

# Front Porch

Ballot  
Guide  
2012

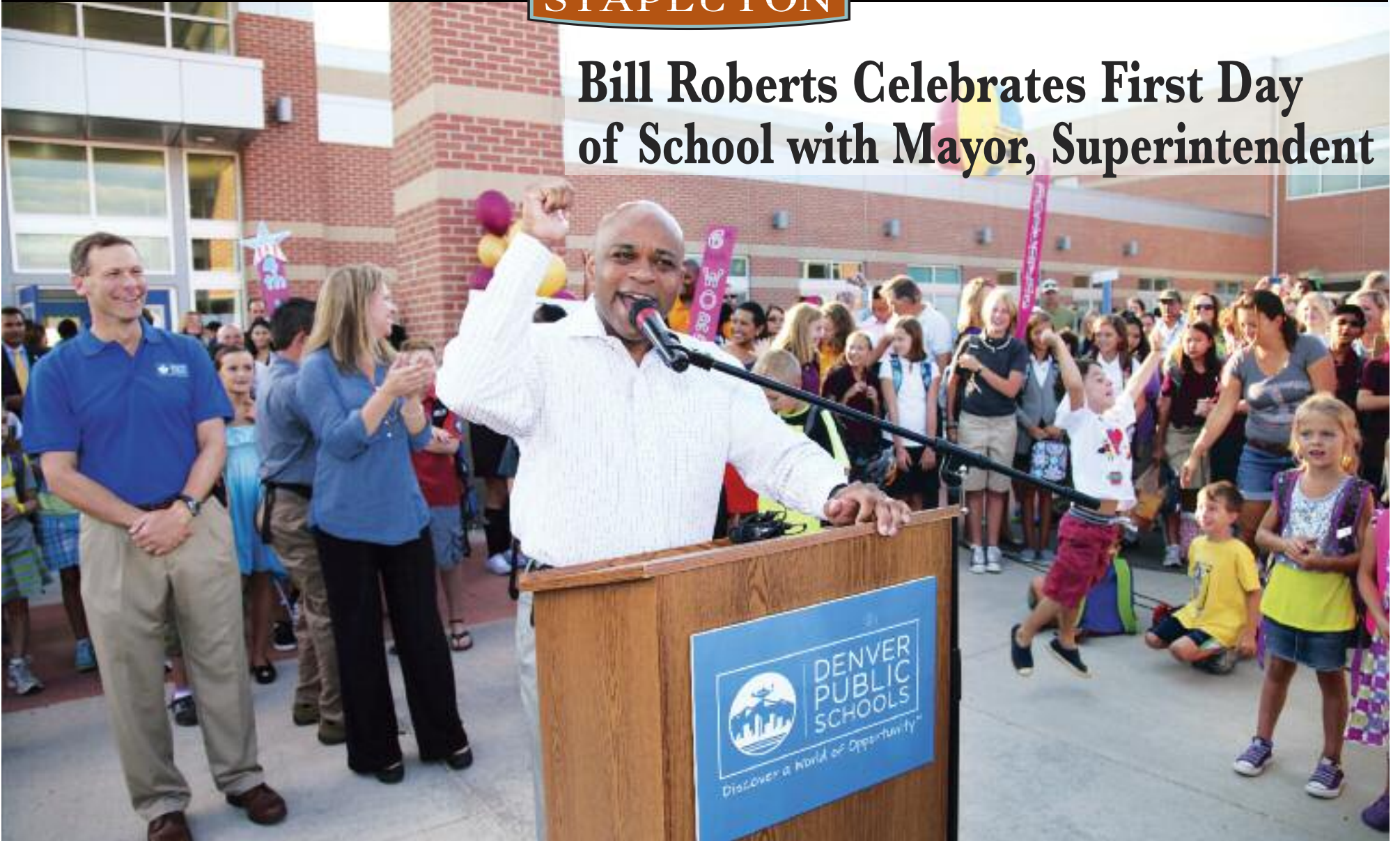
Distributed to the Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair, Hale and East Colfax neighborhoods

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

OCTOBER 2012

## Bill Roberts Celebrates First Day of School with Mayor, Superintendent



School started with a bang at Bill Roberts ECE-8 this year as parents, students and community members gathered at 8am on August 22 to hear Mayor Hancock, DPS Superintendent Tom Boasberg (far left) and

School Board President Mary Seawell (second from left) congratulate them. The school was selected for recognition based on their TCAP scores, strong growth and special programs that have strengthened and enriched the school.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Denver to Vote for Three Important Ballot Issues

By Carol Roberts

More enrichment programs in schools? Renovate old schools and build new to deal with overcrowding and aging buildings? Longer library hours? More police officers?

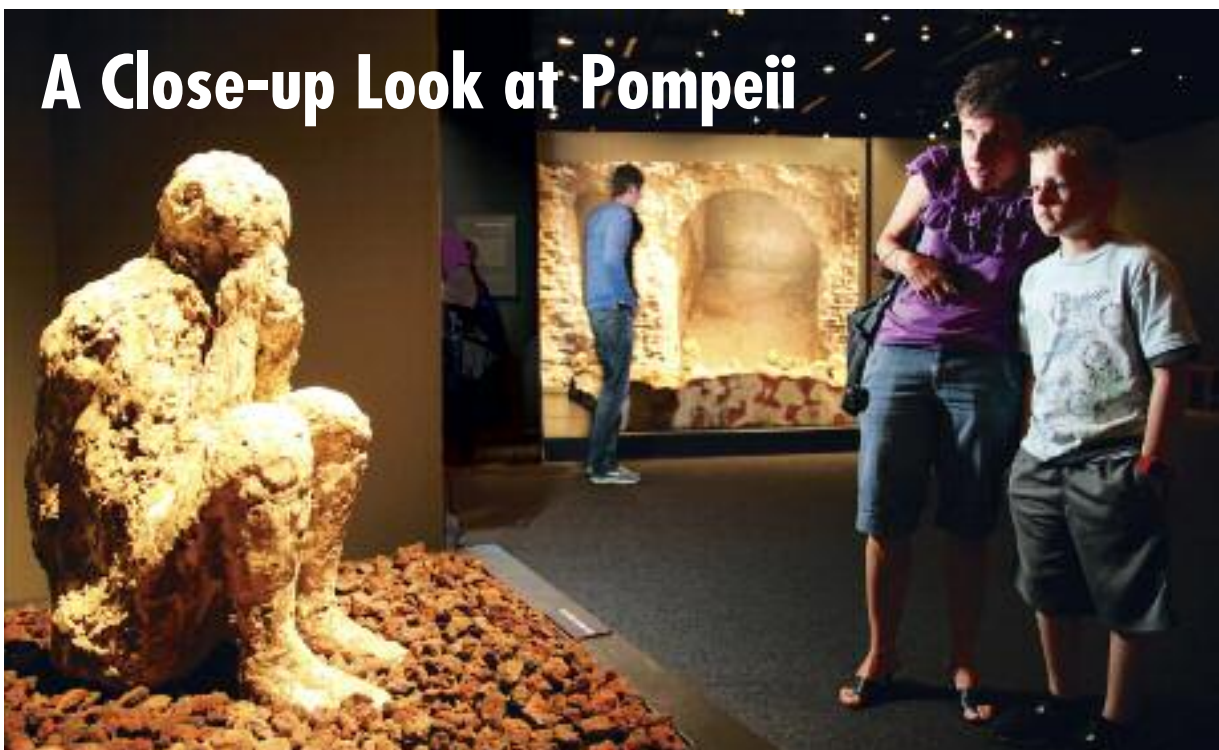
Denver voters will decide on three issues on the

November 6 ballot that will have a significant impact on the future of the city: Denver Public Schools (DPS) placed a mill levy override and a bond issue on the ballot (3A and 3B). And the City and County of Denver has a “De-Brucing” measure that would allow Denver to keep the full revenue from the tax rate approved by voters,

instead of crediting back a portion as has been required under the TABOR (Tax Payers Bill of Rights) amendment.

The Front Porch interviewed Denver Public Schools Superintendent Tom Boasberg, School Board President Mary Seawell and Mayor Michael Hancock, among others, to give voters a better understanding of these issues. (continued on page 4)

## A Close-up Look at Pompeii



Aurora residents Yuliya Stolyar and Daniel Vesselovski, 9, view a cast of a crouching man who pulled the edge of his cloak over his mouth as the toxic fumes and volcanic ash overcame him.

By Carol Roberts

The eruption of Mt. Vesuvius on August 24, AD 79 was a great tragedy for the city of Pompeii—but it offered archeologists (and now metro Denverites), a vivid and dramatic look at that thriving community. *A Day in Pompeii*, at the Museum of Nature and Science through January 13, presents not just a wide variety of items recovered from the site, but a detailed and engaging experience of what life was like in Pompeii before it was destroyed. (continued on page 35)



### League of Women Voters Ballot Guide

The League of Women Voters election information is reprinted on pages 25-29 to help readers prepare for the Nov. 6 election.

You may think you're registered or that you're going to get a mailed ballot—but many people have found that not to be true. By October 9, go to [www.GoVoteColorado.com](http://www.GoVoteColorado.com) to check the status of your registration and re-register or request a mailed ballot as needed.

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A view of the Stapleton control tower from the rec center—recent sunsets have been spectacular, but unfortunately they have been due to smoke from western wildfires.



## 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.)

### OCTOBER

#### Every Monday & Wednesday

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

#### Every Sunday thru Oct 14

Farmer's Market 8:30am–12:30pm. Pumpkin Patch on Oct 14. The Green\*  
[www.coloradofreshmarkets.com](http://www.coloradofreshmarkets.com)

#### Tuesday, October 2

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

#### Thursday, October 4

2nd Annual Education Expo 6:30pm  
(doors open 6:15pm)  
Swigert-McAuliffe International School  
3480 Syracuse Street (see page 19)  
[www.stapletonunitedneighbors.org/education](http://www.stapletonunitedneighbors.org/education)

#### Friday, October 5

First Friday Flight (Wine & Food Pairing) 6–8pm  
West Crescent\*

#### Saturday, October 6

COURAGE Golf Tournament for  
Aurora Shooting Victims. Fitzsimons Golf Course,  
CU Hospital Campus, 8am.  
[www.COURAGEtournament.org](http://www.COURAGEtournament.org) (See page 19)

#### Saturday, October 6

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

#### Saturday, October 6

Chipotle Cultivate, 10am–6pm  
Free festival in the meadow at City Park  
[www.chipotle.com/cultivate](http://www.chipotle.com/cultivate)

#### Saturday, October 6

Author Phil Goodstein discusses his new book  
Park Hill Promise, Park Hill Library 11am–12:30pm  
(see page 24)

#### Saturday, Oct 6 & Nov 3

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

#### Tuesday, October 9

Last day to register to vote in the general election  
[www.GoVoteColorado.com](http://www.GoVoteColorado.com)

#### Thursday, October 11

Active Minds Seminar "Tibet" 7–8pm  
MCA Community Room\*

#### Saturday, October 13

Refuge Day Celebration, 10am–3pm, free  
Rocky Mtn. Arsenal Wildlife Refuge (see p. 17)

### OCTOBER

#### Saturday, October 13

Central Park Rec Center "Thriller" Saturday  
Night Live 6–9pm. \$10/person; \$20 at the door  
Register: [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com),  
[events@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:events@stapletoncommunity.com) Ages 7–12

#### Sunday, October 14

Denver Museum of Nature and Science - SCFD  
Free Day 303-322-7009 [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)

#### October 15–28

Stapleton Food Drive for The Gathering Place  
and Food Bank of the Rockies. Drop off at  
banks, schools & businesses in Stapleton.  
Sponsored by New Perspective Real Estate  
303-394-4526

#### Tuesday, October 23

DPS Middle and High School Expo  
Infinity Park Center 4400 E Kentucky Ave  
[www.dpsk12.org/expo/](http://www.dpsk12.org/expo/)

#### Sunday, October 28

2nd Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest  
Founder's Green\*, 6pm  
sponsored by Stapleton Connect  
[dan@stapletonconnect.com](mailto:dan@stapletonconnect.com)

#### Tuesday, October 30

Last day to apply for a mail-in ballot (if already  
registered) [www.GoVoteColorado.com](http://www.GoVoteColorado.com)  
(Best to apply earlier.)

#### Wednesday, October 31

19th Annual Denver Police Dept. Halloween  
Party, Denver Police Academy, 2155 N. Akron  
Way, 5–8pm. 720-913-1095

### NOVEMBER

#### Friday, November 2

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

#### Tuesday, November 6

Election Day

\*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.  
West Crescent: 29th and Roslyn Street  
Central Park Rec Center: 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.21).  
Deadline is the 15th for the next issue.**



#### First Friday Flight

The "Wine & Food Pairing" will be held on Friday, October 5 from 6–8pm at the West Crescent. This event will feature four wines and a variety of small plates. Join us for an evening filled with wine and tasty bites, live music by our jazz quartet and enjoy the featured film, *Casablanca*. Tickets are \$20 for residents and \$30 for nonresidents. There will only be 150 tickets available. All patrons must be at least 21 years of age and must present a valid ID to enter.

#### Active Minds

*Tibet* With an average elevation higher than the tallest peaks of Colorado, Tibet has been called the "Roof of the World." Join Active Minds as we explore the history and controversy that surrounds this unique region. China claims that Tibet has been part of China for centuries, while Tibet maintains that China illegally invaded the independent country in 1949. We will cover the role of the Dalai Lama and the views of China and the international community as we seek to understand the situation there. This seminar will be held on Thursday, October 11 from 7–8pm in the MCA Community Room. All seminars are free and open to the public.

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

*Thriller* Join us for the next Kids' Night Out on October 13 from 6–9pm at the Central Park Rec Center. This is for children between ages 7 and 12 and pre-registration is only \$10! There will be carnival games, a dunk tank, costume contest, mummy wrap contest, candy corn relay, 2nd Annual Tribute to Michael Jackson, snacks, prizes, face painting, temporary tattoos, arts and crafts, candy necklaces, and pizza for dinner. Register your child today at [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com). The event is open to both Stapleton residents and nonresidents.

#### Pumpkin Patch

The last Farmers Market of the season is scheduled for Sunday, October 14 from 8:30am–12:30pm on The Green. We will continue our annual tradition of incorporating a pumpkin patch with the final market. Shoppers will receive a coupon every time they spend \$5 at any vendor booth. Coupons can be redeemed at the pumpkin patch for a free pumpkin. There will be a variety of pumpkin sizes ranging from small to large. The more you spend, the larger the pumpkin you will receive. This offer is only valid while supplies last, so arrive early and come pick out your new pumpkin.

#### Dog Daze and Stapleton Rocks

There were over 300 dogs in attendance at the 4th Annual Dog Daze event at F-15 and over \$1500 was donated to Planned Pethood Plus.

Stapleton Rocks...a Concert for a Cause raised \$2,000 toward the Denver Children's Home. All proceeds from the rides, concessions and door prize drawings benefited the Denver Children's Home. Next year's event will be held in June and will kick off our concert series on The Green.

#### Aquatics Wrap-up

All Stapleton pools officially closed on Labor Day. We had over 115,500 visits at the pools this summer. The MCA will be sending out electronic evaluations to all program participants to gather feedback on how well we managed our Learn to Swim Program, Swim Team, etc., plus information regarding improvements for next year. Please take the time to fill out and return these evaluations as we are always looking for feedback and areas to improve service.

The MCA will continue to offer American Red Cross courses each month and will post employment opportunities for next season in March 2013.

#### Sponsors

The MCA would like to thank all of the 2012 sponsors for both events and aquatics. We appreciate your continued support throughout the season and allowing us to create an exciting assortment of events and programs, which have grown tremendously over the last year. There were over 3,000 people at the last Movie on The Green and over 70,000 people at the events throughout the year.

We would like to give special thanks to Stapleton Home Services, Digstown, Forest City and the GSBA for sponsoring all of our events on The Green this summer.

The 2013 sponsorship packets will be available after the first of the year. If you would like to become a sponsor or would like to receive more information about our sponsorship packages, please email [sponsorships@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:sponsorships@stapletoncommunity.com).

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)

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# Maid Service

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## STAPLETON HOME SERVICES

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(continued from page 1)

## Denver Public Schools Mill Levy Override (3A) and Bond Issue (3B)

"I think it's fair to say the challenges throughout the district will be enormous and extraordinarily painful if the bond does not pass," says Superintendent Boasberg. A look at the following statistics explains Boasberg's statement:

- DPS lost over \$800 per student per year over the past four years due to state funding cuts. The mill levy override would bring about \$450 of that back.
- Of 12 metro area cities, DPS' current mill levy total for schools ranks 11th.
- In the U.S. Colorado ranks 41st in per-pupil state money to K-12 schools adjusted for regional cost differences.<sup>1</sup>
- Colorado per pupil funding is about \$1400 less than the national average.<sup>2</sup>
- DPS is the fastest growing urban district in the country, gaining 10,000 students in the last 5 years.

The bond and mill levy together will add \$62/year per \$100,000 of home value on residential tax bills. The mill levy cost per \$100,000 is \$37/year and the bond is \$25/year.

*The Front Porch asked DPS Board President Mary Seawell the following questions:*

### What will the mill levy do?

The mill levy will bring \$49 million annually to the district. Those funds will be used to provide enrichment programs, early childhood education for low-income children, instructional support such as tutoring and small group instruction, and computers and curricular materials to accompany new technology.

### What are some examples of these programs?

The mill covers the district's cost to expand ECE to 800 low income kids. We know that if we get kids in ECE (early childhood education) earlier we have a much better chance of getting rid of the achievement gap between low-income kids and higher income kids. As currently structured (2.5 hours a day) it's hard for working parents to use it (ECE).

Many of the district's current kindergartens are just half day. The mill would enable all kindergarten programs to become full day. The mill levy will also bring more art, music, physical education

<sup>1</sup> Ed Week, 2012 Quality Counts  
<sup>2</sup> [www.cosfp.org](http://www.cosfp.org) (Colorado School Finance Project)

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

and other enrichment programs to schools. Enrichment programs were the top priority of community members surveyed, followed by classroom technology.

The district's pilot program in far northeast that brought in tutors to work with kids during the school day brought incredible progress. The mill levy will enable the district to provide tutors at more schools where kids are behind. A recent Edu-



DPS Board Pres. Mary Seawell

cation Week article pointed out that DPS' upcoming ballot issues are one of the first times in the country a district has piloted a successful program, then gone to the voters to replicate that program in more schools.

The mill levy would also free up general-fund dollars to support a pay increase for the teachers, who just this summer voted by a margin of 91% in favor of a new three-year contract.

*The Front Porch asked Superintendent Tom Boasberg the following questions about the DPS bond:*

### What will the bond do?

The bond will allow the district to do \$466 million in capital projects including repairs and renovations, expanding overcrowded schools, building new schools and adding infrastructure and devices for 21st century technology. With an average age of 55 years for Denver schools, many schools are in need of repairs and renovations.

### Why does the district need more capacity?

We have had about 15% growth in enrollment in the last five years. The vast majority of that increase comes from capturing more of our kids. Thousands more families in Denver who previously did not send their kids to Denver Public Schools are now sending their kids. A small portion of that increase comes from the fact that the school age population in Denver is increasing.

As schools get better, that encourages more families to come and stay in the city—and that's a very good thing for the health of the city. And we're attracting families of all races and ethnicities and income levels. In the 70s to 90s there was tremendous middle class flight from the cities. It's wonderful to see so many families coming back.

There are several areas of the city that are seeing strong population growth: southwest Denver, far southeast Denver, Stapleton and far northeast Denver. When we see schools at 120% of their capacity,

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when we're seeing strong population growth, it's imperative that we have a new school to relieve that overcrowding.

How does funding for Stapleton schools differ from other areas?

There was an agreement struck that the redevelopment of Stapleton was built upon. I think it's important that all parties honor it. That agreement is that the money for the five elementary schools at Stapleton will come from Tax Increment Financing (see sidebar). The high school will be paid out of district-wide and city-wide taxes, to which Stapleton residents and businesses contribute. The single biggest project is the Stapleton high school, but there are projects all over the city. The need for the high school is simply and absolutely a matter of demographics.

Stapleton is one of four areas in the city that will get a new school under the bond. In Stapleton's case it's to respond to the extraordinary growth in population. We've added 400 kids a year each of the last two years for Stapleton. We expect to add 2000 kids for Stapleton in the next five years.

Are the improvements equitable around the district?

There are communities in every part of the city that have very real needs for their schools and their kids and we need to meet those needs. The 75-member community advisory committee with representatives from all parts of town tried to balance out the enormous needs of all parts of the city and in the end came to a set of recommendations that strikes a very fair balance.

Regarding the balance of funds between charter and non-charter schools, less than 10% of the money is targeted toward charter schools. By law, charter schools are public schools. They're as entitled to public money as district-run schools are. Every charter school that is to receive construction or renovation funds in the bond is in a taxpayer-owned facility and the Board of Education voted unanimously to place the charter school in that facility with the understanding that we would need the 2012 bond to renovate or expand that particular facility.

How does this affect the district's indebtedness?

The district has an extremely strong credit rating and we will continue to have a very strong credit rating. Our financial outlook and debt ratios are viewed very favorably by the credit rating agencies and investors. We're able to issue debt at very low interest rates as a result of this very high credit rating.

After the bond and the mill pass, Denver property owners will continue to pay a lower property tax rate than property owners of the neighboring suburban counties. We recognize, in a challenging economy, that voters will have a very high standard and care deeply about what the benefits of a tax increase will be. The response from voters so far has been very strong about the quality of this investment in arts, music, safer facilities, reducing overcrowding and early childhood education and what that means for families and the community.

City Revenue Restoration & Spending Plan (2A)



Mayor Michael Hancock

"If 2A doesn't pass," says Mayor Hancock, "we have very tough decisions to make."

- 2013 is the fifth consecutive year the city has faced a projected deficit due to a slowdown in revenues and increasing costs and service demands.
- Denver has cut \$450 million in the past four years and faces another \$94 million shortfall in 2013.
- Denver has not hired a police officer or firefighter in the past four years.

The Front Porch asked Stapleton resident Evan Dreyer, the mayor's deputy chief of staff, the following questions about Referendum 2A.

With no change in property tax rates, how will Denver residents' tax bills change?

The tax rate, which was approved by voters in the 90's, will remain the same, but tax bills will increase because Denver residents will lose a tax credit. Right now Denver gives back about \$68 million a year in the form of a credit to stay below the TABOR (Tax Payers Bill of Rights) limit. Under the TABOR amendment, passed by voters in 1992, a limit on revenue based on population and inflation is set for every governmental jurisdiction. If revenue exceeds that limit, the "excess revenue" has to be returned to taxpayers.

If passed, Referendum 2A (often called De-Brucing) will phase out 6.2 mills of credits on Denver property taxes.

Four mills of credits will be removed in 2013, with the remainder phased out over several years after that. For the typical home in Denver (\$225,000), that credit currently amounts to about \$9 a month. In the first year after 2A is passed (2013), the property tax bill on a \$225,000 home would increase by about \$6 a month (\$72/year), and ultimately reach \$9 a month when the credit is fully phased out. Referendum 2A does not change TABOR's requirement that any change in tax rates must be approved by voters.

Won't higher tax rates discourage new businesses from coming to Denver?

Denver has, and will continue to have, one of the lowest overall tax rates in the metro area and among our peer cities around the country. The city was just recently re-rated on its bonds and was rated AAA by Fitch, an independent bond rating company. The reauthorization of the AAA rating specifically cited the de-Brucing proposal as a fiscal step that will return stability to our finances. If the city government doesn't have a strong fiscal foundation, we cannot provide the kind of environment that is conducive and attractive to businesses.

How will the additional \$44 million in revenue be spent in 2013 if 2A passes?

The cover letter to the mayor's proposed (continued on p. 6)

How Stapleton Is Funded

By Carol Roberts

The proposed high school will be the first school at Stapleton to be built with citywide taxpayer funds.

That raises the question, how have the other schools and amenities at Stapleton been funded?

When the City signed a contract with Forest City for the development of Stapleton in 2000, the agreement was that Stapleton would be self-funded—it would not be developed with city funds.

- Financing comes from the following sources:
- All homes, businesses and property in Stapleton pay the usual Denver-wide tax assessment of 71.307 mills, but on top of that they pay an additional 55.334 mills to fund the "intract" (neighborhood) infrastructure and amenities (used primarily by Stapleton residents but open to the public). That includes the original design and engineering; utilities, sewer and drainage; and construction of neighborhood streets and alleys, parks and pools. Maintenance of neighborhood pools parks and alleys is paid for with a community-wide homeowners fee. The recreation center was built with a combination of Stapleton's extra tax assessment (44.8%) and city bond funds (55.2%). The library was built with 2008 city bond funds.
  - A 25-year Tax Increment Financing (TIF) plan was also put in place to fund the development of Stapleton—blighted areas (such as an unused airport) qualify for TIF. Under the TIF plan, Stapleton's regular Denver property tax and sales tax in excess of the value prior to the redevelopment of Stapleton go into a fund managed by the Denver Urban Redevelopment Authority (DURA). DURA then issues bonds to continue the development. TIF funds pay for "trunk" (regional) infrastructure that will ultimately include five DPS schools (elementary or elementary/middle); regional parks that, upon completion of construction, become Denver parks; regional streets such as Central Park Blvd and MLK Blvd; and police and fire stations.
  - The developer, Forest City, pays \$15,000 per acre over and beyond the purchase price they pay to DIA for all residential and commercial land, which ultimately creates a 44-million-dollar fund for the development of the regional parks (Central Park, Greenway Park, Westerly Creek Park and regional parks north of I-70). The developer also advances funds, as needed, to keep the construction of infrastructure moving forward when other revenue falls short since they are under contract to complete the development by 2025.
- Stapleton is approximately 40 percent developed at this time and has approximately 4,500 homes and 14,500 residents.



DPS Superintendent Tom Boasberg

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## City Revenue Restoration

(continued from page 5) 2013 budget lists \$44 million in expenditures that would allow the city to catch back up on essential services including: increase library hours from 32 to 48 hours; provide services to children, seniors and disabled residents; economic development and job creation; restore park maintenance that was cut by 30%; eliminate furloughs for city employees; and restore city reserves to protect against another economic downturn and maintain the city's strong bond rating.

The Front Porch asked Mayor Hancock the following questions.

### Why do you think it is so urgent that the city passes 2A now?

Denver has a structural imbalance in its fiscal structure. We have to repair it. It's roughly 30 to 45 million dollars that we are working every year to correct, as well as the fact that during the recessionary years we have taken measures that simply cannot go on without being restored.

### Why does this need to be permanent with no sunset clause?

The cost of government, even with the reductions that we've gone through as a city (\$450 million dollars over the last four years) does not remain static. These are dynamic costs: costs of employment, costs of benefits, cost of services being provided. They go up annually. So when we move to maintain quality of services, we must keep up with the cost of delivering those services. Technology is very expensive. We are right now three to four generations behind in technology because we have not kept up with the cost of replacing that technology and adjusting when new technology comes on board to allow us to do things better, faster and stronger. And so, as we move to a more customer-friendly government and we move to become more efficient, that means we must make the investments in technology to help us get there.

### What will you do to ensure that government efficiency continues once more taxpayer revenue is coming in?

This whole effort is a multi-pronged approach. De-Brucing the city is one of the prongs in our efforts to make government more efficient and to make sure we're able to cover the cost of operations. The other effort is our Peak Performance initiative. It means every department in the city is undergoing LEAN and Peak Performance efficiency reviews. Our commitment to the people of Denver was that you should expect that if government asks more of you, then we should be looking internally for greater efficiencies and more effective delivery of services. Our goal is to save at minimum \$10 million a year going forward in efficiency savings and we do have that in the budget for 2013.

### What if Referendum 2A doesn't pass?

At minimum I can tell you potentially five to seven libraries will close and potentially some recreation centers could be in danger of being cut on their hours. But I believe that the people of Denver will see the wisdom of this decision and will make the right decision

for the future, not only for today, but for the future of our city. It simply doesn't make sense for the city of Denver to be crediting back \$68 million at a time when we are unable to hire police officers, firefighters and provide library hours to our children when they need them the most.

### What about the DPS issues, 3A & B?

I think DPS has made a solid argument for making an investment in the infrastructure and modernizing its facilities and being able to diversify services for children in all parts of the city on 3A and 3B.

*Editors' note: The Front Porch identified the key issues being raised by opponents of the three ballot issues and interviewed the key spokespeople to get their responses. For the DPS ballot issues, we taped the Board meeting and framed questions to address the concerns stated by Board Members Jimenez and Merida, who opposed the bond.*

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## Tower as Community Cultural Arts Facility?

### Share Your Opinion about the Need for Arts Programs and Facilities

By Diane Deeter, MCA Director of Programs and Events

The Stapleton Master Community Association (MCA) has contracted for a feasibility study on using the Stapleton Control Tower as a community cultural arts facility. We are looking for residents and business owners from the greater Stapleton area (including other neighborhoods) who will participate in a 30-minute interview with the cultural arts consultant. Participants will be asked about the need for accessing and using a variety of cultural and performing arts programs and facilities. The study is being done to determine the current and future demand for these types of programs and facilities.

Interested individuals should contact the MCA by phone (303.388.0724) or email ([board@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:board@stapletoncommunity.com)) by October 15 to determine schedule availability. Interviews are being scheduled for October 22-24 at the MCA office at 2823 Roslyn St., or can be arranged in your home if needed.

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# The Veteran

Stapleton resident Jason Crow received a call on Wednesday, August 29 asking if he would like to speak at the Democratic National Convention the following Thursday. His speech would be just prior to the president of the United States giving his acceptance speech and televised on every major television network. He thought, until he got his plane ticket and a personal speech writer, he was somehow being punked.

Jason is a lawyer in Denver. He served in the Army Rangers and the 82nd Airborne. He did tours of duty in Iraq during the initial invasion and, more recently, in Afghanistan.

Jon Meredith: Tell me about your 36 hours in the spotlight?  
Jason Crow: My wife and I flew down on Wednesday, the day before I was to speak. We arrived at the airport and we were greeted by Democratic staffers who took us directly to the convention where we witnessed President Clinton give his speech. We then were invited to the Colorado delegation party, which was exciting and fun but not too much fun because my wife is pregnant with our second child.

JM: How were you chosen to speak?  
Crow: I did some work on the campaign in 2008. I've done some surrogate work for them since the beginning of this year, a few speaking engagements in Colorado and an interview for Politico. They really started vetting me around six weeks ago when a campaign media staffer called me up and just started asking questions. She said "talk to me about don't ask, don't tell." I told her exactly what I think, which is there is a moral component to it and a national se-



Jason Crow holding a photo of himself in Afghanistan.  
Below: Crow speaking at the Democratic National Convention

curity component and how the military is really the "standard bearer" of the American values. She then said, "Great, thanks a lot" and I thought to myself, "What the heck just happened?"

A week prior to the convention she called back and asked what I was doing the following week and if I could be available to speak at the DNC on the night the president accepts the nomination. All that she said the speech needed to be about was my support of the president and veterans' issues.

JM: How long did they tell you to make the speech?  
Crow: That was a problem. They didn't tell me there was a word limit until I wrote the first draft. I wrote this great 900-word speech and received a call from the campaign speech writer who said, "What a great job, but we have to cut it down to 260 words." We went back and forth over the weekend and I got it down to 266 words and told the speech

writer, "This is a great speech and I don't think it can be trimmed any further." He said, "It is great, you just have to take out six words."

JM: What were your emotions like on the day of the speech?



Crow: The DNC had to make some severe cuts to the schedule that night because they moved from the football stadium to the arena. Earth, Wind and Fire couldn't play due to equipment issues. All day I thought I would be cut out of the program. We got a call saying I had been moved up two hours so I had to race down to the convention to make sure I got through security in time. We got backstage and there were VIPs everywhere, congressmen and senators running around and Secret Service omnipresent. I ended up having to change in Jim Messina's office. I then had to sit in the ready room right before I went on stage, 50 feet from where

James Taylor was playing and in the same room with me were John Lewis, Barney Frank and John Kerry. The actual speech is hard for me to remember.

JM: Why did you join the Rangers?  
Crow: My parents were not in a position to help me pay for college so I joined ROTC and worked 20 or 30 hours a week. I thought it was a great leadership opportunity. I requested infantry, airborne and rangers training. I finished all three prior to Christmas 2002 and after a few weeks leave, I reported to my unit at the 82nd Airborne at Ft. Bragg. As soon as I reported, my commander stated that there was a platoon of 50 paratroopers out in formation right then, that those troops would be under my command, that we are going to war in three months and the troops needed to be ready.

JM: Did any of your experiences in Iraq or Afghanistan lead you to say what you did at the DNC?  
Crow: Being in the military and the experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan, three combat deployments in all, changed me in many ways—my world view, the way I view people, and the interactions between societies. I saw the best of people and the worst of people. In combat you really see that. Coming out of that experience I actually think people are generally good. People choose good over bad. I saw that in the Iraqi people and the Afghans. We have a tendency to demonize people or to look at other cultures in abstract ways. There are ideologues and bad people out there, but for the most part, people are good. They want to be treated with respect and dignity, provide for their family and have opportunity. It was a big moment for me when I realized that the people in these countries really want the same things we want here, that they really are not that different than we are.

The video of Jason Crow speaking at the DNC can be found on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gX3rC1OuoE8>.

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Willie Yorks works on his resume with Work Skills Instructor Veronica White in the Career Connection Center at the Stapleton Goodwill Store. The writing on the white board poignantly tells the story of the Center.

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Whether you have been fired, laid off, quit or are returning to the workforce after an absence, job hunting can be the hardest job you'll ever take on. It can leave you baffled, drained, frustrated and lacking the confidence you once had. That's how the majority of people feel when they walk through the doors of the Career Connection Center at the back of the new Goodwill store in Stapleton.

Goodwill Industries' mission is to give people the tools they need to be successful. Through their three Career Connection Centers in Colorado, they teach valuable job skills including how to write a résumé, how to perform in a job interview, what to wear to an interview, where to look for jobs, computer skills, business relationships and networking—for free. Through partnerships in the community, they host job fairs with local em-

ployers. They also try to help connect students with networking opportunities and even jobs whenever possible.

Danielle felt hopeless after losing her job as a patient advocate after eight years. She walked into the Career Connections Center and, after filling out some initial paperwork and completing a brief orientation, was free to use the phone or donated computers, take classes and get assistance from Work Skills Instructor Veronica O. White and Volunteer Intake Specialist Sara Sisneros.

Danielle has enthusiastic praise for the program and gets emotional talking about how much she has learned. "I hadn't been in the job hunting arena in so long," says Danielle. "I didn't know how cutthroat it had become!" White and Sisneros helped her create a résumé that put her in the most positive light, taking life experiences and translating them into professional traits and

## Goodwill's Career Connection Center Offers Skills and Support to Job Seekers

talents where actual work experience may be lacking.

Danielle learned "your résumé is a two-second look at who you are and what you can do and then it's in the trash. So knowing the key words to include was so important." In the "Dressing for Success" class, the teacher takes the students out into the Goodwill store to give examples of proper business attire. "My interview clothes were all black and grey because that's how it used to be. But now you can wear purple...and brown!" Danielle exclaims.

Danielle says the best thing she learned in her few months with the Career Connection Center is "It's okay to ask THEM questions." In the two interviews in which she asked questions such as, "How long have you been with the company?" and "What do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of the company?" she was offered a job.

In addition to teaching job-hunting skills, White and Sisneros have to be counselors as well, especially when dealing with the low self-confidence many people initially walk in with. "We tell them they do have skills and they are worthy," says White. Often, job seekers become so frustrated, White says they go outside and walk around for a while. She tells them, "You can be as frustrated as you want to be but you can't quit!"

Since opening May 25 of this year, 131 people have come to the Stapleton Center and 19 have been placed in jobs. Although Goodwill Industries' focus is on providing career development opportunities for at-risk youth, struggling adults and people with disabilities, anyone can utilize the Career Connection Centers.

Goodwill chose Stapleton for their third Career Connection Center because of its central location and bus accessibility. Their first center opened in Aurora in August 2011 and they hope to open two more next year.

Goodwill Industries of Denver is a locally operated non-profit established in Denver in 1918. Affiliated with Goodwill International, they operate using their own budget with proceeds generated from the sale of donated goods and financial donations.

"I tell everyone I know about the Career Connection Center," says Danielle. The work of finding a job "isn't easy but it is worth it."

For more information about the Career Connection Center at Stapleton, call 720.317.2237. Or visit Goodwill's website, [www.goodwilldenver.org/careerconnections](http://www.goodwilldenver.org/careerconnections).

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Plum Consignment owner Crystal Stephen shows off some of the clothing in her newly opened shop.

# Consignment Shop Calls for Plum Wares

By Nancy Burkhart

Plum Consignment offers shoppers a way to make the most of their money while acquiring stylish, fashionable clothes, shoes and accessories.

“Plum will specialize in mint condition, carefully curated clothing, shoes and accessories for women and children on consignment,” explained Plum Consignment owner Crystal Stephen.

“We’re looking for savvy shoppers who would like to be value conscious and earth friendly. We think that the Park Hill, Lowry and Stapleton moms will fit that bill.”

Stephen and her husband, Andrew, live in Stapleton with their children, 11-year-old Kennedy and eight-year-old Delaney.

Consignment is a great way to stretch your shopping dollars,” she said. “Sustainability is important to the Stapleton and surrounding communities. This is a fashionable way to be earth friendly.”

Stephen wants her clients to recognize that Plum Consignment is more of an upscale, designer boutique. “The word ‘plum’ means cherry-picked and cream-of-the-cream, and that’s what I hope will be evident when you come to shop,” she said.

“We’re looking for GAP labels or better,” she said. “We’re setting the guideline to offer name brand, quality clothing at a plum good price. We’re going to offer a nice selection of professional clothing, business casual as well as trendy and fashionable apparel. We won’t be carrying suits because that’s a little tougher trying to fit top sizes

and bottom sizes. We won’t be consigning other things like lingerie, swimsuits or formals. I will be happy to refer people to specialized consignment shops for these items.”

Plum has consignment guidelines listed on the website: [www.plumgood.com](http://www.plumgood.com). Consigners will be able to check their account balances daily with real-time updates.

“I’m trying to promote the idea that we get new consignment in daily,” she noted. “We’ll have a nice selection of items regularly. It’s about the thrill of the hunt. You aren’t going to find 10 of the same thing on the rack. We want shoppers to come in often and check us out.”

Stephen asks that potential consigners make an appointment to see her the first time that they consign. The appointment can be scheduled online. Subsequent consignments can be done with a “drop ’n’ go” option for time-pressed people who don’t want to wait. The consignment can be completed online.

Items that may have flaws and haven’t been accepted for consignment will be donated to The Gathering Place, a nonprofit that helps women and children get back on their feet, according to Stephen.

Plum Consignment is located at 2373 Central Park Blvd., #106. For information, call 303.322.7586 or go to [www.plumgood.com](http://www.plumgood.com). Email owner Crystal Stephen at [info@plumgood.com](mailto:info@plumgood.com).

The store is closed Monday. It is open from 10am to 6pm Tuesday through Saturday and from noon to 5pm on Sunday.

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The Micelis visit their new restaurant, Mici's, located at 23rd and Central Park Blvd. It is scheduled to open in mid October. From left to right are Kim Miceli-Vela, Michael and Monica Miceli, and Marissa and Jeff Miceli. Jeff and Marissa will run the Stapleton location.

By Nancy Burkhart

Cooking was a passion for their father and eating together was a family pastime—so it's no surprise that as adults, siblings Jeff, Michael and Kim Miceli went into the restaurant business with a vengeance.

The Micelis, along with Jeff's wife, Marissa, and Michael's wife, Monica, own three Mici's Italian Restaurants. Kim runs the Cherry Creek restaurant and Michael steers the one located downtown.

The latest restaurant in the Micelis' collection is in Stapleton at 2373 Central Park Blvd. Jeff and Marissa, who live in Stapleton with their two boys, are the guiding lights for the newest food emporium—and Jeff also works to tie all the restaurants together and maintain uniformity.

Michael and Monica have recently moved to Stapleton, too.

Although they aren't part of the restaurants' daily operation, Jeff, Michael and Kim's parents, Rosalie and Jerome Miceli, travel to Denver often from their home in Florida to

## Passionate about Cooking, Eating and Their Family's Restaurants

offer "guidance for quality control of our recipes," according to Marissa.

"Cooking was my father-in-law's hobby and passion," she explained. "This was something my family grew up on. It just fit that the boys and their sister do this."

"Stapleton, from my observation, has an urban feel. I think that the neighbors want to walk up the street and enjoy pasta and enjoy their community. We want our customers to feel like family with us. We just want to have good food and a family atmosphere. We want to be known as a gathering place where families enjoy themselves, where their kids have a great time, and where they feel like they're at home."

Since many of their customers are families, the Micelis try to offer affordable dining. Their menu includes pastas, Paninis, pizzas, soups, salads, desserts and 16 flavors of gelato, imported Italian beer and wine.

"We have a variety of specials," Marissa said. "We're affordable. We provide quality food for an affordable price, so your family isn't eating out for \$60 to \$70. You order at the counter and we take care of you at the table. We provide service, but it's a casual place to grab a Panini or a gelato. We have a window for the kids to watch them make pizzas and we give the kids pizza dough to play with. We try to make it fun."

"We always have top-of-the-line, quality ingredients," she added. "We use great recipes. All of our sauces take six to eight hours to cook. Nothing comes from a can. We have the kind of homemade meatballs that you would find at a traditional gourmet restaurant."

Mici's Italian Restaurants have received Top of the Town Awards from 5280 Magazine for: Readers' Choice Bargain Bites (affordable), Best Meatball and Best Italian food, Marissa proudly points out.

Mici's Italian Restaurant offers delivery and has curbside service for orders to be picked up "so moms don't have to get out of their cars," Marissa explained. The restaurant also caters parties.

For further Mici's Italian Restaurant information and online ordering, go to: [www.miciitalian.com](http://www.miciitalian.com).

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October 2012

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Stapleton Front Porch





Photo by: Bill Bonebrake

The starters for the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team pose for the final time with coach Pia Sundhage prior to their match against the Australian national team at Dick's Sporting Good Park on Wednesday, September 19th.

## Olympic Coach's Final Game Played at Dick's

By John Babiak

Imagine 18 of America's elite women soccer players lying on a locker room floor in Dick's Sporting Goods Park with their eyes closed as their head coach strummed her guitar and sang excerpts from The Times They Are A-changin', If Not for You, and I'm Leaving on a Jet Plane. So was the scene during a pre-match team gathering that broke from business as usual. An emotional U.S. Women's National Team head coach Pia Sundhage was minutes away from the start of her final game, and less than 24 hours from departing for Sweden to start anew as the head coach of her home country's women's soccer team. It was her way of delivering a heartfelt thank-you and good-bye to her players. Her unique way worked, as the Lady Yanks played her a game to always remember, and closed out her accomplished tenure with a 6-2 win over Australia before a wild Colorado crowd of 18,590.

The spirited win capped off Sundhage's five-year era that concludes with a 91-6-10 overall record, a second-place finish at the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup and two Olympic Gold medals. More so, her fun-loving positive demeanor brought much-needed harmony and a

contagious winning attitude to the team, who in turn have created an over-the-top U.S. fan base and revived a women's sport in America.

"It's unreal. I come from a small town in Sweden where I wasn't supposed to play soccer because girls didn't play soccer. And here I am, standing in front of a great crowd and I hear my name shouted. It's a dream. I'm living my dream," said an emotionally spent Sundhage.

Sundhage, 52, is one of the most admired and successful women's soccer personalities in the world. A legendary player in Sweden, she played for her country in the 1991 and 1995 Women's World Cups; and the 1996 Olympics. In 2003, she was named the head coach of the Boston Breakers of the Women's United Soccer Association, and led the team to its first regular season championship and playoff berth. She leaves the U.S. team with the credit for nurturing emerging young players, creating several superstars, and contributing to the development of many role models for our youth.

John Babiak is a Stapleton resident. He coaches U7-U11 boys and girls for the Colorado Fusion Soccer Club. He also serves on the club's board of directors. He can be reached at CoachJohnBabiak@aol.com.

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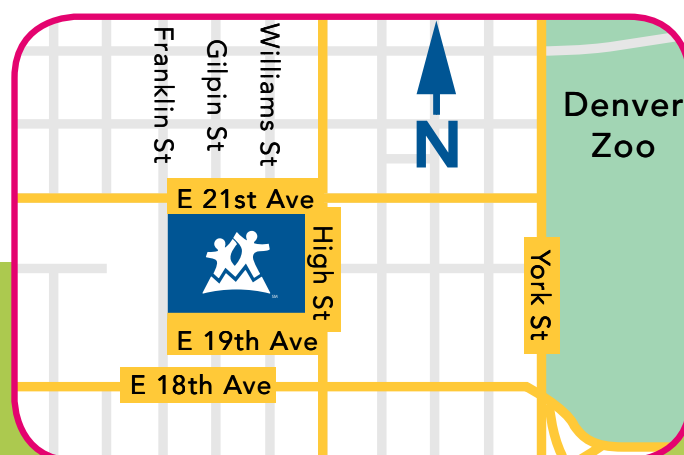
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Saturday, October 6th

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- 11-2pm Giant Pumpkin and Veggie Weigh-Off
- 2-5pm Live Music
- Prize Money for the Heaviest Pumpkin

see website for details nicksgardencent.com



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## Portraits Reveal “Life in

By Nancy Burkhardt

When portrait photographer Katy Tartakoff, a Stapleton resident, was five years old, her grandmother died of breast cancer. When she was 22 years old, her mother also died of breast cancer.

With this background, Tartakoff has, over the last 20 years, worked in her specialty of black and white photography to create a

book called *Cup Half Full: Life in the Face of Breast Cancer*.

“The book represents life and the human spirit being portrayed above and beyond life circumstances,” she explained. “The affirmations that I have included in the book are about life and what’s important in life. I wanted this book to have a universal message about living beyond our diagnoses or outward circumstances. So many people say, ‘I am not breast cancer. We’re still human beings.’ This shows humanity, humility, life through difficulties, embracing family and friends and who we are as human beings, rather than living with the disease.”

Photographs show people bald and with hair, alone and with family members. Judge John Kane is shown wearing an old-style judge’s wig on his bald head. People are depicted after having had a biopsy, wearing bandages, black and blue bruises, and with stitches. Quotes of poetry and prose are written by the people in the photographs.

“It’s people of all ages, people of all

stages, people of many ethnicities, heterosexuals and gays. It’s a little slice of life,” Tartakoff said. “One person was diagnosed when she was 23 years old. One was in her 60s. One woman I photographed when she was first diagnosed. Then, over the last 20 years of living,

she had breast cancer twice and then died of brain cancer at the age of 50. There is a basketball player who, if it weren’t for a substitute doctor, never would have known he had breast cancer.

“You see a little bit of everything,” she added.



Katy Tartakoff in her studio in the River North (RiNo) art district.

“You see the fear in children’s eyes and the daughter embracing her mom to say, ‘I need you to make it through this.’ It could be anybody’s life. It’s life at its finest and it’s life at its hardest, all in one.

“My vision for this book is for people to talk openly about life and the challenges that various life-challenging illnesses bring us, and to make sure that people know we resolve conflict and live life fully every day—and not to wait to do it.”

The 80-page book is available for \$39.95. Tartakoff said that 25 percent of the book sales go to the Andre Center for Breast Cancer Education and Navigation in Denver. Another 50 percent of sales go to the Denver Health Mammovan, which travels the state providing a resource for mammograms.

Books can be purchased at [www.cuphalf-fullbook.com](http://www.cuphalf-fullbook.com) or at Tartakoff’s studio, 3457 Ringsby Court, #105, Denver, CO 80216.

Tartakoff will make arrangements for Front Porch readers to pick up books at her home. Call her at 303.830.7595 or email her at [kt@katyartakoff.com](mailto:kt@katyartakoff.com).



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# the Face of Breast Cancer”



Karrie Johannsen and daughter Taylor—Karrie is a pilot who loves flying. To those watching from the outside, Karrie soared through her treatments. It does not mean she was not tired or that she didn't feel well from the treatments, it means her spirit was stronger than her disease. Karrie was fueled by the desire to watch her daughter grow up and by the dream of having another child. After she was done with chemo and started feeling well again, Karrie and her husband, Mark, were given the gift of their daughter Madison, who happens to have an extra number 21 chromosome. Karrie embraces her challenges and consistently moves forward with passion, with enthusiasm and with a grace and dignity we could all use a little bit of. While in the air, she loves the feel of steering the ship through the wild blue yonder. While on the ground, she advocates for her family, reminding the world we are more than our challenges.

Katie Robeda—Life on the verge of death was no stranger to Katie. Years before her diagnoses with breast cancer, Katie had been hospitalized for an extended period of time with a very rare illness that threatened to take her life. When cancer knocked on her door, she refused to let go of living. Katie ran, she climbed, she kayaked, she walked, she painted and she kept on working at the hospital helping to save other people's lives. She embraced being bald, withstood the pain of having the implants expanded, took pride in her body and spoke openly and truthfully about the trials and tribulations of going through treatments. While Katie remains positive and independent, the support of her Mom, her family and her friends is invaluable. "I learned that being bald is beautiful, being vulnerable is powerful, having courage is healing and being able to live who I am now, more than who I was before, is the greatest lesson of all."

Katie continues to face unusual health challenges. Are they scary? Yes. Are they humbling? Yes. More than anything, Katie is the epitome of perseverance. She gets up each day and shows up to the best of her ability even when everyone would fully understand that she is having a bad day.



Jan Lewis and granddaughter Natalie—"This is not happening to me. They cut off my breasts and I have no hair, but nooooo, this is not happening to ME! Do you think I am in denial?" Faced with her mortality, Jan reached inside of herself and did some serious soul searching. She prayed. She evaluated her life, her relationships with her family and friends, her work. She prayed some more. Knowing that each new day was precious, Jan made some choices, which not only rocked her world, but the world of all those around her. Ultimately, these choices saved her life. Jan and her childhood sweetheart are now happily married, both survivors, both healing and rejoicing in their relationships with their children and grandchildren, savoring the love they share.

The public is invited:  
Andre Center's 2012 Annual Fundraiser Event  
"Celebrate Life Gathering"  
Sunday, Oct. 14 at CHAC Art Gallery,  
772 Santa Fe Drive, 3-5:30pm  
Jazz, BBQ, Open Bar – \$40 online/\$50 at event  
www.andrecenter.org 303-388-2441

Jody and Kemper Will—Jody and Kemper sat down in my studio to have their photos made. As Jody began sharing her story, she found herself moved to tears. Although several years had passed since she had gone through treatment, there was something about this moment of gentle reflection that brought back all the memories. Her husband, Kemper, gently placed his arms around Jody. We sat in silence, each of us keenly aware of the fragility of life. In one unsuspecting second with three words, the course of life can be dramatically changed. "When I received the news that I had breast cancer, my life literally passed before my eyes. An unexplained calm came over me. I had just received a beautiful message of love and hope, 'embrace that and get on with your life, kiddo.'"

Jody has gotten on with her life and assists others in living theirs. She and her husband are devoted to making a difference. Whether it is breast cancer, lung cancer, HIV, a brain injury...the message is the same for all of us. At some point in time, we will all die. It is how we live our lives that is important.



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# Long Awaited Improvements Come to Holly Square

Holly Square has taken a big step toward its transformation into a safe and attractive gathering place for young people. Located at 33rd and Holly in NE Park Hill, most of the block burned down in gang violence in 2008.

A three-on-three basketball tournament and a soccer game on September 8 were part of a celebration of the newly resurfaced portion of Holly Square. With a sizeable donation from the Piton Foundation and support from the Urban Land Conservancy, The Denver Foundation and many others, Holly Square now has two basketball courts, an outdoor futsal snap court for soccer, two gazebos and two playground sets.

Construction will start this fall on the Nancy P. Anschutz Center, a 30,000 square foot building that will house a Boys and Girls Club.

Above, the mayor, who has been an active supporter of the Holly Square renovation, gets a hug as he listens to a constituent's concerns.



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Saturday, Oct. 27 - 9 to 10:30 a.m. "Truth Has Its Day: Elisha"

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. "Truth Transforms Power: Joshua"

One lecture \$15, all three lectures \$40



Dr. Brueggeman will also preach Oct. 28 at our 9:30 a.m. Sunday worship, Q&A following at Adult Forum

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## You're Invited!

**RTD FasTracks East Rail Line Open Houses**

The Regional Transportation District (RTD) and its contractor building the East Rail Line to Denver International Airport, Denver Transit Partners, invite you to a meeting to learn about the current and upcoming construction.

Bring your questions or comments to any of the following meetings.

**Hope to see you there!**

<b>Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2012</b> SOAR Charter School 4800 Telluride St. Denver	<b>Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2012</b> Bruce Randolph School 3955 Steele St. Denver	<b>Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012</b> Centro San Juan Diego 2830 Lawrence St. Denver
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<b>Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2012</b> Sable Elementary School 2601 Sable Blvd. Aurora	<b>Thursday, Oct. 25, 2012</b> Central Park Rec. Center 9651 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Denver
--	--

**Doors open at 5:45 p.m. and presentation begins promptly at 6 p.m.**

Light refreshments will be served.

For additional information, special needs requests or to request Spanish translation, please contact Joshua Solis at 303-297-5284 or joshua.solis@dtptv.com.



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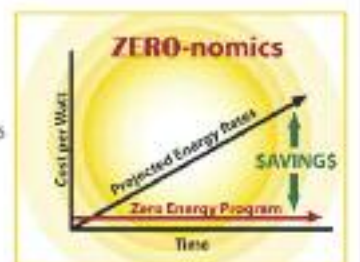


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# Premium Fishwrap\*

by Jon Meredith

## Investing in Denver

I am getting to be an old guy. I have just written my last tuition check for my children's college educations. That is a whole bunch of dough which, so far, has generated absolutely no return on investment. I need to begin to think about compiling as much cash as possible for retirement and becoming a curmudgeon about spending money on anything. So, basically my mindset tells me I need to vote against any tax increases because I don't have kids in the public schools anymore and any new tax will mess up my long-term financial goals.

So, here comes the Denver School Board asking voters to increase property taxes to basically make up for the decrease in revenue received from the state over the past few years and to build a few capital projects. One of those projects is a new high school, north of I-70 near Northfield Shopping Center. Voting yes on 3A and 3B would increase property taxes approximately \$140 a year on a home worth \$250,000.

Additionally, the City Council wants to de-TABOR our city budget to improve police and fire protection, repair city streets and restore library hours to 48 hours a week by passing Measure 2A. Denver would join more than 85 percent of the cities and counties in Colorado that have already voted to remove their TABOR cap formulas on spending. TABOR requires that taxing districts must refund to tax-

payers any amount collected which is over and above a percentage of what their budget was the previous year. That number is determined by a complex formula. Years ago, Denver did away with this refund on sales taxes but never on property tax. This measure would permanently de-TABOR both sales and property taxes. Previously, a typical Denver homeowner would receive about a \$111 credit on their property taxes each year.

Therefore, it would seem from my bellyaching and now having no skin in the game, I would not be in favor of these taxing ballot measures coming up on the November ballot.

Actually, I am very much in favor of both because they are terrific investments in our city. I want to live in a city that has great schools from ECE through high school, with modern facilities and wonderful libraries that are actually open. Other people will want to live in places like this as well and that will increase home prices, easily outpacing the increased tax. These tax increases seem to be an investment where I am certain to have a great return.

Voting for local school bond issues is something that Denver has approved regularly ever since I have lived here and yet taxes in the city are very reasonable compared with the surrounding counties and many urban areas nationally. Due to budget problems, the state has cut per pupil funding by \$800 or \$61 million just this year alone. These cuts have severely impacted areas such as Early Childhood Education, keeping students on track to graduate, the arts and music programs as well as physical education. Voting to approve the new mill levy will

keep these programs in place for the foreseeable future.

Capital improvements will be made throughout the district, the largest of which is a new high school in Stapleton if the bond issue is approved.

Why should your taxes go to building a new high school for kids in Stapleton if you don't live in that neighborhood? First, the school will serve the whole district including North Park Hill, Green Valley Ranch and Montbello. Second, elementary and middle schools already constructed and in the planning stage in Stapleton are funded by Tax Increment Financing (see page 5 on Stapleton funding), not by DPS or citywide property taxes. Finally, we need to support the ability of Denver Public Schools to give every Denver child a great education through high school. DPS is the fastest-growing school district in the state. If this bond issue is voted down, parents will have to ask themselves if they really want their kids to attend schools here or move to a more student-friendly district like Cherry Creek.

The de-TABORing of the city budget is really an easy solution to an ongoing fiscal problem the city has had for years. Most of the city revenue comes from sales tax. A recession and peoples' buying habits have left the city with a budget crisis over the past five years. This is a solution that bridges the permanent gap in the budget. It is such a reasonable solution I am surprised the governor who was mayor didn't implement it.

*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.*

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

## Oct. 26—Friends of Manual Breakfast

By Tim Tribbett

Friends, family, colleagues, fellow alumni and community members are invited to the 5th Annual Friends of Manual Breakfast. There is no cost but donations will be solicited. Learn about the exciting changes and upcoming events at Manual High School. Hear from students after returning from their first expeditionary learning trips. Experience Showcase Manual, Manual's newest historical initiative. Celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Jerry McCracken scholarship fund!

To be a table captain or a breakfast sponsor or to advertise in the breakfast yearbook contact Marty Zimmerman at FOM@FriendsofManual.org. Visit FriendsOfManual.org for more information about Friends of Manual and to register for the breakfast.

## Optimists Look to Help Local Youth

By George Mills

Volunteer members of Optimist International are organizing a new Optimist Club focusing on helping the children of Stapleton. The Optimist Club of Northeast Denver is in the process of developing an after-school enrichment program where local students will meet twice a week to get help from mentors on their homework at their schools and have fun through arts and crafts and other recreational activities. The club is seeking input from local leaders and residents to identify how to best serve the community's youth. Everyone is welcome to attend information meetings held every Thursday, 6:30–7:30pm, at Smart Space, 2373 Central Park Blvd., Ste. 100. For more, contact George Mills (303.360.7772 or lmills2@msn.com) or log on to www.optimist.org.

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## Take a Hike by Marko and John Babiak

.....

### When Nature's Serendipity Strikes

Marko and his brother, Nick, recently burst through our front door and began whirling through our first-floor rooms like a pair of Tasmanian devils. I watched their mad dash to collect Marko's photography gear and race back toward the open door. I could only guesstimate that they uncovered something special, if not out of the ordinary, in our Stapleton neighborhood. My hunch was soon validated. As Marko leaped off of our porch landing, he shouted back, "Got to sprint, Dad. There's a raccoon sleeping up in a tree!"

The dynamic duo raced down E. 26th Ave. as if they had struck gold. In the business of photographing urban wildlife, uncovering a predominately nocturnal critter like a raccoon in broad daylight, is worth its weight in Colorado gold. I soon followed in hot pursuit, and found them a few blocks away in an overgrown wetland that is part of the storm drain just past the Central Park Blvd. bridge that spans our greenway's sidewalk. Much to our collective delight, we found a dozing, little masked bandit comfortably nestled in between the trunk and branch of a tall aspen tree. So oblivious was the kit to



A raccoon kit rests in an Aspen tree growing in wetlands along East 26th Avenue in the Stapleton neighborhood. Photo by Marko Babiak

us, that Marko, as if a National Geographic photographer on assignment in the Amazon rain forest, was able to climb up an adjacent tree with his 25-pound camera bag, and captured an endearing photo of one of our four-legged neighbors.

Their innate curiosity, intelligence, good memories, natural strength, dexterity, few predators and an insatiable omnivorous diet have all helped this mammal thrive in our urban

landscapes. Über-raccoons, as Suzanne MacDonald, PhD, an animal behavior psychologist from Toronto's York University and student of the raccoon for 25 years, refers to them, have evolved and adapted considerably to their modern-day city dwellings since the days of Christopher Columbus who first wrote about them in 1492, and described them as "clown-like dogs." These successful urbanites now claim San Francisco, Chicago, New York and Toronto as their capital cities. And there are plenty that call greater Denver home too.

When examining our northeast Denver neighborhoods, it is easy to surmise why. There are ample trees hollows, attics, chimneys and storm drains with which raccoons can construct a comfortable shelter. Creeks, ponds, wetlands, pools, lawn sprinklers and family pet watering bowls provide for a consistent supply of fresh water. Alleyway garbage bins and restaurant dumpsters, backyard gardens and compost bins, open space plants and insects yield a cornucopia of food.

Other than automobiles being their citywide predator, raccoons can confidently roam our boroughs till the wee hours of the morning.

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 NatureRangerJohn@aol.com.

*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 NatureRangerJohn@aol.com.*



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- 10:00 Comments & Questions
- 10:15 Panel Discussion

**WHEN:** FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2<sup>2012</sup> 9-11AM

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**RSVP:** arelyea@st-annes.org or to Alicia Relyea 303.756.9481 x206

If you are unable to attend the Open House but would like to schedule a tour of St. Anne's Episcopal School, please contact the Admissions Office at 303.756.9481 x210.





## Connecting buyers with sellers in this MARKET too.




Sweet William Market has shuttered down for the season, but the Real Estate market in our part of Denver is still going strong. Prices are bumping up, days on market are really low, and those interest rates are nothing short of amazing! Give me a shout if you'd like to see stats on your home."

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



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# School Performance Framework Scores Released

Denver Public Schools (DPS) TCAP scores printed in the September issue of the Front Porch showed just one aspect of a school's performance. The School Performance Framework (SPF), according to DPS, is the balanced and comprehensive tool to measure school performance. It uses a scorecard that emphasizes the year-to-year academic growth of a school's students, while also factoring other critical data on college readiness, attendance, and student and parent satisfaction. This

year in DPS an additional 10 schools were rated as Distinguished (Blue) or Meets Expectations (Green). Middle schools did particularly well, with three times as many middle schools rated Blue or Green this year compared to three years ago (up from 5 to 15). Overall in DPS, the number of Blue and Green schools has increased from 60 to 83 over the past two years. 2012 scores were released on Sept. 24. Northeast Denver scores are shown below. District-wide scores are posted at <http://spf.dpsk12.org> and at [FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://FrontPorchStapleton.com) -> Article Supplements.

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

Elementary-Middle-High School or Charter	School Name	2011 SPF %	2011 SPF Rating	2012 SPF %	2012 SPF Rating	2012 Movement	2011 Growth %	2012 Growth %	2012 Growth Rating	
E	D	Polaris at Ebert	89%	Distinguished	93.28%	Distinguished	Same	86%	89%	Exceeds
H	C	DSST - Stapleton High School			80.16%	Distinguished	New		88%	Exceeds
H	D	Denver School of the Arts	73%	Meets Expectations	76.47%	Meets Expectations	Same	57%	56%	Meets
M	C	DSST - Stapleton Middle School	82%	Distinguished	76.35%	Meets Expectations	Down I	87%	70%	Meets
E	D	Westerly Creek Elementary	73%	Meets Expectations	75.18%	Meets Expectations	Same	72%	69%	Meets
E	D	Montclair Elementary School	67%	Meets Expectations	71.92%	Meets Expectations	Same	68%	72%	Meets
E	D	Palmer Elementary School	71%	Meets Expectations	71.92%	Meets Expectations	Same	74%	77%	Meets
E	D	Hallett Fundamental Academy	71%	Meets Expectations	69.06%	Meets Expectations	Same	76%	70%	Meets
H	D	East High School	66%	Meets Expectations	68.73%	Meets Expectations	Same	55%	58%	Meets
E	D	Park Hill Elementary School	70%	Meets Expectations	68.00%	Meets Expectations	Same	72%	66%	Meets
E	D	William (Bill) R. Roberts School	63%	Meets Expectations	65.41%	Meets Expectations	Same	64%	67%	Meets
E	C	Odyssey Charter School	71%	Meets Expectations	64.58%	Meets Expectations	Same	67%	54%	Meets
E	D	Denver Green School	46%	Accredited On Watch	55.84%	Meets Expectations	Up I	39%	51%	Meets
E	D	Stedman Elementary School	54%	Meets Expectations	50.00%	Accredited On Watch	Down I	58%	59%	Meets
H	D	George Washington HS	44%	Accredited On Watch	48.00%	Accredited On Watch	Same	33%	35%	Approaching
E	D	Lowry Elementary School	54%	Meets Expectations	44.14%	Accredited On Watch	Down I	48%	35%	Approaching
H	D	Manual High School	46%	Accredited On Watch	41.06%	Accredited On Watch	Same	55%	40%	Approaching
M	D	Smiley Middle School	50%	Accredited On Watch	35.14%	Accredited On Priority Watch	Down I	54%	35%	Approaching
M	C	Venture Prep Middle School	32%	Accredited On Probation	30.41%	Accredited On Probation	Same	25%	34%	Approaching
E	D	Ashley Elementary School	38%	Accredited On Priority Watch	27.54%	Accredited On Probation	Down I	38%	30%	Does Not Meet
E	D	Smith Renaissance School	33%	Accredited On Probation	24.66%	Accredited On Probation	Same	36%	28%	Does Not Meet

## Why Stapleton Residents Fear Their Streets

Some lessons from the big Denver development where New Urbanism and conventional traffic engineering collide

Wesley E. Marshall

To get things built, new urbanist designers often must compromise their design ideals. Frequently that means taking what we love about New Urbanism and trying to squeeze it through conventional traffic engineering standards and mindsets. The end product is typically a hybrid; it possesses some of the qualities that make New Urbanism desirable but is diluted by conventional demands such as swift automobile circulation.

Living for the last three years in Stapleton, the Denver area's largest new urbanist development, I've been confronted by the discrepancy between the ideal, on the one hand, and the impure built reality, on the other. When it comes to New Urbanism, Stapleton looks the part with beautiful, tree-lined streets, great architecture, mixed uses, neighborhood schools, and an abun-

dance of parks, greenways, sidewalks, and bike lanes.

However idyllic the transportation system appears to be, cars moving at very high speeds are not uncommon, and driving is more prevalent in Stapleton, a Denver Regional Council of Governments survey found, than in three of Denver's older, more established neighborhoods—Cherry Creek, East Colfax, and the Highlands.

*This is the introduction to a longer article by Wesley Marshall, PhD, PE, an Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado Denver in the Department of Civil Engineering, Transportation. The full article was published in Better Cities & Towns and is posted at [www.FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://www.FrontPorchStapleton.com) -> Article Supplements. For more information about Wesley Marshall, visit [www.wesleymarshall.com](http://www.wesleymarshall.com)*

## October 13—Refuge Day Celebration

By Susan Drobniak, Park Ranger

Experience the "wild" side of Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (RMANWR) at a free, annual Refuge Day celebration for the entire family on Saturday, October 13 from 10am–3pm at the Visitor Center. Some activities geared for family fun include wildlife arts and crafts, hayrides, educational wildlife booths, nature movies, and much more. See live birds of prey from Hawk Quest, learn how to be a wildlife artist from Young Rembrandts, meet Rosie the tarantula and other amazing insects visiting from the Butterfly Pavilion, and get the lowdown on waterfowl from Ducks Unlimited.

Our new, free Wildlife Drive will officially open—this long-awaited opportunity offers a

9-mile auto route that includes driving along the bison pasture, wetlands, prairie and offering an opportunity to view and photograph spectacular wildlife and magnificent landscapes. Rocky Mountain Arsenal is one of the largest urban wildlife refuges in the country that more than 300 resident and migratory animals call home. For more information, call the Refuge Visitor Center at 303.289.0930 or visit us at <http://fws.gov/rocky-mountainarsenal>.

*Directions: The Refuge is located at 6550 Gateway Rd. From I-70, exit Quebec St. going north. Turn right at Prairie Parkway/64th Ave. Turn left at Gateway Rd. Follow Gateway Rd. through the Refuge entrance gate. The Visitor Center is straight ahead at the crest of the hill.*



Photo courtesy of RMANWR

## Old Concept, New Application

## Colorado Free University Grows Up

By Helen Hand, PhD,  
President of Colorado Free University

For over 43 years, the Front Range has been enriched by its "Free University"—first Denver Free University and now, for the past 25 years, Colorado Free University. The origins of the school date back to the Free Speech Movement and the "free" in the title refers to freedom of thought and open access to learning. The founding idea of the "free university" in the late '60s was that people should be able to learn what they want, when they choose and that education should not be controlled by government-funded institutions of higher learning. Today, there is no political agenda and the mission of the school is to promote community. For every person with a question, problem or need, there is someone else with the solution or answer. Colorado Free University brings those people together.

Colorado Free University is a learning network where people with passion and expertise design and present their courses to adults who make learning and having new experiences a priority.

CFU is completely independent and self-supporting, relying on the modest tuition that is charged for classes. CFU is one

of 10 remaining schools of its kind in the nation.

Over 300 courses are offered including arts and crafts, languages, writing, business strategies, meditation, cooking, performance, metaphysics, life skills, and more. People advance their careers, meet new friends, develop talents, and improve their lives with classes at CFU. Students range in age from 17 to 90 and represent all levels of income and education. We anticipate about 15,000 class registrations in 2012.

Sole proprietors and small-business owners find that for tens of dollars they can get the information that they could pay a consultant hundreds or even thousands for. Students discover ways to expand their businesses, take advantage of digital marketing, and get guidance on legal issues.

In addition to this core program, Colorado Free University has a computer center with computer classes and a full Spanish language program.

People who move away from Colorado call us to ask where the "Free U" in their new area is and are sad to learn how rare it is to have a school that builds community, empowers individuals, and supports small businesses. For more on CFU and its classes, go to [www.freeu.com](http://www.freeu.com).

# Chili Cook-Off

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A Must See Halloween Haunt: It's a Lesson in Creative Design and Engineering

By John Babiak

In another life, Stapleton resident Greg Garner would be very happy as a small-town high-school teacher who teaches theater set design and construction. He is the quintessential handyman and a DIY engineer who can't wait for the month of October to come around year after year. Actually, it is the start of the Halloween holiday celebration that for Garner is, well, to die for.

In early September, when overnight delivery trucks come rolling up to his home, or you find him and his son Jack meandering down the long aisles at Home Depot, you know he is up to "no good" handcrafting his ghoulish Halloween exhibits in a makeshift garage workshop. The teacher in him comes out when inquisitive neighborhood kids come by and watch him construct, from scratch his motorized, life-sized witches,



Greg Garner works on his extensive Halloween display that will feature pneumatic (air) and animatronic (electric-powered) moving characters.

animatronic asylum and graveyard scenes. Lessons in mechanical and electrical engineering, decoration design and special effects, as well as makeup artistry are delivered with ease to curious students, as if they were watching an episode from the popular Discovery Channel program *How It's Made*.

"If I weren't in costume most of Halloween night, I'd be spending the entire night talking to adults and kids explaining how everything works," said Garner. "It is all so cool to me," he added. Lucky for him that he is in costume—with some 1200 visitors on average stopping by on Halloween night, he'd



turn into a walking zombie from giving so many impromptu lectures. The Garner family residence is located on

Tamarac St. across from the E. 29th Ave. Aviator Pool pocket park. This year will be their seventh annual haunted house production. The backdrop includes a two-story-tall house with several eaves, a luring staircase, wraparound porch and a gated, fenced side yard flanked by a long, dim alleyway. Garner's Halloween display leverages these structural features and combines them with animatronics, motorized figures, lights and sound effects.

The yard is converted into a "breathing gravesite" complete with lighting, thunder and wisps of slow-moving fog. In front of the porch, three animated witches concoct their brews in oversized kettles. At the top of the porch staircase, visitors are greeted by the resident asylum patient. Be prepared to be spooked by the jumping pumpkin, the oversized devil soaring above you, and fire cracker sound effects at your feet.

What makes this theatrical production fun and rewarding for Garner is figuring out how to make the scenes come to life—and do it on a budget. Like a magician, he enjoys using simple techniques to "fool the human eye" and subtle artistry to "make the brain perceive that something is moving." It's all worth the effort too. "I put in up to 40 hours a week for about a month," said Garner, who then adds, "I like the creative challenge that exhibit building presents, and I love, in particular, teaching kids how it's made."

Halloween photos courtesy of John Babiak



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# Don't Miss These Events...

## October 4—Second Annual Stapleton Educational Expo

On Thursday, October 4, parents and guardians in NE Denver are invited to the Stapleton Education Expo, sponsored by Stapleton United Neighbors, an opportunity to get information on many educational issues and to learn about the various school options for their children. At 6:30pm, there will be presentations from Denver Public Schools on the school choice process, the fourth elementary school projected for fall 2014, plans for the 6–12 Northfield campus, and the November ballot bond measure. Schools exhibiting 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 event will be held at Swigert-McAuliffe International School, 3480 Syracuse St. Doors open at 6:15pm; the meeting begins at 6:30pm. To learn more, visit [www.stapletonunitedneighbors.org/education](http://www.stapletonunitedneighbors.org/education).

## October 6—Doctors Hold COURAGE Golf Tournament to Benefit Aurora Shooting Victims

Resident physicians in the Department of Radiology at the University of Colorado Hospital have organized a charity golf event to benefit the Aurora shooting victims. The tournament, on Saturday, October 6, starting at 8am, evolved out of a desire to help since many of the victims were treated at their hospital. Golfers will play an 18-hole, four-person team scramble where each person in the foursome hits a shot off the tee; players then choose the best shot and they all hit from that location, repeated until the ball is in the hole—fun for both experienced and novice golfers. No handicaps necessary. A silent auction/prize giveaway and award ceremony will follow, with breakfast, lunch, beer and complimentary gift bags provided. Location: Fitzsimons Golf Course, University of Colorado Hospital Campus, Aurora. Cost: \$100/person (\$400/team). Register: [www.COURAGEtournament.org](http://www.COURAGEtournament.org). Info/questions: COURAGE.Tournament@gmail.com. Two organizers of the event, Dr. Dipti Nevrekar and Dr. Brian Christenson, live in Stapleton.

## October 6—Family Fun Fall Festival at Bluff Lake Nature Center

Bluff Lake Nature Center's inaugural Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, October 6 from 10am–2pm. It will feature nature, crafts, activities, food and an educational Trick-or-Treat Trail—where kids and families can discover how Colorado's plants and animals prepare for winter's chill and adapt to the changing seasons. Scientists and educators from Denver Botanic Gardens and the Butterfly Pavilion will host the event.

ion will host a Biodiversity Scavenger Hunt for all ages. There will be live raptors, farm animals, face painting and more. The Center, at 3400 Havana Way, is a 123-acre wildlife refuge and outdoor classroom located on Stapleton's eastern edge. Cost: \$4/person; ages 2 and under free. To learn more: [Ichickos@blufflake.org](mailto:Ichickos@blufflake.org), 720.708.4079 or [www.blufflakenaturecenter.org](http://www.blufflakenaturecenter.org).

## October 13—Snack Attack Food Truck Festival Returns to Capitol Hill

Snack Attack is a food truck festival in the heart of Capitol Hill that will take place on Saturday, October 13 from 11am–3pm at the Saint John's/Argonaut parking lot (Colfax and Washington). Denver's favorite food trucks will serve everything from shrimp po'boys to hot sauce ice cream and food from around the world: Argentinean sandwiches, Mexican egg rolls, Venezuelan arapas and Belgium waffles, plus vegetarian options. There will be lots of seating, a craft beer garden and live local entertainment all afternoon. Produced by Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods (CHUN), go to [SnackAttack2012](http://SnackAttack2012) on Facebook or [www.chundenver.org](http://www.chundenver.org) for event information.

## October 14—Bill Roberts School Invites All for 5K and Fun Run

On Sunday, October 14, kids and their families are invited to get some activity and raise money for the Bill Roberts School. Site registration will be at 8am, the 5K will begin at 9am, and the fun run at 10:30am. The route will start at Bill Roberts School (2100 Akron Way), continue on the Westerly Creek trail, go through Central Park and return to the school. There will be food and fun following the run. Adults: \$35; kids' fun run: \$15; and a family rate is available. Register at [billrobertspta.com](http://billrobertspta.com).

## October 23—DPS Middle and High School Expo

On Tuesday, October 23, Denver Public Schools (DPS) is hosting the Middle & High School Expo, providing families with the opportunity to visit with principals, teachers and students from traditional, magnet and charter schools. The event will take place 6–8pm at Infinity Park Event Center, 4400 E. Kentucky Ave., Glendale. Families with children in grades ECE through 8th are encouraged to come explore options within DPS. They can also learn about SchoolChoice, the DPS enrollment process, transportation, Gifted & Talented, etc. Interpreters will be present. For more, call 720.423.3414 or visit <http://www.dpsk12.org/expo/>.

## November 17—Central Park Rec Center to Hold Its First Craft Fair and Seeks Vendors

On Saturday, November 17, Central Park Recreation Center will host its very first Craft Fair. Over 30 vendors will be selling a wide variety of craft and homemade products. It's an opportunity to get started on your holiday shopping. The Craft Fair is free of charge and will begin at 9am and continue to 3pm. The organizers are still looking for more vendors. If you would like to participate, call 720.865.0750 and ask for Naomi or Kate. Central Park Recreation Center is located at 9651 Martin Luther King Blvd.

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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**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 AND HALLOWEEN EVENTS

**Weekends beginning 10/6- May Farms Harvest Festival.** Barrel rides, barnyard, pumpkin canon and more. No corn maze due to drought. 64001 E. Hwy 36, Byers. [www.mayfarms.com](http://www.mayfarms.com)

**Weekends in October- Mazzotti Farms Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch.** 10am-6pm. Giant slide, petting zoo tipi, corn maze, 1 pumpkin per \$10/person admission. 303.536.4089. 24120 Weld County Road 8, Hudson. [www.mazzottifarms.com](http://www.mazzottifarms.com)

**Weekends in October- Rocky Mountain Pumpkin Ranch Pumpkin Festival.** Hay bale maze, corn maze, petting zoo; some activities available weekdays. 9057 Ute Hwy/CO 66, Longmont. [www.Rockymtnpumpkinranch.com](http://www.Rockymtnpumpkinranch.com)

**Through 10/31- Crazy Cornfield Maze and Colorado Pumpkin Patch.** Pumpkin patch, kids'

activities, barrel rides, corn mazes. SE corner 104th Ave. and Riverdale Rd., Thornton. [www.crazed-cornfieldmaze.com](http://www.crazed-cornfieldmaze.com)

**Weekends through 10/31- Heritage Square Miners Maze, Adventureland's Boo Town.** 11am-7pm. All ages. 18301 W. Colfax Ave., Golden. [www.minersmazeadventureland.com](http://www.minersmazeadventureland.com)

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

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

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

**Through 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)

**Through 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)

**Through 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)

**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.sunflower-farminfo.com](http://www.sunflower-farminfo.com)

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

**Through 11/3- The 13th Floor.** Haunted House, 4120 Brighton Blvd C2. Ages 13 and up. [www.getscared.com](http://www.getscared.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)

**10/7 Sunday- Mizel Museum's Sukkahpalooza!** Celebrate the Festival of the Harvest. 11:30am-2pm. Mizel Museum, 400 S. Kearney St. \$5/person; \$10/families. Register: [www.mizelmuseum.org](http://www.mizelmuseum.org)

**10/11 Thursday to 10/13 Saturday- Great American Beer Festival.** Colorado Convention Center. Tickets: [www.greatamericanbeerfestival.com](http://www.greatamericanbeerfestival.com)

**10/12 Friday to 10/14 Sunday- Denver Botanic Gardens Pumpkin Festival.** Barrel train rides, kids' activities, pumpkin patch, corn maze (through 10/31); prices vary. Botanic Gardens at Chatfield, 8500 Deer Creek Canyon Rd, Littleton. [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**10/13 Saturday- Spooktacular at Central Park Rec Center.** Kids ages 6 and under get to trick or treat, have snacks and treats, a picture with Scruffy the Dog from 3-4:30pm. Preregister \$5; \$7 at door. 720.865.0750. 9651 E. MLK Blvd.

**10/13 Saturday- Central Park Rec Center "Thriller" Saturday Night Live.** 6-9pm. Arts & crafts, candy, food, carnival-style games, dunk tank, Thriller performance. \$10/person; \$20 at the door. Register: [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com)

**10/13 Saturday- Punkin Chunkin Colorado.** Pumpkin launching, family fun, food and bands. Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, 25690 Quincy, Aurora. [www.auroragov.org/events](http://www.auroragov.org/events)

**10/13 Saturday- Hay Bales and Tall Tales at Four Mile Historic Park.** 11am-1pm. Free with admission. [www.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)

**10/13, 20, 27 Saturdays- Berry Patch Farms Harvest Festival.** Live music, pumpkin patch, organic farm market 10am-4pm. 13785 Potomac St, Brighton. [www.berrypatchfarms.com](http://www.berrypatchfarms.com)

**10/19, 20, 21, 26 and 28- Ghosts in the Garden.** Evening walking tour of Denver's most

haunted place, The Botanic Gardens. Tickets: \$20 members; \$25 nonmembers. 12 and up. [www.botanicgardens.com](http://www.botanicgardens.com)

**10/14 Sunday- Fall Collection & Holiday Preview Party.** Celebrate harvest season at Ten Thousand Villages with live hammered dulcimer music (12:30-2:30pm), autumn-inspired food/drink, prize drawings and more. Shop fair trade items, including handmade nativities. 12-4pm. Free. 2626 E 3rd Ave. 303.316.8773

**10/20 Saturday- Zombie Crawl.** 2pm. Skyline Park. FREE. All ages. Bring nonperishable food item for Food Bank of Rockies. [www.eyehartbrains.com](http://www.eyehartbrains.com)

**10/26 Friday to 10/28 Sunday- Boo at the Zoo.** Trick or treat stations, animal demonstrations, family-friendly entertainment. [www.denverzoo.org](http://www.denverzoo.org)

**10/26 Friday to 10/28 Sunday- Trick or Treat Street at Children's Museum.** Trick or treat stations, Halloween activities/entertainment included in admission. [www.mychildsmuseum.org](http://www.mychildsmuseum.org)

**10/27 Saturday- Lowry Halloween Festival.** 3-6pm. Lowry Town Center.

**10/27 Saturday- 5th Annual Highland Haunt.** 11am-3pm. NW Denver's free (\$5/child pass for hayride/certain kids' activities) event: trick-or-treating, music, costume contest, street performers, petting zoo, etc. 32nd St. between Clay and Zuni. [www.highlandhaunt.com](http://www.highlandhaunt.com)

**10/28 Sunday- Hauntings at the Hangar.** Halloween Festivities at Wings Over the Rockies Museum. 12-4pm. \$11/adults \$6/kids 4 and under free. Members free. [www.wingsmuseum.org](http://www.wingsmuseum.org)

**10/31 Wednesday- 19th Annual Denver Police Dept. Halloween Party.** At Denver Police Academy. Haunted house, midway games, candy. 5-8pm. Volunteers needed; contact Amy Esten at 720.913.1095 for more info.

### DENVER METRO EVENTS

#### Art Walks and Exhibits:

**10/5 Friday- Santa Fe Arts District.** Santa Fe Dr. between 10th and 6th. [www.artdistrict-santafe.com](http://www.artdistrict-santafe.com)

**10/5 Friday- North Denver's Tennyson Art Walk.** Tennyson St. and 44th Ave. [www.denver-artwalk.squarespace.com](http://www.denver-artwalk.squarespace.com)

**10/5 Friday- Old South Pearl Art Walk.** [www.oldsouthpearlstreet.com](http://www.oldsouthpearlstreet.com)

**10/5 Friday- Cherry Creek Arts District.** [www.cherrycreeknorth.com](http://www.cherrycreeknorth.com)

**10/5 Friday- Highlands Square First Friday.** 32nd and Lowell, North Denver. [www.highlands-square.com](http://www.highlands-square.com)

**10/12 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).

**10/26 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)

**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.

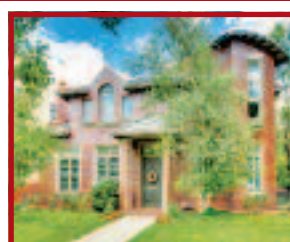
**10/4 Thursday- History Colorado Organ**

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**Crawl.** Visit 3 historic Park Hill churches and see/hear 3 distinct organs and learn their history. \$26 members/\$31 nonmembers. 1-4pm. [www.historycolorado.org](http://www.historycolorado.org) or 303.866.4686

**10/6 Saturday- Cultivate Festival.** Food, ideas and music. City Park. 10am-6pm. FREE. Presented by Chipotle. [www.chipotle.com/cultivate/denver](http://www.chipotle.com/cultivate/denver)

**10/8 Monday- LIVE from Governor's Residence presents Jazz, Standards & Soul: Denver's First Lady, Mary Louise Lee and Ensemble.** Governor's Residence at Boettcher Mansion, 400 E 8th Ave. Doors open: 6pm (cocktail reception included in ticket price)/Show: 6:45pm. \$45. Tickets: [www.ticketfly.com/event/155035/](http://www.ticketfly.com/event/155035/)

**10/11 Thursday- 2012 Chipotle Sustainable Food Film Series presents American Meat.** 6:30pm. Doors open 6pm. Mitchell Hall, Denver Botanic Gardens. FREE. (\$10 suggested donation) [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**10/12 Friday- LoDo Haunted Bar Crawl.** Denver Historical Society. \$36 members/\$41 nonmembers. 5-9pm. Reservations required: 303.866.4686. [www.coloradohistory.org](http://www.coloradohistory.org)

**10/13 Saturday- 2nd Annual Give Denver Masquerade Ball.** 7-11pm. Eastside Human Services, 3815 Steele St. Tickets: [www.denvergov.org/give](http://www.denvergov.org/give)

**10/17 Wednesday- Tiny Tots/Inside the Orchestra.** 45-minute orchestral performance for kids 6 and under. 9am and 10am. \$7.50/ages 1 and up. Temple Sinai, 3509 S Glencoe St. Repeats 10/18 Thursday, Temple Emanuel, 51 Grape St. Reservations: [www.insidetheorchestra.com](http://www.insidetheorchestra.com)

**10/19 Friday to 10/21 Sunday- Junior League Holiday Mart.** Inverness Hotel, 200 Inverness Dr. W., Englewood. Tickets: [www.jld.org](http://www.jld.org)

**10/27 Saturday- Denver Botanic Gardens Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead Festival).** 5-8pm. Denver Botanic Gardens, 1007 York St. [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**10/20 Saturday- 24th Annual Veloswap and Sports Expo.** World's largest consumer bicycle/sports expo. 9am-4pm. National Western Complex. [www.veloswap.com](http://www.veloswap.com)

**11/4 Sunday- Victorian Tea at Four Mile Historic Park.** 1-3pm. \$25/members, \$30/nonmembers. Tickets: [www.four-milepark.org](http://www.four-milepark.org)

**FREE Learn to Compost classes.** By Denver Recycles, various 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

**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/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)

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

**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

**10/18 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

**FREE Car Seat Inspections.** Children's Hospital Colorado offers free inspections at the Aurora Main Campus by child passenger safety professionals to ensure correct car seat installation. Wed: 1-3pm, Sat: 9am-12pm. Make appointment: 720.777.4808

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

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

**10/8 Monday- Van Gogh.** Springbrook, 6800 Leetsdale Dr. RSVP required: 303.331.9963

**10/11 Thursday- Tibet.** 7pm. Potluck 6pm. Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 2823 Roslyn St. RSVP: 303.388.0724

**10/23 Tuesday- Close Presidential Elections in History.** 5:30-6:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax. 303.322.7727

**10/23 Tuesday- Colorado Ballot Issues.** 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center. 350 S. Dahlia St. Lil Shaw: 303.316.6359

**10/30 Tuesday- The Struggles of Syria.** 11am-12pm (10:45 refreshments). Temple Emanuel, 51 Grape St. RSVP: Jodi, 303.388.4013 x307

**11/6 Tuesday- California.** 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center. 350 S. Dahlia St. Lil Shaw: 303.316.6359

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)

LIBRARIES

Visit [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org) for children's story hours, book club info, library crafts sessions and complete program list. A few selected library programs are shown below:

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

**10/6 Saturday- Star Wars Reads Day.** 2-3:30pm. All ages.

**10/20 Saturday- Classic Monster Film Fest.** 2-5pm. Teens grades 6-12.

(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)

**CYCLETON BIKE REPAIR CLINIC.** 2nd Tuesday, 6pm. 7480 E. 29th Ave. [www.cycleton.com](http://www.cycleton.com) 303.329.0069

**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](mailto: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. AFWilliams 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](mailto:AISCTC.org) 303-232-6302.


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(continued from page 21)

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

**Monday through Thursday weekly- After School Is Cool.** 4-5pm. Crafts, games and more. See website for specific daily programming.

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

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

**Wednesdays- PJ Story Time.** 7-7:30pm.

**Fridays- Book Babies.** 10:30-11am.

**10/6 Saturday- Embroidered Felt Skull.** 2-3pm. Adults.

**10/27 Saturday- Soups On!** 2-3pm. Hearty fall soups, recipes and samples. Adults.

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

**10/8 Monday- Displays and Merchandising for Shop Owners and Exhibitors.** 6:30-7:30pm.

**10/13 Saturday- Apps for Readers and Writers.** 10-11am.

**10/13 Saturday- Discussion: The Booth House at Four Mile Historic Park.** 2-3pm.

**10/20 Saturday- The ABC's of Bicycle Care.** 10-11am.

**10/21 Sunday- A Day in the Life of Wild B.I.R.D.** 2-3pm. Local organization that provides rehabilitation to sick, injured or abandoned birds.

**10/22 Monday- Small Business Startup.** 6:30-7:30pm

**11/1 Thursday- Tech Open House.** 10am-12pm.

#### NORTHEAST DENVER EVENTS

**October St. Elizabeth's School 2013 Lower and Middle School Info Sessions and Tours-** Coed, independent Episcopal day school (sliding scale tuition) offers open house for grades K-5 10/9 and 10/16 Tuesdays, and admissions info/tours for Grade 6 10/11 and 10/23. 303.322.4209 or [www.stelizabethsdnver.org](http://www.stelizabethsdnver.org) for times.

**10/4 Thursday- Back to Vitality School and Built to Last.** Jeff Olson, RLT and Julie Hammerstein CN. Change your health and transform your life. FREE. Central Park Rec Center, 9651 E. MLK Blvd. 7-8:30pm. Jen McCluskey: 303.906.2814

**10/6 Saturday- Family Fun Fall Festival at Bluff Lake Nature Center.** 10am-2pm. \$4/person; ages 2/under free. Bluff Lake Nature Center, 3400 Havana Way. [www.blufflakenaturecenter.org](http://www.blufflakenaturecenter.org)

**10/13 Saturday- Cockpit Demo Day.** Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-12pm. [www.wingsmuseum.org](http://www.wingsmuseum.org).

**10/14 Sunday- Bill Roberts School 5K and Fun Run.** Site registration: 8am, 5K: 9am, fun run: 10:30am. Register at [Billrobertspta.com](http://Billrobertspta.com)

**10/16 and 10/17- Tues. and Wed- Denver School of the Arts Fall Vocal Music Concert.** Featuring six choirs and 150 middle/high school students singing sacred Latin songs, French art songs, African songs and American spirituals. Concert Hall at DSA, 7111 Montview Blvd., 7-9:30pm. \$10/ students & seniors; \$14/adults. Tickets at [www.dsa.dpsk12.org/performances](http://www.dsa.dpsk12.org/performances). 720/424-1713

**10/16 Tuesday- Lowry Speaker Series.** CO Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael Bender. 7-8:30pm. FREE. Eisenhower Chapel, Lowry. [smhittman@aol.com](mailto:smhittman@aol.com), 720.838.8330

**10/23 Tuesday- Denver Public Schools Middle and High School Expo.** 6-8pm. Infinity Park Event Center, 4400 E. Kentucky Ave, Glendale. [www.dpsk12.org/expo/](http://www.dpsk12.org/expo/), 720.423.3414

**10/27 Saturday- American Safety and Health Institute (ASHI) Babysitting Class.** Ages 11-14. 8:30am-12:30pm. \$65. Unity on the Avenue. 4670 E. 17th Ave. 303.322.3901, [www.unityontheavenue.org](http://www.unityontheavenue.org). Register: Jean Lesmeister, 303.997.9327/ <http://safety.jeanlesmeister.com/>

**Unity on the Avenue-** For October events: [www.unityontheavenue.org](http://www.unityontheavenue.org) or 303.322.3901. 4670 E. 17th Ave.

**Centers of Light-** For October events: [Denver@CentersOfLight.org](mailto:Denver@CentersOfLight.org) or 720.308.9944. 2300 Forest St.

**11/10 Saturday- Third Annual Run for Remembrance.** 10K run, 5K military-style ruck march and 1-mile fun run. Check in: 7am; race: 9am. Lowry Air Force Base, 8400 E Lowry Blvd. Post-race expo, Wings Over the Rockies and Lowry Beer Garden. Register: [www.active.com](http://www.active.com)

**Central Park Recreation Center.** Info: [www.denvergov.org/recreation](http://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](http://www.dmns.org)

**Through 1/13/2013- A Day in Pompeii.** Ticketed exhibit.

**10/18 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](http://www.dmns.org/planetarium/current-shows)

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

#### NORTHFIELD EVENTS

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

**Bass Pro Events-** 720.385.3600, [www.BassPro.com](http://www.BassPro.com) Hunting, fishing and marine seminars offered throughout the month.

**Harkins Theatres 18-** 720.374.3118, [www.HarkinsTheatres.com](http://www.HarkinsTheatres.com)

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

**Toby Keith's I Love This Bar and Grill-** 303.728.9468, [www.countrybarco.com](http://www.countrybarco.com) Local and regional live music acts Wed.-Sat.

#### 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. Directions/all events: [www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal/](http://www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal/)**

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

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

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

**10/6 Saturday- Waterfowl ID\*** 9-11am.

**10/13 Saturday- Refuge Day** 10-3pm.

**10/20 Saturday- Bike the Refuge\*** 1-3pm.

**10/27 Saturday- Wild Discoveries for Kids\*** 10am-1pm.

#### THEATRE

**10/5 to 11/3- Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.** Presented by Fire House Theater 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)

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

**Through 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)

**10/26 to 12/2- Kiss of the Spider Woman.** Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. 303.839.1361, [www.vintage theatre.com](http://www.vintage theatre.com)

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

**Through 10/28- Is He Dead?** Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada. [www.arvadacenter.org](http://www.arvadacenter.org)

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

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

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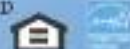
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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**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

KIDS AND FAMILIES

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

**Thursdays in October- 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)

**10/6 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)

**10/10 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

**10/13 Saturday and 10/27 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)

**10/14 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)

**Through 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)

KIDS CAMPS AND CLASSES

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

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


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





6-12 Parent Preview Nov. 8, 9 AM  
K-5 Parent Preview Nov. 15, 9 AM

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# Stapleton Rocks



Left: Stalker Henderson, lead singer of the Stapleton band Mossgatherers, wraps up their set at this year's "Stapleton Rocks" Concert for a cause. Below: Henderson high fives with the crowd.



The annual and increasingly popular "Stapleton Rocks" fundraiser event was held from noon until 10pm on Sept. 8 at the 29th Ave. Town Center. Bands played and provided entertainment while tickets were sold for the bungee trampoline, the slide or the hamster ball to raise funds for The Denver Children's Home (DCH). Concessions were also sold, with the proceeds going to the DCH. Twelve bands participated on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority going to bands with at least one member being a Stapleton resident. Over \$2000 was raised for Denver Children's Home. The Wabash Cannonballs contributed a drum set that raised additional money for the DCH.



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*Learn more about MomTime at [www.montview.org](http://www.montview.org).*

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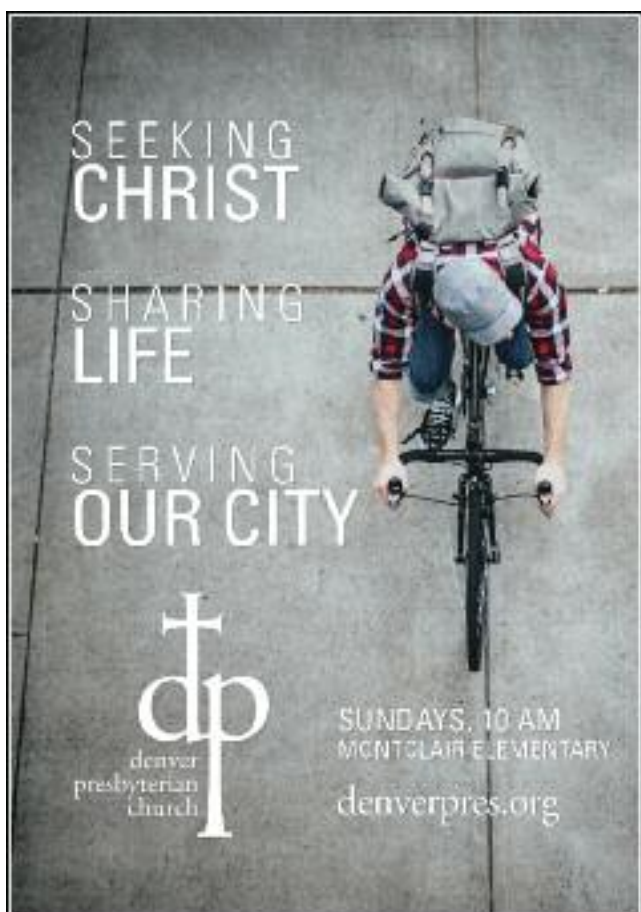
Andrew Hageman and Zac Stahlhut, owners of ZARL, Inc., which builds rockets with soda-bottle launchers for kids.

### Young Entrepreneurs Are Finalists in Business Competition

Stapleton business owners Andrew Hageman and Zac Stahlhut of ZARL, Inc. were finalists and winners of \$250 in the 6–11 age group at the 11th annual Celebration for Young Entrepreneurs dinner and awards ceremony held at the Seawell Grand Ballroom on September 6. The competition, for youth ages 6–21 who own and run a business, is sponsored by the Allstate Foundation and CoBank and hosted by the Young Americans Center for Financial Education. Andrew stated, “Zac and I are continuing to work with the Young Americans Bank and hope to participate in a young entrepreneurs program at Metro State that would provide us with mentors. We really want to win the competition next year. We think if we can provide birthday parties and maybe start franchising our business concept to young entrepreneurs across the country, that might help us win. I also hope to answer the question of whether a one-liter bottle or two-liter bottle is better as the power source. That will be part of my science fair competition this year.” Their rocket business was featured in the March 2012 edition of the *Front Porch*.

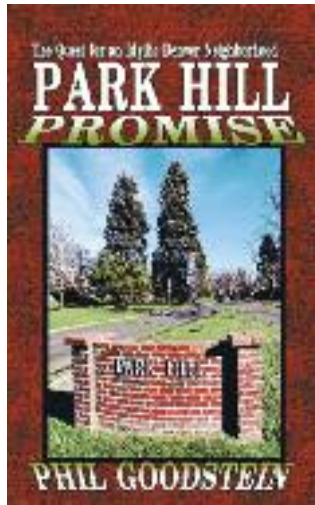
### Anchor Center Celebrates 30th Birthday

The Anchor Center for Blind Children celebrated its 30th anniversary with a birthday party on Sept. 21. The school was founded in 1982 by Linda Miller, a librarian at the Colorado Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Miller saw a need for children with visual impairments and enlisted the help of the Denver Alumnae chapter of the Delta Gamma Fraternity, which had made a philanthropic commitment to provide aid to the blind. The school began as a one-room schoolhouse in a church basement. As the number of children enrolled and services offered grew, Anchor Center transferred several times to larger facilities. In 2007, Anchor Center built and moved into its own building at 2550 Roslyn in Stapleton. Today, the school serves 400 children statewide yearly (50–100 visits weekly), ages birth to 5 whose vision is not correctable without glasses or their impairment causes difficulties with learning and life skills.



### DSST/East Students Win Jamba Juice Contest

During September, all Colorado Jamba Juice locations served Big Bang Berry, a smoothie flavor concocted by the winning team of high school students who participated in Junior Achievement’s 2012 Business Week. The Big Bang Berry smoothie was made with berry juice, mangos, raspberry sherbet, and apple strawberry juice for “extra zest.” The team will share 20 percent of profits realized from sales of their smoothie. Nearly 200 area high school students participated in the business immersion summer camp, presented by State Farm Insurance, where participants learn about business by working with real companies and real products, and are rewarded for results. Students on the winning team from local schools include: Normin Battumur, Robert Birke, Kaitlin Eckenrode and Tokuryu Lopes (DSST), and Leonard Davis (East HS).



Phil Goodstein, author of the newly published book *Park Hill Promise* will speak about the book and the neighborhood at a free lecture at the Park Hill Library (Montview Boulevard and Dexter St.) Saturday, October 6, 2012, 11am–12:30 pm.

of the neighborhood, the wide range of Park Hill churches, changing educational developments and the way residents have formed powerful civic associations. *Park Hill Promise*

### Denver Author Publishes New Book about Park Hill

Phil Goodstein, local author of many books on Denver, has just published his latest, *Park Hill Promise: The Quest for an Idyllic Denver Neighborhood*. For the many generations of people who have enjoyed living in what they consider a special community, the 600-page, highly illustrated history of Park Hill provides lots of background information. It tells how an eccentric German baron, Eugen von Winckler, staked claim to Park Hill in 1887. From there the volume traces how different subsections emerged, who has lived in the distinguished homes

also touches on the underside of the area, complete with tales of bizarre crimes and some of the racial and gang tensions that have affected the area. The final chapter, “Park Hill Airports,” observes that other airfields preceded Stapleton on the fringes of Park Hill. Goodstein says a lawsuit by Park Hill residents affected by flyover noise from Stapleton Airport in the 1980s helped spur the closing of that airfield. The book, at \$29.95, will be available at most book outlets.

### Grant from Lowe’s Brings Air Conditioners to Montclair Elementary

Montclair Elementary School parent Cajah Reed was so concerned about how hot classrooms were at her son’s school last year, she applied for and got a \$5,000 grant from Lowe’s Corporation for 14 air conditioners. Staff at the Havana St. Lowe’s store delivered the needed items to Montclair Elementary School, 1151 Newport St. Reed praises the Lowe’s staff and Arthur Vigil, facilities manager at the school, for their assistance in making this a successful endeavor. Up to eight more air conditioners are needed and Reed hopes the school will be able to get the remainder. To help in this effort, contact the P.E.A.K. parents/teachers organization at 720.424.5405. Her family presented both Lowe’s and the school with a photo-filled poster showcasing all who helped. In these times of budget cuts, Reed’s efforts are a reminder how important it is to students and teachers to have concerned parents working behind the scenes.



Montclair Elementary first graders (clockwise from front) Mia Macedonio Benitez, Sean Lane, Rowan Ellis, Nyiah McClelland now have an air-conditioned classroom.



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# Ballot Issues 2012

## ELECTION CALENDAR 2012

**October 9**—Last day to register for General Election.  
**October 15**—County clerks begin mailing ballots to voters who have previously applied for mail-in ballots.  
**October 22 – November 2**—Early voting for the General Election.  
**October 30**—Last day to apply for a mail-in ballot to be mailed to you.  
**November 2**—Last day to apply for mail-in ballot in person.  
**November 6**—General Election.

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

**Information on the State Ballot issues** was provided by the League of Women Voters of Colorado Education Fund, 1410 Grant Street, Suite B-204, Denver, CO 80203-1855, [info@lwvcolorado.org](mailto:info@lwvcolorado.org), [www.lwvcolorado.org](http://www.lwvcolorado.org).  
Contact the League's VOTER HOTLINE at 303-863-VOTE (8683) for: Voter information, Ballot information or Ballot issue speakers.  
For information about membership in the League of Women Voters, call 303-863-0437, Email [info@lwvcolorado.org](mailto:info@lwvcolorado.org), or visit [www.lwvcolorado.org](http://www.lwvcolorado.org)  
**Information on the City Ballot issues** was provided by the League of Women Voters Denver Education Fund 1980 Dahlia St, Denver, CO 80220. 303-321-7571. [www.LWVDenver.org](http://www.LWVDenver.org) [info@LWVDenver.org](mailto:info@LWVDenver.org)

## VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Identification is required for voting at all polling places. One of the following forms is required:  
Valid Colorado driver's license; Valid Colorado identification card; Valid U.S. passport; Valid U.S. military card; Copy of current utility bill or paycheck or government check showing name and current address; FAA photo pilot's license; Certified naturalization document; Valid Medicare or Medicaid card; Certified copy of birth certificate; or Valid student ID card with photo.  
*If you have difficulty voting at your polling place, see an election judge about obtaining a provisional ballot.*

## REFERENDUMS AND INITIATIVES

*Issues are placed on the ballot by:*  
**Referendum**—A proposal by the Legislature which is referred to citizens for a vote.  
**Initiative**—A proposal by citizens who have gathered the required number of signatures (five percent of the total number of votes cast for Secretary of State in the previous general election).

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## \*\*IMPORTANT\*\*—CHECK THE STATUS OF YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION ONLINE

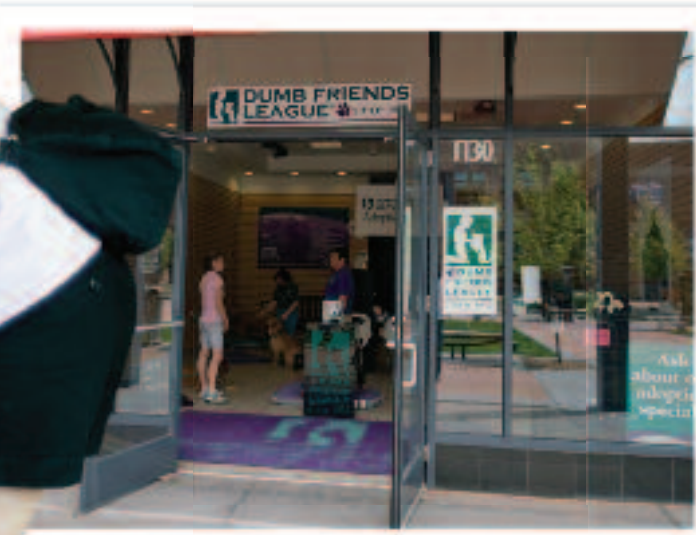
Some voters who thought they were registered or who thought they were registered to get a mailed ballot have discovered that was not the case. Go to [www.GoVoteColorado.com](http://www.GoVoteColorado.com) to register or to apply for a mailed ballot.

# True love is just down the street waiting for you!

Come visit the Dumb Friends League pet adoption center at The Shops at Northfield-Stapleton, where you can add a cute cat or adorable dog to your family.

All adoptions include spay/neuter surgery, preliminary vaccinations and a microchip ID.

Bring in this ad to to receive a \$15 Northfield Stapleton gift card with every pet adoption (while supplies last). Offer valid only at the Dumb Friends League adoption center at The Shops at Northfield Stapleton.



## Adoption Hours

Monday–Friday	Saturday & Sunday
12 p.m. to 7 p.m.	11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

8316 Northfield Blvd., Suite 1730, Denver  
(Between Yankee Candles and Ling & Louie's)



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CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER BALLOT ISSUES

The City and County of Denver ballot issues were provided to the Front Porch as a community service by the **League of Women Voters of Denver Education Fund**.

The League of Women Voters of Denver Education Fund is not responsible for the accuracy or fairness of the arguments of either side. The pro and con statements are from material submitted by proponents and opponents of each ballot issue.

The League of Women Voters of Denver Education Fund encourages the active and informed participation of citizens in government to increase understanding of major public policy issues. Tax-deductible contributions are gratefully accepted.

Referendum 2A City Revenue Restoration and Spending Plan

Without increasing any tax rate or adopting any new tax, and in order to pay for improvements to police, fire, streets, Denver Public Library, parks, after-school and summer programs for children and such services as specified in City Council Bill 12-566 and published on the city's web-site, shall the City and County of Denver be authorized to collect, retain and spend all tax revenue derived from the city's existing gross tax rates to the extent those revenues exceed the constitutional limitation on tax revenue, also known as TABOR, beginning in 2013, provided that in no event shall the city increase the maximum lawful property

tax rate without prior voter approval as required by Section 20(4)(a) of Article X of the Colorado Constitution, and requiring specific annual reporting requirements by the Manager of Finance to the mayor, the city auditor and the city council on the disposition of these funds?

Major Provisions:

- 1. Authorizes the City and County of Denver to retain and spend all tax revenues in excess of the constitutional limitations on revenue and spending.
- 2. Provides for the restoration of the city's lawful maximum property tax rate and adopts a formula for limiting annual increases in property tax revenue while the tax rate is being restored.
- 3. Specifies categories of expenditures to be made with revenue derived from the restoration of the maximum lawful property tax rate.
- 4. Allows credits against business personal property taxes for new and expanded businesses.
- 5. Increases the amount of tax refunds available to low-income elderly or disabled persons.

Background:

State law limits annual increases in a local government's total fiscal year revenue and spending, but allows local voters to approve the retention and expenditure of revenue in excess of that limit. Denver voters have previously allowed the city to retain and spend excess tax revenues, including sales tax. The issue of excess property tax revenue, however, has not been previously addressed. In order to comply with the constitutional limitation on annual increases in property tax revenue, the city has annually adopted temporary property tax credits. These credits have reduced the overall revenue that would otherwise have been collected. As of 2011 these credits amount to 6.222 mills causing the city to forego approximately \$68 million per year in property tax revenue. Referendum 2A would reduce these credits by 4 mills for the 2012 taxable year (paid in 2013) and allow for the reduction of the remaining 2.222 mills in subsequent years. This would result in new revenue of approximately \$44 million in 2013 and up to \$68 million in subsequent years. In 2013 property tax on an average \$225,000 home would increase about \$72 per year and on a \$1.1M business about \$2,000 per year.

Those in Favor Say:

- 1. 2A allows Denver to retain all taxes collected under current rates. These rates cannot be raised now or in the future without a vote of the people. Denver currently collects \$68 million a year in taxes it cannot spend without voter approval. 2A asks voters to spend the \$68 million on eliminating Denver's \$44 million structural deficit and catching up on essential services.
- 2. Denver hasn't hired new police and fire recruits in four years. 2A provides 100 new police and fire recruits for the city. 3. Denver needs to catch up on the maintenance and replacement of its police, fire and Public Works fleet. 2A enables Denver to begin replacing 1,000 of its police, fire and Public Works vehicles. 4. Denver has lost ground in repaving and resurfacing our city streets, mostly neighborhood streets. 2A allows Denver to resurface 300 lane-miles of city streets. 5. Denver has reduced the operating hours of many of its library branches to 32 hours a week. 2A allows Denver to restore branch libraries to an average 48 hour week. Website: [www.yesondenver.com](http://www.yesondenver.com)

Those Opposed Say:

- 1. There is no limit to how much the City will collect through this tax increase. When property values go up, so will the tax revenue generated. The City ignored its task force by asking for higher taxes with no ceiling, prior to reducing expenses.
- 2. Permanently raising taxes when the economy is uncertain and Denver is working to attract new business is bad policy. Referendum 2A makes it harder to live and work in the City and County of Denver.
- 3. As promised by the administration, Denver city government should complete the LEAN Initiative (reduce waste and enhance service delivery). To date, only the Department of Safety has completed this initiative.
- 4. As the Financial Task Force recommended, General Fund efficiencies - from employee benefits, redundancy, and technology to streamlined regulations - must be completed and documented prior to permanently raising taxes.
- 5. Where's the budget? The City has specified how it will spend only \$19 million of the minimum \$68M it proposes to charge every year. Website: [www.NoBlankCheck2012.com](http://www.NoBlankCheck2012.com)

3A Denver Public Schools Mill Levy Override

Shall Denver Public Schools (School District No. 1) taxes be increased by \$49 million (first full fiscal year dollar increase) annually by the levy of 4.86 mills of additional property taxes for the purpose of:

- restoring and enhancing art, music, physical education and other enrichment programs
- increasing instructional support services such as: tutoring, small group instruction, counseling, and community and parent engagement
- providing computers, classroom technology and rigorous curricular materials in support of 21st century learning
- expanding early childhood education and full-day kindergarten?

Major Provisions:

The \$49 million operating increase would provide:

- \$11 million for enrichment programs that would increase program offerings in arts, music and physical education;
- \$13 million to increase full-day preschool and kindergarten programs to serve Denver children who are unable to enroll due to a lack of state funding;
- \$17 million to expand instructional support such as tutoring, small-group instruction, counseling, and community and parent engagement; and
- \$8 million to invest in 21st century classroom technology and rigorous, up-to-date curricular materials.

Background:

The Colorado School Finance Act limits how much money can be spent per pupil unless voters approve an additional mill levy to be spent per pupil. Funding for a school district's Total Program is calculated starting with a base per-pupil amount and making adjustments that reflect specific characteristics of the district. Local revenue sources from property taxes and specific ownership taxes (paid as part of vehicle registration fees) provide the local share of Total Program. Where the local sources are insufficient, state money (primarily from state income tax, and sales and use taxes) makes up the difference. State funding has decreased from a per-pupil contribution of \$7,672 in 2009-10 to a per-pupil contribution of \$6,868 in 2012-13. A school district that desires to spend more revenues than its Total Program amount



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by Valerie B. Ginsburg, MD

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Sat, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



Thinking about starting a family but not sure how to prepare? A little preconception preparation can help you have a healthier pregnancy and a healthier baby, and it can also help improve your fertility. Consider the following tips to help improve your chances of conceiving.

**Adopt a healthy diet.** A healthy preconception diet may boost fertility. Eating well is linked to healthier pregnancies and healthier babies. So there's no better time to begin breaking bad habits (skipping breakfast, fast-food) and building better ones (switching from white to whole grains, selecting snacks from the fruit bowl instead of the vending machine).

**Pop a prenatal vitamin.** Taking a prenatal vitamin in the months leading up to conception can help prevent serious birth defects and preterm delivery.

**Exercise regularly.** Exercise can help increase strength and endurance, which will help your body throughout your pregnancy and can lead to an easier delivery.

**Stress less.** Try not to stress over becoming pregnant as that can be detrimental to conception. Be aware that only 20 percent of couples who are actively trying to conceive will get pregnant within the first month of trying. Seventy-five percent will be pregnant within six months.

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





must seek voter approval for “override” revenues which come from increased property tax via an additional mill levy. The approval of override revenues does not affect the state share funding that the district receives. If 3A is approved, the owner of a Denver home valued at \$225,000 would pay about \$80 annually in additional property taxes.

Those in favor say:

- 1. Allows Denver Public Schools to expand enrichment programs and tutoring services that help increase student achievement and prepare students for 21st century jobs.
- 2. Focuses on programs and services that can help close the achievement gap and increase DPS graduation rates.
- 3. Provides for an oversight committee to ensure that investments are transparent and accountable to taxpayers.

Website: [www.togetherfordenversschools.org](http://www.togetherfordenversschools.org)  
No organized opposition was found as of this printing (9-18-12).

3B Denver Public Schools Bond Issue

Shall Denver Public Schools (School District No. 1) debt be increased \$466 million, with a maximum repayment cost of \$738 million, and shall district taxes be increased by a maximum of \$47.9 million annually to acquire, construct and improve capital assets to improve the teaching and learning environment by:

- maintaining, repairing and renovating existing school buildings
- addressing critical health, safety and security concerns in district school buildings and improving their environmental sustainability
- providing technology for 21st century learning
- constructing additions and making improvements to existing schools and constructing new buildings to reduce overcrowding
- accommodating the expansion of early childhood education and full-day kindergarten by the issuance and payment of general obligation bonds, which shall bear interest, mature, be subject to redemption, with or without premium, and be issued, dated and sold at such time or times, at such prices (at, above or below par) and in such manner and containing such terms, not inconsistent herewith, as the Board of Education may determine; and shall ad valorem property taxes be levied in any year, without limitation as to rate, to pay the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on such bonds and to fund any reserves for the payment thereof?

Major Provisions:

Denver Public Schools is asking voters to approve \$466 million in general obligation bonds. The sale of these bonds would raise money for capital projects such as new buildings and re-design of existing buildings. The school board has

allocated the distribution of this bond fund as follows:

- \$230 million for repairs and renovations to address health and safety issues in aging school buildings and to increase energy efficiency of all school buildings;
- \$78 million to address overcrowding and expanded preschool and kindergarten programs;
- \$119 million for new construction in areas of Denver with the greatest population growth; and
- \$39 million for upgrading technology in schools. The bonds will be paid off over a period of years using property tax income.

Background:

The history of bond issues raising capital funds for school improvements, with voter agreement, gives a background to this request: in 1990 voters approved a \$199.6 million bond issue; in 1998 the voters approved a \$305 million bond issue; in 2003 the voters approved a \$310.8 million bond issue; and in 2008 the voters approved a \$454 million bond issue which is still being implemented. In 2007 the Denver Public Schools population was 73,503. By 2012 the population has grown to an estimated 83,820, an increase of over 10,000 students in 5 years. The program and projects which would be funded under 3B were developed and recommended by a group of citizens and business leaders who analyzed the district’s capital needs, enrollment projections, facility requirements and funding sources. If 3B is approved, the owner of a Denver home valued at \$225,000 would pay about \$60 annually in additional property taxes.

Those in favor say:

- 1. The average age of a Denver Public Schools facility is 55 years, and many are in need of basic maintenance and upgrades. 3B would provide \$466 million in bond capacity to address the critical needs of the district’s aging infrastructure and improve the teaching and learning environments in DPS.
- 2. DPS has become the fastest growing district in the state, adding 10,000 more students over the past five years. This pupil increase has created a need for additional capacity in the greatest areas of need.
- 3. The bonds are an investment in DPS schools so they can provide students a safe, efficient learning environment.
- 4. Provides for an oversight committee to ensure that investments are transparent and accountable to taxpayers.

Website:  
[www.togetherfordenversschools.org](http://www.togetherfordenversschools.org)

No organized opposition was found as of this printing (9-18-12).



STATE OF COLORADO BALLOT ISSUES

The League of Women Voters® of Colorado Education Fund has prepared this information as a public service to promote civic responsibility by providing nonpartisan information about the issues that citizens will be asked to vote on in the November 6, 2012 election.

The League of Women Voters® of Colorado Education Fund promotes informed participation in government by providing non-partisan educational information on topics of public concern and on the processes of government.

The League of Women Voters® of Colorado Education Fund is not responsible for the accuracy or fairness of the arguments of either side. The pro and con statements are a compilation of the material submitted by proponents and opponents of each ballot issue.

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Types of ballot issues

Statewide issues appearing on the ballot may be of two types:

Amendments to the Colorado Constitution

May be referred to the voters by a two-thirds vote of both houses of the General Assembly or may be proposed by citizens using the initiative process. Only the voters (not the legislature) can change the constitution. These proposals are called amendments.

Those identified with a **number** are **citizen initiatives**, and those identified with a **letter** are **referred by the General Assembly**.

Amendments to the Revised Statutes

May be referred to the voters by a majority vote of both houses of the General Assembly or may be proposed by citizens using the initiative process. Although approved by voters, amendments to the Colorado Revised Statutes may subsequently be changed by the legislature. These proposals are called **propositions** and are changes to the statutes.

Referendum

Amendment S—State Personnel System

A referred amendment to sections 13, 14, and 15 of Article XII of the Colorado Constitution concerning the state personnel system.

Major Provisions:

Requires merit-based appointments to be made through a comparative analysis process based on objective criteria. May include a competitive test;

Allows for the removal from the personnel system of a limited number of positions;

Increases the number of candidates eligible to be considered for a position;

Modifies the residency requirement;

Increases the time allowed for temporary employment;

Decreases and adjusts the terms of service for members of the state personnel board; and

Expands the preference given to veterans.

Background:

Amendments to the state constitution in 1918 created the state personnel system meant to establish a merit selection system for all appointed public officers and employees of the state, with a number of exemptions. Later amendments added a five-member paid state personnel board, which had the authority to adopt rules to implement and govern the merit selection system. Members of the board could not be either officers or employees of the state or of a state employee organization. An executive department of personnel was also added with a state personnel director responsible for administering the entire system.

Currently, appointments and promotions within the personnel system are based on competitive tests of competence after which only the three highest ranking candidates can be considered for appointment. All appointees must reside in the state with some exceptions for those with special qualifications as determined by the state personnel board. Temporary employment is limited to six months. All appointed public officers and employees, now numbering approximately 33,000, are within the personnel system, except those specifically excluded by the state constitution. Members of the state personnel board serve terms of five years and may serve multiple terms. If approved, the board will continue to consist of three members appointed by the governor and two elected by employees of the state personnel system. Job candidates who are veterans have points added to a passing grade on the competitive examination.

Those in favor say:

This proposal adds flexibility to the hiring



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STATE OF  
COLORADO  
BALLOT ISSUES  
(continued)

process by expanding the pool of eligible candidates and allowing employers to consider a wider range of criteria so that the state can recruit and retain the most qualified candidate for each position.

This measure will allow greater use of temporary, seasonal and special project positions, resulting in cost savings and more highly qualified staff to serve the people of Colorado. Savings may be realized by hiring of non-residents for positions close to the state borders.

This proposal allows greater use by veterans of preference points.

State personnel board members will be more accountable under term limits.

Those opposed say:

The changes proposed by this amendment undermine the merit base of the state personnel system by putting in place a comparative analysis of candidates based on objective criteria rather than a single competitive test of competence.

Allowing additional employee exemptions with the approval of the state personnel di-

rector for as many as one percent (1%) of the total employees in the state personnel system places too much political power in the hands of the state personnel director.

Changing from three to six the number of job candidates to be considered for a position increases the possibility a less qualified person could be chosen.

Constitutional Initiatives  
Amendment 64—Use and Regulation of Marijuana

An initiated amendment to Article XVIII of the Colorado Constitution adding a new section 16 providing for the personal use and regulation of marijuana.

Major Provisions:

Legalizes possession, use, display, purchase, transfer and transportation of one ounce or less of marijuana by persons 21 years of age or older. Requires identification for purchase and prohibits driving under the influence;

Allows persons 21 years of age or older to possess and grow no more than six marijuana plants;

Provides for the operation of marijuana-related facilities that cultivate, process, package, test, manufacture and sell marijuana or marijuana accessories provided the person conducting the activities has a valid license for the activity;

Charges the Department of Revenue with developing regulations for licensing and operating marijuana facilities, establishing health and safety standards, preventing the sale of marijuana to persons under 21 years of age, and the advertising of marijuana and marijuana products;

Allows local governments to regulate operations of marijuana establishments within their jurisdictions as long as these regulations do not conflict with state law;

Requires the state legislature to enact an excise tax on marijuana sales and provides that the first \$40 million raised by the tax each year be placed in the Public School Capital Construction Fund; and

Requires the state legislature to enact legislation regulating the growth, processing and sale of industrial hemp.

Background:

Marijuana, also known as cannabis, is a plant that contains a psychoactive compound. Marijuana is used as a recreational drug, as a part of religious or spiritual rites, and as a medicine. Evidence of marijuana use exists dating back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BC.

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, individual states led the way in banning marijuana. The federal government effectively outlawed use of the substance in 1937.

In 2000, although medical marijuana use was not authorized by federal law, Colorado voters adopted an amendment to the Colorado state constitution allowing the use of marijuana for medical purposes. In 2006, Colorado voters rejected an amendment, which would have legalized the possession of up to one ounce of marijuana by persons 21 or over. One ounce of marijuana is similar to the amount of tobacco in a pack and a half of cigarettes.

Industrial hemp is a form of the cannabis plant that contains very low levels of psychoactive compounds. It is used in paper, clothing, construction materials and fuel. While the United States government does not distinguish industrial hemp from the marijuana plants that have more psychoactive properties, large quantities of industrial hemp and hemp products are imported annually. This proposal would provide a path to the cultivation, processing and sale of industrial hemp in Colorado.

Passage of this measure will not affect Colorado's medical marijuana provisions and regulations. Neither will it allow access to marijuana by those younger than 21 years of age, permit driving while impaired by marijuana, nor prevent companies, schools, hospitals or other entities from prohibiting the use of marijuana on their property.

Those in favor say:

Regulating marijuana like alcohol for adults 21 and older will replace an uncontrolled and underground market with a tightly controlled system of regulation. Taking marijuana sales off the street will make it harder for teens to access marijuana and reduce adult consumers' exposure to other illegal products. It will reduce funding for drug cartels and other criminal enterprises, and it will allow the state to redirect limited law enforcement resources toward addressing violent and serious crimes.

Regulating and taxing marijuana will generate hundreds of millions of dollars in new tax revenues and law enforcement savings over the coming decade for state and local governments. The first \$40 million raised annually by a new excise tax will be directed toward public school construction. Regulated marijuana and industrial hemp markets will create jobs and provide new business to other industries.

Government studies comparing the damage of marijuana and alcohol have concluded that marijuana is less harmful than alcohol. It is less addictive, less harmful to the body, and less likely to trigger violent behavior.

Those 21 and older will be able to possess limited amounts of marijuana and use it, as long as it is not consumed publicly or in a manner that endangers others. It will remain illegal to drive under the influence of marijuana and employers will be able to maintain their current employment policies.

Those opposed say:

Although this proposal would amend the Colorado constitution to make Colorado one of the first states to fully legalize marijuana for recreational use, the possession and use of marijuana would continue to violate federal law. This proposal would allow opening of marijuana retail stores and of growing, manufacturing, and testing facilities in communities across the state. A broad-based, non-partisan coalition including law enforcement, educators, counselors, physicians, and parents are opposed to this proposal.

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poses, this proposal increases marijuana's availability and attractiveness to young people at a time when schools are already reporting more problems with drug use among adolescents. For children and young adults, smoking marijuana permanently affects brain development, impairs learning ability and contributes to depression. Adolescents are more likely than adults to develop problems with marijuana abuse and addiction. Marijuana abuse accounts for 67 percent of the adolescents in substance-abuse treatment programs in the United States.

This proposal would increase the incidence of impaired driving. Between 2006 and 2010, more than 400 people were killed in Colorado from car crashes involving a driver who was on drugs. Smoking pot reduces coordination and impairs decision making which will lead to a significant increase in the number of crashes and deaths due to people who are driving under the influence of marijuana.

**Amendment 65—  
Colorado Congressional Delegation to Support Campaign Finance Limits**

An initiated amendment to Article XXVIII of the Colorado Constitution and to the Colorado Revised Statutes 1-45-102 and 1-45-103.7 concerning campaign finance limits.

**Major Provisions**

Amends the Colorado Constitution to encourage the establishment of campaign spending limits rather than voluntary spending limits;

Amends the Colorado Revised Statutes to urge state lawmakers to establish campaign spending limits rather than encourage voluntary spending limits; and

Amends the Colorado Revised Statutes to instruct the Colorado Congressional delegation to propose and support, and the Colorado State Legislature to ratify, an amendment to the United States Constitution that limits campaign contributions and spending.

**Background:**

The practice of voter instruction to elected officials was widely used during the founding period of the United States, and was used successfully to pass the 17th Amendment for direct election of U.S. Senators.

Ten years ago, Colorado voters passed comprehensive campaign finance reform that set contribution limits, banned corporate contributions and required full disclosure of campaign spending.

In the past, courts have ruled that limiting contributions to candidates and campaigns was a permissible restriction on money in politics to prevent corruption or the appearance of corruption. More recently, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that money is speech and cannot be restricted. Therefore, spending limits on campaigns are not allowed and spending by persons and organizations independent of campaigns are not restricted. If this proposal is passed, it will be mostly symbolic and will not have any legal force.

**Those in favor say:**

The role of money in politics should be limited. This measure directs elected representatives in Congress and the state legislature to support an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would establish limits on out of control political spending to create a level playing field. Public trust in elected officials is at an all-time low, partly because of the belief that powerful wealthy interests exert disproportionate influence.

The surest way to change the campaign finance system is to amend the U.S. Constitution.

By encouraging Congress to take action, this proposal is a first step in addressing money in politics.

We can correct the U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling by passing a federal amendment that authorizes limits on campaign contributions and spending, and ensures that all citizens, regardless of wealth, have an opportunity to speak.

**Those opposed say:**

This proposal is extremely vague. New laws restricting participation in elections should be written carefully and precisely. The proponents do not disclose exactly what new laws this proposal will require. If passed, the proposal's requirement to support legislation cannot be enforced.

When politicians enact laws to restrict political speech, politicians always claim that the new laws will get the money out of politics. But in practice, the restrictions are often written to make things

more difficult for challengers.

It is always dangerous to give the government the power to outlaw people from spending money on speech which criticizes the government during elections.



**Other Items on the Ballot**

For a side-by-side candidate comparison, personalized sample ballot, polling place info and more, visit [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org). Races covered are US Congressional Districts, State Legislators (Senate and House), CU Regents, State Board of Education and RTD Directors. Local candidates and issues may also be found at [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org)

**Don't Skip the Judges**

For information about the retention of Judges, please refer to the 'Legislative Analysis of the Ballot Issues' commonly known as the 'Blue Book', which is mailed to each household with registered voters by the Secretary of State's office. It is also available online at [www.leg.state.co.us](http://www.leg.state.co.us). Click on General Legislative Information and then click on Ballot Issues.

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The site plan above shows the building layout for the proposed 6-12 school at 56th Ave. and Central Park Blvd. Numbered items are: 1 – Classroom buildings (two to be built in the first phase; outlines show location of future classroom buildings as the population grows); 2 – Cafeteria; 3 – Administration building; 4 – Gymnasium. Athletic fields are located on property shared with Denver Parks and Recreation.



The above rendering shows the concept for a 6-12 school at Northfield that was selected in a 2006 architectural competition for Stapleton's secondary school. The rendering ran in the March 2007 Front Porch, when Luis O. Acosta Architects (LOA) was announced as the winner of the competition. The look of the building may change somewhat when DPS carries out a design and review process prior to construction.

By Carol Roberts

### Proposed 6-12 Stapleton School

The 6-12 Stapleton school is the biggest single construction project in the DPS bond issue on the upcoming ballot. The concept shown above for a Stapleton secondary school came from a 2006 design competition that was a joint effort by DPS, the Stapleton Foundation and the Foundation for Educational Excellence. The competition was looking for alternatives to the large comprehensive model since research has shown that smaller high schools (400-500) help keep students in-

terested in school, tackle core subjects and prepare for post secondary education (from March 2007 article by Brian Weber).

Each of the five proposed classroom buildings identified above will accommodate 450 students, with two classroom buildings, administration, gym and cafeteria being built in the first phase. The Stapleton plan is similar to the Evie Dennis campus in Green Valley Ranch, where the core structures and a first phase of classrooms were built previously—and now, with additional capacity needed, expansion is part of the current bond.

### New Plans for 26th Ave Park

At the September Parks Advisory Group, Forest City presented a new plan for the 26th Ave. Park. The plan addresses community concerns that developing a small area of the 25-acre tract would leave unsightly fences surrounding acres of inaccessible land. This plan has not yet been submitted to Aurora and will require Aurora's approval before construction can proceed.

The proposal is to develop a two-acre park in the block bounded by Fulton, 26th Ave., Florence and 26th Ave. at the time the Fulton street connection to Aurora is being built (starting late fall). One block of 26th Ave., between Fulton and Florence, will be widened to 48 feet and will have

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## Stapleton Update

curbs, a parking lane, a bike lane and a traffic lane in both directions. There will be a four-way stop and a left turn lane at Fulton and 26th. The remainder of 26th Ave. will remain with unfinished shoulders. The two-acre park will have landscaping and playground equipment for children ages 2-12 and will be similar in scale to the one at the F15 pool, though the specific equipment has not been planned.

In the remainder of the 25-acre tract, a gravel path for pedestrians and bicycles will loop around the undeveloped open space. The existing trees and grasses will be left intact, except for grading as required for drainage. The graded areas will be reseeded. The path will connect to the bridge at 26th Ave. and West-erly Creek.

Forest City projects the work will be done by the end of 2013—and at this time there is no plan for any additional work that might be done in the unfinished open space. Upon completion, the entire 25-acre park and open space will be turned over to the Master Community Association for maintenance. Removing the fences creates easier access for dumping and community vigilance will be encouraged to help keep the area free of such debris.

### East Rail Station Renderings Unveiled

Denver Transit Partners, which is building the stations for the East Rail line, unveiled renderings at community meetings in September. The 370-foot-long Central Park Blvd. (CPB) Station will start on the north side of Smith Road at Uinta and go east from there. On each side of the tracks will be ramps and stairs to a raised platform so commuters will enter the train at seating level. On each of the platforms will be four canopies supported by steel columns that have a bench at the back. The canopies will be 40 feet long and 12 feet deep—big enough to shelter approximately 50 people.

Passengers who use the north platform will be guided toward at-grade crossings at each end of the station through a zig-zag entry path that ensures they look both directions down the track. In addition there will be signal lights and a warning sound when trains are ap-

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**Left:** The aerial photo/drawing shows how commuters will access the Central Park Station for bus and rail transit when the station opens in 2016.

Parking will move from its current location to three lots that will be accessed from Ulster or Uinta, entering either from Smith Road or from E. 36th Ave.

Smith Rd. currently ends near Xanthia, though in the recently approved TOD Plan (see below), finding funding to extend Smith Rd. to Havana is listed as an "action item."

**Below:** A focus group of Denver residents selected the canopy style for the East Rail line stations in Denver during the planning phase that ended in 2009. The "Industrial Loft" style canopy was selected and is shown in the rendering below at left (the background shows the 40th/Colorado station). The rendering directly below shows the Central Park Station, with Smith Road at the left and a ticket machine under the canopy at right.



proaching.

There will be traffic lights on Smith Road at Ulster and Uinta where cars enter the parking lots. There will also be a signal at a new pedestrian crossing east of Uinta for people to get from the bus drop-off to the train platform. Parking will move a block north of where the current temporary lot is located and there will be space for 1500 vehicles. A recent design change placed the parking rows at a diagonal so commuters will be headed toward the station as they exit their cars.

In the first quarter of 2013, construction of the foundation of the station platform will begin and by that fall, installation of track will begin in the station area. In the spring of 2014, construction will start on the station—to be



Stapleton resident Ignacio Correa-Ortiz, Senior Architect/Urban Designer, RTD, is part of the team working on the east rail project

completed in 2015.

Denver Transit Partners is doing all the work north of Smith Road (platform and tracks). RTD will build the parking lots south of Smith Road. Forest City will build the new parking lot access roads (Uinta and Ulster). Forest City and RTD are currently negotiating an agreement for handling Smith Road improvements.

**Stapleton Control Tower Update**

On August 30, the Master Community Association (MCA) presented an update to JoNell Herndon's tower committee. MCA Executive Director Keven Burnett described their efforts to determine if the tower could be renovated into a viable community cultural facility at a cost that's affordable to the MCA. Burnett presented a revenue forecast that estimates the MCA could cover the annual debt service on a 10 to 12 million dollar project with a \$4/month assessment increase to Stapleton residents. The plan for

renovating the tower and building plus adding a new theatre and event center on the west side (shown in the July Front Porch) came in a little high, but a revised plan to initially add just the theatre came in at a viable cost for a facility that the MCA believes would meet their programming needs.

Forest City, under the Stapleton contract, will purchase the land with the tower from DIA and can ultimately, within Denver zoning requirements, determine its future use. Tom Gleason said Forest City believes there is enough interest in this project that it is worth pursuing to more detail and Forest City has agreed to go into exclusive negotiations with the MCA. To carry it to the next step, Forest City is asking the MCA to contract for a feasibility study to determine if this will be a long term viable alternative. The feasibility study will include interviews with area residents. See announcement on page 6 for information on participating in those interviews.

**City Council Approves Central Park Station TOD Plan**

Denver City Council, on Sept. 24, unanimously approved the Central Park Station Area Plan as a supplement to the Denver Comprehensive Plan.

As Transit Oriented Development (TOD) occurs in the area over the next 20 years, the plan will inform stakeholders, city staff, and decision makers about the vision for the area when considering development proposals, capital improvements and policy direction.

Denver's Department of Community Planning and Development worked for over a year to develop the plan and held multiple meetings with area stakeholders in creating it. The plan can be viewed at [www.DenverGov.org](http://www.DenverGov.org) ->Search for Central Park Station Area Plan. For more information contact David Gaspers 720.865.2936. (continued on p. 33)

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

## Halloween in Stapleton

By Amanda Allshouse, Outreach Co-Chair

When do people trick-or-treat in Stapleton? What events are there for kids? How much candy should I buy? Are you new to Stapleton and wondering about Halloween traditions?

Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) encourages residents to hold a mini parade around a nearby pocket park early in the evening. As the evening progresses, it can be harder to connect with neighbors when darkness sets in and the sidewalks become crowded. Parades are already a tradition in several parts of Stapleton. Contact your block captain for more information. To get in touch with your block captain, contact [SUNoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:SUNoutreach@gmail.com).

Trick-or-treating has always occurred on Halloween evening. There are no rules about when to start or stop trick-or-treating; however, for several years many people have opted to hang a "sorry we missed you" sign on the door at 8pm (or when candy supplies run out). These signs are available on the SUN website. [www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com](http://www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com).

Criteria that arguably make a neighborhood optimal for trick-or-treating include minimal walking between houses, safe streets, and a high household participation rate. By these measures, Stapleton is a natural great choice for trick-or-treating. When purchasing candy, note that trick-or-treating brings out not just the Stapleton kids, but often children from surrounding communities. In the five years between 2007 and 2011, our home saw an increase in the number of trick-or-treaters from 34 to 474. The volume of traffic that a house gets can vary with proximity to main streets and participation of neighboring households.

Also on Halloween night, the Denver Police Department will be hosting the 19th annual Halloween party at the Denver Police Academy Halloween night from 5–8pm. This event features a haunted house, midway games and

Halloween candy. Volunteers are needed for the setup of the haunted house or to help during the event. Contact Technician Amy Esten for more information at 720.913.1095.

Earlier in October, several events will take place to kick off the festive spirit of the season. The Stapleton Master Community Association (MCA) is bringing back the Pumpkin Patch as part of the last Farmers Market of the season (Sunday, October 14 from 8:30am–12:30pm on The Green). Shoppers will receive a coupon every time they spend \$5 at any vendor booth, redeemable for a free pumpkin. There will be a variety of small to large pumpkins. Supplies are limited, so arrive early to have your pick.

Parks and Rec will be hosting two events at Central Park Recreation Center (720.865.0750) on Saturday October 13. The first is the Spooktacular Halloween Event for ages 6 and under from 3–4:30pm. Activities will include: trick-or-treat trail, games/crafts, snacks/prizes, pictures with Scruffy the dog. Cost will be \$5 in advance, \$7 at the door. The second is the "Thriller" Saturday Night Live Event for ages 7–12 from 6–9pm. Activities will include costume/mummy wrap contests, carnival games/dunk tank, food/beverage, second annual Michael Jackson Tribute Dance Performance, and more. Cost will be \$10 in advance or \$20 at the door. To register, visit [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com) or call 303.388.0724. Sponsors are the Stapleton MCA and Denver Parks and Rec.

The second annual Stapleton Connect Pumpkin Carving Contest will be on The Green at 6pm on Sunday October 28. Top prize will be an iPad, with proceeds to benefit The Gathering Place and The Food Bank of The Rockies.

Enjoy the first full month of fall with all that Stapleton has to offer.

## Op-Ed from the Mayor Supporting 2A

Renovating the library in Montbello took nine months, and during that time, 16-year-old Chris was cut off from Internet access for homework and unable to access email.

Like thousands of Denver's young people, Chris' only onramp to the information highway is at his local library, proof of the critical role libraries play in our community and in our children's education. But due to the recession and state-mandated revenue limits in TABOR, Denver libraries are only open four days a week.

And libraries are just one of the essential services cut since the economy collapsed in 2008. Denver has not hired new police recruits or replaced police, fire and public works vehicles. We've fallen behind on street paving and repairs and we've had to cut way back on recreation and after-school programs for unsupervised children. That is not the Denver I know we can be.

That is why I'm asking Denver voters to help eliminate the city's deficit and catch back up on essential services by passing Measure 2A on this fall's ballot.

If voters say yes, Measure 2A will allow Denver to keep and spend \$68 million we currently give back to taxpayers each year to stay below the TABOR limit, even while we are still cutting essential services.

Measure 2A simply asks voters to remove those fiscal handcuffs so Denver can join the 85 percent of Colorado communities that have taken themselves out from under their TABOR limits.

In Denver, this would allow us to eliminate the annual deficit, recover from the recession and restore critical services in our neighborhoods. Measure 2A will benefit the neighborhoods spanning from Stapleton to Lowry by helping to:

Complete parkland construction and restore maintenance.

Resurface, extend and complete neighborhood arterials like Central Park Boulevard, Smith Road and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Bring library service back to an average of 48 hours a week for all Denver branches including those in Stapleton, Lowry and Park Hill.

Increase Denver children's access to pools, recreation centers, after-school programs and child-care.

We will also increase our efforts to attract and retain jobs and double the city's property tax credit for low-income seniors and people with disabilities.

At the same time, I will continue to streamline city operations, achieve millions of dollars in efficiency savings and improve customer service.

On behalf of young people like Chris, I ask for your yes vote on Measure 2A. Help us catch back up on essential services, move Denver forward and deliver a better city for our children and our children's children. For more information go to [www.YesOnDenver.com](http://www.YesOnDenver.com).

Mayor Michael B. Hancock

## Letters to the Editor

### Opposition to Multiple New Street Connections

Ms. Cohen-Vader's pathetic defense of the proposed four street extensions off 26th St., all within 1/8 of a mile of each other, I might add, is the typical politically correct hokey which we have come to expect from Stapleton Development Corp and, Forest City.

To imply that residents from any neighborhood abutting Stapleton have been denied access to any "cultural activities" or "correctional facilities(?)," is patently dishonest. Entry into Stapleton is, quite obviously, readily available as evidenced by the very fact that the area has been victimized by repeated acts of vandalism, dare I suggest, by non-Stapleton residents! But beyond that, Central Park alone, is filled with a diverse group of families each and every day.

Ms. Cohen-Vader implies that there are "cultural activities and educational activities" awaiting from 25th St. to East Colfax, and beyond. I'd like to know what they are. I'd like to know what businesses Ms. Cohen-Vader frequents over there. I'd like to know if she or her children, take leisurely evening strolls over in that neighborhood. I'd like to know if Ms. Cohen-Vader lives in that neighborhood. I think we all [know] the answer to those questions.

That being said, many of us can understand that a single street, such as Iola, which is wide enough to accommodate through traffic, offering residents from that area of Aurora easier access to I-70, and to eventual east side shopping, makes sense. But to ramrod extensions through residential neighborhoods where two cars cannot pass through at the same time, like Emporia St., is ridiculous.

Nanette Jones

### Aurora Street Connections Follow Urban Design Principles

Greater street connectivity means more choices for drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians alike. The more through streets we have, the less traffic each will be expected to carry because that traffic can be disbursed rather than being concentrated on one or two busy arterials as it is now. Ideally every street in Stapleton would follow traditional urban design principles by connecting to the streets in adjacent neighborhoods (think Park Hill and the Highlands), but if we can move forward only in small steps it is better than not moving forward at all.

Newly connected streets will obviously carry more traffic than they do now, and we should not sacrifice safety for convenience. That is why SUN is committed to working with residents to develop proposals for the City to ensure the safest transition possible. Anyone interested in participating in this process can contact the SUN Transportation Committee at [acornman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:acornman@sbcglobal.net).

David Vogel, SUN Transportation Committee


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# Stapleton Update



Above: The concept plan for an active seniors apartment complex shows how the exterior areas are designed to help residents meet and interact. The building, shown in white, is designed so the wings create courtyards. (North edge of the building is not shown.)

Right: Chris Achenbach, Park Hill resident and principal, Zocalo Community Development, Inc., presents the senior living concept at a Zoning and Planning meeting.



(continued from page 31)

## “Active Seniors” Apartment Project Proposed for MLK and Syracuse St.

Zocalo Community Development has proposed a plan for a four-story, 150-unit apartment complex for residents 55 and older on the southeast corner of MLK and Syracuse. The development would offer market rate rentals (approx. \$1500 - \$2300) starting at 900 square feet. Sixty one-bedroom and 90 two-bedroom units will be built. No assisted living, medical or food services are in the plans. A community gathering area is proposed on the southwest portion of the lot along Syracuse, and the southeast portion has land for a second phase of the development. Vehicles will access the complex from Syracuse or Trenton, and the complex will offer one parking space per unit.

The developer's goal is to create a sense of

community among the residents and a connection with the larger community. It will not be gated; the garden areas will be open to passers-by. The developers say they will also manage the complex to ensure their vision is carried out after residents move in.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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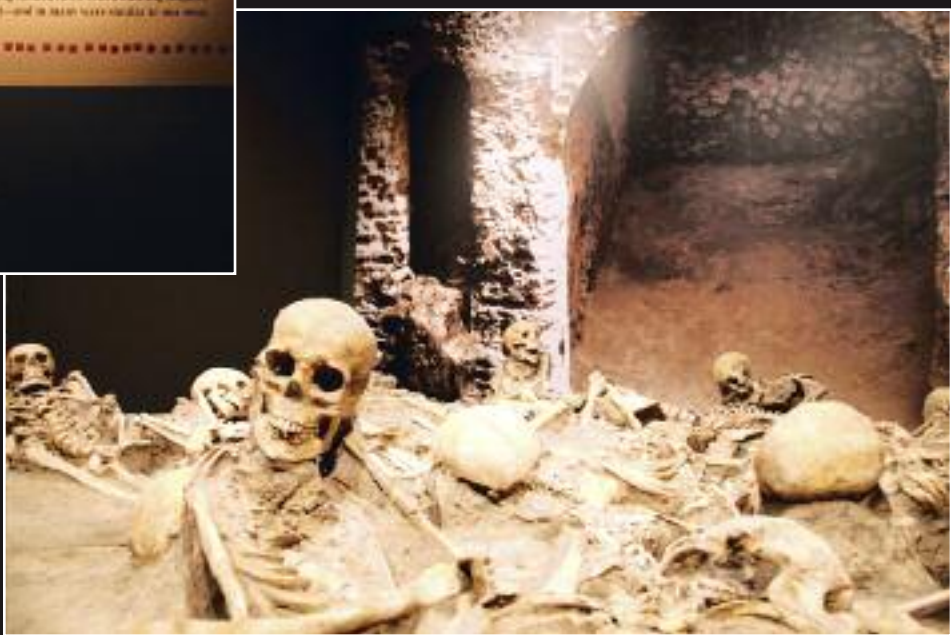
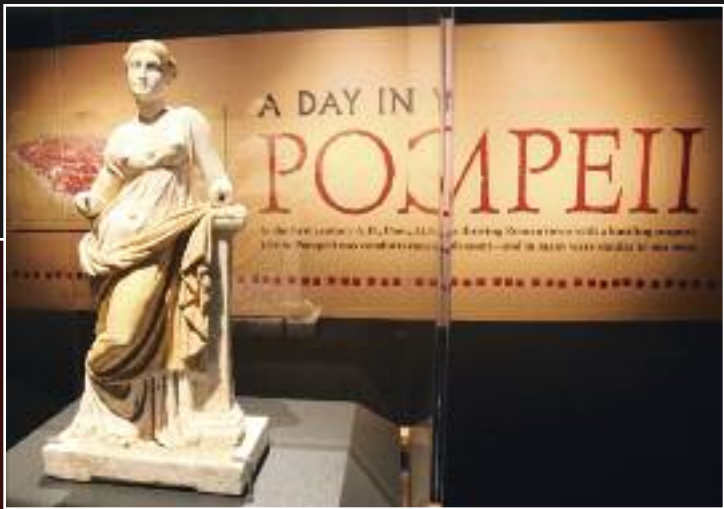
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A cast of a man lying down shows his hands were over his mouth when he died, presumably trying to reduce his inhalation of the volcanic gases.



A cast taken from a boathouse in the nearby town of Herculaneum shows 32 skeletons—people who were killed by a pyroclastic surge of ash and hot gases as they waited for rescue by the sea. (A pyroclastic surge is a fluidized mass of turbulent gas and rock fragments that is ejected during some volcanic eruptions.)

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Enactor Jane Stanfield portrays a friendly worker tending the counter at the local thermopolium (the ancient version of a fast-food restaurant). She holds a sample of her spices for a visitor to smell while chatting about life in Pompeii.

Below: Eva Pacheco, 7, and her mother Lori Pacheco of Lowry look at the bronze helmet of a Roman Gladiator named Murmillo.

Check out the video on the Pompeii Exhibit at [www.FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://www.FrontPorchStapleton.com)



Enactor Michael Parker plays the roll of Lucius Lucretius Paullus and tells visitors about his life as a Roman Centurion who commanded 100 soldiers. He explains that soldiers forego a wife and enlist for 25 years. They start out with only the weapon(s) they brought with them and acquire more by defeating other soldiers and taking their weapons.



## Pompeii

(continued from page 1) Enactors, who engage visitors in conversation as if they were visitors to Pompeii, include a senator's wife promoting her husband and discussing the state of politics in the empire and a trader telling tales of travel around the empire, in addition to the two pictured above. The professional actors have immersed themselves in the history and culture of Pompeii so their clothing and conversation are historically accurate.

Artifacts illustrate all aspects of life including home, business, entertainment and religious beliefs. Surprisingly, fragile glass and ceramic items survived without a scratch.

A brief video shows the 24-hour period from the first puffs of smoke and rumblings from Vesuvius to the pyroclastic surge of lava and gas that rapidly engulfed the city.

Most startling are the body casts that capture the final moments of those who died. The bodies disintegrated, leaving behind an empty cavity in the volcanic ash. In 1860, archaeologist Guiseppe Fiorelli poured plaster into these cavities, creating the first versions of the casts.

Museum hours are 9am to 5pm. Exhibit and museum admission cost is \$24/adults; \$15 junior/student; \$17/senior (65+). Audio tours are \$4/adult; \$3/children.

Visit [DMNS.org](http://DMNS.org) for more information.



A cast of a dog shows he was trying to escape from where he was chained when the volcanic ash hit.

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There are **"Unsung Heroes"** - volunteers (residents, youth, employees, business, or organization leaders) and paid professionals who go well beyond their expected duties to improve the health and quality of life for their fellow neighbors, family and friends in the **be well Zone**. The **be well Zone** is comprised of the East Montclair, North-west Aurora, Greater Park Hill, Northeast Park Hill, and Stapleton neighborhoods. Help recognize their efforts by nominating them for a **be well Award**!

One award is given to an individual in the **be well Zone** that had demonstrated great leadership, dedication, and effectiveness in each of the following categories :

- ☐

**be well Physical Activity Leadership Award:**  
for improving their own physical activity habits and who has demonstrated great dedication and commitment in helping to improve the physical activity habits of their fellow residents.
- ☐

**be well Nutrition Leadership Award:**  
for great leadership shown in improving their own nutrition habits and who has demonstrated great dedication and commitment in helping to improve the nutritional habits of their fellow community members.
- ☐

**be well Community Advocate of the Year Award:**  
for grassroots public policy advocacy, educational and/or outreach efforts that have significantly increased the knowl- edge of residents in order to make informed policy decisions.
- ☐

**be well Preventative Care Leadership Award:**  
for significantly raising awareness around the importance of preventive care and directly connecting residents to preventative care screenings and resources.
- ☐

**be well Youth Community Builder Award:**  
for individuals between the ages of 10-17 who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in promoting and advocating for health and wellness among youth in their school and community.
- ☐

**be well Outstanding Provider Award:**  
for a company or organization that has taken a leadership role in moving preventive care to the forefront and played a key role in actively providing preventative care opportunities to residents.

**The nomination process is simple.** Complete the nomination form below and mail it to *be well Awards Nomination*, 7350 E. 29th Avenue, #300, Denver, CO 80238 or email it to [ljoseph@stapletonfoundation.org](mailto:ljoseph@stapletonfoundation.org). You can also go to [www.bewellconnect.org](http://www.bewellconnect.org) and fill out an electronic form. Answer and attach the nomination questions below, writing a brief, passionate, compelling story about your nominee that describes something that distinguishes them as an individual dedicated to healthy communities within one of the categories listed. **All submissions must be received no later than October 12, 2012, at 5pm.** Late nominations will not be accepted.

**Nominator Information**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Nominee Information**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Award Category (Please select only one category):**

- ☐ Physical Activity Leadership Award
- ☐ Nutrition Leadership Award
- ☐ Community Advocate of the Year Award
- ☐ Preventative Care Leadership Award
- ☐ Youth Community Builder Award
- ☐ Outstanding be well Provider Award

**Please attach answers to the following questions to the nomination information above.**

- A. Please summarize who you are in one brief paragraph.
- B. Please describe how this extraordinary individual has performed outstanding personal acts to promote health within one of the categories listed above in the *be well Zone*. Why is this person unique?
- C. Detail how the this person’s acts have positively impacted the *be well Zone* community and how their work has helped others. Explain the changes or improvements that this person was responsible for as a result of his/her work.

**By sharing these "success stories" good ideas can spread across the community and make the *be well Zone* a healthier place for all.**