

# Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

DECEMBER 2012



## A Big Win for the City and for the Schools

On election night, 3A&B supporters and campaign workers gathered to watch election results at Under the Snug on Colfax. Mayor Michael Hancock (center) cheers as his communications coordinator Mike Strott (far left) and City Attorney Doug Friednash view the vote count that indicates victories for 2A, 3A and 3B.

Behind them DPS Superintendent Tom Boasberg and School Board President Mary Seawell share a laugh as they celebrate the victory. "It was really a happy moment," said Seawell. Board member Nate Easley (far right) is viewing the results on a TV screen.

### 2A Passed—What Does that Mean to the City of Denver?

By Carol Roberts

"What we learned here was never underestimate the wisdom of Denver voters!" exclaimed Mayor Michael Hancock when he saw the election results. "Thanks to the vot-

ers' overwhelming support, we can now begin moving Denver forward and get back on the path to full economic recovery. Together, we are building a smart, safe and vibrant city—a 21st century city built on a solid financial foundation with good jobs, healthy children and accessible libraries, rec centers and parks."

With the (continued on page 4)

### 3A & 3B Passed—What Does That Mean to Stapleton and NE Denver?

By Carol Roberts

"It was something that I personally and others had been working so hard for because we really understood what it meant for our district if 3A&B passed. When you've been looking at the pos-

sibility of bringing things to schools that need them so desperately, it was an emotional moment when I realized that they had passed—and it was wonderful," says Mary Seawell, DPS board president.

For Stapleton, the big news is that funds will be available for a local school to accommodate the upcoming surge of high-school-age students. But (continued on page 4)

## 'Tis the Season to Gather with Loved Ones... and Share Our Gifts

By Carol Roberts

Nearby volunteer opportunities abound that can match nearly anyone with their passion. Do you love animals, love young kids, want to help older kids, help adults, be outside, or organize fundraisers? There are places close to home that need you. Local agencies referred us to some of their volunteers—who unanimously say the experience enriches their lives. See pages 3, 26 and 27.



Isaac Wright has volunteered at The Urban Farm for more than 15 years.



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

Stapleton's Winter Welcome on November 16 drew an estimated 4000+ people to the 29th Ave. Town Center. Last year's crowd was estimated at 3,000. Tickets were sold for activities and food, which raised over \$3,500 to benefit DenUm (Denver Urban Ministries), Girl Scout Troop #1096, Bluff Lake, Sand Creek Greenway and The Urban Farm. A total of 700 s'mores packets, assembled by the Girl Scouts, were sold and roasted over open fires in the street. "New ideas are already being planned for next year," says Master Community Association Program Director Diane Deeter.

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Holiday decorations light up our neighborhoods.



## CALENDAR

Events listed below are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC or support nonprofits.  
(Additional events are listed on pages 14-19. Recurring events are listed on page 17.)

### DECEMBER

#### \*\*December 4\*\*

**Colorado Gives Day**—a 24-hour event to encourage donations to Colorado charities through the website <https://givingfirst.org>. One hundred percent of the donation goes to the non-profits. Last year 932 non-profits participated and over 27,000 people donated a total of \$12.4 million, with \$50 being the most common donation amount. Detailed information about Colorado nonprofits, including amount of funds used for direct services and management, can be found on the website. Search by name, category or zipcode

#### Tuesday, December 4

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

#### Tuesday, Dec 4, 11 & 18

Stress Relief Yoga. 5:45–6:45pm. MCA Community Room\* [www.loveyogacolorado.com](http://www.loveyogacolorado.com).  
[events@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:events@stapletoncommunity.com)

#### Wed, Dec. 5 and Thurs, Dec. 6

Denver School of the Arts "Winterfest" Concert  
150 middle (12/6)/high school (12/5) students perform 7–9pm, students/seniors \$10; adults \$12  
[www.dsa.dpsk12.org/performances](http://www.dsa.dpsk12.org/performances), 720.424.1713

#### December 6, 7 & 8

Denver Public Library Winter Used Book Sale  
Central Library, 10 W. 14th Ave., (see p. 15)

#### Saturday, December 8

The Kids' Marketplace showcases kids' goods.  
Clayton Early Learning Center, 3801 MLK Blvd.  
10am–2pm. 303.564.8308

#### Saturday, December 8

Lowry Winter Festival, 3–6pm.  
Store specials, Santa, crafts, carriage rides, music  
[www.lowrytowncenter.com](http://www.lowrytowncenter.com)

### DECEMBER

#### Saturday, December 8

DPS School Choice Expo.  
Information on all DPS school options  
10am–2pm. Bruce Randolph HS, 3955 Steele St.  
<http://schoolchoice.dpsk12.org>, 720.423.3493

#### Sunday, December 9

Breakfast with Santa at Central Park Rec Center, 9:30–11:30am (see p. 15)

#### Sunday, December 9

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

#### Wednesday, December 12

Mobile Art Gallery Exhibition at DSST, 6–8pm  
(see page 15)

#### Thursday, December 13

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

#### Thursday, December 13

Stapleton Geeks Tech Meetup "Holiday Tech Party" (All are welcome) 5:30–7:30pm  
2373 Central Park Blvd. #100  
[www.meetup.com/Stapleton-Geeks/](http://www.meetup.com/Stapleton-Geeks/)

#### Monday, December 31

New Year's Eve Downtown Fireworks Display.  
2 shows: 9pm and midnight. 16th St. Mall.

\*More information at [Events@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:Events@stapletoncommunity.com)  
Stapleton MCA Community Room, 2823 Roslyn St.

**The Front Porch welcomes submissions of upcoming local events and story ideas (see information on p.17).  
Deadline is the 15th for the next issue.**



DECEMBER

**The MCA would like to wish each and every one of you a very merry holiday season. We have many gifts to buy and so many parties to attend. When making your lists and plans, remember those who are alone in this world. Bring joy to them with an act of kindness. We hope you are able to enjoy a safe and wonderful holiday season with family and friends.**

#### Active Minds

**Cheese** The history of cheese goes back as far as 6000 BCE, long before the ancient Egyptians and Homer. There are thousands of varieties of cheese, with local flavor differences influenced by subtle factors such as the type of grass eaten by the cows. Learn about the different factors that determine the taste and texture of different cheeses and the debate between raw versus pasteurized cheese.

Thursday, Dec. 13, 7–8pm in the MCA Community Room. Cost: Free. No RSVP required

#### Stress Relief Yoga for the Holidays

Location: MCA Community Room  
Dates (Tuesdays): Dec. 4–18, 5:45–6:45pm  
Drop-in rate: \$10. Stapleton Residents: 6 classes/\$48. Nonresidents: 6 classes/\$54.  
Children ages 6–12 free with paying adult

#### Winter Welcome

We would like to thank all of our terrific Winter Welcome sponsors for their support with this event. We would like to thank Stapleton Home Services, Digstow, the GSBA, Northfield Church, and TJC for assisting with all of our signature events during the summer/fall season. We would also like to express thanks to Bluff Lake for handing out the glow necklaces and gear, The Urban Farm for distributing the roasted almonds, and Sand Creek Regional Greenway for helping with the sidewalk sale. Also, special thanks to Girl Scout Troop #1096 for assembling and distributing all of the s'mores packets. Thank you Altogether Outdoors for providing the ice climbing wall for the community. We appreciate all of the help and support from our event sponsors: Concentra, Stapleton Fellowship Church, Wine Cellars and Exemplar. We would like to give a huge thank-you to Lin Clark for assisting in the organization of the DSA Door Decorating

Contest. The students of DSA have once again provided fabulous art pieces for the Stapleton Town Center. Check our website at [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com) to find out which door won the 2012 Door Decorating Contest!

#### Santa's Best Christmas Trees

We are excited to welcome Santa's Best Christmas Trees back to the Stapleton community. Trees will be sold at The Green throughout the holiday season. Come check out the new selection at the Santa's Best Christmas Tree lot in Stapleton!

#### 2013 Dogs of Stapleton Calendar

The winners of the 2013 Dogs of Stapleton calendar have just been announced. Stop by the MCA to pick up your copy.

#### Stapleton Holiday Cards

The MCA is proud to offer festive holiday cards that support three local causes. Cards will be sold in holiday variety packs and can be purchased at the MCA office. All proceeds will be distributed to the Bluff Lake Nature Center, Sand Creek Regional Greenway and The Urban Farm!

#### Event Survey

Your feedback is very important to us and we would appreciate hearing your comments in our end-of-year event survey. Please take a few minutes and complete our online survey at [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com). If you have any event suggestions or ideas, please send your comments to [events@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:events@stapletoncommunity.com) (subject line: 2013 Event Ideas).

If you have any questions or comments about the information above, please feel free to contact [dmead@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:dmead@stapletoncommunity.com) or call the MCA office at 303.388.0724.

Dani Mead  
Communications Coordinator



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# Front Porch

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

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Left: The first group of “Luministas” hold hands at the beach in Nicaragua.

# A Need, A Dream, A New Non-Profit

## Moms form organization that helps teen girls shine

By Laurie Dunklee

Go shine. That’s the message for teenage girls who participate in the Lumina Project, a northeast Denver-based nonprofit that combines surfing in Nicaragua with service work.

Lumina (pronounced loo-MEEN-a) is the brainchild of Jennifer Maddox, a social worker, and Jackie Wells, operations director at The Odyssey School in Denver and a trained Wilderness First Responder. Their “adventure program” for girls was inspired by Maddox’s 2010 surfing vacation to Nicaragua with her two daughters, ages 12 and 16.

“I watched my daughters’ persistence as they mastered the waves,” Maddox said. “I realized that surfing is about fear, courage and persistence. I thought, ‘Wouldn’t it be great to use surfing as a physical analogy for getting through tough times, for moving forward in life?’”

Back In Denver, she shared her idea with her friend Wells.

“Jackie said ‘I’m in, let’s do it,’” said Maddox. “Jackie has daughters too, so we wanted to start a program to help girls build a strong sense of who they are and learn to help each other.”

In the summer of 2012, Maddox and Wells took six girls, ages



Jackie Wells (left) and Jennifer Maddox, co-founders of the Lumina Project.

gratitude for what they have and it made them want to help.”

The Denver girls memorized a book in Spanish—A Llama in Red Pajamas—and performed it as a skit for the kids.

“We did the best we could with our Spanish, but sometimes it was not good and the children laughed at us,” Maddox said.

The philosophy of the Lumina Project is to help adolescent girls recognize their own light—their gifts and talents—and use that light to build others up.

“We all have our own light that we can use to cast a shadow on others, or we can illuminate the people around us so everyone can shine,” Maddox said. “It’s the antidote to mean, bullying, nasty behavior.

“We take girls out of their familiar environment and put them in difficult but exhilarating circumstances,” she said. Learning to surf “can teach you about strength, courage, faith and trust,” according to the Lumina website.

The girls came back to Denver with the ability and desire to “keep on shining...they decided to continue as mentors for the next group of girls.”

Six more girls will go to San Juan del Sur with Project Lumina in 2013—so far three have been chosen. Maddox said the requirements are: ages 13 to 16, an excellent swimmer, and have a strong desire to help and to learn. The all-inclusive cost is \$2,500, which the girls raise themselves through babysitting and selling coffee from a plantation near San Juan del Sur. “It’s part of their growth to raise their own funds,” said Maddox.

Future plans for Project Lumina include partnering with a

12 to 16, to San Juan del Sur, a small fishing village in Nicaragua that has become a destination for surfing enthusiasts from all over the world. They learned to surf and traveled inland to other villages to bring books to the kids in those areas. They rode in the local “mobile library”: two 4-wheel-drive pickups loaded with waterproof bins full of books, folding tables and chairs.

“The local kids were so happy to see us because they have no other books. It was an enormous eye-opener for our teenagers to see how the people live—in tin-roofed shacks with no running water. It increased their

Nicaraguan girls’ group to help paint buildings and do other service work. “We’re guests in their country, so we’re asking them what they need,” Maddox said.

Maddox sees Project Lumina as an extension of her work as a social worker. “It’s been hard and I’ve started to lose faith several times,” she said. “But getting girls on a positive path is so worth it. Plus it’s crazy fun and I get to go surfing! And a piece of my heart is in Nicaragua.”

Girls who apply to Lumina are asked to write an essay about why they want to go. Maddox said the essays are ambitious and inspiring, including the girls’ desires to do everything from curing AIDS to stopping hunger. “For a kid to voice her dreams and have adults deny them is crushing. So we say, ‘Yes, you can do that. Go shine.’”

Those interested in becoming involved in Project Lumina as a participant or volunteer should visit [www.projectlumina.org](http://www.projectlumina.org).

*You don’t have to start a non-profit to make a significant contribution to the community and change lives. Read what local volunteers have to say on pages 26 & 27. Or make a donation on Colorado Gives Day (see calendar, page 2).*

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## DPS bond and mill levy pass



The new 20-acre high school, at 56th and Central Park Blvd. in Northfield, is adjacent to 20 acres of parkland in Stapleton that will be developed by Park Creek Metro District (then turned over to the City). At this time there is no firm timetable for completing the "faded" parkland in the conceptual site plan at left. The non-faded portion (two classroom buildings at left, administration, cafeteria, gym, parking lots, two baseball fields, two tennis courts and a multi-purpose sports field), will be built with funds from the bond.

(continued from page 1) Seawell says in her conversations with parents who have helped create Stapleton's schools, they also understand the high school is just one piece of a larger dialogue the community needs to have about what they want education to look like in this part of the city. "Their vision and their hopes for their kids are so much bigger than just a single neighborhood. And the bond gives us the ability to do that. We wouldn't be able to do that if we didn't have this space.

People are really engaged in wanting to create a dynamic and amazing high school that builds on the work we've already done. But it is bigger than that—it's that Stapleton is not just Stapleton, it's part of northeast Denver. It's about our role in this larger part of the city and who we are going to be as a community by the time our kids get to high school. Now there's a way and a space to make all these ideas work."

The new school in Northfield is scheduled to open in 2015 with seats for up to 900 stu-

## 2A Passes

(continued from page 1) passage of 2A, the mayor's office has submitted to City Council an amended budget for 2013. They anticipate it will be approved by City Council on December 17, with 2A implementation beginning in the first half of 2013.

Where will the additional tax money go? It will allow the City to eliminate its deficit and restore essential services. Some of those services include:

- Opening every library branch at least 48 hours a week (compared to 32 hours currently open). Expanded hours will be in place citywide by April. (\$3.1 million)
- Restoring park maintenance and upkeep such as mowing, tree-trimming, trash pickup and graffiti removal. (\$500,000)
- Hiring 100 new police and fire recruits; the City will hold its first police academy class in four years this spring. (\$2 million)

- Repaving 300 lane miles of city streets. (\$4.5 million)
- Replacing many of the aging and unsafe vehicles in the City's police and fire vehicle fleet. (\$2 million)
- Providing free access to city recreation centers and outdoor swimming pools for all school-aged Denver kids. (\$2.1 million)
- Restoring child-care and after-school programs for thousands of children. (\$3 million)
- Replacing and investing in computer technology that is now two to three generations behind industry standards. (\$3.5 million)
- Eliminating employee furlough days that have required City government to be shut down five days a year. (\$5 million)
- Restoring funds in the City's "rainy day" reserve account. (\$6 million)
- Doubling the amount of the City's property-tax credit for low-income senior citizens and people with disabilities. (\$1.25 million)



# The Logan School Summer Adventure Camp

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DPS Board president Mary Seawell. Photo taken at the 3A&B election night party.

dents, though DPS is considering the possibility of opening in 2014 at a seed location and moving to the new building a year later. The common spaces of the new buildings (administration, gym and cafeteria) will be designed to accommodate future growth of an additional 900+ students. Based on current forecasts, it will be at least 2019-21 before additional seats (to be funded later) are needed.

According to DPS, it is not known, at this time, what grades the school will open with or whether older students will be able to transfer in. Also

no programming decisions have been made, although DPS will convene a committee to look at programming. Parents interested in serving on this committee should email Benita\_Duran@dpsk12.org.

DPS has not made a determination of whether it will be a district-run or charter school. DPS has indicated the school will likely have boundaries, but these have not yet been determined, though they will not take students away from the existing East High School boundaries.

The chart at right shows all the bond and mill levy funding that will be coming to northeast Denver schools.

- Restoring the City's \$500,000 Business Incentive Fund to \$1 million per year. (\$500,000)

According to the mayor's office, increased revenue generated from Measure 2A within the Stapleton urban renewal area will amount to an additional \$1.2 million a year of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds for projects within Stapleton. As property values increase or decrease due to market value changes and new construction, there will be a corresponding change in the revenue generated by the additional four mills paid as a result of 2A. Current projections estimate that property values will increase at a rate of approximately 2.5% per year.

In an upcoming issue, the Front Porch will follow up with the mayor's office to obtain more information about specific projects in Stapleton and NE Denver, including roads, safety, open space and schools.

*Explanation of TIF financing:* Stapleton sales and property taxes (in excess of the value prior to redevelopment) go to a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) fund managed by the Denver Urban Renewal Authority (DURA). A portion of those funds goes back to the city for city services provided in Stapleton. Remaining funds enable DURA to issue bonds to continue the development. The percentage that goes back to the city is increased every five years as Stapleton grows.

Northeast Denver Bond and Mill Levy Funding in Northeast Denver

School	Enrichment	Tutoring	Technology	Curriculum	Mill Total	Bond
Ashley	\$18,354	\$152,392	\$16,100	\$16,100	\$202,946	\$1,678,000
Den Lang Sch	\$26,790	\$50,644	\$23,500	\$23,500	\$124,434	
DSA HS	\$146,466	\$0	\$30,900	\$30,900	\$208,266	\$1,125,000
DSST HS	\$119,685	\$0	\$25,250	\$25,250	\$170,185	
DSST MS	\$103,095	\$177,155	\$21,750	\$21,750	\$323,750	
Hallett	\$17,100	\$44,211	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$91,311	\$735,000
Lowry	\$26,106	\$59,757	\$22,900	\$22,900	\$131,663	\$135,000
McAuliffe	\$35,550	\$102,106	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$152,656	\$116,000
Montclair	\$26,220	\$61,365	\$23,000	\$23,000	\$133,585	\$344,000
Northfield HS						\$38,500,000
Palmer	\$16,017	\$45,283	\$14,050	\$14,050	\$89,400	\$647,000
Park Hill	\$28,000	\$70,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$148,000	\$1,124,000
Smiley	\$59,000	\$109,000	\$13,000	\$13,000	193,000	\$1,945,000
Smith	\$18,240	\$125,589	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$175,829	\$362,000
Swigert	\$23,370	\$0	\$20,500	\$20,500	\$64,370	
Westerly Ck	\$32,718	\$75,303	\$28,700	\$28,700	\$165,421	\$266,000
Bill Roberts	\$67,641	\$125,693	\$35,650	\$35,650	\$264,634	\$363,000



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By Nancy Burkhart

Exercise is known to be an important part of a person's quest for good health. But sometimes extreme workouts and overuse are the cause of physical problems.

"Getting involved in sports is awesome," said Dr. Eric McCarty, chief of Sports Medicine and Shoulder Surgery, Department of Orthopedics



at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. "The obesity rate for our children is getting higher and higher all the time. The caveat is not letting them do too much. When we see kids that are doing too much, they are getting overuse injuries. That's a concern because some kids are playing sports all year-round and then they add another sport on top of that. They can have injuries, which we call 'overuse injury,' that can have some lingering effect.

"Replacement of a knee or hip at a young age would be really unusual. But injuries that occur may predispose somebody to a higher risk



Far left: Dr. Eric McCarty, team doctor for the CU Buffaloes, is also chief of sports Medicine and Shoulder Surgery at CU School of Medicine.

Left: Jennifer Stevens-Lapsley is a physical therapist and holds a PhD in biomechanics and movement science. She is an associate professor in the Physical Therapy program at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

## Exercise Promotes Good Health—but Overuse Can Lead to Injuries or Arthritis

of needing a knee replacement in the future," he explained. "For example, somebody tears their ACL. The cartilage injury may predispose them to needing replacement in the future."

Overuse may cause a repetitive injury. In baseball it may be overuse of an arm. In running the accumulation of miles may be too much for the body.

"A Little League baseball pitcher who throws the ball at every game is in danger, especially if he's in a summer league and a fall league," McCarty said. "The arm never gets a break. It's al-

ways being put through the stresses of throwing, and eventually the body can't withstand it. A ligament might tear, and there may be stress on the growth plate. That is overuse. The same thing can happen with a runner who runs so many miles and never gives it a break. They can get stress fractures because the body can't withstand the accumulation of miles."

Children aren't the only ones who can suffer overuse injuries.

"Overuse injuries can happen at any age, but there are more at preteen or teenager years,"

McCarty explained. "As your body matures, it's able to withstand stresses, but you can still have injuries as an adult.

"Persistent pain in a body part is a warning sign," he said. "There may be a reason that your body's telling you this. Listen to your body. If it's something that persists, you probably should have it checked out."

While workouts and athletic activities may result in overuse injuries that require McCarty's work as an orthopedic surgeon, these injuries also may create a tendency for the body to develop osteoarthritis, according to Jennifer Stevens-Lapsley, a Stapleton resident who is a physical therapist and holds a PhD in biomechanics and movement science. She is an associate professor in the Physical Therapy Program in the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Department at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, where they are studying the causes of painful osteoarthritis.

"One of the myths is that running causes osteoarthritis, but that has been debunked," Stevens-Lapsley said. "Most of the studies say that low or moderate (continued on page 12)

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## Solving Colorado's budget crisis "Cutting the Gordian Knot"

By Carol Roberts

On the next two pages are interviews with the state senators who represent the Front Porch distribution area. They both talk about Colorado's "Gordian Knot," which refers to three amendments to the state constitution that, taken together, both limit revenue and require increased spending. The combination of these amendments severely limits the ability of the Colorado legislature to efficiently run the state and provide services to Coloradans.

The term "Gordian Knot" refers to an intractable problem solved by a bold stroke. It comes from an ancient legend about a farmer, Gordios, who was named king of a region in what is now Macedonia after an oracle decreed the first man to drive his oxcart into the city would become king. Gordios' son then tied a complicated knot on the shaft of the oxcart, dedicating it to their people's god—and the cart remained in the palace for over a hundred years. The knot was supposedly impossible to unravel, but an oracle prophesied that it would be untied by the future king of Asia.

When Alexander the Great arrived in the fourth century BC, he proclaimed, according to the legend, that it did not matter how the knot got undone—and he cut it apart with his sword and went on to conquer Asia.

Here is Colorado's Gordian Knot:

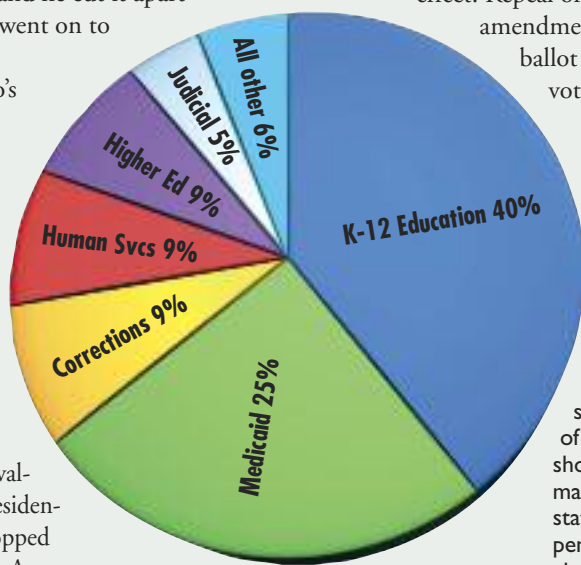
The Gallagher Amendment of 1982 limits statewide property tax revenue to a formula that is 45 percent homeowner taxes and 55 percent commercial taxes. As the population has grown and property values have increased, residential tax rates have dropped to maintain the ratio. As a

result, local property tax revenue to school districts has dropped dramatically.

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR), passed in 1992, contains revenue growth restrictions using a formula for taxes that is indexed to inflation and is based on the prior year's revenue. Cuts that occur during temporary downturns in the economy become permanent (the so-called ratchet effect) due to this formula, which also slows recovery and prevents building up savings in good times. TABOR contains the most restrictive tax and spending limits in the country, severely limiting the ability of public officials to adjust the budget to reflect changing needs.

Amendment 23 was passed in 2000 to reverse the budget cuts that occurred in Colorado school districts in the '90s. It called for the state legislature to increase education funding annually by the rate of inflation plus one percent for the first 10 years (and the rate of inflation thereafter), along with other specific provisions to restore education funding.

Amendment 23 requires *increased* spending at the same time TABOR and Gallagher *reduce* revenue. The combined effect of these three amendments creates an unsustainable fiscal formula for Colorado, our "Gordian Knot," that has no solution as long as all three amendments remain in effect. Repeal of any or all of these amendments would require a ballot question to Colorado voters.



Colorado 2012-13 State Budget

In the 2012-13 state budget, after funds are allocated for the six biggest departments (K-12 education, Medicaid, corrections, human services, higher education and the judicial system) just 5.7 percent of general fund revenue, shown in turquoise, remains to cover other state government expenses. (Numbers on chart are rounded.)

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By Laurie Dunklee

State Senator Michael Johnston, 37, is working on an ambitious and unprecedented overhaul of school financing. Johnston, a former educator, is sponsoring a two-part bill that would tie school finance reform by legislators to voter approval of an initiative to raise revenue for education. “Normally, when you work on a bill they assign you one drafter to help you write the bill. When I proposed this idea they assigned me five drafters, because they have never tried this type of structure before where you have legislation triggered to a ballot initiative. In other states legislatures can just vote to raise revenue themselves. Colorado is the only state in the country with a TABOR-type structure where the legislature actually doesn’t have the power to raise revenue.

“We’re building a coalition between leaders who want to see more reform before we put in more revenue and educators who want to see more revenue before we put in more reform. I want to build a 21st century, world-class educational system that requires



Sen. Mike Johnston

both, some reforms to the finance program and the addition of revenue at the ballot. We need to both improve the way we do business and add revenue to make sure we can do our business well.”

For this two-pronged approach to work, the legislators will need to agree on a bill that makes statutory changes to Colorado’s school finance program. And the voters will need to pass a ballot initiative that raises revenue for K-12 schools. The two are linked and the legislative reforms would only take effect when voters approve the ballot initiative. Johnston is optimistic that voters understand the need to fund education. “We saw 37 proposals on the ballot this year to increase school funding in local districts and 35 of those 37 passed. That’s unprecedented. More and more people are realizing that we really have a problem.”

One of the greatest needs in education, says Johnston, is providing kindergarten for every child and pre-school for 4-year-olds. Additionally, he hopes to address the needs of students who require

# What Lies Ahead State Senators Disc

Together, State Senators Mike Johnston and Pat Steadman represent the entire Front Porch distribution area: Johnston’s District 33 covers Stapleton and Park Hill and Steadman’s District 31 covers Montclair, Mayfair, Hale and Lowry. Both senators were selected to

more resources to educate: those at-risk and in poverty, as well as non-native English-speakers and those with special needs.

Another objective is to begin filling holes in the state education budget, particularly the \$1 billion that’s been cut in the last three years. One way Johnston hopes to address this is to balance inequities between school districts across the state. He explains that high-wealth districts like Aspen generate enough funds to support their whole program through property taxes but still get state support. On the other end, districts like Adams County tax themselves to the maximum, but because properties there have far less assessed value, they can’t generate enough revenue to support their local schools.

Dealing with these inequities is a way to solve some of the issues created by the “Gordian Knot” (see page 7), says Johnston. “We need to thoughtfully address where the state should provide support and where support isn’t needed because local districts have more than enough capacity to generate revenue on their own.” He says right now the state provides about 70 percent of education funding while property taxes provide about 30 percent, a reversal from 25 years ago when the ratio was the other way around—and attributes this reversal to the Gallagher Amendment (see page 7).

In other legislative business, Johnston will re-introduce two bills that failed to pass last year. The asset bill would allow undocumented young people to go to college and pay in-state tuition. “I think we have our best chance yet of passing that bill,” and adds that he will carry that bill every year until it passes.

Another bill he’ll re-introduce will effectively eliminate the “inactive voter” status. “In Northeast Denver it will have a huge impact, as this year between 20,000 and 30,000 people didn’t get a ballot in the mail,” even though they were registered voters.

Johnston said the newly passed amendment legalizing marijuana presents many complexities—one small example is that marijuana business owners will not be able to take business deductions on their income tax because they are classified as drug traffickers under federal law. And “that’s just the tip of the iceberg. It will take us a fair amount of time to sort through how that’s going to work...and guidance from the federal government on what they plan to do.”

Johnston also anticipates the introduction of a bill abolishing the death penalty, but doesn’t know whether it will pass.

He’s confident the civil unions bill will pass this session, saying “There’s still broad support for that.”



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# in the Legislature? Tuss the Thorny Issues

*replace vacancies in the prior term and were sworn in on the same day to start those terms. Both have just been re-elected to their second term. During the January to May session we will get further legislative updates on issues of interest to our readers.*

By Laurie Dunklee

State Senator Pat Steadman, 48, a self-described “policy wonk,” was just elected chair of the Joint Budget Committee and in that capacity he’ll be spending a lot of time with numbers. The committee works for about five months writing the state budget bill, where funds for state government are all contained in a single appropriations act. It’s about 350 pages; it’s almost entirely dollar figures; and it’s called The Long Bill.

Steadman’s position on the Joint Budget Committee places him squarely in the middle of the efforts to deal with Colorado’s “Gordian Knot” (see page 7). “I really believe that in the next two years the top priority for the legislature is to address constitutional fiscal reforms and to untie that ‘Gordian Knot’ in our state constitution. The voters are going to have to be asked to approve some sort of reform.

“Now that Gov. Hickenlooper’s ‘TBD’ initiative (To Be Determined Colorado) has been released, I’m very hopeful that that’s a starting point to have some conversation in earnest about this topic. We’ve known for some time now that our constitution is a mess. The political will to figure out a solution and to get voters to buy into it and approve constitutional reforms hasn’t quite been there so far, but I’m hopeful that we can really start to make some changes. How much can we bite off and present to voters in a way they will support? I think it will require a series of small incremental steps to achieve real change.”

Steadman says he recently talked to the governor about whether TBD would be the launching point for the larger conversation about constitutional reform. “The governor very much favors these kinds of consensus-building outreach activities to allow change to come up organically from the grassroots. But I think it will also be very important for the legislature to lead on this issue.”

Steadman has also worked to pass a civil unions bill. He sponsored the bill in the last session, and, like Johnston, believes this is the year it will pass.

Another area of interest for Steadman is criminal justice reform. He is an attorney and worked for 15 years as a lobbyist. “The lion’s share of the work was for nonprofit groups, health care, mental health and addiction and public education...I got to advocate for things I believe in.”

As a senator, Steadman has worked with the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice to modernize criminal laws and sentencing. He sponsored a bill in 2010 that downgraded the severity of drug possession sentencing (though dealing or distribution of drugs remains a major offense).

“Colorado is a national leader in viewing drug use through a medical intervention model rather than just a criminal approach,” said Steadman. “We’re changing the sentencing laws to redirect resources away from prison spending, and using those dollars for community-based addiction treatment services. People stay in their homes, keep their jobs to support their families, and deal with the addiction that is the root of the problem. It’s much more cost effective and reams of data from studies show this works.”

“Lots of drug addicts who go to prison wind up going back.



Sen. Pat Steadman

We can break that cycle by helping people break out of the cycle of addiction.”

Steadman plans to introduce a bill this session that allows a felony to “wobble” to a misdemeanor on a person’s record if they successfully complete probation, an idea that has been implemented in California. “Their record won’t impair their ability to get a job, credit or housing—all the things a person needs to survive in the world.”

He also plans to introduce a bill to lift some of the barriers faced by people coming out of prison. “We’ve gone overboard in being punitive toward these folks. They can’t qualify for subsidized housing, can’t get financial aid for school, can’t be licensed to be a plumber. The result is we create a permanent underclass of people who are unemployed or underemployed because these

opportunities have been taken away from them. So some decide it makes more sense to keep stealing cars. No wonder they re-offend and end up in the revolving door of the prison system. My bill will aim to give people ways to re-enter society after they’ve done time.”

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## Making the Most of Music Lessons

*By Courtney Drake-McDonough*

**T**he fumbling plink of piano keys. The cringe-inducing screech of a violin bow. It's music to the ears of parents whose children are in music lessons. And with good reason. Playing a musical instrument is credited with everything from building self-confidence to improving academics. As adults, playing an instrument improves memory and increases manual dexterity. Many parents want their children to take music lessons. But not all kids are ready to dive in. And not all parents are ready for the role they'll need to play.

To get started, Natasha Olson-Smith, Stapleton resident, guitar teacher and co-owner of Olson & Smith Guitar Studio, suggests parents expose kids both to different kinds of music and to different kinds of instruments. "Then don't ask IF they want

to play an instrument. Instead, ask WHICH instrument they want to play," she advises.

While there's no ideal age for a child to start taking music lessons, there are signs of readiness to watch for. According to Olson-Smith, signs include "being able to sit and focus during a 30-minute lesson, the ability to read basic words, understanding the commitment to lessons and practicing and being excited to learn." Olson-Smith says this typically happens around ages six or seven.

Finding a teacher who is not only qualified but knows how to keep students interested is the next step. Olson-Smith suggests parents look for teachers who have studied music extensively, ideally perform professionally, and provide a safe learning environment and regular communication with parents. Ask the teacher about their philosophies about teaching, practicing and if the teacher is open to offering songs the student wants to play. David Ross, of David Ross Piano Studio in Stapleton, adds that it's important to have

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Natasha Olson-Smith teaches a group guitar lesson to (left to right) Emma Rasmussen from Stapleton (attends McAuliffe); Ella Noble from Stapleton (attends DSST); Aidan Noble, from Stapleton (attends DSST); and Gregor Owens from Lowry (attends DSST).

a clear understanding of what the teacher's policies are in terms of fee structure, time off and makeup lessons. Ross also suggests asking for referrals and doing

says Ross. "Not only is everyone in 20 different activities, but the traditional (learning) structure doesn't work as well anymore. You never know what the student will connect with."

Lessons aren't just about the kids. Parents, too, need to be willing to do more than just get their child to lessons. "I have no doubt that the students who are most successful in music long term have parents who are involved and committed," says Ross. Both he and Olson-Smith encourage parents to sit in on the lessons at least occasionally so that they know what their child is learning, how they are learning it and what the teacher is saying to them. This helps the parent know what the goals are during practice times. When it comes to practicing, Olson-Smith says parents should give positive, constructive feedback. "Don't nag them—encourage them to play!" she says. Olson-Smith adds that parents should be supportive by setting up a practice schedule. Then follow up, making sure they are sticking to it.

Both teachers are also emphatic about parents making music part of kids' lives

from listening to a variety of music to attending performances around town as well as providing performance opportunities. This can be as simple as performing for the family or at recitals or out in public such as at nursing homes during the holidays. Performing is the ultimate goal in learning an instrument and helps build self-confidence.

Despite the best efforts of teachers and parents, sometimes kids lose their motivation to go to

lessons and practice. Olson-Smith says this is a natural ebb and flow that is to be expected, even among adult students. Both teachers say this is the time to gently push, perhaps pointing out examples of favorite musicians who got where they are today by practicing. And if that fails, try helping them see into the future a bit. "I can't tell you how many adults I meet who say, 'I took piano as a kid and totally regret that I quit and that my parents let me quit,'" says Ross. He reminds students that although it's hard to see 20

years down the line, "when a student is 90 years old, they aren't going to be out on the basketball court but they can go to the living room, (sit at the piano) and bring music into their home."

Contact Natasha Olson-Smith, Olson & Smith Guitar Studio, at <http://natashaolson.denverguitar.com/home.php>, 303.318.9542, and David Ross, Ross Piano Studio, at [www.denverpianostudio.com](http://www.denverpianostudio.com), 303.507.0906.



David Ross plays his Steinway grand piano.



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Exercise-related Injuries

(continued from page 6) amounts of running, such as 20 to 25 miles per week, doesn't increase the odds of having knee or hip osteoarthritis. More intense running—longer distances and running with poor mechanics or footwear—increases the likelihood of developing osteoarthritis. Other contributors, besides overuse, are trauma to the knee, body weight, race and the gender factor. Caucasians are more apt to develop osteoarthritis, as are women.

"There is no really easy way to predict who is going to develop osteoarthritis," she said. "People who participate in extreme levels of activity without a break are more likely to develop osteoarthritis, especially with the other variables. The key is exercise in moderation. If the tissue is constantly breaking down, it's because it's being overused and there is no time to heal. That's when osteoarthritis develops. As you get older, you need more rest time between physical bouts. You may have been able to run five days a week when you were younger, but you may

be able to run only three days a week now because of risk to injury. "Osteoarthritis is in your genes. The older you get, the more likely you are to get osteoarthritis," Stevens-Lapsley said. McCarty advises people who are athletically inclined to be careful. "Young athletes and their parents should be careful to avoid overuse injury," he said. "They should give the body a break and do different sports so that their body and mind both don't get stale. Do something to break it up. Diversify, even if it's a recreational sport.

Most college coaches like athletes that do more than one sport. If you're a runner, maybe do biking, hiking or getting into the gym. Do other things. It's important to give those stresses on your body a little bit of a break." Stevens-Lapsley's department at the University of Colorado Medical School is performing several studies that focus on osteoarthritis. For information about participating in a study, visit [www.medschool.ucdenver.edu/pt/mplab](http://www.medschool.ucdenver.edu/pt/mplab), email [Jennifer.Stevens-Lapsley@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Stevens-Lapsley@ucdenver.edu) or call the lab at 303.724.9590.



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- Saturday, December 1st 10:30am-11:30am
- Thursday, December 6th & 13th 6:00pm-7:00pm
- Thursday, January 10th, 17th & 24th 6:00pm-7:00pm
- Saturday, January 26th 10:30pm-11:30pm

**Deadline for first round picks is January 31, 2013.**

Tours are available on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9am-10am in December and January. Call the school to set up your tour!

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The Anschutz Health and Wellness Center has a new research project.  
We are looking for individuals who currently drink 3 or more diet beverages per week.

**Qualifications:**

- Must be between the ages of 21 – 65
- Above ideal weight (BMI 27 – 40) [www.nhlbisupport.com/bmi/](http://www.nhlbisupport.com/bmi/)
- Non-smoker (for at least the last 6 months)
- Need to be healthy enough to be in a weight-loss program
- Non-diabetic

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[Gabriela.Aguayo@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Gabriela.Aguayo@ucdenver.edu) OR [Rebecca.Stark@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Stark@ucdenver.edu)

WIRB # 20121423, COMIRB # 12-1063; Approved 9/17/12 PI: James Hill, PhD



People Who  
Make a Difference

# The Choir Director

Marguerite Richardson grew up in Park Hill where her grandmother and great-grandmother lived. She was bussed to elementary school in South Denver before going to Smiley and George Washington. Throughout her life, her church has been the foundation on which she has built her being and she says her faith has made her who she is. She has attended Campbell Chapel AME (African Methodist Episcopal) since she was a little girl in pig-tails. This is where she discovered her love of music, specifically gospel. Her fondest memories of childhood are the Christmas services and the music that filled the air in the church. She joined the children’s choir at Campbell when she was in high school, then the adult choir, and has been the choir director for 20 years. Her singing is a gift to all who listen. However, if you want to hear her sing, you must attend a service at Campbell, where all are welcome, since that is the only place she performs.

Jon Meredith: What was it like to be bussed so far away from home when you were in elementary school?  
Marguerite Richardson: I remember a whole series of community meetings and parent meetings because they wanted to begin bussing. I was just a little one so I don’t remember how we got on the bus, but I was part of the first “experiment” in bussing. They said children would have better opportunities, better teachers and good schools. I ended up at Ellis Elementary at 1651 South Dahlia all the way from 26th and Ivy. I didn’t have any close friends at Ellis that I remember, but I do remember I liked going to school there.

JM: What was Smiley like back then?  
Richardson: I was always late to class because I could hear the bell ring from my bedroom. Smiley was not at all diverse from the standpoint of students but its faculty were very di-



Long time Park Hill resident Marguerite Richardson is the choir director and a soloist at Campbell AME Church.

verse and I was very well prepared for GW.  
JM: How did you become a lover of music?  
Richardson: My Great-grandmother Bessie always said she would pay for all the grand nieces and nephews to take piano lessons. All the other kids just played around on the piano but I really learned and I liked playing.

JM: Your family has lived in Park Hill for how long?  
Richardson: I’m not really sure, exactly. I know my Bessie and my great-grandfather came from Nicodemus, Kansas. (Nicodemus is now a National Historic Site commemorating the only

remaining western town established by African Americans during the Reconstruction Period following the Civil War.) My grandfather was the first African-American firefighter in Denver. He served in a fire station down in Five Points.

JM: How did your family end up attending Campbell for generations?  
Richardson: I guess it was close to home and they ended up liking the preaching and they just stayed.

JM: Why did you join the choir?  
Richardson: My grandmother was in the choir so when I got old enough I joined the junior choir. I liked to sing, play the piano and I love gospel music. The music shifted in my teenage years with contemporary songs like *Oh, Happy Days*. I also liked being in the choir loft because of the view. Moreover, music is an outlet; you open up your mouth and really get to express yourself. It is a spiritual outlet. I believe we connect spiritually with God when we sing. You hope when doing so your singing has the same effect on the people who are listening.

JM: What are your memories of Christmas at the church?  
Richardson: Vesper hour, which is an evening-time service where they tell the Christmas story. In between the stories we all sing songs that express the story. All the choirs come together with long rehearsals. There is a variety of songs, old spirituals, contemporary music and regular Christmas carols. We’ll sing *There Is a Star in the East*, an old Negro spiritual, as well as *The First Noel* and *Silent Night*.

JM: How did you become the choir director?  
Richardson: I have always been directing something. I started out with the children and then the men’s choir. I was an honorary male, I guess. The men were really funny. They would come to me and say, “Marguerite, I have this great song, it goes like dabba det, da da do dum dum de,” no music or anything, so I had to develop an ear for music when I was with them. Several elderly musicians passed away and I simply progressed to director.

JM: Is there an instance in your life where music helped you to overcome?  
Richardson: Yes, of course, when my grandmother passed away during vespers, December 19th. It was a tough time. I remember going and sitting in the choir loft and remembering how much she enjoyed those services. I remember we played one of her favorite songs, not even a Christmas song, called *Through It All*. It really spoke to what I was going through and that is the point of gospel music.



Welcoming **Katie Rustici, MD**  
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*If you would like to make an appointment with either Dr. Rustici or Dr. Ginsburg, please contact the Stapleton OB-GYN office directly.*





**Through January 1—Blossoms of Light at Denver Botanic Gardens**

One million colorful lights transform the Denver Botanic Gardens into a winter wonderland for the annual Blossoms of Light daily from 5:30–9:30pm. Lights in the amphitheater are synchronized to holiday music. There are romantic kissing spots, strolling choirs (select evenings), warm beverages, treats and HoloSpex glasses for the lights to shimmer in 3-D shapes. The Shop at the Gardens is open. Go to [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org) for entertainment dates and performers. Blossoms of Light requires a separate ticket; not included in day-

time admission. Prices until 12/13: adult \$10; adult member/student/senior/military \$8; child (3-12) \$7; child member \$5; under 3 free. After 12/13, prices increase by \$2 for all categories. Group rates available. 720.865.3500. No pets please.

**December 1 to 23—Luminaria Lights Denver Sale**

The 2nd annual Luminaria Lights Denver event encourages people to decorate their walks, driveways, porches and patios during parties and holiday functions this season with glowing lights to represent love in our community. Luminaria holiday decorations

are sold weekend mornings from Dec. 1–23 at Park Hill's St. Thomas Church, 2201 Dexter St. Luminaria Supply Kits are sold in 10-light packs for \$10 with all supplies needed to safely build this traditional decoration. The candles burn for 8 hours. Non-flame kits: \$15 with 10 battery-operated candles and all supplies. For more (plus additional sales hours), visit [Facebook.com/LuminariaLightsDenver](https://www.facebook.com/LuminariaLightsDenver) or call 303.388.4395.

**December 5 and 6—DSA Winterfest Vocal Music Concert**

The Vocal Music Dept. at Denver School of the Arts (DSA) will hold its annual Winterfest Con-

**Don't Miss These Ev**

cert on Wed., Dec. 5 and Thurs., Dec. 6, from 7–9pm in the Concert Hall at DSA, 7111 Montview Blvd. Six choirs, including Chorale, Bellissima, 4Squared, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Allegro Voce and Treble Choir, made up of 150 middle- and high-school students will be featured. High-school students will perform on Dec. 5; middle-school students on Dec. 6. Tickets: \$10/students and seniors; \$12/adults. Purchase at DSA box office on Mon., Wed. and Fri., 7:30am–3:30pm, or at [www.dsa.dpsk12.org/performance](http://www.dsa.dpsk12.org/performance). For more, call 720.424.1713 or <http://dsavocalmusic.org>.



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### December 6, 7 and 8—Denver Public Library Winter Used Book Sale

Over 30,000 books, CDs and DVDs will be available for purchase during the DPL Winter Used Book Sale in time for holiday gifting. Hours: Thurs/Fri, Dec. 6 and 7, 10am–5pm, and Sat., Dec. 8, 10am–4pm. Prices: hardbacks \$3; trade paperbacks \$2; DVDs \$2; CDs \$1; mass market paperbacks 50 cents; and better books as marked. The sale will be at the Central Library, 10 W. 14th Ave., Level B2. Bring bags/boxes to carry them away. To donate items to DPL at any time, call 720.865.2050 or go to friends@denverlibrary.org.

### December 9—Breakfast with Santa at Central Park Recreation Center

The Central Park Recreation Center in Stapleton is hosting a Breakfast with Santa event on Sunday, Dec. 9 from 9:30–11:30am. Pancakes will be served and kids can have their picture taken with Santa. The center is partnering with Toys for Tots and a toy of \$10 value will count as admission for two people (children, adults, seniors, etc.; family of 4 = 2 toys, minimum \$10 each). The rec center is at 9651 E MLK Jr. Blvd. For more, 720.865.0750 or www.denvergov.org/recreation. www.denvergov.org/recreation.

### December 12—Mobile Art Gallery Exhibition at DSST

The Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST) invites the community to view a set of original works from the Cherry Creek Arts Festival's exhibiting artists. Students will be trained as docents to lead tours of the artwork. The public is invited to Community Night on Wednesday, Dec. 12 for a free tour between 6 and 8pm. DSST is located at 2000 Valentia St.

### December 22—27th Annual Winter Solabration!

Solabrate the end-of-the-world-as-we-know-it (Mayans!) on Saturday, Dec. 22 (first day of new era) at the Temple Events Center, 1595 Pearl St., 6pm to midnight. This Yuletide celebration of Christmas and Solstice customs features storytelling, a Mummer's Play, the Maroon Bells Morris Dancers, Fandango Dances, Breathless in Berthoud, Solstice Sword Dancers and extreme juggling, community singing/dancing, wassail, and the mysterious midnight Abbot's Bromley Horn Dance. Tickets: adults \$33 (\$27 bought 1-week prior); teens/students \$19; kids 6-12 \$9; under 6 free. www.solstice.org

## Holidays are the Olympics of Dog Training

By Lorraine May

Our dogs get excited about the holidays, too. They smell the tantalizing odors, notice the deviation from our routine, and even mistakenly construe all of the decorations and gifts that are on the floor (dog country) as their new toys.

Planning (training) with your family (team) before the holidays (Olympics) begin can help you avoid mishaps of a comical, frustrating or even dangerous variety. Here are a few areas where forethought can reduce the drama.

#### Good Manners

Any time is a good time to reinforce basic cues like sit and down. Right before the holidays is critical though, because after the cheerful chaos begins it may be too late. Introduce a scrumptious treat for stronger motivation.

#### Greeting Company (or not)

If Spot tends to rush the door, to jump on people or to try to escape, then rehearsing the behaviors you desire can replace those you don't. Try having Spot on a leash to allow him to learn that sitting and staying calm earn him treats and attention. It is also perfectly acceptable to have Spot in a different room or behind a gate until he calms down. Be certain he is wearing his collar and ID at all times.

#### I Smell It, Therefore It's Mine

Just as I would assume that holiday candy was intended for me as your guest, dogs assume that the tasty food is for them. It is our task to keep everything out of reach, especially trash cans with bones and foil, for their safety and our sanity.

#### Quiet Time

Affording your dog a quiet area where he can't be disturbed will contribute greatly to the merriment. Take him there from time to time, saying softly 'quiet time' accompanied by a terrific treat or toy. His stressors probably include unfamiliar people in his territory, untrained children in his space – especially his face (www.doggonesafe.com), and preoccupied owners. He may need a break from holiday stress more than we do.

*Lorraine May, M.A., is the founder of Misha May Foundation Dog Training and Rescue, a non-profit dog rescue that offers educational classes to the community. mishamayfoundation@gmail.com*

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December 24–28	January 1–4	January 21–22


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treecycle 2013

1



Remove all decorations and tree stand.

2



Set your tree out for collection during the first two weeks of January.

3



Watch your tree get picked up for recycling.

4



Reclaim free mulch made from your tree next spring.

It's as easy as can be! December 31 – January 11

SERVICE NOTES

- **No artificial or flocked trees.** Real Christmas trees only.
- **Dumpster service customers** should place their Christmas tree out for recycling in the alley on either Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup> or Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup> for collection during that week.
- **Barrel and Manual service customers** should place their Christmas tree out for recycling on their scheduled trash days, where their trash is set out, between December 31<sup>st</sup> and January 11<sup>th</sup>.
- **Do not place trees in dumpsters.** Trees should be placed at least 4 feet away from dumpsters.

Questions? Call 311 or visit [DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles](http://DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles)






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Stapleton Front Porch

15

December 2012



**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.

#### HOLIDAY EVENTS

**Through 1/1/13 Monday- Denver Botanic Gardens Blossoms of Light.** 5:30-9:30pm. Denver Botanic Gardens. 1007 York St. Trail of Lights, Botanic Gardens at Chatfield. 720.865.3514, [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)  
**Through 1/1/13 Monday- A Hudson Gardens Christmas.** Holiday lights, carriage rides, music and more. 5-8:30pm. [www.hudsongardens.org](http://www.hudsongardens.org)  
**Holiday High Teas at Molly Brown House.** 11am, 1pm, 3pm, select dates. Tickets: \$25 available at [www.mollybrown.org](http://www.mollybrown.org)  
**Through 1/2/13 Tuesday- Zoo Lights.** Denver Zoo, 5:30-9pm. [www.denverzoo.org](http://www.denverzoo.org)  
**December Weekends- Georgetown Loop Railroad Holiday Trains.** Santa, holiday cheer, and dinner trains. [www.georgetownlooprr.com](http://www.georgetownlooprr.com)  
**Through 12/22 Saturday- Christkindl Market.** 11am-7pm Sun-Wed; 11am-9pm Thurs-Sat. Denver Skyline Park. [www.denverchristkindlmarket.com](http://www.denverchristkindlmarket.com)  
**Through 2/14/13- Southwest Rink at Skyline Park.** FREE ice skating in downtown Denver; bring skates or rent: \$2/pair. [www.downtowndenver.com](http://www.downtowndenver.com)  
**Through 12/24 Monday- The Nutcracker by Colorado Ballet.** Tickets: [www.coloradoballet.org](http://www.coloradoballet.org)  
**12/7 Friday to 12/23 Sunday- Granny Dances to a Holiday Drum.** Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Company. World holidays through dance,

music, spoken word. Newman Center for Performing Arts, Univ. of Denver, 2344 E. Iliff. Tickets: [www.cleoparddance.org](http://www.cleoparddance.org) or [www.newmantix.com](http://www.newmantix.com)  
**12/5 Wednesday and 12/6 Thursday- Denver School of the Arts Winterfest Vocal Music Concert.** Six choirs and 150 middle/high school students sing choral songs. High-schoolers perform 12/5 and middle-schoolers 12/6. DSA Concert Hall, 7111 Montview Blvd., 7-9 pm. \$10/students & seniors; \$12/adults. Tickets: [www.dsa.dpsk12.org/performances](http://www.dsa.dpsk12.org/performances). 720.424.1713  
**12/7 Friday- Temple Micah's 5th Top Latke Cook-off/Hanukah Party.** 5:30pm. By RSVP ONLY. Limited space. [www.micahdenver.org](http://www.micahdenver.org) or Elaine Lee, [Elaine.lee@micahdenver.org](mailto:Elaine.lee@micahdenver.org), 303.388.4239 for admission prices/tickets. Chefs and families free. Service and concert follow. Bring menorah/candles to light. Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St.  
**12/7 Friday to 12/9 Sunday. A Colorado Christmas.** Colorado Symphony, Colorado Children's Chorale and Kim Robards Dance. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. Tickets: [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org)  
**12/7 Friday and 12/8 Saturday- Hammonds Candy Cane Festival.** Santa and Mrs. Claus, storytelling, caroling, cookie decorating, face painting, trolley rides, etc. 11am-4pm Fri., 9am-4pm Sat. 5735 N. Washington St. [www.hammondscandies.com](http://www.hammondscandies.com)  
**12/7 Friday and 12/8 Saturday- Denver Gay Men's Chorus Holiday Concert: Sing We Merry, Gentlemen.** Fri., 4pm; Sat. 2pm. Repeats 12/20 7pm. L2 Arts and Culture Center, 1477 Columbine St. Tickets: [www.rmarts.org](http://www.rmarts.org)  
**12/8 Saturday- Denver Brass Holiday Brass Fest.** Anyone with a horn is welcome to play in a community concert. DCPA Galleria, 10:30am register/check in; 11am rehearsal; 1pm free concert. Register: [www.denverbrass.org](http://www.denverbrass.org). \$10 returning musicians w/books, \$20 if music book needed.

**12/8, 12/15, 12/16 and 12/22- Santa Claus Special at Colorado Railroad Museum.** Trains decked out for holidays depart every 30 minutes. 10am-4pm. Santa and Mrs. Claus, hot chocolate. [www.coloradorailroadmuseum.org](http://www.coloradorailroadmuseum.org)  
**12/8 Saturday- Moscow Ballet: The Great Russian Nutcracker.** Paramount Theatre, 3pm. [www.paramountdenver.com](http://www.paramountdenver.com)  
**12/8 Saturday- Horseshoe Holiday Market.** Denver Pavilions. 10am-4pm. 40 vendors, upscale outdoor market sells vintage and homemade items, antiques, etc. [www.horseshoemarket.com](http://www.horseshoemarket.com)  
**12/8 Saturday and 12/9 Sunday- My Dancing Day.** Columbine Chorale and Steck Elementary Choir. St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1600 Grant St. [www.columbinechorale.org](http://www.columbinechorale.org)  
**12/8 Saturday and 12/9 Sunday- 52nd Annual Georgetown Christmas Market.** European-type market: handcrafted gifts, carolers, horse-drawn wagon rides, roasted chestnuts, and St. Nicholas. 10am-6pm. FREE. [www.historicgeorgetown.org/Christmas\\_Market](http://www.historicgeorgetown.org/Christmas_Market)  
**12/8 Saturday and 12/9 Sunday- Denver Handmade Homemade Holiday Market.** 4-10pm Sat. and 12-6pm Sun., Green Spaces, 1368 26th St. [www.denverhaho.org](http://www.denverhaho.org)  
**12/8, 12/9, 12/15 and 12/16- The Nutcracker by Ballet Ariel.** Cleo Parker Robinson Theater. [www.balletariel.org](http://www.balletariel.org)  
**12/9 Saturday- Brunch with Santa.** 11am-1pm. Lowry Beer Garden. [www.lowry.org](http://www.lowry.org)  
**12/10 Monday- Festival of Lights at Historic Four Mile Park by Colorado Hebrew Chorale.** Chanukah candle-lighting (bring candles/menorahs), music, food, instructional Israeli folk dancing. 5:30-8:30pm. Grant Family Educ. Center, 715 S. Forest St. Admission includes performance/food/dancing: adults \$10, students (w/ID)/seniors (65+) \$8; FMHP/CHC members \$5;

children under 7 free. [www.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)  
**12/10 Monday and 12/11 Tuesday- The Nutcracker by Aurora Dance Arts.** Aurora Central High School, 11700 East 11th Ave. Tickets \$10. 303.326.8308  
**12/11 Tuesday and 12/12 Wednesday- Messiah by Candlelight.** Colorado Symphony. Montview Presbyterian Church, 7:30pm. Tickets: [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org). Repeats 12/16 Sunday, 5:30pm.  
**12/12 Wednesday- Colorado Symphony Pink Martini for the Holidays.** Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. 7:30pm. Tickets: [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org)  
**12/12 Wednesday and select days in Dec.- Christmas Teas at Byers-Evans House.** 1:30-4pm. [www.historycolorado.org](http://www.historycolorado.org)  
**12/14 Friday to 12/16 Sunday- The Nutcracker by Denver Dance Conservatory.** Colorado Heights Univ., 3001 S. Federal Blvd. Tickets \$20. [www.DanceConservatoryofDenver.com](http://www.DanceConservatoryofDenver.com)  
**12/14 Friday- Colorado Symphony Holiday Brass.** Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. 7:30pm. Tickets: [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org)  
**12/14 to 1/6/13- Butterfly Pavilion Living Lights.** Lights illuminate rainforest and outdoor gardens. 5:30-9pm nightly. Tickets: [www.butterflies.org](http://www.butterflies.org)  
**12/14 Friday and 12/15 Saturday- "Under the Mistletoe" Christmas Tour.** Molly Brown House Museum. Readings, carols, treats and St. Nick. Tickets: \$13/members, \$16/nonmembers. 6 & 7pm. [www.mollybrown.org](http://www.mollybrown.org)  
**12/15 Saturday- Christmas with St. Martins Chamber Choir- Lo, How a Rose.** 7:30pm. Montview Presbyterian Church. Tickets: \$5-\$35. [www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org](http://www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org)  
**12/15 Friday and 12/16 Saturday- Denver**

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**Brass and Angels on High.** Bethany Lutheran Church. Tickets: \$20-\$24, discounts for kids/seniors. [www.denverbrass.org](http://www.denverbrass.org), 303.832.HORN

**12/15 Saturday and 12/16 Sunday- Aurora Symphony presents Holiday Masterworks.** Sat. 7:30pm. Vista Peak Academy. Sun. 2:30pm Gateway Center for Performing Arts. Tickets: \$15/adults; \$12 students/seniors. [aurorasymphony.org](http://aurorasymphony.org)

**12/15 Saturday and 12/22, 12/23, 12/24- Breakfast with Santa at Wildlife Experience.** 9-11am. Tickets: [www.thewildlifeexperience.org](http://www.thewildlifeexperience.org)

**12/21 Friday and 12/22 Saturday- Colorado Symphony Too Hot to Handel.** Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. 7:30pm. Tickets: [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org)

**12/23 Sunday- Denver Brass presents Rocky Mountain Christmas.** Newman Center for Performing Arts at Univ. of Denver. 4pm. [www.denverbrass.org](http://www.denverbrass.org) or 303.832.HORN.

**12/23 Sunday- Tuba Christmas Concert.** 1pm. Skyline Park, 16th and Arapahoe. Register 9am; rehearsal 10am. Auraria Events Center. FREE. [www.tubachristmas.com](http://www.tubachristmas.com) or 303.556.8123

**12/29 Friday and 12/30 Saturday- Hansel and Gretel.** Colorado Children's Chorale and Colorado Symphony. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. 7:30pm. Tickets: [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org)

**12/31 Monday- Colorado Symphony A Night in Vienna.** 6:30pm. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. Tickets: [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org)

**12/31 Monday- Annual New Year's Eve Downtown Fireworks Display.** 2 shows: 9pm and midnight. 16th St. Mall.

**12/31 Monday- Noon Year's Eve at Children's Museum.** 9am-4pm. Ball drops on the hour from 10am-3pm. [www.mychildsmuseum.org](http://www.mychildsmuseum.org)

DENVER METRO EVENTS

**Art Walks and Exhibits:**

**12/7 Friday- Santa Fe Arts District.** Santa Fe Dr. between 10th and 6th. [www.artdistrictonSantaFe.com](http://www.artdistrictonSantaFe.com)

**12/7 Friday- North Denver's Tennyson Art Walk.** Tennyson St. and 44th Ave. [www.denverartwalk.squarespace.com](http://www.denverartwalk.squarespace.com)

**12/7 Friday- Old South Pearl Art Walk.** [www.oldsouthpearlstreet.com](http://www.oldsouthpearlstreet.com)

**12/7 Friday- Cherry Creek Arts District.** [www.cherrycreeknorth.com](http://www.cherrycreeknorth.com)

**12/7 Friday- Highlands Square First Friday.** 32nd and Lowell, North Denver. [www.highlandssquare.com](http://www.highlandssquare.com)

**12/14 Friday- Aurora's East End Second Friday Art Walk.** Gallery openings, music, theater, food, etc. 5-8pm. Map to venues at Fletcher Plaza/MLK Library (E Colfax at Elmira).

**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.



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To submit 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)

**12/8 Saturday and select Dec. dates- Free Holiday Tours of Governor's Residence at Boettcher Mansion.** Self-guided tours of Colorado's home decked out for holidays. 10am-2pm. [www.historycolorado.org](http://www.historycolorado.org)

**12/12 Wednesday- Colorado's Constitution Walking Tour.** \$4 members/\$5 nonmembers; 10:30-11:30am. Reservations not required. Meet in Col. History Museum lobby, 1200 Broadway. 303.866.4686, [www.coloradohistory.org](http://www.coloradohistory.org)

**12/14 Friday- Christmas Lights Tour of Denver.** 4:30-9pm. Begins at Byers-Evans House Museum, then onto heated bus for tour of Denver's lovely neighborhoods. \$46/nonmember, \$36 members. [www.historycolorado.org](http://www.historycolorado.org)

**12/22 Saturday- 27th Annual Winter Solabration.** Temple Events Center, 6pm. [www.solstice.org](http://www.solstice.org)

**1/7/13 Monday- LIVE from Governor's Residence presents For the Love of Opera.** Governor's Residence at Boettcher Mansion, 400 E 8th Ave. Doors: 6pm (cocktail reception in ticket price)/Show: 6:45pm. \$45. [www.coloradoshome.org](http://www.coloradoshome.org)

**Through 1/20/13- Becoming Van Gogh.** 70+ paintings by Vincent Van Gogh and artists who inspired him. Denver Art Museum, Ticketed exhibit, [www.vangoghdenver.com](http://www.vangoghdenver.com)

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

**FREE Senior Wednesday Activities.** 1st Wed: 10:30am, crafts/light lunch; 2nd: 12pm, big lunch/entertainment; 3rd: 10:30am book club/lunch; 4th: noon lunch/bingo. RSVP: lunch/303.439.7554, info/303.807.0619. Bosworth House, 1400 Josephine St. 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 and speakers presented by Small Business Chamber of Commerce. 2-4pm, 2nd & (continued on page 18)

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)

**STAPLETON AND BEYOND LEADS & NETWORKING GROUP**—First Tuesday, Smart Space, Aaron.Ktafoya@farmersagency.com, 303-955-0861

Civic Groups

**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)

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

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

**Interest Groups**

**STAPLETON WINE APPRECIATION GROUP.** Periodically. [stapletonswag@gmail.com](mailto:stapletonswag@gmail.com)

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

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

**BLUFF LAKE BIRDERS.** 1st Saturday, 7-9am. Nature Center: BluffLakeNatureCenter.org

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

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

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

**SUN BOARD MTG.** 4th Monday, 7:30pm. Central Park Rec Center, 9651 MLK Jr. Blvd. [stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

**Support Groups**

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

**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

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

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

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

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

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

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(continued from page 17)

4th Fridays, Tony's Market, 950 Broadway. 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**

**12/20 Thursday- Free HIV testing at Rocky Mountain CARES nonprofit for holistic HIV care.** 1-5pm, 3rd Thursday monthly and by appt. 4545 E 9th Ave, #120. Shannon Southall: 303.951.3694

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

**LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS**

**Active Minds – Complete listing/info on all sessions:** [www.ActiveMinds.com](http://www.ActiveMinds.com). **FREE.**  
**12/4 Tuesday- Holiday Traditions Unwrapped.** 5:30-6:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax. 303.322.7727  
**12/4 Tuesday- Gold!** 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center. 350 S. Dahlia St. Lil Shaw: 303.316.6359  
**12/13 Thursday- Say Cheese!** 7pm. Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 2823 Roslyn St. RSVP: 303.388.0724  
**12/18 Tuesday- Discovery of the South Pole.** 11am-12pm (10:45 refreshments). Temple Emanuel, 51 Grape St. RSVP: Jodi, 303.388.4013 x307  
**1/8/13 Tuesday- A Century of Women's Progress.** 12:30-1:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727

**LIBRARIES**

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

**Central Library,** 10 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy, 720.865.1111.

**12/6 Friday to 12/8 Sunday- Winter Used Book Sale.**

**12/7 Saturday- Family Fun Day.** 12-4:30pm. Balloon art, music, face painting, more.

**Park Hill Library,** 4705 Montview Blvd. 720.865.0250. Closed Mon. Wed. and Sun.

**12/6 Thursday and 12/13 Thursday- Storytime with a craft.** 10:30-11am.

**12/8 Saturday- Winter Craft Make n Take.** 2-3:30pm. Storytime with Hot-chocolate and a craft for kids ages 4-8.

**Pauline Robinson Library,** 5575 East 33rd Ave. 720.865.0290. Closed Fri., Sat. and Sun.

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

**Mondays- Computer Basics.** Teens and adults, 6-7:30pm.

**Sam Gary Library,** 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325. Closed Tues., Thurs. and Sun.

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

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

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

**12/5 Wednesday- Duct Tape Wallets.** 4-5pm. Teens grades 6-12.

**12/15 Saturday- Sam Gary Holiday Celebration.** 11am.

**1/5/13 Saturday- Easy Homemade Bread.** 2-3pm.

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

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

**12/8 Saturday- Geeks Who Read Book Club.** 2-3pm.

**12/10 Monday- Holiday Music with Bob Wivchar, Man of 1,000 Songs.** 6:30-7:30pm. All ages.

**1/5 Saturday- Make and Take Studio: Upcycle: Men's Shirts.** 10-11am. Adults.

**NORTHEAST DENVER EVENTS**

**12/7 Friday- 1940's White Christmas Ball.** Wings Over the Rockies Museum, 6pm. [www.wingsmuseum.org/events](http://www.wingsmuseum.org/events)

**12/8 Saturday- Lowry Winter Festival.** 3-6pm. Holiday specials, Santa Claus, crafts, carriage rides, music in Eisenhower Chapel. [www.lowrytowncenter.com](http://www.lowrytowncenter.com)

**12/8 Saturday- DPS School Choice Expo.** 10am-2pm. School choice info session for families to ask about DPS enrollment process. Bruce Randolph HS, 3955 Steele St. Enrollment Guides, event info and access to SchoolMatch at <http://schoolchoice.dpsk12.org>. Info: 720.423.3493

**12/8 Saturday- Sacred i Yoga's 4th Annual Free Holiday Craft Show.** 1-5pm. 2212 Kearney St. [www.mysacred.com](http://www.mysacred.com)

**12/8 Saturday- The Kids' Marketplace.** 4th annual event showcases kids' goods and services at Clayton Early Learning, 3801 Martin Luther King Blvd. 10am-2pm. FREE. Contact: Tammi Holloway, 303.564.8308

**12/8 Saturday- Cockpit Demo Day.** Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-12pm. [www.wingsmuseum.org](http://www.wingsmuseum.org)

**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.

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

**December events- Center of Light,** 2300 Forest St. [Denver@CentersOfLight.org](mailto:Denver@CentersOfLight.org) or 720.308.9944

**DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE**

**Montview and Colorado Blvd.** [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org), 303.370.6000

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

**12/18 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; Super Volcanoes; Black Holes, One World, One Sky, Realm of Light.** [www.dmns.org/planetarium/current-shows](http://www.dmns.org/planetarium/current-shows)

**IMAX Movies- Deep Sea 3D, To the Arctic 3D, Space Junk 3D, Rocky Mountain Express.** 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)

**12/1 & 12/8- Breakfast with Santa:** 8-10am- Islamorada Fish Company located inside Bass Pro Shops. 720.385-3500 for pricing/reservations

**12/1 to 12/24- Santa's Workshop:** Free crafts and activities. Hunting, fishing and marine seminars offered throughout the month.

Call or visit [BassPro.com](http://BassPro.com) for details.

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

**New Releases**

**12/7- Playing for Keeps, The Polar Express (IMAX), and Waiting for Lighting**  
**12/14- The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey and Hyde Park on the Hudson**  
**12/21- 3D Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away, Jack Reacher and This is 40**  
**12/25- Django Unchained, Les Miserables and Parental Guidance**

\*Movie release dates subject to change

**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. Refuge closed on all federal holidays. Directions/all events:** [www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal/](http://www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal/)  
**Last Saturday of month- Wild Rides.\*** 9:30-10:30am. 1-hour guided viewing tour.  
**Self-guided Wildlife Drive Auto Tour Route-** Open daily 6am-6pm

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

SPORTS AND FITNESS

**12/8 Saturday- Denver Ugly Sweater Run.** Downtown Denver. 9am. [www.theuglysweater-run.com](http://www.theuglysweater-run.com)  
**12/9 Sunday- Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis.** 8am-12pm. Washington Park. [www.jinglebellrunDenver.org](http://www.jinglebellrunDenver.org)  
**12/15 Saturday- Santa’s Stampede.** 5K/10K and kids run. 9 am. Hudson Gardens, Littleton. [www.winterdistanceseries.com](http://www.winterdistanceseries.com)  
**12/22 Saturday- A Christmas Carol Classic.** 5K Walk/Run, 10K and Tiny Tim 1K. City Park. 9am. [www.active.com](http://www.active.com)  
**12/31 Monday- Resolution 5K.** 5pm. Washington Park. [www.resolution5K.com](http://www.resolution5K.com)

THEATRE

**12/7-11/6/13 Wooden Snowflakes.** Presented by Ignite Theatre. Aurora Fox Theatre, 9900 E Colfax Ave. [www.aurorafoxartscenter.org](http://www.aurorafoxartscenter.org)  
**Through 12/15- A Doll’s House.** Byers-Evans House Theatre Company, 1310 Bannock [www.byersevanshousemuseum.org](http://www.byersevanshousemuseum.org)  
**Through 12/16- A Christmas Carol.** Aurora Fox Theatre, 9900 E Colfax Ave. [www.aurorafoxarts-center.org](http://www.aurorafoxarts-center.org)  
**Through 12/16- The Man Who Wanted to Be Santa.** Festival Playhouse, 5665 Olde Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada. [www.festivalplayhouse.com](http://www.festivalplayhouse.com)  
**Through 12/22- The Man Who Came to Dinner.** Presented by Spotlight Theatre Company at John Hand Theater. [www.johnhandtheater.com](http://www.johnhandtheater.com)  
**Through 12/23- Miracle on 34th Street, the Musical.** Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada. [www.arvadacenter.org](http://www.arvadacenter.org)  
**Through 12/24- Santa’s Big Red Sack.** Avenue Theater, 417 E. 17th Ave. [www.avenuetheater.com](http://www.avenuetheater.com)  
**Through 12/24- Irving Berlin’s White Christmas.** Buell Theatre, Denver Center for Performing Arts. [www.denvercenter.org](http://www.denvercenter.org)  
**Through 12/28- How I Became a Pirate.** Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada. [www.arvadacenter.org](http://www.arvadacenter.org)  
**Through 12/31- Our Christmas Carol.** Heritage Square Music Hall, Golden. [www.hsmusichall.com](http://www.hsmusichall.com)  
**1/4 to 1/27- RFK: A Portrait of Robert Kennedy.** Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. 303.839.1361, [www.vintage theatre.com](http://www.vintage theatre.com)

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

**12/6 Thursday and 12/7 Friday- Disney on Ice, Dare to Dream.** Pepsi Center, [www.pepsicenter.com](http://www.pepsicenter.com)  
**Through 1/31/13 GTO’s at the Forney Museum.** Forney Transportation Museum, \$6-\$8. 24+ of America’s hottest muscle cars. 4303 Brighton Blvd. [www.forneymuseum.org](http://www.forneymuseum.org)  
**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 December- 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.** Museum adm: \$6/adults, \$4/kids 5-16/under 5 free. 1880 Gaylord St. [www.dmmtdt.org](http://www.dmmtdt.org) for current workshops  
**Mile Into The Wild Walkway at Wild Animal Sanctuary.** Largest carnivore sanctuary in Western Hemisphere: 300 lions, tigers, bears and mile-long, 30-ft-high walkway gets you up close. \$10/adult, \$8/kids. Keensburg, CO. [www.wildanimal-sanctuary.org](http://www.wildanimal-sanctuary.org)  
**12/1 Saturday- Home Depot Kids Workshop.** 9am-12pm. FREE how-to clinics first Sat. 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)  
**12/6 Wednesday to 12/23 Sunday- Santa’s Big Surprise.** Denver Puppet Theatre, 3156 W 38th Ave. Tickets: \$7 ages 3 and up. 303.458.6446, [www.denverpuppettheater.com](http://www.denverpuppettheater.com)  
**12/8 Saturday- Young Entrepreneurs Marketplace.** 10am-2pm. 401 S. Pierce, Lakewood. FREE. [www.yacenter.org](http://www.yacenter.org)  
**12/8 Saturday and 12/22 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.lowesbuildand-grow.com](http://www.lowesbuildand-grow.com)  
**12/15 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)  
**12/12 Wednesday- Create Playdates at Denver Art Museum.** Kids 3-5 roar, bang, stomp 2nd Wed/month. 10am. Art, 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

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**Art Students League of Denver-** Programs for kids/teens. 303.778.6990, [www.ASLD.org](http://www.ASLD.org)  
**Small Hands Art Studio-** Art classes in Stapleton. [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)  
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## Premium Fishwrap\*

by Jon Meredith



### Stop the Noise this Holiday Season

Unfortunately, I have gone to several memorial services and funerals in the last few months. One never looks forward to going to these, because, of course, someone close has passed away. At one service in particular, after many in attendance had spoken about the attributes and humorous idiosyncrasies of the deceased, the officiating

priest said something that has stuck with me.

"When the living come to a service or a funeral," the priest said, "it is the only time in our lives when we become vulnerable and we stop the noise. We have said a lot here today but what does it all mean? What does it do for all of us when we walk out of here today?"

I hardly think that Premium Fishwrap is the medium to wax philosophically about the meaning of life and death. That subject is much more appropriate for the likes of The New Yorker, Esquire or Vanity Fair. This space is more appropriate for poking fun at the noise of the current season.

At no time during the year is the noise louder than at the holidays—which brought me back to what the priest said. How can we cut out the noise and make the holiday season more meaningful for ourselves and our families?

There is a constant bombardment of commercialism that implies the true meaning of the holidays is buying the perfect gift from the proper store with a respectable label. The true

meaning of being an American is getting that gift at the lowest possible price no matter what it takes to get it. Recently, participation in Black Friday has become a contact sport, which has required the most competitive shoppers to step up their game—and they certainly have.

The advertising agencies make us believe that overspending on a present is the only way we can stay in the good graces of our partners. I was going to get my wife a new Lexus until I found out you really can't get the super-sized red ribbon that goes on top. Maybe she'll know I really care if I go to Jared. My daughter wants something from Tiffany so I went down there and asked if I could buy a little mint green box. I would then go to Walmart and put their jewelry in the special little box. I found you actually have to purchase something that is vastly overpriced in order to get the box.

Will my whole family be blissfully happy on Christmas morning if I get them all matching madras pajamas with those wicked good comfy moccasins? The dogs could wear matching dog vests and have matching doggie beds. We could drink coffee from the perfect cup and have the right tree, decorated just so with piles and piles of boxes under the tree, each one ever incrementally increasing the possibility of the happiness of the day.



My experience tells me that overspending on a gift may bring momentary good will from a partner, but when the credit card bill or the overdraft notice comes, the Xmas prize becomes a source of disdain and scorn.

The holidays are really about faith, family and friends, all of which can be found anywhere besides a store, car dealership or online. Do you remember what gifts you received two years ago or even last year? You will remember sledding in Central Park or on the hill outside the Museum of Nature and Science. The lights at the Zoo or the Botanic Gardens and the Parade of Lights are fond memories even if I remember freezing at them all.

The holidays mean something different to everyone. I believe you need to discover that meaning on your own and not be told what it means by anyone. I know that, although gifts are appreciated, they are certainly not what makes this season special for me. Of course I am not 10 anymore, either.

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

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

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# RECOGNITIONS



## First D1 Sports Scholarship at DSST

Bradlee Cotton (above, seated between her parents), a DSST student with a 4.0 grade average, gets ready to sign the papers for her full scholarship to Northern Arizona University where she will play on their division one (D1) basketball team. Cotton, a four-year captain at the Denver School of Science and Technology, is the school's first student to get a sports scholarship. She expects to major in mechanical engineering and would like to work on renewable technologies in the environmental engineering field.



Manley Daniel

## be well Honors Local Champions for Health

On Nov. 1, 400 people attended the Stapleton Foundation be well Health/Wellness Initiative's third annual event honoring health promoters in Stapleton, Greater/NE Park Hill, E. Montclair and NW Aurora. Speakers addressed community health issues. The new be well Youth Council and local high school students led the audience in exercise. Special awards and certificates were given to neighborhood health block captains who completed an 8-week course. Park Hill resident Manley Daniel received the Community Advocate of the Year award. Be well conducts health screenings and classes at local rec centers. Block captains encourage residents toward healthier lifestyles and provide resources. For more: [www.bewellconnect.org](http://www.bewellconnect.org)



Children's Hospital.

The first bus will leave Stapleton at 5:52am on January 6 and is scheduled to arrive at E. 16th Ave. and Aurora Court at 6:11am. Buses will leave Stapleton every half hour until 9:22pm.

From Stapleton, the eastbound route goes south on Central Park Boulevard, east on 29th to Beeler, East on MLK to Havana/Moline, east on Montview, south on Quentin, and east on 16th Ave. through the medical campus.

The return bus starts at Aurora Court and 16th and goes south on Aurora Court, west on Colfax and north on Quentin, then returning via the same route. It starts at 6:18am and runs every half hour until 9:48pm.

A pdf of the schedule and route map is posted on the Front Porch website at [www.FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://www.FrontPorchStapleton.com) and at [www.rtd-denver.com/Schedules.shtml](http://www.rtd-denver.com/Schedules.shtml).

## New RTD Route

RTD has finalized the schedule for the new Route 89 from the Stapleton Park-n-Ride to the Anschutz Medical Campus. Stops include Central Park Rec Center, Bluff Lake Apartments, University of Colorado Hospital and



In press conference at the Stock Show, Mayor Hancock announces commitment to Denver

## Stock Show To Stay in Denver

*By Jack Gurr*

On November 13, Mayor Hancock called a press conference at the Stock Show to give the answer to the question, "Will the stock show stay in Denver?" "We no longer have to ask that question...the stock show will remain."

In April 2011, the Stock Show announced they had outgrown their facilities and were looking at alternative locations, including a partnership with Gaylord Entertainment on a hotel/convention project in Aurora.

In July 2011, the newly-elected Mayor Hancock created a working group to study how the stock show can effectively use their facilities to generate enough revenue to maintain the property and to explore future options. The group was comprised of Denver business leaders, the Denver Urban Renewal Authority (DURA), City officials, and other professionals.

For over a year, the working group has been looking for short- and long-term solutions to the issues; and the Denver Urban Renewal Authority (DURA) analyzed the stock show's business plan. The analysis found that with stronger connections to partners such as the City, VISIT Denver and the Downtown Business Partnership, the Stock Show could tap new markets and be utilized in additional ways that could generate ongoing revenue. But this is just the beginning of the process. The next step will be a feasibility study to assess the market, the facility and amenities needed in the future.

## Local Fitness Business Ranks in Top Five

CBSNews4 anonymously visited the CrossFit Studios in Denver and selected the top five. CrossFit Stapleton, owned by Nicolle and Emilio DiPretoro was selected as one of the five. Stapleton residents Nicolle and Emilio started their business in their garage in February 2009 opened their studio in April 2010 at 3700 Havana St., #218. The News4 review says, "...the coaches' experience covers several athletic backgrounds. Nutrition courses, CrossFit Moms and Elements are all offered alongside other CrossFit courses."



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By Carol Roberts  
The information below was gathered at the meetings listed at the bottom of the page and noted in each write-up, or from other listed sources.

Drury Inn & Suites Hotel

Construction on a 180-room Drury Inn & Suites Hotel on the northeast corner of Central Park Blvd and I-70 is expected to start in February or March 2013, weather permitting. The seven-story concrete building will be 50-56% brick. A Drury Hotel of the same design was recently built on Church Ranch Road, just off Hwy. 36. The first floor is devoted to meeting space and the hotel will offer food for guests but will not have a public restaurant. Forest City is marketing the lot to the north of the hotel as an ideal location for a restaurant. Drury Inn & Suites Hotels are 100% family owned and run—they do not have franchises. Drury has not yet decided what will happen to the older Drury Inn at I-70 and Peoria. The deal is closed, building permits are in process (ZAP 11/13)

Three Flex Industrial Buildings Proposed for Enterprise Park

Enterprise Park is the name of the employment/industrial area visible along the south side of I-70 and west of Havana. The current buildings are on the north side of 40th Ave. and accessed from 40th. United Properties, a 100-year-old, family-owned business is proposing to build one large and two smaller industrial buildings on the south side of 40th Ave., across from the existing buildings.

The proposed buildings will have the same architects and a similar look to the existing buildings, with a neutral exterior color, windows facing 40th Ave., and loading docks on the back. The two smaller buildings (100,000 SF each) will face the street and have a storefront appearance. The larger building, a bulk distribution facility, will be located behind

Monthly meetings are held at 7350 E. 29th Ave. #300  
ZAP – Zoning and Planning (2nd Tues. 4:30pm)  
PAG – Parks Advisory Group (2nd Tues. 7:30am)  
CAB – Citizens Advisory Board (3rd Thurs. 7:30am)  
SDC – Stapleton Development Corp. (4th Thurs. 7:30am)



The Drury Hotel has closed a deal to build a 180-room hotel on the northeast corner of I-70 and Central Park Blvd. The view above faces Central Park Blvd.

(south of) the others. United Properties is optimistic about finding tenants and says there is a dearth of “Class A” (highest quality construction, accessibility and management) distribution buildings in Denver. Traffic flow will be diverted toward Havana, and eventually there will be sidewalks and tree lawns along 40th all the way to Central Park Blvd. Plans have not yet been presented to Stapleton’s Design Review Committee, but a pre-application for the building permit has been submitted to the city. (ZAP 11/13)

Montessori Children’s House of Denver to Purchase An Additional Acre

Rachel Averch, President of Montessori Children’s House announced they are going under contract for an additional acre adjoining the Montessori Children’s House on Central Park Blvd. at Xanthia. The long-term goal, in about five years, is to build a gym and expand their program for older students. In the interim the space will be used for soccer and the agricultural component of their middle school program and perhaps a couple of chickens. The school currently has 120 students from 12 months to 8th grade. (ZAP 11/13)

New “Conservatory Green” Neighborhood North of I-70 To Have 500 Homes

The home builders in Conservatory Green are focusing on “more creative placement of homes on the lots so there will be more options for gardens, though the lots won’t be dramatically larger than existing Stapleton lots.” Garden features could include rooftop and hot house gardens and larger doors on the side of the garage to allow wheelbarrow entry. Model homes are expected to open in April 2013. This 120-acre neighborhood is located north of Northfield Blvd between Trenton and Willow, with 51st Ave as the north border. The price range of the 500 homes is expected to be “from the one hundreds to the eight hundreds,” according to Tom Gleason of Forest City.

Stapleton

Grading and utility work are also underway to build 352 market-rate apartments east of The Shops at Northfield along Central Park Blvd. with occupancy projected for early summer 2013. (ZAP 11/13 and Forest City)

Does Stapleton Need a Community Arts Center?

At the Nov. 15 meeting, the community wanted to talk about the proposal to make the tower a community arts center.

But before talking more about the tower, the Master Community Association needs to know, “Is there a need and a demand for a community arts center?” To answer that question, the MCA



Brendan Loy shares his thoughts at the Nov. 15 community meeting on the feasibility of a community arts center in Stapleton.

hired Duncan Webb, a community arts planning expert from New York. His job is to help communities decide if an arts center is a smart thing to do...and if it is, to help the project move forward. But it’s also his job to be sure communities don’t move forward with a big project that’s not likely to be successful.



Duncan Webb

Webb worked with the MCA on an extensive survey to determine the need for an arts center.

They had a 20-25% response rate and 42% of respondents said they strongly agree Stapleton would benefit from additional arts programming; 65% said there is a need for meeting and event space; and 78% said there is a need for a community gathering space. Noting other Denver area community arts centers on a map, Webb pointed to the gap in the northeast area. And he said it’s significant that the other successful centers have not just a main theatre but also additional components including an amphitheatre, classrooms, multipurpose room, media lab, catering kitchen, and all serve alcohol—and encouraged attendees to think about the range of facilities this community needs and would use. More about the community arts center survey and the concept for use of the tower is posted at StapletonCommunity.com.

7/11 Liquor License Withdrawn



Preliminary rendering of the 7/11. Signage, landscaping and actual building color not shown.

By Dan Oltersdorf, SUN

In response to community concerns and survey feedback, SUN (Stapleton United Neighbors) voted to oppose the application for a 3.2 beer license at the new 7/11 at 8755 E. Montview Blvd. At the public hearing on Nov. 21, 7/11 withdrew their application. Representatives from SUN and the East Montclair Neighborhood Association, along with other concerned neighbors at the hearing, used the



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# Update

opportunity to meet with 7/11's representative and attorney to discuss other issues of concern, including hours, traffic, noise, headlight mitigation, and even the question whether they could sell more healthy food options. Their representative made a commitment to respond to SUN on each of the issues. 7/11 will be present at the 12/3 SUN Board meeting; notes from the meeting and 7/11's responses (when available) will be posted at StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com. A written "Good Neighbor Agreement" may be drawn up to formalize the understanding between the neighborhood and the business about the issues and to promote ongoing dialogue and accountability.

## Bluff Lake Neighborhood Construction Update

In Filing 16, the new Bluff Lake neighborhood, 121 homes are being built—and a projected 233 more will be built in successive filings in the new neighborhood that goes from Iola to Moline. The successive filings will move to the east as homes are sold. "The timetable depends on the strength of the market, which looks good, but we can't pinpoint the exact timeframe for development," says Tom Gleason, Forest City vice president-public relations.

Stapleton's fourth elementary school, paid for with Tax Increment Financing (TIF), is planned for the Bluff Lake neighborhood at 27th and Kenton. Classes will start in the fall of 2013 at a temporary location and move into the new building for the 2014-15 school year. SUN will post additional information to their website as it becomes available.

(StapletonUnitedNeighbors.org)

## Stapleton Master Community Association (MCA) Annual Meeting

At the November 7 annual community meeting, MCA Executive Director Keven Burnett reviewed 2012 accomplishments, costs and revenue and showed

the projected 2013 budget to approximately 25 attendees at the meeting. The mission of the MCA is to create and sustain a sense of community at Stapleton through comprehensive management of parks and recreational facilities and community events. Did they accomplish their mission? An estimated 85,000 attendees went to the MCA's events in 2012, where \$18,000 was raised for nonprofits. There were 120,000 visits to the four pools in the 100 days they are open. The current population of Stapleton is 15,000 with 4600 homes occupied. The community is expected to grow at a rate of 35-45 new sales per month in the coming year.

Burnett pointed out that there were a number of times when the pools reached capacity on weekends and holidays. Since they are funded by tax-exempt bonds, the pools must be open to the public, but to address the capacity issues on weekends and holidays, Burnett suggested rates may be raised from \$8 to \$10 on weekends for non-residents. This question will be voted on by the MCA board at their meeting to approve the 2013 budget on Nov. 14.

The MCA strives to keep a zero budget, collecting just the amount they need to maintain the pools, parks, alleys, greens and parkways and offer programming. If there is a surplus it goes into a reserve fund. Reserves are used for unexpected projects. For example, if five percent of the MCA's 5,000 trees deteriorated, 250 trees would need to be replaced.

For 2013, the monthly fee will remain at \$38 (by way of comparison, that's ap-

proximately \$100 a year less than association fees in Highlands Ranch or Ken Caryl).

The budget is posted at [StapletonCommunity.com](http://StapletonCommunity.com) and on the Front Porch website.



Keven Burnett shows a collage of MCA-sponsored events at the MCA's annual meeting.



Heidi Majerik of Forest City shows 26th Ave. park plans to 26th Ave. neighbors.

## 26th Ave. Neighbors Voice Concerns about 26th Ave. Park

Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) and residents near 26th Ave. requested a meeting with Forest City on Nov. 28th (above) to hear about and respond to the plans for the proposed park south of 26th Ave. About 60 people attended.

In addition, a group of 26th Ave. homeowners, after living for seven years across from undeveloped land they thought would be built into a park, requested a meeting with Cheryl Cohen-Vader, President of the Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC). At that meeting, the group asked if SDC considers Forest City's new plan (a 2-acre park and playground at 26th and Fulton with a trail that loops through the remaining undeveloped 23 acres and connects to Westerly Creek) to be in line with the old plan or if it's a departure. Cohen-Vader provided written responses to the pre-submitted questions. "Yes," it's in line and, "No," it's not a departure, "it's generally consistent with the old plan."

Steve Saenger, a 26th Ave. resident disagrees. "The fact that Forest City says they're not deviating is not true. It's completely deviating." Before

Saenger bought his home, he asked at the Forest City Visitor Center for information about the park. The Forest City employee emailed the park plans, giving Saenger the clear impression that he would be living across the street from that type of park. The three-page "Design Development Plan" was done by the landscape architecture firm Forest City has used for other parks. The plans showed a playground, sports fields, grass and landscaping on the entire 25 acres. One of the neighbors had also obtained the detailed 13-page park site plan that Forest City submitted to Aurora in April 2006. (That filing was never completed and Aurora closed the file.) Saenger acknowledges the plans he got to say, "Disclaimer: For illustrative purposes only. Subject to change," but says, "I feel like I was duped. I knew the disclaimer was there, but it's not drawn on a napkin. It wasn't hearsay. The plans are detailed and professionally done. I'm dumbfounded that there's still nothing there. I think they're trying to get this through and walk away. Parks are built to sell land. We already bought. What is Forest city's incentive (continued on page 24)



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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)

## SUN Starts Surveying Stapleton

By Mark Mehringer, President, Stapleton United Neighbors

Three years ago, as Denver Public Schools rushed to open a new school (actually, two schools in one building: Swigert and McAuliffe) to meet the needs of our growing community, the Stapleton Foundation and Stapleton United Neighbors conducted a few surveys about the new school. Those surveys proved invaluable to decision makers in turning Swigert and McAuliffe into the terrific schools they have become, as well as in gauging how many students Denver Public Schools could expect over the following few years.

With three more schools coming to Stapleton in the next three years, the SUN Board recently started discussing another survey to aid DPS in planning for those schools, which prompted the question:

Why not conduct regular surveys on the range of issues we face as an all-volunteer neighborhood association board?

These surveys will help us fulfill the three-fold mission of SUN: to provide a forum for our residents; to maintain a communication network between ourselves, our neighboring

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## Op-Ed—In Defense of Susan Rice

By Wellington Webb

As a former delegate to the United Nations, I have been especially dismayed by the personal attacks of some Republican critics against UN Ambassador Susan Rice and her comments shortly after the Sept. 11 Benghazi attack.

I saw firsthand in 2009 how Rice and her staff work with information coming through Washington in the most thorough and thoughtful way. As President Obama has strongly defended, Rice's comments were based on intelligence that she had received and what the administration knew at the time.

Another tragedy on top of the lives lost in Benghazi is now the choreographed political maneuver on Ambassador Rice. The vitriolic attacks are a foul attempt to limit Rice's options in the future and possibly block her confirmation as the next Secretary of State. It would be a shame if the narrowed political interests of a few limit one of America's brightest intellectual diplomats.

There was no intention to hide information about the attack and President Obama acknowledged the following day that it was terrorism. And let us not forget Rice's Republican-appointed predecessor who helped mislead Americans by supporting faulty reports of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Some of the same critics—including the media—who are now beating the drum against Rice are the same ones who reported and promoted the unfounded intelligence in Iraq.

It can be easy to start pointing fingers after a tragedy. We in Colorado understand

the changing landscape when violence hits in our backyard. The initial reports from the recent Aurora theater massacre and the Columbine High School shootings included incorrect information. Officials were relying on the most up-to-date reports to inform the public and mistakes were made.

As a community, we want to know the full picture but until the smoke cleared we gave our officials the benefit of the doubt. Congress also has the full right to investigate what happened and if mistakes were made people should be accountable.

But to exploit that investigation on Rice is wrong. Her comments shortly after the Benghazi attack were based on CIA intelligence and talking points. If a few Republican critics are now attempting to "shoot the messenger," it will take more than one bullet politically aimed at Rice.

As a country, we just went through one of the most divisive presidential elections in recent history. We face a fiscal cliff that will affect all of us. The attacks on one woman should not only be denounced with loud voices but quickly dismissed as a cowardly act by a few.

Wellington Webb was appointed as a United Nations delegate in 2009. He served as Denver's mayor from 1991–2003 and currently is the president of Webb Group International, a consulting firm.

## Letter to the Editor

I very much enjoyed and appreciated the article by Jon Meredith on Joe Blake, "The City Boy." Joe, his late wife Elizabeth, his parents and his family have been mainstays in Park Hill almost as long as Park Hill has existed. His accomplishments speak for themselves. His life's mission has been simple: Make life better and happier for everyone.

I also appreciated the informative article on the RTD East Rail Line. The projects at Union Station, DIA (and in between) are massive and will continue to change the face and operations of our City. We older natives are having a hard time keeping up with the activity, and the recent developments at Lowry, Stapleton and DIA are most impressive. The Front Porch is becoming an informative and attractive addition to communication in our area.

Thank you, Joseph M. Fanganello

## 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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## Stapleton Update

### 26th Ave. Park

(continued from page 23) [to finish the park]? There's really nothing."

Other participants at the Nov. 28th meeting echoed Sanger's feeling of being duped or being victims of "bait and switch" and said at the time they bought no one mentioned that development of the park was linked to the construction of the 300 Stapleton homes in Aurora.

Tim Rooney, a seven-year resident along 26th Ave., asked in the SDC meeting why 26th Ave has been left with a dirt shoulder and no curbs or sidewalk for years after construction was completed. Rooney's wife, Rachel Brand said the group wants "an enforceable agreement that this area won't be left behind."

Tom Gleason, vice president-public relations for Forest City says the disclaimer is included on illustrative plans to remind any buyer in a developing area that those plans are always subject to changes due to the market and other factors. He also points out that the middle of 26th Ave. is the border between Denver and Aurora. The street improvements (curb, gutters, sidewalks and tree lawn) were completed with the development of Denver's Eastbridge neighborhood on the north side of 26th, but improvements on the south side of the street have not been made because residential development has not yet commenced in Aurora. He noted that the Eastbridge neighborhood has a total of nine neighborhood parks totaling 10+ acres that were built as the Denver neighborhood was being built.

Gleason explained that typically cities require developers to build parks as the residential is developed. He points out that Forest City is building the 26th Ave. park for residents' use even though, with no residential development in Aurora, it is not required to do so.

Heidi Majerik of Forest City announced at the neighbors meeting that Forest City is ready to submit plans to Aurora for the \$1.5 million project that includes a 2-acre finished park with a playground between Fulton and Florence and a loop trail that extends from the new park to Clinton. Aurora requires that curb and gutter improvements along the frontage of the park be completed with the park, but the rest of 26th Ave. curbs won't be finished since Aurora does not want improvements to be made, then torn out when future work is done.

Funds for the park come from the additional mill levy paid by Stapleton residents. The park, when completed, will be turned over to the MCA for future maintenance. Forest City has "taken down" (purchased from DIA) the land from approximately Emporia to Fulton and they are in "due diligence" prior to purchasing the land from Emporia to Clinton. If there are no delays, Forest City says they will start construction in the spring and the park and loop trail will be completed in the summer in conjunction with the Fulton St. connection to Aurora. Iola and Kingston connector streets will be built after Fulton. Some grading for drainage through the unfinished 23 acres will be done and that area will be re-seeded with native grasses. The shoulder along the south side of 26th Ave. from Clinton to Florence will remain

in its current condition with the exception that the wire fence will be removed. Gleason says he believes the current plan is "in line" with the original plans in the sense that the use of the land is for parks and open space; Forest City has not made a change in the type of land use.

The Front Porch asked Tom Gleason about Forest City's long-term development plan for the park and residential land in Aurora. Gleason says additional improvements to the park and a timetable for those improvements will not be determined until future decisions are made about residential development in Aurora. He explained that Forest City's February 2000 contract with Denver obligates them to buy all the developable land at



By far, most neighbors voted they did not support the current park plans.

Stapleton within 15 years. It does not obligate them to develop the land it purchases—and currently, it is more expensive to build in Aurora due to water tap prices. "It would be folly to require a developer to build if market studies don't show it would be profitable. They wouldn't even be able to get financing money."

At this time, Gleason says, it's wait and see what happens with the Aurora housing market. "Making a timetable we can't adhere to doesn't make sense."

Following the Nov. 28 presentation by Forest City, about 18 of the neighbors stayed and met in groups to share ideas about what they want in this park—and then they took a vote. Three supported moving forward with the current plan. Fourteen voted that they do not want another playground like the others in the neighborhood and were willing to accept a construction schedule delay if Forest City would change their plans and incorporate some of the ideas from the neighbors.

Aurora will post the plans online the first week in December at <http://aurora4biz.org/DevelopmentPlanReviewPub/> and citizens can post comments. Heidi Majerik promised to give consideration to the comments.



Steve Saenger, 26th Ave. resident

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# 'Tis the Season to Give



Lucia Correll organized a neighborhood group to clean up local parks and open space. She has lived in Stapleton seven years and previously in Park Hill for 34 years. She is married with two grown children and works in the field of child welfare.

## Lucia Correll—Bluff Lake Nature Center and Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership

The first time I picked up trash in Westerly Creek for a Rotary-sponsored one-time event, I went to enjoy the sunny day and to contribute to the community. At the completion, I had a heightened sense of and a new love for the open space that led me to organize a group of volunteers for a monthly cleanup to maintain a pristine Westerly Creek. Trashflows after each storm affect all the local waterways—Sand Creek, Westerly Creek and Bluff Lake—so we created Neighborhood Environmental Partners (NPET) to do projects in all three areas. An ongoing effort is required to keep them clean. Expending actual labor engages me in the

parks. After I pick up cans, bottles and wrappers, I never again walk past debris, without feeling that there is litter in my yard. After removing weeds for new plantings, I never pass by without admiring the new growth. I treasure the egrets and the white pelicans in their favorite pond and want them to have water free from trash to complete their beautiful picture. It has become my park to care for and I love it more for having put myself into it.

**The Sand Creek Regional Greenway (SCRG)** is a 14-mile public greenway that connects the High Line Canal in Aurora with the South Platte River Greenway in Commerce City and passes through Stapleton. The Greenway is open every day from dawn until dusk. Runners, walkers, nature viewers, horseback riders, and leashed dogs are encouraged to enjoy the trail. The SCRG Partnership relies on volunteers and donors to build and maintain the greenway. Volunteers



Gregg Schulman has been volunteering for three years as an A+ Angels mentor. He works in the home improvement industry and lives in Stapleton with his wife and two kids.

(youth and adults) can join with existing groups to clean and maintain the trails. The Greenway also welcomes individuals who can offer expertise in areas ranging from community outreach to fundraising to plant identification. Visit [www.sandcreekgreenway.org](http://www.sandcreekgreenway.org) or contact Caroline Fry at 303.468.3262 or [cfry@sandcreekgreenway.org](mailto:cfry@sandcreekgreenway.org)

**Bluff Lake Nature Center** owns and manages a 123-acre wildlife refuge in Stapleton with a dual mission: to preserve and restore a unique wildlife refuge and to use education environmental stewards. It is open from sunrise until sunset every day. Trails are for people to walk or jog; no dogs, horses, bikes or motorized vehicles are allowed. Volunteer opportunities include: 1) Site Stewards (removing invasive species, plant native species, special projects); 2) Educators (meet with and teach classrooms of elementary students that come to the site one weekday morning per week); 3) serving on the board of directors or providing office help. Visit [www.blufflake-naturecenter.org](http://www.blufflake-naturecenter.org) or call 720.708.4147.

## Gregg Schulman—A+ Angels Mentor Program

I personally have always felt that working with young people in a mentoring role was something of a calling for me. Although I managed to get through high school (somehow), the experience could have been much different if I had had access to a mentor. Many of the kids in the A+ Angels Mentor Program come from families where they would be the first one to go to college. The opportunity to “break the cycle” is very rewarding.

We focus mainly on academic success...checking grades, attendance and issues the student needs help with (test-taking strategies, math, setting goals, choosing clubs, etc.) We often interact with the whole family and the goal is to develop a relationship of trust and friendship over time so that we can be an influence in their lives. Ideally mentors remain with the student until they graduate from high school.

The need is huge, the time commitment is pretty low and the rewards are great. The opportunity to connect with kids from different cultures and upbringings is simply a magical thing and I have grown and benefitted from the relationships as much as the students. I will have two teenagers pretty soon and this opportunity actually helps prepare me for what to expect in many ways. It takes time to break down the walls and barriers to really have an impact, but when it happens it is truly worthwhile.

**The A+ Angels Mentor Program** guarantees that there is someone who cares so the young people served are not alone in dealing with day-to-day concerns. Volunteers are adults of all ages from a variety of backgrounds who help with organization and homework; attend parent-teacher conferences; meet students' families; help with job and college applications; and go to cultural events with other mentors and students. Mentors meet with students at varying times. Applications are at [www.APlusAngels.org](http://www.APlusAngels.org). For more information, email [info@APlusAngels.org](mailto:info@APlusAngels.org) or call Jessica Pearson 303.837.1555.

## Libby Sperr—Summer Scholars

I've heard that if kids aren't reading by about third grade, it's likely to impact their entire life. This help is pretty critical.




Libby Sperr, a retired petroleum geologist whose children are grown, volunteers for the Summer Scholars program—reading with elementary students.

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These kids are smart, but they need to get better at reading. They like the special attention. I've discovered they especially like to read to someone besides their parents. Sometimes I wish I could spend all day reading with them. The kids in grade school are still in that "magic stage" where their enthusiasm and honesty spread out to all those around them. I go home with a smile on my face.

I go for two hours after school, reading for a half hour with three different kids and talking about what they read to help their comprehension. Then we have a half hour of unstructured time when I help with homework and talk to the kids. During the summer, I worked with kids on academics in the morning; then the kids had activities and outings in the afternoons." I am very impressed with the Summer Scholars' staff and their teaching methods. They will change the lives of many children.

**Summer Scholars** works to improve literacy among elementary school students in Denver neighborhoods that are highly impacted by poverty. The program's goals are: to improve students' proficiency in reading; to increase student engagement in school; to promote positive social-emotional development; and to engage parents to create supportive home environments for education—with volunteer opportunities including being a "Reading Buddy"; assisting adult English language learners and their preschool children; helping with homework and enrichment; or providing administrative support in the central office. Visit [www.summerscholars.org](http://www.summerscholars.org), or contact Jennifer Agnew at 303.381.3738 or [jagnew@summerscholars.org](mailto:jagnew@summerscholars.org).

### Isaac Wright—Urban Farm

About 15 years ago I came upon some young people hauling hay and it had fallen all over the road. Traffic was stopped and they were frantically trying to pick it up. I put the biggest bales in my truck and helped them clean up and followed them to the farm. In the early days the farm was just trying to survive and I could save them money by doing what needed to be done. In 2000, I fell 14 feet and broke my neck and back. I recovered and feel fortunate to be able to do

what I can. I believe the fruits of your labor are what counts. You have to show action...it's better to give than to receive. If you're an outdoor person and like to volunteer the Urban Farm is ideal. If you don't have skills, you can learn. I think of the Urban Farm as my "me" time. Some people go into a quiet room and read. I go to the farm because I feel content and good there. Even with all the kids and the animals, I feel like I can be by myself in the middle of nature. It helps me. Volunteering is a good thing, especially when you can do something you like doing.

**The Urban Farm** started in 1993 as a horsemanship education program and moved to Stapleton in May 1998 with the mission of providing agricultural and environmental education to urban children, youth and their families. The efforts of hundreds of volunteers have transformed The Farm's 23 acres into an education center with and home to more than 250 farm animals. The Farm now provides programming to approximately 3,000 children a year and has a 20,000-square-foot indoor teaching barn, a 20,000-square-foot children's garden with a greenhouse, 24 horse paddocks, many small livestock enclosures, a 5,000 square foot education and office building and a great need for volunteers. Visit [TheUrbanFarm.org](http://TheUrbanFarm.org) or call 303.307.9332. They are located at 10200 Smith Rd, Denver, 80239.

### Nancy Relihan—Denver Children's Home

I coordinate the collection of donations from our staff, both holiday decorations and personal hygiene items for the kids. We have six or seven teams that decorate different rooms throughout the home and the outdoor entryway. A tree and decorations are dropped off to each dorm for the children to decorate their "home" later that day. Once we decorated that first year, we



Nancy Relihan, marketing manager at Forest City and a Park Hill resident, organizes Forest City's holiday project to decorate Denver Children's Home.

Isaac Wright, (left) who lives near Park Hill Golf Course, helps with just about anything that needs to be done at the Urban Farm. He is a truck driver and has also worked as a horse roper and welder.

knew we would return every year. We saw that the kids absolutely loved it and that it brings them a little happiness over the holidays, a time of year that can be difficult for them. The Forest City staff looks forward to this annual celebration, which we have done for nine years!

Volunteers at Denver Children's Home don't work directly with kids but there are a number of ways to help the home. Call to see how your idea for organizing a project with your friends or coworkers can best help them—some examples are landscaping, painting, sponsoring a pizza party for the kids, or collecting items needed by the kids.

**Denver Children's Home (DCH)** cares for the Colorado's abused and neglected children and serves a significantly challenged population. 98% of the children at DCH come from families whose income levels are below federal poverty guidelines. By the time clients reach DCH, more than a third of them have been involved with the juvenile justice system, the majority has passed through the social services system, and most have failed in one or more academic and/or mental health settings. DCH could not be successful without the efforts of its volunteers and opportunities to develop service projects are currently available. Supply drives for hygiene items, clothing, shoes, and school supplies are always needed! Contact Lindsay Leuthold at 720.881.3366.

### Amy Strickland—The Crossing

At the Crossing, I volunteer in a tutoring program for residents from ages 4-18 to help them complete homework or work on math and reading. It is really a pleasure to have one-on-one time with these students, to see how hard they work, and to learn from them.

As a teacher I understand what these kids in transitional housing, with unstable and unpredictable lives are up against. They need individualized attention that they cannot get during the school day and they need to know that people really care about and value them for who they are.

I always feel I receive far more than I give. We are all people in need, our needs simply change with the circumstances of our lives—so we help each other out. I encourage everyone who has even a little time to volunteer. You always have something to give and you will find your life enriched when you do so.

**The Crossing** is run by The Denver Rescue Mission. This facility provides long-term rehabilitation and



Amy Strickland, a teacher, lives in Stapleton with her husband and two daughters. She volunteers at The Crossing.

Meredith Wallace, 18, (below) who lives in the AeroFlats apartments at Stapleton, is pursuing an AS in Baking and Pastry and a BS in Sports Events and Entertainment Management at Johnson and Wales University. She volunteers weekly at the Anchor Center Center for Blind Children.



transitional housing programs for 500 people including individuals, families, seniors and refugees. Short-term volunteer opportunities include serving meals, one-time projects and special events. Long-term opportunities include mentoring or tutoring youth or adults, office help and warehouse assistance. Call 303.953.3955 or visit [www.denverrescuemission.org](http://www.denverrescuemission.org) /thecrossing for more information. The Crossing is located at 6090 E. Smith Road (at Kearney).

### Meredith Wallace—Anchor School

At the Anchor Center for Blind Children, I either volunteer with sibling care so that the parents can be with their child with visual impairments or I watch the Anchor Center kids while their parents go to a special presentation or meeting. I have been volunteering with kids since I can remember. I love working at the Anchor Center because the kids are always so happy and excited to be there. Everyone at the Anchor Center has the purest and richest heart and it shines through on the kids' faces.

Volunteers are essential at the Anchor Center and this center will change your life. Every single one of these kids is an intelligent, loving and beautiful human being who will melt your heart with that smile on their adorable face. This is not just a giving of yourself, but more importantly something that you will learn from.

**Anchor Center for Blind Children** is a privately-funded, nonprofit preschool that teaches visually impaired infants, young children and their families. The center at Stapleton, home visits and rural outreach provide services to about 400 Colorado children and their families each year. At this time, the biggest volunteer need is assisting with childcare for students' brothers and sisters so that parents can attend programs with the student. Other opportunities include assisting in the office, requesting donations and helping with special events. Visit [www.anchorcenter.org](http://www.anchorcenter.org) or contact Karen McClurg at [kmclclurg@anchorcenter.org](mailto:kmclclurg@anchorcenter.org) or 303.377.9732 ext. 129.

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