rules football so I get beat up a lot and need R&R!” Her prize: a four-day VIP fitness vacation to Canyon Ranch in Lennox, MA, where she got to drive around in a 2013 Ford Fusion, participate in paddle boarding and yoga, and enjoyed pampering at the spa. Sarah is an inspirational speaker, coach yoga instructor, health coach and five-time member of the Military Olympics Women’s Soccer team. A film

was made of Sarah on her vacation and will be shown as part of a Random Acts of Fusion Fox TV show. In addition, she will be publishing a book series beginning this fall called Just Roll With It.

Sarah Plummer can be contacted at [www.sempersarah.com](http://www.sempersarah.com).



Joe Danahey

## Joe Danahey Takes First in State Swim Meet

By Carol Roberts

Thirteen-year-old Joe Danahey competed in the state championship swim meet and won the 50-meter butterfly, got 2nd in the 100-meter freestyle and 5th in the 200-meter freestyle. He first joined swim team at age six. Coach Riley Kitts says Joe has been swimming for him for four years and every year he has “worked his tail off” at swim team. This year he “swam up” and competed in an older age group in all the regular season swim meets.

“He would come to practice every day with a great attitude, ready to work hard. He would lead his lane in most of our drills and most of our practice sets, setting the pace and setting a good example as well,” says Kitts.

Joe has two siblings on swim team and a brother who coaches. He attends Christ the King School.



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The top flap in the above photos show the DPS plans for the proposed high school at Northfield. The bottom layer shows the park plans for Stapleton north of I-70. The two parties had been working independently until recently



when they realized the two sets of plans didn't mesh. As shown on the plan, the bond proposal is for a first phase of the high school, with additional classroom buildings to come as part of a future bond.

**Proposed Northfield High School to Share Fields with Denver Parks**

Plans for a high school in Northfield were chosen in a competition in 2006. That school, now proposed as a 6-12 facility, is subject to Denver voters' approval of the DPS bond on the November ballot (see story on page 1). When the 20-acre DPS property was moved to 56th and Central Park Blvd, the architect, Tim Habben of LOA Architects, started working on modifica-

tions to the building plans to accommodate the new location. With the school property adjoining park land, DPS' intent has been to use 20 acres of the park land for athletic fields and parking in a shared arrangement with Denver Parks. Meanwhile, through the Park Creek Metro District (PCMD) (which oversees the construction of infrastructure at Stapleton), plans have been developed for the parks north of I-70. Dennis Piper, a parks consultant for PCMD, recently discovered that with the parties working independently, the two

plans didn't mesh. By cutting out and overlaying the two projects (above), he identified the areas where the plans wouldn't work together. All parties are now meeting together to resolve the issues.

**Sand Creek Grants**

Kate Kramer, Executive Director of Sand Creek Regional Greenway (SCRG) reports SCRG will be a major beneficiary of a settlement with the US Army and Shell Oil over natural resource damage claims on the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. Two millions dollars will be used to buy key parcels in Aurora on the Sand Creek Regional Greenway and the extension of the SCRG, Triple Creek Greenway. \$2.6M will be spent in Commerce City to purchase the two properties from private owners to build native habitat parks. An additional \$50,000 was granted to remove all the Russian olive trees and tamarisk from the



Kate Kramer, Executive Director, Sand Creek Regional Greenway

Most of the information in Stapleton Update is obtained at the monthly Community Advisory Board (CAB) meeting (third Thursday) or the Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC) meeting (fourth Thursday).

SCRG. For more information see [www.northeastgreenwaycorridor.org](http://www.northeastgreenwaycorridor.org).

**Finding Funds for Westerly Creek Park North**

Councilman Herndon chaired a committee meeting on August 16 with a group of people whose goal is to explore all possible funding options to complete Westerly Creek North Park as soon as possible.


Separately, a group of approximately 50 residents signed a letter requesting that SDC pass a resolution to identify a board member to serve on and help lead Herndon's committee and direct SDC's Executive Director to play a proactive and leadership role on this committee. These individuals from SDC were also requested to work to complete the 26th Ave. Park.

SDC Board Member Terry Whitney presented the letter to SDC. The SDC Board did not pass a resolution, but Kevin Marchman volunteered to work with the group.

To join the neighborhood parks group, email [StapletonParks@yahoo.com](mailto:StapletonParks@yahoo.com)



SDC Board Member Terry Whitney presents a letter from residents



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## Forest City Describes Development North of I-70

The first residential neighborhood being built north of I-70, Filing 36, is bounded on the south by Northfield Blvd., on the west by Trenton, on the north by 51st, and on the east by Central Park Blvd. It is primarily single-family homes, but Forest City has a letter of intent with a non-profit to build 50-60 affordable rental units north of Northfield Blvd., across from Target, on a two-acre parcel.

Lisa Hall, director of Forest City's builder programs, offered information on the residential plans north of I-70. The majority of current builders from Central Park West will be moving north, though with some variations in styles. A new builder, Boulder Creek, is being brought in because they build ranches—which addresses the needs of the Baby Boomers. "We hear so many people's parents want to come and be close to their grandchildren, but there's just not quite the right product for them. And we're encouraging all the builders to have a main floor master," said Hall.

Hall added, "People want to grow their own food and have gardens. Some of the builders have a bigger lot to allow them to do that and we're encouraging the builders to offer the option of gardens in the back and using edible landscaping in the front." In addition, in one of the green links, there will be a community garden that the MCA will manage and people can get a plot by lottery and pay their own lot expenses. Models are expected to open in March or April, with the first move-ins late spring. Price range is \$100s to the \$800s, with square footage from 1000 to 3200.

Filing 37 is to the east of the Shops at Northfield. The grading that is underway there is for the Aster Northfield apartments, about 352 units that are market rate units with development underway now. Construction is expected to start this fall, with apartments completed in mid-2013. Market rate apart-

ments at Stapleton have been doing well, according to Tom Gleason. South of I-70, the first phase of the Aster Town Center apartments, 85 units, leased up quickly. 118 market rate apartments in Eastbridge are also leasing quickly and occupancy there is expected to start in September.

## SDC Discusses Grocery Stores

Asked if Forest City is looking at putting a grocery store north of I-70, Tom Gleason said, with a full grocery store in the Target, Forest City doesn't expect there's

going to be a grocery store opportunity there. However, he said they "are always in pursuit of Whole Foods and Trader Joe's and any and all grocery stores they can get at Stapleton." Forest City Stapleton President John Lehigh added, "Realistically, if you look at the area north of Smith Rd there are no houses. Grocery store models just don't work with 1,000, 2,000 or even 4,000 houses. If we could get one to come, we'd put them anywhere they wanted to go."

SDC Board Member Happy Haynes added, "I've spent many years working with grocers. First of all, they are one of the lowest margin businesses, so they're very particular about their model. I remember meeting with them. It's simple. They took a piece of paper and said, 'There's this dot right there. We draw a circle around that and we count rooftops. Period.' It's rooftops and traffic. Next to railroads, they are the most difficult. In some cities they've adjusted their model, but their bottom line is still the same. It's rooftops and traffic."



SDC Board Member Happy Haynes



John Lehigh, President of Forest City Stapleton

## 26th Ave Park

Tom Gleason announced the status of the 26th Ave. Park at the SDC meeting, "We're in the process... very soon we'll be talking about the plan for the design and the timetable on that (the 26th Ave. Park). So that will continue to move forward."

## Delay in Aurora Street Connections

Last month we printed that the Aurora street connections were expected to be completed by January 2013. However

John Fernandez of Aurora Planning Department now says there was a request from URS engineers on behalf of Forest City for a variance from the city street standards. Tom Gleason stated they were attempting to preserve some of the mature trees in

the Jehovah's Witness right of way. Fernandez explained the competing needs of preserving the trees and maintaining the street standards. "I was reluctant to recommend variations from our standards for the first street that will connect into Stapleton," he said, but added, "I suspect there will be a compromise of some sort."

## MCA: Tower Proposal and "Evolution of the Community"

Diane Deeter reported the MCA is moving forward with an outside company doing a feasibility study on using the tower for their programming.

And she said the MCA has had record numbers at events this year and they've seen the "evolution of the community." "The night *The Help* was shown was the most interesting crowd all summer. It was awesome, something new and different for us," said Deeter. "The crowd was more mature and diverse than other movies have produced...and the concession stand was the Northeast Park Hill Chapter of AARP."

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## Second Annual Stapleton Education Expo on October 4

By Sophia Briegleb,  
SUN Education  
Committee Chair

In a community growing as fast as Stapleton, education can be a little turbulent. Not only are policies in flux, but we're also getting a new school every couple of years. Parents don't know which school their child will eventually attend since Stapleton has a shared boundary, and with the schools often busting at the seams, parents lack certainty and security in how their children will be educated in the community. Swigert-McAuliffe opened one year ago, and already the building serves over 700 students. Over the next five years, DPS expects to serve 2,000 new students in Stapleton, essentially doubling the number of children currently enrolled in DPS schools here. Our community is growing so quickly, it's hard to keep up. Lest you fear that we might be overbuilding, remember that Stapleton north of I-70 will be similar in size to

south of I-70. Fasten your seatbelts, as we're not even halfway built out yet.

Come October 4, hopefully some of the uncertainty for Stapleton can be clarified. The SUN Education Committee is planning the Second Annual Education Expo. Part informational meeting, part school showcase, this Expo is designed to answer your questions. At 6:30pm, we will have a meeting with presentations from DPS on the school choice process, the fourth elementary school anticipated to open in the fall of 2014, plans for the 6-12 campus in Northfield, and the bond measure on the ballot this fall necessary to make the 6-12 campus happen. After a brief Q&A session with the speakers, we will open tables from

25 preschools through high schools serving NE Denver for parents to browse. Last year, over 400 parents attended the Expo. Participating schools this year include Happy Ladybug, Monarch Montessori, The Odyssey School, Bill Roberts, Westerly Creek Elementary, Swigert International School, McAuliffe International School, Morey Middle School, Venture Prep Charter School, Denver Montclair International School, Stanley British Primary School, High Tech Early College, Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST) and East High School.

The Second Annual Stapleton Education Expo is open to all parents in NE Denver. It will be held again this year at Swigert-McAuliffe International School, located at 3480 Syracuse Street. Doors open at 6:15pm, with the meeting beginning at 6:30pm. For more information, please visit [www.stapletonunitedneighbors.org/education](http://www.stapletonunitedneighbors.org/education).

**Second Annual  
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### Being Real with Race

Ms. Jane Smith,

Thanks for your letter to the editor and being so real with race. Our communities and our society cannot really live sincerely without a clearer understanding of our race history and how it perpetuates itself. Pointing out the shadow side of a society, community, or in a person's character is always a hard pill to swallow. I grew up in a white suburb of NYC and I often discuss with my childhood friends how race had set us (American kids) up on a path of hindered development. For the nonwhite kids like myself, I think many of us had to struggle to create a counter story through social justice, education and the arts. For the white kids it seemed the apartheid-like social experience in our country never appeared to create much emotional dissonance. Unless they had a game changer like being brought up in a family that was actively working for racial equality. I guess Chris Rock kinda touched on this when he discussed his recent tweet in a New York Times interview about the 4th of July—"Happy white peoples independence day the slaves weren't free but I'm sure they enjoyed the fireworks." I bet he got a lot of hate mail for that one.

John Brewer, Park Hill resident

### In Response to Premium Fishwrap Commentary on Guns

I don't think it will be possible to have a conversation, in reference to Jon Meredith's *Premium Fishwrap* column, unless some misconceptions get cleared up. I will admit my bias in favor of the second amendment, if he will admit his bias in favor of gun control. The Mexican cartels are not buying automatic weapons in Arizona, Texas, etc. Yes, they are buying semi-automatic weapons in the aforementioned states and likely elsewhere. If Mr. Holmes had used automatic weapons in his rampage, the death toll would have been much, much higher. The average person cannot just go out and buy automatic weapons, one has to pay fees/taxes to the federal government, undergo a background check, and get approved before being allowed to make the purchase.

The distinction between automatic and semi-automatic weapons is that with automatic weapons, one pull of the trigger and you get all the bullets fired until the magazine is empty, while with semi-automatic you have to pull the trigger each time to fire the bullet. Yes, semi-automatics can be modified to become automatics, but I have not heard or seen any evidence that Mr. Holmes had modified any of his weapons. Furthermore, I highly doubt he had modified them, since he was unable to clear a malfunction on his AR15 rifle. None of the weapons, shotgun, Glock handgun, or AR15 rifle were automatics.

I am not in favor of everyone being armed, since gun ownership is a very serious responsibility.

At the same time, I am not in favor of more government laws being passed. Why should the rights of the many be infringed upon, when criminals will always do the improper wrongs and shortcuts to get to their means?

Brent Parrott

*Editor's note: The Fishwrap column on the Aurora shooting mistakenly referred to an automatic weapon. Mr. Parrott is correct that it was a semi-automatic, which requires pulling the trigger to fire each bullet. Technician Reyes Trujillo, a District 2 police officer, states that semi-automatic guns typically hold 8-17 rounds, but higher capacity magazines can also be purchased.*

### Opposition to Aurora Street Extensions

I am writing on behalf of myself and others who live in southeast Stapleton to voice our opposition to the planned extensions of Fulton, Iola, Kingston and Emporia Streets, from 26th over to 25th, into Aurora. Expanding the ingress to Stapleton from 25th benefits no one, certainly not the residents of Stapleton. There is no practical, constructive reason for extending these streets. Creating these four new corridors, which are so close together, will just result in an unnecessary and unproductive influx of curiosity traffic, with its accompanying noise and air pollution, into both residential neighborhoods. There is no shopping or any destination points in this end of Stapleton or in that area of Aurora. Further, access to I-70 from Aurora is easily accessible from 25th via Moline.

I do not know what the reasoning is behind promoting these street extensions except that it was first conceived 17 years ago and is outdated. If the intent was to create more "inclusivity," as it is, Stapleton is not an isolated, gated community. The community bends over backwards to be inclusive. But Stapleton has recently been beset with vandalism and property crimes which, according to police, are not being committed by Stapleton residents. One of the streets planned for extension is Kingston through to E. Colfax. On August 8th, two people were shot in a drive-by shooting at Kingston and E. Colfax. Extending these streets offers nothing but additional breaches and access into what we all expected when we first decided to move here—peaceful and safe neighborhoods.

It is evident for those of us who live in this part of Stapleton that extending these streets would be counter-productive. We urge Stapleton residents to please contact our councilman, Chris Herndon, and request that he make an effort to stop these ill-conceived plans.

Jack Davis

### Support for Aurora Street Extensions

*Editors note: In the interest of giving readers additional information on the street connections, the Front Porch contacted Councilman Herndon, who suggested printing a response from the Citizens Advisory Group (CAB) and/or the Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC).*

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the Editor

From a resident and CAB member:  
Connection to other neighborhoods is a fundamental of the Stapleton Green Book. The Green Book states, “Stapleton is not an island, but a part of a community fabric that must be reconnected.” Stapleton is not a place to wall ourselves away from the city, but rather it is a place to engage and make neighborhoods in the grand tradition of northeast Denver. The connector streets are crucial.

Many of us lived in Park Hill before we came to Stapleton. For those who don't know, the Greater Park Hill Community was a successful and deliberate effort by northeast Denver to resist the racial politics of the 1950s and 60s. The community rallied against white flight and de facto segregation to become a model of inclusivity. For 60 years Park Hill has lived and thrived as a multicultural middle-class community. It wasn't always easy, yet it succeeded despite bus-ing and despite the national gang culture in the 70s. Today, because of involved citizens, Park Hill continues as one of the most desirable Den-ver neighborhoods. Stapleton can be a great neighborhood, an extension of a great tradition.

I moved to Stapleton with a promise of parks and open space and with a promise of diversity and connectivity of neighborhoods. The parks bring joy every day but the lack of diversity and inclusivity in Stapleton has been a disappoint-ment.

There are economic disparities between Sta-pleton and its neighbors to the south, west and northeast, but that is why we need the connec-tor streets. We cannot avoid urban problems by walling ourselves away from our neighbors. We know from the experience of cities all across the country that if we allow our neighbor communi-ties to fall into blight, our enclave will eventually fall, too. In order to have a successful commu-nity, we need to share our opportunity for growth with our neighbors.

If and when there are community issues, we must solve them together, north or south of Montview. We do not stand alone and our involvement can and should be a force to enhance our neighborhood and the neighborhoods around us.

As the Anschutz campus becomes a regional economic generator, the Montview corridor in-creasingly is home to new restaurants and busi-nesses that I would like to access more easily. Redevelopment along Montview and Col-fax will increase as the medical complex grows and demands more housing, shopping and restaurants.

By the same token, Stapleton's commercial and retail developments need the purchasing power of non-Stapleton residents. Until Staple-ton demographics can demonstrate greater pop-ulation access, the Eastbridge town center will not be viable. And, with the current bottlenecks in place, folks who could shop in Stapleton and Northfield may seek more welcoming places

with easier access to spend their dollars and Stapleton will not benefit from the Tax Incre-mental Financing that it so badly needs to complete infrastructure development. The connector streets will help commerce in both directions.

Residents have made the point that grad-ing and drainage of the 26th Ave. parkland must be completed along with the connector streets. Once the land is contoured, it must be stabilized and maintained, and this cur-rently neglected area can be a respected area enjoyed with our neighbors. Let's hope the City of Aurora and Forest City agree that the connector streets come with the 26th Ave. Park.

And let's celebrate the fact that the con-ector streets are being constructed and advo-cate for the 26th Ave. corridor to be completed as well.

Lucia Correll  
Citizen Advisory Board member, Parks  
Advisory Group chair and resident

From the Stapleton Development Corp.  
As the President and CEO of Stapleton Development Corp., (SDC) I feel compelled to respond to the letter regarding the con-necting of Fulton, Iola and Kingston Streets between Denver and Aurora. SDC oversees the implementation of the Stapleton Devel-opment Plan.

One of the key elements of the plan is that Stapleton be fully integrated into its environ-ment. Stapleton's “environment” includes the surrounding Denver neighborhood: the abut-ting cities of Aurora and Commerce City's neighborhoods; existing cultural facilities such as the Urban Farm, and the Wildlife Sanctuary; multiple correctional facilities and the City's tree farm. This is the context for urban life.

Stapleton is not a gated community and is not intended to be an oasis. Connecting or not connecting the streets may or may not in-crease pollution or crime. But it will, among other things, increase access within the metro area “providing amenities and services that can be shared by adjoining neighborhoods,” and “increase resident access to jobs, business, education and cultural opportunities” as envi-sioned by the Green Book and the citizens of Denver. This is the context for the connec-tion of the street grid between Denver and Aurora.

Cheryl Cohen-Vader, President and CEO,  
Stapleton Development Corporation

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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Math teacher Nikki Steffen shows her new students how they will use the MimioTeach interactive whiteboard technology in her math class. Principal Kurt Dennis says math is a particularly good subject to teach with the new technology. It engages all the kids and there is no opportunity to opt out—

every time the teacher asks a question, all the students have to respond. And most importantly, the teacher immediately knows which students are having trouble understanding the new concepts.

Salik Matthews and Kawannis Pullins high five to celebrate a correct answer.

passing periods, etc.” The staff taught skills in organizing lockers and binders and good note-taking. With all of that in place, teachers are ready to press forward with the academic focus.

As a DPS Innovation School, on track to become an International Baccalaureate (IB) school, there is a holistic, well-rounded approach to education, as Dennis describes it. “The focus in IB is that the kids make connections...so what they are learning in science is connected to social studies and math because in the real world, all these areas are interconnected and affect each other significantly.”

Kids don’t have a lot of homework, says Dennis. “I tell the kids, ‘If you work really hard for us from 8 to 4, you’ve earned the right to go home and be a kid and hang out with your friends, or participate with sports or have dinner with your family.’”

The school week starts and ends with a 30-minute morning meeting with the students and teachers. The purpose, says Dennis, is to “bring all the kids together to create a common culture for the school, to celebrate our achievements but also create a common understanding.” The meetings are also a chance to share information and announcements. The Friday morning meeting is a celebration of the week and has a more reflective tone with kids talking about how things are going, challenges they are facing

and ideas. The goal is for it to be a forum for two-way conversation between the kids and the adults.

Dennis, who is a first-year principal (previously assistant principal at Westminster High School), has firm ideas about what he believes a school should be and has instilled that at McAuliffe. “I like structure. I think that having clear expectations for students is important. The teachers appreciate when the building culture supports their classroom culture. When the two support each other, it makes everyone’s life a lot better.” Dennis feels the kids are adjusting well. “I think they appreciate the structure because it brings clarity to their day. When there is ambiguity, it brings discomfort.”

Dennis says having high expectations for the kids and providing rigor to challenge them on a daily basis are the driving forces behind McAuliffe’s culture. “At the same time, I always want the kids to enjoy school so part of our culture is the love of learning.”

McAuliffe shares a building with Swigert International School, which offers Early

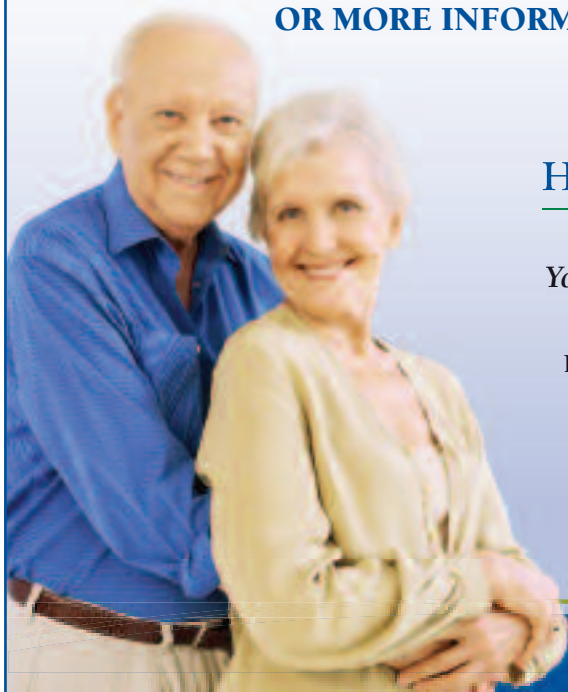
**8 First Grade Openings at Swigert**  
Swigert principal Chuck Raisch informed the Front Porch that additional classes were added this past summer to accommodate new students who had moved to the Stapleton attendance area. Due to this addition of classes, there are now eight openings for first graders who live in the Stapleton attendance area.

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# McAuliffe Opens

Thomas Cummings, Connor Doolan, Gabriel Ray, Ryan Bianucci, Vianne Schein and Sophia Alfrey (left to right) participate in exercises at the end of a half-hour morning meeting held each Monday and Friday. Principal Kurt Dennis (pictured below) describes the meetings as a kind of town hall and a time to bring the culture and climate of the new school to the students. He also says it's a two-way street, with the kids encouraged to share with the teachers and administration.

school day, arrive and depart at different times than the younger Swigert students. Inside, where McAuliffe and Swigert share a cafeteria, art, music and P.E. classrooms, schedules have been coordinated to give both schools equal time.

Swigert had so many students they were forced

to take three of McAuliffe's intended classrooms. Next year when McAuliffe will have just sixth and seventh grades, the school will be at capacity. In the third year, when all three years of the middle school are in place and all grades at Swigert are in place, space will be an issue; potentially to be solved through the bond and other options, says Dennis.

Numbers are the basis for funding in public schools. McAuliffe needs to maintain 150–180 students per grade in order to support programs including daily P.E., art and music. The original goal was to have 150 students in the inaugural sixth-grade class, but with approximately 50 on the waiting list, the school added 34 students, and currently has about 20 kids still waiting.

It is estimated that 175 fifth-graders currently live in Stapleton, not including those who now attend schools outside of the neighborhood but could attend McAuliffe next year. The school expects 60–65 percent of those students will choose to attend McAuliffe next year (based on this year's attendance rates) and the remaining new sixth-graders next year will come from other neighborhoods.

As a Stapleton resident with a daughter at Swigert, Dennis feels a real sense of ownership and responsibility to the students. The rest of his staff, half of whom live in Stapleton or Park Hill, feel the same way. "It makes it personal that we're not just educating kids, but they are our own kids and our neighbors' kids," he says. "The level of buy-in is much more significant when you have 'skin in the game.'"

McAuliffe International School is located at 3480 Syracuse St. Kurt Dennis can be reached at 720.424.4790 or kurt\_dennis@dpsk12.org.

Questions or comments? Visit Facebook at Front Porch Newspaper, email FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com, or call 303-526-1969.



Childhood Education through third grade (eventually through fifth). The two schools have academic and philosophical alignment

but operate separately. Logistically, sharing an entrance hasn't been a problem because the McAuliffe students, with a longer

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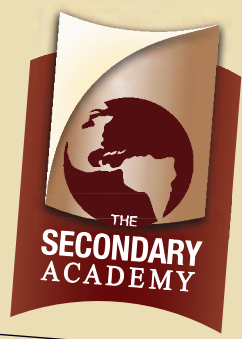
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# Bacon is Meat Candy

<p><b>Happening At The Berk'!</b></p>  <p><b>Some of our new Brunch items</b>          Pork Frittata, Turkey Sausage          Egg White Omelet and our          Croque Madame!</p>	<p><b>Happening At The Berk'!</b></p>  <p><b>September 9th: COME WATCH THE BRONCOS PLAY THE NIGHT GAME!</b>          We have the NFL package on 8 TV's including a 6 foot screen  <b>Also, celebrate with us at our first WATCH PARTY</b>          The Berkshire makes its national TV debut on <i>All You Can Meat!</i></p>	<p><b>Happening At The Berk'!</b></p>  <p><b>"Fight the stupids, read a book!"</b>          The Berkshire is proud to have been able to contribute to the Stapleton Community by naming the Adult Reading Area of the new library</p>
<p><b>Happening At The Berk'!</b></p>  <p><b>Book Your Holiday Party in Our Private Dining Room</b>          Contact <a href="mailto:Courtney@TheBerkshireRestaurant.com">Courtney@TheBerkshireRestaurant.com</a>          and/or look on our website for more details</p>	<p><b>Happening At The Berk'!</b></p>  <p><b>Karaoke is back at The Berk'!</b>          Last Saturday of every month.          Live music will be back too, on select Tuesdays</p>	<p><b>Happening At The Berk'!</b></p>  <p><b>"Like" us on Facebook for specials and promotions</b></p>

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