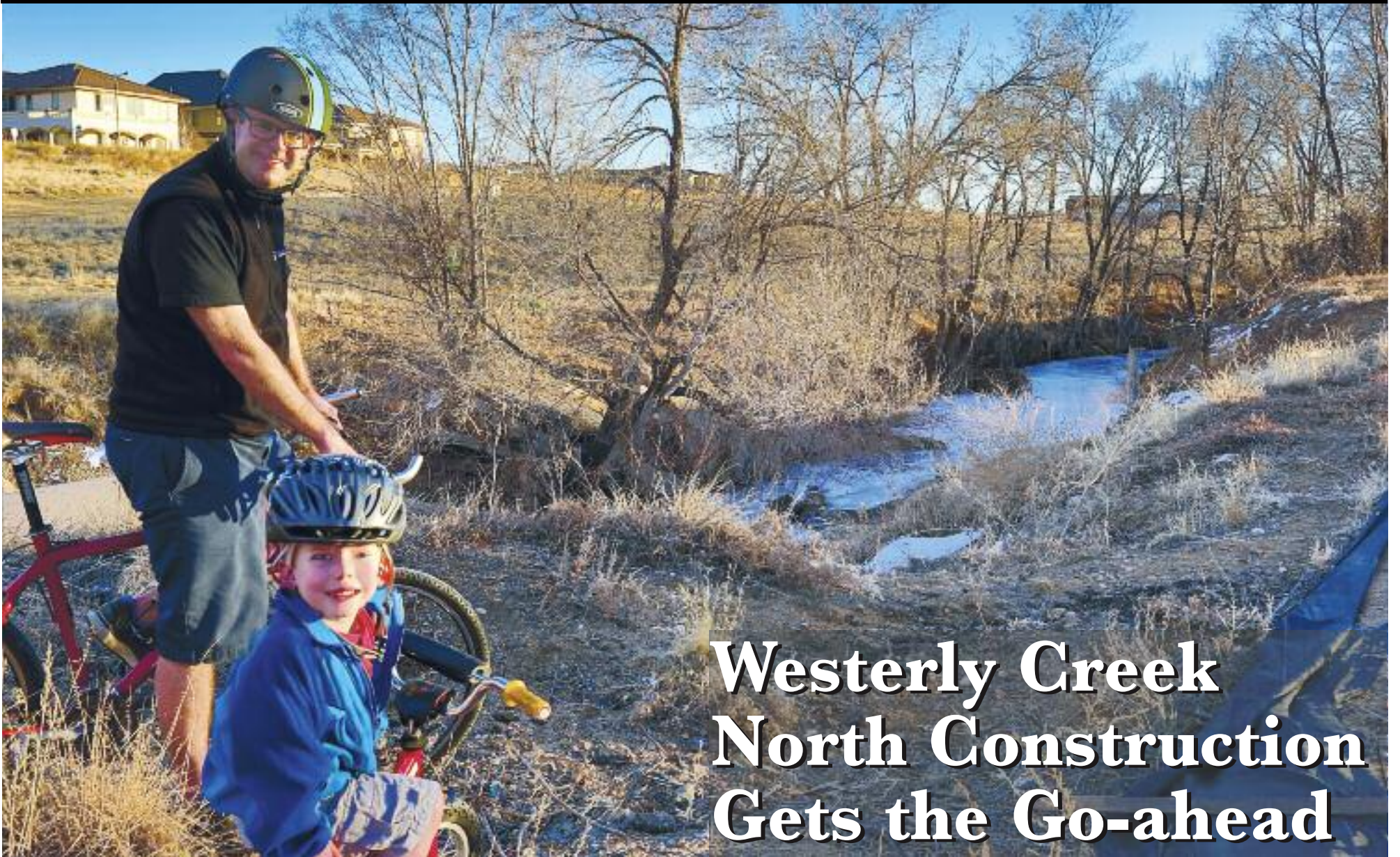


Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

FEBRUARY 2013



Westerly Creek North Construction Gets the Go-ahead

Ryan Neville and his son Will, 4, ride their bikes in the North Westerly Creek open space, the final unfinished connection between the Westerly Creek Greenway and the Sand Creek

Greenway. The area contains debris from the old Stapleton airport and remediation has just begun to remove hazardous materials found in about 2.4 acres of the 34-acre site.

By Carol Roberts

On January 8, Mayor Hancock released a statement that construction of Westerly Creek North will commence following the completion of the environmental remediation and necessary state approvals. Prior to this announcement,

the park was on hold until approximately 2017 when tax increment financing (TIF) funds would become available.

Stapleton's bike and pedestrian paths through greenways offer a refreshing touch of nature in an urban setting—but two of the longest ones, Sand Creek and

(continued on page 26)

35,000 Celebrate MLK Day in City Park



In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a crowd estimated at 35,000 people listened to speeches and prayers and sang songs in City Park on Jan. 21. An added feature of the celebration this year was the inauguration of President Obama, with the audio from his speech played

at the City Park event. Following the event in the park, participants walked in the MLK Parade (march/parade) down 17th Ave., singing as they moved toward their destination, Civic Center Park, where additional festivities were held. More photos on page 21.

Stapleton/Park Hill To Get Interim School Board Rep

By Carol Roberts

The Denver Board of Education, which regularly faces a long list of difficult decisions, now has one more on its list.

The District 4 board representative, Nate Easley, was recently appointed Executive Director of the Denver Scholarship Foundation and resigned his board seat in mid-January to devote more time to that job. State law calls for the remaining six members to interview applicants and vote on an interim board member within 60 days.

If the vote is tied, the decision is to be made by the board president, Mary Seawell. "My hope is the board can decide. I think it's better for the person, setting them up for success; and I think it's better for the board," says Seawell. The position is an interim one and the appointed person will, if they choose to run, be on the November 2013 ballot.

At large member Happy Haynes says, "This person represents a very, very large district that comprises three sub-areas within the district. One of those is what I call near northeast, which is roughly the Manual High school feeder pattern. And then the schools in the Park Hill/Stapleton area. And the schools that are in the far northeast." (The Board website (continued on p. 22))



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Like us at Front Porch Newspaper



Printed with soy-based ink. Paper contains 40% postconsumer waste.

The first model homes in North Stapleton are being built at 50th and Trenton.
Long's Peak is visible in the background



CALENDAR

Events listed below are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC or support nonprofits.
(Additional events are listed on pages 16-19. Recurring events are listed on page 18.)

FEBRUARY

Saturday, Feb 2 & Mar 2

Museum of Contemporary Art Denver w/art-making space for children, 1¢ admission on first Saturdays; 1485 Delgany St., MCADenver.org

Saturday, Feb 2 & Mar 2

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

Sunday & Monday, Feb 3 & 4

Denver Zoo - SCFD Free Days
www.denverzoo.org 303-376-4800

Tuesday, February 5 & 12

Yoga at the MCA. 5:45–6:45pm. MCA Community Room* events@stapletoncommunity.com

Wednesday, February 6

Community Meeting on DPS Middle School Recommendations including use of Smiley building, growth of McAuliffe and other middle school options. 5:30 refreshments, 6-8pm meeting. Smiley cafeteria, 2540 Holly. Childcare provided.
http://communityrelations.dpsk12.org/regional-community-meetings/near-northeast/upcoming-meetings/ (see page 19)

Monday, February 11

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

Thursday, February 14

Active Minds Seminar "Chocolate" 7–8pm. MCA Community Room* events@stapletoncommunity.com

Friday, February 15

Northeast Neighborhood Night Out
Buxiejo Gallery, 718 N. Santa Fe Drive, 5–8pm.
(see page 3)

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 16

Relive the Fur Trade Era of the 1800s at the Fur Trade Winter Fair and Convention.
Holiday Inn in Stapleton, 8am–5pm. Admission is \$4/person. (see page 15)

Monday, February 18

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

Thursday, February 21

Denver Zoo - SCFD Free Days www.denverzoo.org 303-376-4800

Thursday, February 21

Stapleton Geeks Tech Meetup
(All are welcome) 5:30–7:30pm
SmartSpace 2373 Central Park Blvd. #100
www.meetup.com/Stapleton-Geeks/

Thursday, February 28

Active Minds Seminar "Brazil" 7–8pm. MCA Community Room* events@stapletoncommunity.com

Thursday, February 28

Legal Meet & Connect Social
(All legal professions are welcome) 5–7:30pm
SmartSpace 2373 Central Park Blvd. #100
Drinks and appetizers provided.

*More information at 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.**



Active Minds

Chocolate

The story of chocolate is a "rich" tale indeed. It involves aristocracy and slavery, innovation and coincidence. Pivotal roles were played by Christopher Columbus and Hernando Cortéz. Join Active Minds this Valentine's Day as we describe how extremely bitter cacao beans are transformed into one of the world's most sought-after flavors and tell chocolate stories such as the rise of Switzerland's luxury chocolate industry and origins of the Hershey company. This event will be in the MCA Community Room (2823 Roslyn St.) from 7–8pm on Thursday, Feb. 14.

Brazil

Join Active Minds for an in-depth look at the country that covers nearly half of South America: Brazil. We will examine key issues in Brazilian relations with the U.S. such as trade, energy and the environment. Additionally, we will address the expansion of Brazilian economic influence globally under former President Lula and his successor Dilma Rousseff, the first female president of Brazil. To be held in the MCA Community Room from 7–8pm on Thursday, Feb. 28.

Active Minds events are free and open to everyone. For more information, visit www.activeminds.com.

Yoga at the MCA

Presented by Lora from Love Yoga Colorado

Location: MCA Community Room

Dates (Tuesdays): Feb. 5 and 12

Time: 5:45–6:45pm

Drop-in rate: \$10

Stapleton Residents: 6 classes for \$48

Nonresidents: 6 classes for \$54

Children ages 6–12 free with paying adult

For more about Stress Love Yoga Colorado or to purchase class packages, visit www.loveyogacolorado.com. Stay tuned for future yoga dates in February and March!

SNL...Kids' Night Out

Saturday, Feb. 9

Bring your swim gear and an appetite! Pizza will be served for dinner (if your child has special dietary needs, please plan accordingly) along with snacks, cookie decorating, karaoke and games in the gym. Kids' Night Out will also be held on March 2 and April 13. All events will be from 6–9pm at the Central Park Recreation Center. Kids' Night Out is for children ages 7–12 and each event includes a variety of games, activities, pool time and complimentary dinner. Due to the nature of the event and participant safety, all children must be 7–12 years old on the day of the event. Registration is now open and pre-registration is only \$10

per child. To keep this event safe, enrollment will be capped at 200 participants per event. Register your child today at www.stapletoncommunity.com.

MCA Photo Contest

The MCA is on the lookout for the best photos in Stapleton. Residents are encouraged to submit their photos to be showcased on the homepage of the MCA website, www.stapletoncommunity.com, and on the future MCA Facebook page. Your photo may also be used for the MCA Holiday Cards, to be printed in November 2013. The cards will be sold at the Winter Welcome and all proceeds will benefit local charities and organizations. To submit a Stapleton photo, email your photo to dmead@stapletoncommunity.com.

Summer Movie Suggestions

The MCA is also looking for feedback from our residents regarding Movies on The Green, to begin June 2013. We would like to know which movies you would like to have featured at The Green this summer! Please send all requests to events@stapletoncommunity.com. Thank you for your feedback!

Stapleton Bus Stops

We would like to remind everyone that the bus route on 29th Ave. is now running. Please remember to respect your neighbors and the properties surrounding the bus stops (i.e., picking up your trash, not venturing through your neighbor's front yard, no foul language). Also, please be advised that you cannot park in front of a bus stop. "Bus Stop" signs will serve as "No Parking" signs in the City and County of Denver and residents/guests should abide by the "No Parking" enforcement at bus stops (violators may be towed/ or ticketed). For more about the bus route, including a bus map and schedule, visit denvergov.org or call 3-1-1.

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

Dani Mead
Communications Coordinator



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A Starting Place for Undiscovered Artists

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Full of passion and excitement over his future as an artist, Ron Brauch took his then girlfriend Kerrin Whorton to hear a talk by a well-known contemporary art gallery director. Brauch and Whorton listened as the director told the group that new artists shouldn't bother coming to see him and that they should wait until they have made a name for themselves before knocking on his door.

This ran counter to everything Brauch had been told. "Part of what I'd been learning in (art) school was coaching you on how to present yourself as an artist to galleries," he says. "I felt there was a disconnect between what they were telling me at the school and what established galleries were looking for." Right then and there, on behalf of his own future and the dreams of fellow startup artists, Brauch and Whorton decided they would be the avenue through which new artists could get their start. Several months later, in 2011, Brauch and Whorton opened Buxiejo Gallery.

The name Buxiejo is a blend of the owners' middle names: Buxie and Joseph. That blending is in keeping with the rest of their lives. The now-engaged Park Hill residents utilize each other's different talents to run the business. Brauch is the artist and Whorton has small-business experience.

Brauch had dreamed of having a place where he could create and show his own art and that of his art school friends. Located above the El Noa Noa restaurant on 718 N. Santa Fe Drive, in the heart of the Santa Fe Arts District, Buxiejo turned out to be more of a formal space than Brauch had initially envisioned. "We've gotten so many compliments about the type of gallery we run even though it's an



Ron Brauch and his fiancée, Kerrin Whorton, sit at the top of the stairs leading to their gallery, Buxiejo Gallery, above the El Noa Noa restaurant on Santa Fe Dr. The gallery exclusively displays the work of new artists and Brauch and Whorton help them learn about showing and selling their work.

unusual space because it used to be an apartment for the family that runs El Noa Noa," explains Brauch. "The way we present work is on par with the better-known galleries in the Denver metro area so we're proud of that."

The goal of Buxiejo Gallery is to help emerging artists who show professionalism and determination while providing them with nurturing and feedback to help them get started. The artists are 95 percent local and 50 percent have never shown in a gallery before. The artists run the gamut in age and profession, from their 20s to 70s and from teachers to stay-at-home parents, all with one thing in common—the dream of becoming an artist. "They all just have to keep doing it—it's like a labor of love for them to create the art and they like that they found a spot where it's our labor of love to keep the gallery going," says Brauch.

One of the most important tools that Brauch and Whorton are able to give the artists is feedback from people who have come into the gallery during the gallery walks every first and third Friday of the month. "We ask people 'Which is your favorite?' and 'What did you like about it?'" says Whorton. They can then pass that information on to the artist.

Whorton and Brauch feel asking visitors what they think of the art also helps break the ice with people who may have "a preconceived notion that they have to be up on all the art knowledge to view it, and when we're going up and asking what they like, it makes people feel disarmed and more comfortable," Whorton says. "And that's really the environment we try to create." A series of art classes offered by Buxiejo is a continuation of that effort to make art feel approachable.

The couple feels there is a lot of untapped, quality art out there that would never have been shown before with the

You're invited to Northeast Neighborhood Night Out

February 15, 5pm-8pm

Buxiejo Gallery, 718 N. Santa Fe Drive
(above El Noa Noa restaurant)

Meet artists and gallery owners, enjoy light refreshments and tour Buxiejo and other galleries.

Feb. 15 is the Third Friday Artwalk in the Santa Fe Arts District. Families welcome. Free.

mentality of traditional galleries. "We really try to be an open stage for new artists who are ready to take it seriously," says Whorton. "I think everybody who is coming to us is growing. And we took a risk doing this ourselves. So we're all just taking big, brave steps here."

Visit Buxiejo Gallery at 718 N. Santa Fe Drive, www.buxiejogallery.com or buxiejogallery@gmail.com.



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The directory is updated monthly at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com -> Business Directory



“Murph” Lives On Thanks to Local Publisher

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

In the 2012 best-selling novel, *The Asphalt Warrior*, the main character, Murph, is a Denver cab driver who tries to minimize his interactions with people but gets tangled up in a variety of messy but humorous situations. Not surprisingly, the author, Gary Reilly, himself a Denver cab driver, was a lot like his alter ego, Murph.

Reilly was a bit of a contradiction. Although he was a very friendly, giving man, he didn't feel the need to be around people. At the launch party for Gary Reilly's first book, published after his death in 2011, Reilly's friend Mike Keefe stood at the podium, looking over the crowd and said, "Thank you all for coming tonight. If Gary was still with us, he wouldn't be here."

Mark Stevens, a Stapleton resident, author and former journalist, started a home business as a publisher after his close friend and mentor Gary Reilly died, leaving behind more than 20 unpublished books. The business is a joint venture with Mike Keefe, a Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist retired from *The Denver Post* who introduced Stevens to Reilly.

After publishing an award-winning short story in 1979, Reilly produced more than 20 novels over the course of

32 years. "Gary just never stopped writing," Stevens says.

Through the years, Stevens and Keefe encouraged Reilly to publish his books, offering to send letters to publishers, but he wasn't very interested. Stevens thinks Reilly just wanted to get back to writing his next novel rather than try to promote his work. "That was frustrating to us," says Stevens. "He had



As Mark Stevens (left) worked on his first novel, Gary Reilly would spend hours with him at the Europa Café, analyzing what was and wasn't working in the novel.

his own way he thought he wanted to pursue it—until he got sick."

When Reilly was diagnosed with colon cancer and grew sicker, he seemed to feel an urgency to try to get his books published. Keefe encouraged Reilly to allow him and Stevens to publish his books. Reilly agreed and wrote a simple, three-line will giving them the rights. In a salute to Reilly's own work experience and cabbie themes, Keefe and Stevens formed Running Meter Press to get Reilly's works out into the hands of readers.

Reilly was able to immerse himself in writing thanks to his girlfriend of two decades, Sherry Peterson, who supported him to allow him time to write. All proceeds from the book

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will go to Peterson. Stevens explains, “She’s the one who made this possible and gave him space and time and a place to write.”

In the “Murph” series, which Stevens describes as fresh and very funny with a warm-hearted vibe, readers will find many local Denver landmarks. Reilly’s first book, *The Asphalt Warrior*, reached number three on the *Denver Post* bestseller list when it was released in June 2012. The second book, *Ticket to Hollywood*, reached number two less than two weeks after its December 3rd launch. With the third in the series of Murph books, *The Heart of Darkness Club*, due out this spring, the plan is to publish the full series in three to four years and then start on Reilly’s other books. In addition to the 10 Murph books, Reilly also wrote at least 10 other books that are psychological thrillers, science fiction and about Vietnam, where he served a tour as a military policeman.

“The underlying theme of both Gary and Murph is: How much do you want to be part of society? How much do you want to be by yourself?” says Stevens. “Murph is constantly aware of to what degree he’s trying to maintain an isolated, Bohemian, undisturbed life in the city. Yet his livelihood as a cab driver depends on having to go out in the city.” Stevens notes that cab drivers are in a pinball machine, not knowing where they’re going to end up, bouncing all over and running into all sorts of things. “That was Gary too. He had a lot of friends but kept them compartmentalized in one-on-one relation-

“Most of the ideas I’ve gotten for novels or screenplays have occurred to me while I was either shaving or taking a bath. A number have occurred to me while I was driving (cab) 127. I rarely get ideas when seated in front of my typewriter, which I find ironic because I have always suspected that typing somehow plays a key role in writing.”

– Brendan Murphy, a.k.a. “Murph” in *Ticket to Hollywood*

ships,” says Stevens, adding, “Gary wasn’t interested in belonging.”

Stevens and Keefe overlapped working at *The Denver Post* and had played in a rock band together. Keefe introduced Stevens to Reilly, thinking they would click because of their mutual passion for fiction writing. Over the course of six years,

Stevens and Reilly would meet every six weeks at the former Europa Café to discuss each other’s work and the work of others. Reilly called it “Europa University.” That was in addition to countless emails in between meetings.

Reilly generously gave his time going over every detail of story structure and would have remained at their meetings for hours. But Stevens would have to tell Reilly, reluctantly, that he needed to go home to spend time with his family. “I felt terrible leaving,” recalls Stevens. “I’d never met anyone who wanted to climb inside your story and figure out what was working and what wasn’t in a deep, deep way.”

Stevens feels Reilly was instrumental in helping him shape his own fiction writing. “I guarantee you he made the difference in my first book (*Antler Dust*, People’s Press) getting published in 2007,” says Stevens. *Buried by the Roan* followed. While writing his third book, which he just finished, Stevens found himself saying, “I wish Gary was here to help me! I miss him.” The two had brainstormed some of the plot.

While Stevens is able to channel Reilly a bit, remembering some of his tips about choreographing action scenes and all that goes into a plot, Stevens says, “I know he’d like the book but he’d make it better.”

When asked what the major lesson was that he learned from Reilly, Stevens pauses and then says, “You know, I think it’s that

obsession can be a good thing. If you want to do something, pick one thing and just bear down,” says Stevens. “Gary was all about fiction. And he spent most of his life thinking about stories and fiction and it showed. He really believed that ‘art and expression’ was the one true thing you left behind.”

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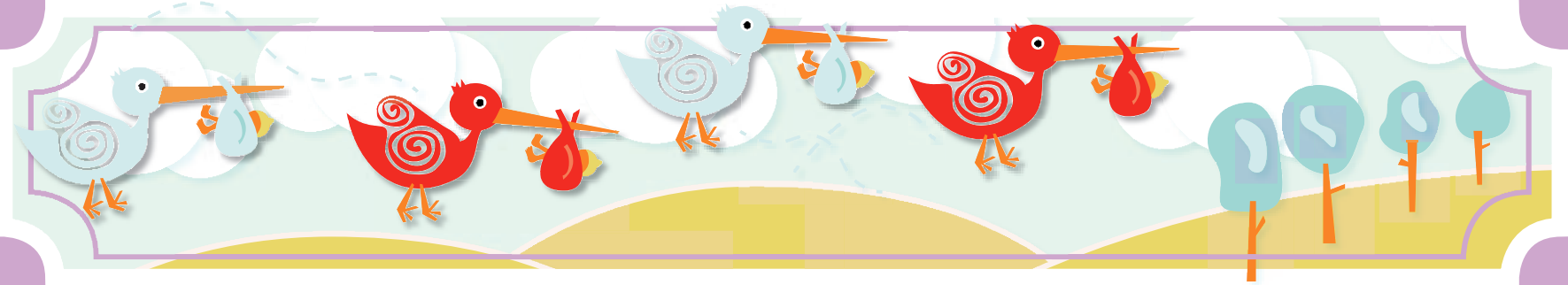
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Local Nonprofit Helps Refugees Who “Just want to stop running”

By Laurie Dunklee

Refugees from embattled Burma are lucky to land in Denver. Here they have a friend, Frank Anello, and his nonprofit Project Worthmore, to help them navigate their new life.

The refugees are fleeing persecution at the hands of Burma’s military regime, which has seized their land and livelihood and banished them to refugee camps. About 3,000 refugees have settled in Denver; 70,000 live in the U.S.

“They arrive here with no food, no English-speaking skills and no idea how to live in our culture,” said Anello, a Park Hill resident. “They are our neighbors and they need our help.”

Anello and his wife, Carolyn, became interested in working with refugees in 2010, when they helped a family through their church, Mile High Vineyard in Arvada.

“We didn’t know anything about the refugees from Burma who were living right down the street from us. It was just crazy,” said Anello. “We’d be sitting with our assigned family and others came to the door hungry. We realized they couldn’t read their mail, couldn’t enroll their kids in school. So many needed help.”



Park Hill resident Frank Anello (in sunglasses) started Project Worthmore, a nonprofit to help refugees from Burma, many of whom live nearby in the Glory apartments at 14th and Yosemite. Stapleton resident and artist Carmen Melton (violet sweater) organized an art show and auction to support the nonprofit. Refugees from Burma (from left) are: Mohamod Sabe, Nyo Nyo, Moe May, Ma Htay, Ahrahama, and Osaman.

The apartment buildings near Colfax Ave. and Yosemite St. are home to many refugees. They are brought here by the U.S. government under asylum laws to protect persecuted peoples. As many as 300 to 500 new refugees come to Denver from Burma each year.

Burma is in southern Asia and is bordered by India to the west, China to the north, and Laos and Thailand to the east. The country has been embroiled in civil war for 65 years. Rich in natural resources, including oil, the land is desirable to profiteering warlords who seize entire villages and force their inhabitants into refugee camps.

The refugees are members of nine different ethnic groups. Approximately 120,000 people have been displaced from their homes and ultimately forced to leave their country. The ethnics prefer not to be called “Burmese” because that is the name their persecutors have taken. The refugees also prefer to call their country Burma and not Myanmar, the more recent name given to it by the military regime.

Farming families who are pushed off their land might spend years in refugee camps before they can be relocated to another country. Anello visited the camps in 2011 as a guest of the Partners Relief and Development agency.

“The conditions in the camps are deplorable. They live in bamboo huts with dirt floors and no toilets,” said Anello. “Often they are stuck in the refugee camps for 10 or 15 years. Many can never go back home because their villages were burned and the land is full of landmines.

“Seeing the camps rattled me mentally,” Anello said. “It rocked my world to know these people had nowhere to go.”

Anello, a waiter, and Carolyn, a dental hygienist, started Project Worthmore in 2011 to help refugees find their footing in Denver.

“These people were pushed aside and they felt worthless. We’re about restoring their worth,” Anello said.

Project Worthmore works with Lutheran Family Services and other agencies to provide short-term emergency help and

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Left: Carmen Melton stands in front of some of her paintings at the art show and sale she organized at the Core New Art Space in the Santa Fe Arts District. Melton invited other artists to contribute paintings as a fundraiser to support Project Worthmore. Melton's paintings are at the lower left, above her head and the small middle painting on the right.

The nonprofit raises money to provide families with 50-pound bags of rice. "Since food stamps don't kick in for a while, 50 pounds of rice can keep a family of four going for a month," Anello said.

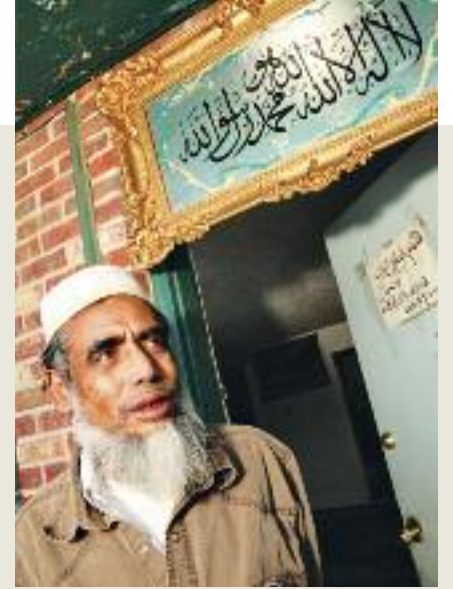
Another priority is providing bus passes so they can start getting around. Project Worthmore also offers English classes on-site at the apartment buildings.

Thirteen teams of Project Worthmore volunteers sponsor 15 refugee families. The teams of four people provide "cultural mentorship" by showing people how to ride the bus, shop for groceries, open a checking account, enroll their children in school and clean their apartment.

"The most important thing mentorship teams do is check on the families once a week to make sure they have food and to help

cultural education. "The Lutheran Family Services caseworker is charged with helping about 500 refugees from all over the world, so there's no way they all get enough support. We work closely with him and focus on the people from Burma," said Anello.

Right: Osaman stands in front of an apartment that is being used as a mosque by the refugees from Burma who live at the Glory apartment building. Osaman is the imam.



them read their mail. They assist with navigating the paperwork necessary to get food stamps and Medicaid benefits," Anello said.

Volunteers commit to mentorship teams for six months at a time. Anello hopes to double the number of teams so they can help more families.

Several dedicated businesses and individuals are helping Project Worthmore grow. Watercourse Foods and City O' City donated a portion of their sales every Monday for two years, netting the nonprofit about \$800 a month. Artist and Stapleton resident Carmen Melton put together an art show at Core New Art Space that raised \$6,000. Other fundraisers have included an Ice Skate-a-Thon, a benefit concert at the Mercury Café and a coat/rice drive.

"We're taking care of our neighbors while building a sense of community," said Anello.

Anello plans to open a center on East Colfax where refugees can come for services. In addition to the services already pro-

vided by Project Worthmore, the center will offer computer classes, homework help and job-hunting help.

He said the biggest need is funding for the new space, as well as continued help to buy rice for new refugee families. To learn more about how to help Project Worthmore, see their website, project-worthmore.org.

"Working with these people will shake you and it will shape you," Anello said. "If you want a different view of life, it's no farther than just across Montview from Stapleton. These folks are loving, honest and giving. All they want is to stop running."



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Valentine's Day Reflections by a Teenager

The brain my parents can't understand confronts the subject of love.

By Jack Gurr

Valentine's Day is upon us once again. With hearts on every card and sappy romantic comedies on re-runs, love is unmistakably in the air. Can you imagine how all this looks in the mind of a teenager today?

Valentine's Day can be one of the most

complicated times for teenagers; everywhere they look all they can see is love. If they aren't experiencing love then there are only two logical explanations; (1) they are happily single and don't want to be in love or (2) something is drastically wrong with them for not being in love and something has to change immediately.

As far as love goes, teens don't have much experience. Most of us haven't had time enough to experience all the intricate details of a long, loving relationship. The argument can be made that by seeing their parents' love, teens can understand love. But unfortunately close to 50 percent of first marriages end in divorce—so roughly half of teens today don't have a stable relationship in their lives that they can look at and say, "Man, that's what true love is." That means all we consistently have is what we see in the movies—the media's depiction of love.

If you were a teenager and you saw all these movies and shows that glorify love, then wouldn't you naturally draw the association between happiness and love? Most times after I have seen a movie, I walk away thinking love is a beautiful thing that would make me happier. But they also leave me feeling like I am alone without love—like if I could just find true love then everything would magically change and I would be happier.

Since many of us haven't felt love in real life, all we have is what we see through the twisted views the media so bluntly presents. So what do we do? All too often we settle for what we are told is love and force our media-driven definitions of love onto our relationships.

The problem with that is when things go wrong it is hard to give it up, even if it is the right thing to do. I mean, it's love, how can you give that up? One of the best things that you can have in today's society is a rela-

tionship, and what's not to like about it? You can have dramatic kisses in the rain, if you are ever in trouble he/she will come and save you, and on top of all that your life is 100 times better than it would be if you were single.

But, in reality, all that romantic comedies do is make today's youth feel broken for not

having the perfect relationship. They take an emotion that few of us have ever seen up close and they present it as a necessity. With so many outside forces pushing teens in different directions, how are they supposed to respond if not

through a false sense of the necessity of love?

After looking at a variety of teenage relationships, I have come to understand that, for many teens, the desire to be in love is stronger than the love they find. Many times teens convince themselves that they are in love or find themselves in an endless search for "true love." You convince yourself that you're in love; then you ignore everything that's wrong because you don't want to step back and look at the reasons behind your relationship problems. The sad truth is that every relationship isn't perfect, and many teen relationships hurt more than they help.

Valentine's Day is a weird time for teens. If you think peer pressure is nothing to joke about, the pressure from the media is even worse. It traps all but the most happily single in a state of endless searching, and with no way to stop thinking that everyone is the one, more and more teens are finding themselves stuck in a dead end relationship. But hey, at least they aren't single.

Jack Gurr is an intern at the Front Porch from Denver School of Science and Technology.



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The Mentor

East High School basketball coach Rudy Carey is a legend who is well known for his outspoken sideline demeanor and his frequent battles with officials. But his true legacy will not be the many state or DPS titles he has won—it will be the experience and life skills his players have obtained. Detractors claim Carey recruits players, a claim that Carey and his former players vehemently deny. The detractors do not mention the graduation rate of his athletes (100%) and the range of kids who join his program (country club kids to parentless). Carey’s players learn a lot more about life than about playing basketball, lessons that are much more important to the coach than winning.

Carey grew up in East Denver and attended East before playing for Colorado State. He has had many opportunities to move on or move up and he has never taken the leap, primarily because he believes his work is at home with his family and in the Calloway gym at East High.

Jon Meredith: Coach, what makes you keep coming back year after year?
Coach Carey: It certainly isn’t the money. It is the overall interaction with the kids, trying to make a positive impact on their lives, teaching them how important core values are, getting them to understand goal-setting principles and



East High School basketball coach Rudy Carey

life skills. In the Denver Public Schools, 33 percent of black males graduate from high school; in our program 100 percent of all males graduate.

JM: At what age is it appropriate for a child to specialize in one sport?
Carey: I don’t think it is ever appropriate for a child to specialize in one sport. The more you can expose them to different sports, the child tends to gravitate toward what is most fun for them. When you start steering them it tends to stifle their growth. We encourage kids at the high-school level to play other sports, like football. It gives them perspective on the sports and exposes them to other coaching ideas.

JM: Parents get caught up in the idea that their child needs to specialize in order to get a college scholarship.
Carey: In college these days, athletes do specialize. The more rounded an athlete is, the better chance he will have of getting recruited. Even though he may be a basketball player, if he has football or wrestling toughness, that helps him become a more marketable person.

JM: Why didn’t you take the college jobs that you have been offered?
Carey: When I was offered those jobs, my kids were very young and there were no recruiting restrictions. Back then you could be traveling as much as 200 days a year. I valued my family and the impact I could make at the high-school level. There is also much more teaching at the high-school level.

JM: What is the experience of being a part of a Division 1 basketball program like, from being recruited to actually playing?
Carey: At first the kids love the attention of being recruited, but it quickly turns into being a job. Once they get on campus, playing basketball is their job and everything else, including academics, is secondary.

JM: Of all the kids you have coached, who has gone on to represent the values of your program in their lives and careers?
Carey: In 30-plus years, kids have gone on to do many successful things. On the other hand, some have ended up behind bars or even dead. When I think of those who have gone on to be highly successful, I think of CJ Chapman, a prominent attorney with Brownstein Hyatt

and a four-year starter at Princeton; JB Bickerstaff who played at Minnesota and is now an assistant coach with the Houston Rockets; Ross Schrader who went to Cal-Irvine and played for 10 years in Europe; and Avery Merriex who played four years at Air Force and is now an officer.

JM: Do you have to take whoever turns out for basketball at East?
Carey: We take whoever makes one of our teams. We have four levels, freshman, sophomore, JV and varsity, totaling 55 players. We have to compete against whatever else is out there for our kids, be it gangs, girls, drugs or work. When they are practicing here in the evening, after mandatory study hall, they are so tired

they have no choice but to go home, eat and go to sleep. Many of my players are raised by their mothers or grandmothers. One year I had 12 players without fathers in their home; 10 didn’t even know who their father was.

JM: If you pick one college program to send a player to, which one would it be?
Carey: Right now? University of Colorado. Tad Boyle is very honest; he treats people fairly. He treats a janitor just like he would the president of the United States. He has been in this gym many times in the time he has been the coach up there. Ricardo Patton coached at CU for 10 years and came down here once. He also missed some great players because of that.

JM: Who is the best athlete you ever coached?
Carey: Probably Stevie Johnson at Manual. He was 5’ 5” and could run and jump with anyone. I played him against other teams’ centers who were sometimes 6’ 7”. (Johnson went on to become a two-time WBC lightweight boxing world champion.)

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Greetings Front Porch Readers. I am a film professor at Metro State University of Denver and a Stapleton resident. This is the inaugural column of a regular feature that will review films you may not find anywhere else: independent films, foreign films, documentaries, and other art-house fare that are either new releases or available on DVD/instant streaming. You can find reviews of popular films anywhere; I aim to bring you the hidden gems.

For this first column, however, I am reviewing the films nominated for Best Picture at this year's Oscars. The Oscars will be awarded on Sunday, February 24. I hope this column entices you to catch one or more of the films. Thank you for reading and I look forward to writing future columns.

When Steven Spielberg presented the Oscar for Best Picture in 2011, he said: "In a moment, one of these 10 movies will join a list that includes *On the Waterfront*, *Midnight Cowboy*, *The Godfather*, and *The Deer Hunter*. The other nine will join a list that includes *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Citizen Kane*, *The Graduate*, and *Raging Bull*. Either way, they're all in good company."

The gist of Spielberg's introduction is clear: the best film doesn't always win, and the winner is often puzzling. This neatly sums up the Oscars—it's great fun, it's great theater, and we honor the best artists in the world, but in the end, eh....

Here is a rundown of this year's Best Picture nominees:

Lincoln (Director: Steven Spielberg) is the frontrunner and the type of film the Academy loves: it is epic, well-directed, well acted, and well scripted. Daniel Day Lewis as Lincoln is spectacular, and the supporting cast is superb. It covers an important chapter in

our nation's history and it leaves us feeling good about our country. Yet, it left me wanting more. I felt as though in between each stirring Lewis speech, the action was predictable and the visuals a bit limited. Such a vibrant topic and important era in our nation's history deserves a more enigmatic camera. Too often the visuals take a back seat to the dialogue.



Les Misérables (Director: Tom Hooper) is big. Everything about the film screams monstrous melodious melodrama: from the story to the performances to the camera moves to the sets, the film recalls the grand epics of the silent cinema. Some may be turned off by the incessant musicality or the over-the-top-melodrama, but the film knows exactly what it is and it delivers on that promise. Hugh Jackman is lively and capable, Anne Hathaway steals the movie for a (too) short time, and the supporting cast is excellent. Russell Crowe's performance is the wild card here: he is clearly not as musical as the rest of the cast, yet he imbues the character with such force and emotion that we feel for him even though he is the antagonist. The cinematography is utterly spectacular, and the sets and costume design are dazzling. It is a daring film, but it works and ultimately, it moves. Cinema was born into melodrama, and *Les Misérables* knows it.

Argo (Director: Ben Affleck) is an expertly crafted and interesting film that flames brilliantly at times. Affleck will be a great director, and he shows studied skill here in alternating styles and moods. The story is fascinating and the cinematography is particularly enthralling when it takes chances—such as a spot-on homage recalling the signature filmic style of the 70s: wallpapered music, slow-motion, and split screens. Ultimately the film itself is secondary to the story it tells, and it can slow down at points.

Zero Dark Thirty (Director: Kathryn Bigelow) follows the realist aesthetic of Bigelow's last film, the Oscar-winning *The Hurt Locker*. It is a fascinating and controver-

sial story, but it is difficult to make tedious intelligence work sexy (even with Jessica Chastain in the lead). The underlying themes are enticing—"Is torture necessary?" "Did torture lead to the killing of Osama bin Laden?"—but the lack of reflection on the topic is both troubling and telling. There are moments of energy and a front row seat to the raid on bin Laden, but too often the film falls in love with itself and forgets it is a film.

The Life of Pi (Director: Ang Lee) is simply astonishing for much of the film. The unbelievable story of a boy lost at sea with only a tiger for a sea mate has some of the most arresting visuals of the year. The frame story—the boy as a man, telling his story to a writer—drags on the film and interrupts the action.

Django Unchained (Director: Quentin Tarantino) is a throwback to the spaghetti Westerns of the 60s and 70s. Explicitly violent, gruesome in its characterizations, and unforgiving in its view of 19th-century America, the film has been criticized for "glorifying violence" or being in love with violence. I take the point, but a Western set around slavery begs for this treatment: it shows how brutal and violent our country was at this point in history. Is a shot of blood spraying onto blooming cotton over-the-top? Maybe. But the symbolism is poignant.

Silver Linings Playbook (Director: David O. Russell) is an acting tour-de-force and a view of relationships we rarely see on Hollywood screens. The film is well worth a viewing for the performances; it is a romantic comedy for those who despise romantic comedies.

Beasts of the Southern Wild (Director: Benh Zeitlin) is the gem of the group. The story of a young girl and her distant, violent, drunken father living in the Mississippi Delta is fresh, inventive, unpredictable and touching. The performance of 6-year old Quvenzhané Wallis is downright magical, and that magic pervades the rest of the film. It is full of unexpected wonder and poetry in the midst of filth and abuse. The film will never win the Oscar, but it has my vote. (This is exactly why film professors do not get to vote.)

Amour (Director: Michael Haneke) At press time, the film had not yet opened in Denver.

Above: Daniel Day Lewis as Lincoln.

Below: Quvenzhané Wallis in *Beasts of the Southern Wild*.



Media photos courtesy of film distributors.

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Music that brings people together

Swallow Hill to Open a Branch at Lowry Town Center



Swallow Hill CEO Tom Scharf, a mandolin and guitar player, is pictured in the main concert hall at the headquarters at Yale and Broadway. The focus of Swallow Hill at Lowry will be on programs for children and families.

By Laurie Dunklee

The Lowry Town Center will be singing a new tune come March, when Swallow Hill Music Association opens a satellite to provide music lessons for all ages. The 34-year-old music center, headquartered at 71 E. Yale Ave., is opening a branch in Lowry that will offer guitar, ukulele, fiddle, harmonica and bass lessons, as well as singing instruction, said Tom Scharf, CEO of Swallow Hill. “We’ll offer everything our main location has except drum

lessons and dancing,” Scharf said. “We want to be considerate of our neighbors.” The new Swallow Hill Music at Lowry Quinlan School will be located at 2nd Ave. Parkway and Quebec St.

Scharf said the focus at Lowry will be on children’s programming, including Little Mozarts, an introduction to music for children under 2; and Little Swallows, for children ages 2 to 5 to begin on ukulele and piano. A family package will include an adult lesson for parents paired with a lesson for children and parents together. “It’s like instant daycare with lessons.”

It’s never too late to learn an instrument, Scharf said. “If you saw the Beatles on Ed Sullivan and said ‘I want to do that someday,’ today is the day,” he said.

Swallow Hill emphasizes experiential learning rather than a conservatory approach, he said. “The experiential approach gets you into the game quickly. Everyone is welcome and there’s no criticism. We get people playing at their first lesson,” Scharf said.

Community is the main focus at Swallow Hill. “We provide education and performances, but connecting people is especially important,” Scharf said. “We do music WITH you instead of music AT you. At our concerts, the perform-

ers come out to talk afterwards.”

As one of the largest roots (folk) music organizations in the country, Swallow Hill has a lot of folks to bring together. More than 5,000 students register each year. Concerts bring in 105,000 visits, including the performances Swallow Hill produces at the Botanic Gardens each summer. The nonprofit also runs a music

education outreach program to K-12 schools in the area that reaches about 16,000 students.

“Our music outreach ties into the schools’ curriculum, with subject matter like the Civil War and how cowboys lived in the 1800s. Our goal is to get music back into the schools,” Scharf said.

Scharf, a guitar (continued on page 22)

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Premium Fishwrap*

by Jon Meredith

The Right to Vote

Shenanigans around voting have been around as long as this country. We've experienced poll taxes, ballot stuffing, intimidation, disenfranchisement, vote buying, destruction of ballots and electronic manipulation. Members of both major political parties have been accused and found guilty of all of the above. Chicago is famous for turning the 1960 election to John Kennedy, making famous the saying "vote early and vote often." Florida will be forever remembered for multitudes of questions involving the outcome of the 2000 election, giving the presidency to George W. Bush.

Somehow, across this country, we just seem to put up with it. I do not understand, in 2012, why we are not able

to let every American who has the right to vote, vote.

Our citizens have fought and died for the right to vote and over time the right has become more inclusive such that now every citizen, with some exceptions, over the age of 18 has that right. When the country was founded, only white men who owned property could vote. Gradually, non-property-owning white men, then non-white men, after that women, still later Native Americans and as late as 1961 citizens who lived in the District of Columbia could finally cast a vote for President.

You may have the right to vote but how you are able to exercise that right is determined by each state's legislature and governor. The whims of a few elected officials can affect the most important right Americans have by making exercising that right more difficult.

During this past election, massive voter fraud was such a major concern that state legislatures felt they needed to do something about it. This, despite many very reputable stud-

ies that found voter fraud to be basically nonexistent. It also just so happened that the states that passed these measures to prevent any fraud happened to have Republican-controlled legislatures and be states that were expected to be really close during the 2012 Presidential Election.

Think about how difficult massive voter fraud would be to orchestrate on a scale sufficient to influence a local election, let alone a national election. You would have to organize thousands of individuals who had not otherwise registered to vote and who were not eligible to vote. Get them to register and then vote. Why would anyone not entitled to vote do that, especially if you lived in the country illegally?

However, if a party wants to make it more difficult for certain citizens to vote, there are many ways to do just that. Such as requiring identification that eligible voters may not have or placing fewer voting machines in certain areas or perhaps having individuals with certain agendas own the companies that program voting machines. That is not nearly as difficult to accomplish as organizing thousands to vote illegally.

Every day, billions of financial transactions take place in this country at stock exchanges, banks and ATMs. We seem to get all of those correct with different numbers, PINS, amounts and names. There is no question that if we could muster the political will, a system could be developed and implemented that would ensure that Americans eligible to vote could vote, without controversy or waiting in long lines.

In a way, the closeness of the 2000 election was a good thing. No longer can the apathetic say their vote doesn't matter. The voter suppression efforts this year were met with long lines of voters who were so determined to cast a ballot that despite every effort, they were not to be denied their vote.

Politicians always pontificate about how the United States is that beaming light in the middle of a storm, an example of what a modern democracy should be. Is not the first example of that shining democracy showing the rest of the world that here, every eligible citizen that has the right to vote, can vote?

Jon Meredith lives in Stapleton. He can be reached at jon.meredith@q.com.

**Fishwrap is a slang term that started in the '30s and refers to the transient value of yesterday's newspaper.*

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Cupcakes with a Kick

By Nancy Burkhart

The next time you think about stopping at the liquor store on the way home, why don't you stop at Topsy Cupcakes & Desserts for a treat that has been infused with your favorite alcohol, as well as some nonalcoholic goodies for the kids.

"You should be able to taste the alcohol, but it's not overwhelming," explained Kiondra Mills, who with her husband, Damoan, owns Topsy Cupcakes & Desserts.

Kiondra and Damoan will create the best cupcake possible with your favorite alcohol.

"Some alcohols will come through stronger," Kiondra said. "Others are more subtle. We accommodate custom orders. Just call and say what you're looking for, and we'll create the flavor. We know what the pairing should be—the right cake with the alcohol."

Although the cupcakes contain alcohol, they don't come under laws that govern drinking alcohol, according to Kiondra.

"We don't recommend that anyone under 21 have them. But it's not served in a drink form, so it doesn't come under the drinking law. It's not enough content to really do anything to you," she said.

Prices for regular cupcakes are \$3; alcohol infused cupcakes are \$3.50.

"If it's a liqueur that is much more expensive, the price will be higher," she said. "We do whiskey, brandy, red wine, white wine, chardonnay and any liqueur."

The Mills do custom orders for large parties. They baked custom-made cupcakes for Mayor Michael Hancock's inauguration. Damoan Mills is a long-time professional chef who has cooked for President Barack Obama and Oprah Winfrey.

"My husband has been an executive chef, and we did catering," Kiondra said. "One day we started talking about the treats and how cupcakes were a trend. His mother said we should do cupcakes. He said, 'If I do cupcakes, we need to have some fun with it.' So, we put some alcohol in them. The thought was to really capture adults' favorite treats."

Topsy Cupcakes & Desserts truly is a family business. The Mills family includes their daughter, 8-year-old Imani, and two sons, 5-year-old DJ and 2-year-old Jayden.

"Our daughter was six at the time we started," Kiondra said. "She wanted cupcakes just for kids to take to class. So we created Kiddos Gourmet Sweets. The first cupcake was a Dirt and the Worm cupcake. It's a chocolate cupcake with pudding, Oreos and gummy worms. It's just adorable. The kids have fun with it. Our kids help with all the flavors, so they really are what a kid wants to eat. They're our little creative directors. The 2-year-old is our taste tester."



Kiondra and Damoan Mills, owners of Topsy Cupcakes and Desserts in Northfield

The cupcake flavors are rotated daily. For Valentine's Day, there will be pink champagne cupcakes with little hearts, Kiondra said. And, a call to Topsy Cupcakes & Desserts will result in your personal order or in a Valentine's Day Sweet-heart Package with two gift-wrapped cupcakes and a bottle of

red, white or chardonnay wine. In the meantime, many customers think of the infused cupcakes for gifts. "We have some walk-through customers, but about 80 percent of them aren't buying cupcakes for themselves," Kiondra said. "It's for someone's birthday, graduation or other occasion. Co-workers come in and buy one and then have to take some for others in the office." Topsy Cupcakes & Desserts also offers desserts other than cupcakes, such as cookies, cheesecakes, tarts, brownies and gourmet hot chocolate. Some of the desserts are infused, some are not.

To order cupcakes with a particular choice of alcohol, call 720.523.3335. Or stop by Topsy Cupcakes & Desserts at 8286 Northfield Blvd., Unit 1535, to sample the daily fare. Store hours are: Mon.–Thurs., 12–8pm.; Fri. and Sat., 11am–9pm; and Sun., 12–6pm or until sold out.

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WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT HEAVY MENSTRUAL BLEEDING?

by Katie Rustici, MD

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Katie Rustici, MD
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303-403-6300
Open Mon - Fri, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sat, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Menorrhagia is the medical term for abnormally heavy or prolonged menstrual bleeding.

How do I know if I have abnormally heavy bleeding or just a heavy period?

If every period you have causes enough blood loss or cramping that you can't maintain your usual daily activities, chances are you have menorrhagia. If you have any of the following signs or symptoms, you may have more than just a heavy period.

- Menstrual flow soaks through one or more sanitary pads or tampons every hour for several consecutive hours
- Double sanitary protection is necessary overnight
- Menstrual periods last longer than seven days
- Menstrual flow includes large blood clots
- You regularly experience tiredness, fatigue or shortness of breath (symptoms of anemia) during your period

What causes menorrhagia?

In some cases, the cause is unknown, but a number of conditions may cause menorrhagia. Some common causes are:

- **Uterine fibroids** – noncancerous (benign) tumors of the uterus.
- **Polyps** – small, benign growths on the lining of the uterine wall.
- **Adenomyosis** – condition occurs when glands from the endometrium become embedded in the uterine muscle.
- **Cancer** – rarely, uterine cancer, ovarian cancer or cervical cancer can be the cause.
- **Medications** – certain drugs, including anti-inflammatory medications and anticoagulants can contribute to heavy or prolonged bleeding.

Is there treatment for heavy menstrual cycles?

Yes, there are many effective treatments for this. It is recommended that you talk to your doctor to learn which treatment might be best for you.

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

Like us on Facebook

One-Stop Shopping—Wash Your Dog and Your Car at the Same Time

By Nancy Burkhardt

Your car needs a bath—and so does the dog. Now you can load the dog in the car and drive down to the Autowash @ Stapleton at 2033 Central Park Blvd. Autowash is expected to open in late

February and will have a grand opening on Saturday, March 16, offering free car and dog washes from 9am until 5pm. Not only does Autowash have “green” car wash bays, but there are two dog wash bays that will accommodate dogs from the size of



Daivien, 3, Dennis, Dyllan, 9, Donathan, 5, and Erin Dreeszen with their dog Riggs, a Newfoundland, at their family's new carwash on Central Park Blvd.

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Newfoundlands down to the size of Shih Tzus.

“You can fit a full-sized dog in the washes,” said Erin Dreeszen who, with her husband, Dennis, owns Autowash @ Stapleton. “It’s fully operational with shampoo and blow dry. Everything for the animal is there and it’s self-serve. It’s open 24/7. It’s outside, but there are temporary window walls in the winter.”

“My wife and I started looking at building a car wash six years ago,” Dennis explained. “Instead of a honeymoon, we went to a financial seminar. That set the stage for a family business that we could run and teach our children entrepreneurship. A car wash was something we both were interested in. We interviewed owners of car washes. We fell in love with this system and would drive all the way to Golden because we loved that car wash. We found a mentor.”

The Dreeszens live in Stapleton with their three children, 9-year-old Dyllan, 5-year-old Donathan, and 3-year-old Daivien. Dennis does pension consulting for a local bank. Erin is an assistant principal. They wanted their car wash to reflect Stapleton’s “green” philosophy.

“We made it as ‘green’ as we could,” Dennis

said. “When the government yanked the environmental credits, it made it impossible to put solar panels on the roof. We were really disappointed in

that. But we’ve done other things. There is all LED lighting. That would be the biggest cost factor. “We chose to use PVC building materials. It took less in shipping costs because it comes on flats in one truck rather than using dozens of trucks. The material itself is more sustainable. You don’t have to keep coating the walls with toxic materials. It has a longer life span. All of our walls are PVC filled with concrete for a little bit softer footprint with the building materials.”


The Dreeszens are donating the scrap wood left over from the car wash’s construction to The Urban Farm.

“The average home car wash takes between 80 and 140 gallons of water,” Dennis said. “Our average car wash is 45 to 50 gallons. All of our water is treated before it enters the sewer. The self-serve bays use high-quality, low-flow nozzles. It’s not wasting as much water, but is getting the same effect as if we used high-pressure nozzles.”

The car wash and dog wash bays are self-service. However, someone from the Dreeszen family will be there during peak times, Dennis said.

“Early mornings Erin or I will be there, and weekdays it will be the grandpas,” he said. “Our plan is to have someone there between 30 and 40 hours a week. The car wash can very much stand on its own, but we plan to have a presence there quite often. We wanted to be sure this was the highest-quality car wash that we could implement. That would be our trademark—that it would be a quality service.”

For information about Autowash @ Stapleton, go to 2033 Central Park Blvd. or online at www.autowashstapleton.com. Email info@autowashstapleton.com or call 303.927.9061.



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Feb. 16 at Stapleton Holiday Inn

Relive the Fur Trade Era —Learn What Life Was Like for Mountain Men

Scrimshaw classes—Mountain men used a buffalo or cattle horn to hold their gunpowder and they etched artwork into the horn and colored it with India ink.

David McCord, a Montclair resident and wildlife director for the CSMLA, will present information on the effect of climate change on wildlife.

According to Doreen Webb, a member of CSMLA and a history buff, the demand for top hats made of beaver pelts drove the fur trading early from 1800 to 1840, but when the Chinese starting promoting the silk trade, silk became the material of choice for men's top hats—and that ended the beaver fur trade era. Webb says CSMLA has worked with the division of wildlife to have a muzzle loading hunting season for elk, deer and antelope. Muzzle loaders are loaded from the front end of the gun and must be reloaded after each

shot. She points out that the velocity of muzzle-loaded guns is not as great as today's guns, and the hunters must get closer to the animal to take a shot. "Many people today would call these guns primitive," she says.

The Colorado State Muzzle Loading Association's website is www.csmla.net.



David McCord shows some of his magazines for those interested in the fur trade era, as well as historic clothing and guns.

Montclair resident David McCord holds his muzzle loader, a gun that is loaded from the front. The Colorado State Muzzle Loading Association sponsors an annual convention where attendees can learn about the lives of the mountain men who hunted beaver in the 1800s.

By Carol Roberts

Spend an afternoon reliving the fur trade era from 1800–1840 when men wore hats made of beaver pelts and mountain men who made their living trapping beaver had to learn a wide range of skills to survive in the Wild West.

The Colorado State Muzzle Loading Association's Winter Fair and Convention celebrates the fur trade era and offers an opportunity to learn what life was like during this era. The public is invited. The event will be held Saturday, Feb. 16, from 8am–5pm at the Holiday Inn in Stapleton. Admission is \$4/person.

Members of the Colorado State Muzzle Loading Association (CSMLA) and other history buffs dress in period clothing and teach some of the mountain men's skills. Furs, beads, books, replica muzzle loaders and other items from that era will be for sale and classes and demonstrations will be held throughout the day to teach some of the mountain men's skills. Mountain men made many of their belongings—the few supplies they did have came from traders from the East who wanted their beaver pelts.

Activities for kids will include: story hours with Native American tales; old-fashioned games; musicians playing throughout the day; make-and-take sessions where kids will learn how to make old-fashioned craft items they can take home; and a scavenger hunt for kids to find various items from the traders.

Activities for all ages will include:

Finger weaving and loomless beading classes—Mountain men didn't have looms, so they used finger weaving to make sashes to hold up their pants and did bead work.

Making a capote in an hour—Mountain men wore a capote, a wool blanket made into a coat.

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

RECURRING ARTWALKS

First Fridays

Santa Fe Arts District. Santa Fe Dr. between 10th and 6th. 5-8pm. www.artdistrictonSantaFe.com

North Denver's Tennyson Art Walk. Tennyson St. and 44th Ave. 6-10pm. www.denverartwalk.squarespace.com

River North (RiNo) Art District, 6-9pm. RiNo starts at Broadway and Walnut St. www.RiverNorthart.com

Golden Triangle Museum District. 5-9pm. www.goldentrian-geofdenver.com

Navajo Street Art District. 5-9pm. www.navajostreetartdistrict.com

Second Fridays

Aurora's East End Second Friday Art Walk. 5-8pm. Map to venues at Fletcher Plaza/MLK Library (E Colfax at Elmira).

Third Friday

Santa Fe Arts District. Santa Fe Dr. between 10th and 6th. 5-8pm. www.artdistrictonSantaFe.com

Final Friday

Final Friday at Denver Art Museum. 6-10pm. *Untitled* is the museum's Final Friday series, Jan.-Oct. Music, cash bar, munchies, offbeat art encounters, unique de tours of DAM collection. General admission applies; members free. www.denverartmuseum.org

DENVER METRO EVENTS

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

Through 2/14- Southwest Rink at Skyline Park. FREE ice skating in downtown Denver; bring skates or rent: \$2/pair. www.downtowndenver.com

Through 2/23- Rethinking Western. Gallery 1261. Contemporary takes on realities of life in U.S. West. 303.571.1261. 1261 Delaware St.

2/3 Sunday- Football-Free at the Mercury Cafe. Spend Super Bowl Sunday football-free at Mercury Cafe. 5:30pm: Lindy Hop class, 6:30pm: Jitterbug class, 8pm Williams and the Romantic. 2199 California St. \$10. 303.294.9258. www.mercurycafe.com

2/7 Thursday- Rocky Flats: A Personal Story, A Community Story. 1-2pm. History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway. \$4 members/\$5 nonmembers, at the door. www.historycolorado.org

2/9 Saturday- Cockpit Demo Day. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-12pm. www.wingsmuseum.org

2/8 Friday to 2/10 Sunday- Advance Auto Parts Monster Jam. Pepsi Center. Tickets: \$20-\$50; kids 2-12 \$10. All tickets +\$2 day of show. www.pepsicenter.com www.monsterjam.com

2/9 Saturday and 2/10 Sunday- Mountain Mardi Gras with Denver Brass. Newman Center for Performing Arts, Univ. of Denver. Tickets: \$43-\$24. 303.832.HORN or www.denverbrass.org

2/9 Saturday to 2/17 Sunday- Colorado Garden and Home Show. Colorado Convention Center, Downtown Denver. Flowering gardens, 1,400 booths; spring landscaping, patio/outdoor projects. Tickets: \$12; \$10 at King Soopers; kids 12/under free. www.gardeningcolorado.com or 303.932.8100

2/9 Saturday- Preservation Hall Jazz Band. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. 7:30pm. Tickets: www.coloradosymphony.org

2/10 Sunday- Malady and Mourning in Dead of Winter. Explore customs of Civil War-era sickness, death and grieving. 12-4pm. General admission applies. www.fourmilepark.org

2/10 Sunday- 4th Annual Meet Your Match Pet Adoption at Denver Animal Shelter. 10am-2pm. Reduced adoption fees. Bring your vaccinated pet to mingle with potential new pets. 720.917.1776. 1241 W. Bayaud

2/13 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

2/14 Thursday- Most Romantic Classics. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. 7:30pm. Tickets: www.coloradosymphony.org

2/20 Wednesday- Cocktails for a Cause benefit for Project Angel Heart. Network with women professionals and enjoy free food and drink. Your donation of an item(s) listed on the website (www.cocktailsforacauseco.com) requested by the charity is your ticket to the event. 5:30-8pm. The Cable Center at DU, 220 Buchtel Blvd.

2/21 Thursday- ZOSO (Led Zeppelin tribute). Tickets \$15. 8pm. www.bluebirdtheater.net

2/21 Thursday- American Institute of Architects Denver Chapter (AIA Denver) Third Thursdays – Open Studio! H+L Architecture, 1755 Blake St., Ste. 400. 5pm. www.aiacolorado.com

2/22 Friday to 2/24 Sunday- Rocky Mountain Balboa Blowout. Balboa dance performers, instructors and vintage jazz band, Jonathan Stout and His Campus Five. Tickets \$10+. www.balboablowout.com, www.cmdance.org or 303.883.6691. Turnverein Dance & Cultural Center, 1570 Clarkson St.

2/22 Friday- 3rd Annual Delightful Dishes and Dreamy Get-aways. By Colo. Hotel and Lodging Assoc. to benefit Volunteers of America. 15 food stations, hosted bar, live/silent auction. Brown Palace Hotel Ballroom. 6-9pm. Tickets: \$49. www.coloradolodging.com or 303.297.8333

2/23 Saturday to 3/8 Friday- Denver Restaurant Week 2013. 200+ restaurants offer multicourse meals for mile-high price \$52.80 for 2; tax/tip not included. www.denverrestaurantweek.com

3/9 Saturday and 3/10 Sunday- Spring Sugar Plum Bazaar. Features vintage, crafty, original, boutique-style vendors from all over Colorado. Donations at door for Ronald McDonald House. 10-5pm. Parkside Mansion, 1859 York St. www.sugarplumbazaar.com

Denver Film Society. Daily movies/programs. Lowenstein Complex, 2510 E Colfax and various locations. www.denverfilm.org

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

Denver Urban Homesteading Farmers Market. Indoor, year-round farmers market and homesteading school with local/organic foods. Thurs/Fri 3-7pm, Sat 9am-3pm. 200 Santa Fe Dr. FREE. www.denverurbanhomesteading.com for classes/seminars

Denver IDEA Café. FREE startup workshop and speakers presented by Small Business Chamber of Commerce. 2-4pm, 2nd & 4th Fridays, Tony's Market, 950 Broadway. 303.861.1447 or www.SmallBizChamber.org

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

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

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

2/9 Saturday- American Diabetes Association Expo. Health screenings, cooking demos, 70+ vendors. FREE. 9am-4pm. Colorado Convention Center, 14th and Curtis. www.diabetes.org

2/10, 2/17, 2/24 and 3/3 Saturdays- Meditation Series. 2-3:30 at Sacred i Yoga. \$25/class or \$80/Series. www.mysacredi.com or info@mysacredi.com

2/10 Sunday- Heart Health for Women. 11:45am. Enjoy heart-healthy lunch and learn about heart disease, the no. 1 killer of women. Free. Augustana Lutheran Church, www.augustanadenver.org

2/21 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

3/9 Saturday- Post Partum Everything. Discussion/support group for new and expecting moms with licensed therapists on parenthood transition. 10am-12pm. \$20/person (some insurance accepted). MCA community room, 2823 Roslyn. Hilary Silver, LCSW, 720.935.7393, hsilver33@gmail.com or Chelli Pumphrey LPC, 720.440.4141, chelli@thrivetherapy.net

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

Base Fitness Denver. Boot Camp classes, indoor/outdoor. 7565 E. Academy Blvd. info@basefitnessdenver.com, 303.539.4877

LECTURES AND CLASSES

Active Minds – Complete listing/info on all sessions: www.ActiveMinds.com. FREE.

2/5 Tuesday- The National Parks. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center. 350 S. Dahlia St. Lil Shaw: 303.316.6359

2/14 Thursday- Chocolate. 7pm. Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 2823 Roslyn St. 303.388.0724

2/26 Tuesday- Kashmir. 12:30-1:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727

2/28 Thursday- Brazil. 7pm. Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 2823 Roslyn St. 303.388.0724

3/5 Tuesday- Franklin Delano Roosevelt. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center. 350 S. Dahlia St. Lil Shaw: 303.316.6359

2/6 Wednesday- Wills and Trusts Class. 12pm. FREE. Registration required, light lunch provided. 1041 Acoma St. Register: 303.573.1170 or denvercommunity.coop/education

2/19 Tuesday- Misplaced Massacre: Sand Creek in History and Memory. 1-2pm. Colorado History Museum. www.colorado-history.org

2/19 Tuesday- Lowry Speaker Series: Judge Michael Bender. The Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court will speak about



16

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“The Importance of the Judiciary in Colorado State Government.” Free. 7-8:30pm. Eisenhower Chapel, 293 Roslyn St., Lowry. www.lowry.org

2/26 Tuesday- Personal Finance Resource Night. 6-8pm. Connect with local finance resources to help financial goals. FREE. Light appetizers. 1041 Acoma St. Registration required: 303.573.1170 or denvercommunity.coop/education

2/26 Tuesday- A Time of Change: Supporting the Middle School Brain. St. Elizabeth’s K-8 Episcopal School seminar with therapist Craig Knippenberg about supporting needs of young adolescents. 6-8pm. FREE. 2350 Gaylord St. 303.322.4209 or www.stelizabethsdenver.org

3/5 Tuesday- No Regrets Parenting. Pediatrician Dr. Harley Rotbart provides sage advice for parents to maximize time with their children. 6:30-8pm Mitchell Hall, Denver Botanic Gardens, 1007 York St. Registration required: www.childrenscolorado.org/events

LIBRARIES
Visit www.denverlibrary.org for children’s story hours, book club info, crafts sessions and complete program list. A few selected programs are shown below. All libraries closed 2/18 Monday for Presidents’ Day.

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

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.

Pauline Robinson Library, 5575 E. 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.

2/9 Saturday- Make Your Own Recycled Paperback Notebook. 2pm.

2/23 Saturday- Parenting from Your Heart - Compassionate Communication in Your Family Life. 2pm.

3/1 Friday- Novel Night. Fundraiser for Fresh City Life

To submit Front Porch “Local Event” Listings

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

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

Press releases for suggested stories should be sent separately to FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com

My Branch adult cultural programming. Enjoy making crafts from recycled books, light dinner fare and desserts. Drawings for books and other prizes. 6:30-9:30pm. Tickets \$25 at Sam Gary at 29th & Roslyn or 720.865.0325.

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

2/4 Monday- Celebrating Jewish Cooking. 6:30-7:30pm.

2/9 Saturday- Living with a Compassionate Heart: Introduction to Compassionate Communication. 1:30pm.

2/10 Sunday- Lincoln Log Throw Down. 2pm.

2/11 Monday- Exploring Colorado Wineries. 6:30-7:30pm.

2/16 Saturday- Cross Body Satchel. 10am

2/24 Sunday- Upcycle: Cups and Plates. 2pm.

2/25 Monday- How and Why It’s Cool to Sew on a Button. 6pm.

NORTHEAST DENVER EVENTS
2/8 Friday- Visions of Love Chocolate and Wine Pairing Event benefits Anchor Center for Blind Children. (continued on page 18)

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(continued from page 17)

Explore fine wines, decadent chocolates and hors d'oeuvres at Anchor Center's Stapleton magical learning facility. 5:30-8:30pm. www.anchor-centerevents.com

2/9 Saturday- Romancing the Vine: The Savory Chemistry of Art & Science, annual wine tasting fundraiser for the Polaris art-science program, at Carmen Wiedonhoeft Gallery in the RiNo district. Tickets at <http://polarisprogram.dpsk12.org/romancing-the-vine-the-savory-chemistry-of-art-science/>

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

Denver School of the Performing Arts. Various dance and music performances; many free! See website for details. Quebec and Montview. www.dsa.dpsk12.org/performances

February events- Unity on the Avenue, 4670 E. 17th Ave. www.unityontheavenue.org or 303.322.3901.

February events- Center of Light, 2300 Forest St. Denver@CentersOfLight.org or 720.308.9944

DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE

Montview and Colorado Blvd.
www.dmns.org, 303.370.6000

Opening 2/15 Friday- Mammoths and Mastodons: Titans of the Ice Age. Special exhibit ticket required.

2/20 Thursday- Science Lounge. Cocktails/entertainment every 3rd Thurs. of month. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/nonmembers

Planetarium- Wildest Weather in the Solar System; Super Volcanoes; Black Holes, One World, One Sky, Realm of Light, Cosmic Journey: A Solar System Adventure. 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

Bass Pro Events- 720.385.3600, www.BassPro.com

Hunting, fishing and marine seminars offered throughout the month.

Harkins Theatres 18- 720.374.3118, www.HarkinsTheatres.com

New Releases

2/1 - *Bullet to the Head, Sound City, Stand Up Guys, Warm Bodies*

2/8 - *Barbara, Identity Theft, Side Effects*

2/13 - *Beautiful Creatures, Escape from Planet Earth*

2/14 - *A Good Day to Die Hard, Safe Haven*

2/22 - *Dark Skies, Snitch*

Improv Comedy Club and Dinner Theatre - Tickets: 303-307-1777 www.ImprovDenver.com

1/31-2/2 - Sean Patton

2/7-2/10 - DeRay Davis

2/14-2/17 - Godfrey

2/22-2/24 - Pauly Shore

2/28-3/2 - April Macie

Ticket prices vary based on comedian and show time. Please call for details.

Toby Keith's I Love This Bar and Grill-

303.728.9468, www.countrybarco.com. Local and regional live music acts Wed.-Sat.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Reservations required for events marked* at 303.289.0930. Free unless noted. Hours: Mon.-Sun., 6am-6pm. Visitor Center: Tues.-Sun., 9am-4pm. Refuge closed all federal holidays. Directions/all events: www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal/

2/10 Sunday- Wild Discoveries for Kids. 1-3pm. Visitor Center Discovery Room.

2/22 Friday- Disappearing Treasures: National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repository Tour.* 10am-12pm

RECURRING MEETINGS

Business Groups

GREATER STAPLETON BUSINESS ASSOC. 3rd Tuesday, 8am. MCA, 2823 Roslyn St. 303-393-7700 www.stapletonbusiness.com

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

WORK-FROM-HOME GROUP. 1st Wednesday, 12-1pm. Smartspace, 2373 Central Park Blvd #100. Brown bag or group order for lunch. www.stapletonhomebusiness.com

Civic Groups

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

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

P.E.O. INTERNATIONAL LOCAL CHAPTER MEETING. Supporting women's educational opportunities. 2nd Thursday, 7pm. copeojc@gmail.com

STAPLETON ROTARY CLUB. Every Tuesday, 7:30am. Stapleton Community Room, 2823 Roslyn St. www.denverstapletonrotary.org

Interest Groups

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

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

COLORADO SYMPHONY GUILD. Every 3rd Thur. at St. Luke's Church, 13th & Quebec, 10am-12pm. macregar@gmail.com or 303.333.2707

CYCLETON BIKE REPAIR CLINIC. 2nd Tuesday, 6pm. 7480 E. 29th Ave. www.cycleton.com 303.329.0069.

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

HOUSE DIST 7 REPUBLICANS. 7pm, 1st Mon. after 1st Tues. Islamorada Fish Co (inside Bass Pro). chrismaj@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

STAPLETON WINE APPRECIATION GROUP. Periodically. stapletonswag@gmail.com

Stapleton Groups

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

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

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

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

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

Support Groups

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

ADOPTERS IN SEARCH GENERAL MEETING. 4th Tuesday, 7:30-9pm. Montview Presby. Church, Study Group Room. AISCTC.org 303-232-6302

ADOPTERS IN SEARCH SUPPORT GROUP. 2nd Wednesday, 7-8:30pm. Montview Presby. Church, Robinsom Rm. 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

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

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

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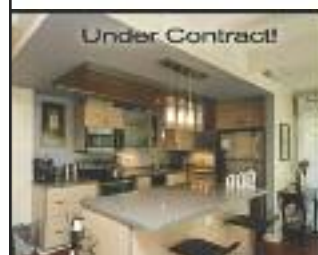
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Through 2/24- *Romeo and Juliet*. Stage Theater, Denver Performing Arts Complex, www.denvercenter.org

Through 2/24- *RFK: A Portrait of Robert Kennedy*. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. 303.856.7830, www.vintage theatre.com

2/7 to 4/12- *No Dogs Allowed*. Arvada Center Children's Theater, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada. www.arvadacenter.org

2/8 to 2/17- *Taking Stock*. Festival Playhouse, 5665 Olde Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada. www.festivalplayhouse.com

2/8 to 2/23- *Oliver*. Presented by Prairie Playhouse. www.prairieplayhouse.org. Shows at The Armory, 300 Strong St, Brighton, 80601

2/15 to 3/10- *Consider the Oyster*. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E Colfax Ave. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

2/26-3/10- *Catch Me If You Can*. Buell Theatre, Denver Center for Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

2/28-3/10 *Kiss Me Kate*. Eugenia Rawls Theatre, King Center, Auraria Campus. Tickets \$20 adults, \$10 students, 303.556.2296

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Project Worthmore. Volunteers needed to be part of teams (6-month commitment) that assist refugees from Burma by “cultural mentorship,” showing how to ride the bus, shop for groceries, banking, enrolling kids in school, navigating government paperwork, etc. www.projectworthmore

Single Volunteers of Greater Denver. Visit www.svgd.org for volunteer opportunities for singles: local projects, charitable social events and working vacations abroad.

Volunteers of America Foster Grandparent Program. Seeks adults 55+ with lower incomes who love working with kids and can give 15/more hours/week. Small stipend given; transportation reimbursed. www.voacolorado.org, 303.297.0408 (Naomi Taggart)

Assistance League of Denver. Seeks members to help underserved in metro Denver: Programs for victims, students, children and seniors. www.denver.assistanceleague.org or 303.322.5205

KIDS AND FAMILIES

Through 2/24- *Coyote Tails*. Denver Puppet Theatre, 3156 W 38th Ave. Tickets: \$7 ages 3 and up. 303.458.6446, www.denverpuppettheater.com

Through 4/30- *Woodie Station Wagons at Forney Transportation Museum*. \$6-\$8. 303 Brighton Blvd. www.forneymuseum.org

Thursdays in February- *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

2/2 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

2/9 Saturday and 2/23 Saturday- *Lowe's Build and Grow Kids Clinics*. Bring kids to a Lowe's store to build FREE wood project: free apron, goggles, project-themed patch, merit certificate on completion. 10am. www.lowesbuildandgrow.com

2/10 Sunday- *Music Train Family Concert Series- New Orleans Jazz and Funk: The Diamond Jubilee All Stars*. Presented by Swallow Hill. 4pm. Daniels Hall, 71 E. Yale. www.swallowhillmusic.org

2/10 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

2/13 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 or 720.865.5000

2/23 Saturday- *Aeromodeling Expo*. Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum. 10-4pm. Radio-controlled planes, helicopters, jets; food, hobby vendors, Make and Takes for kids and more. FREE with museum admission. www.wingsmuseum.org

2/24 Sunday- *Yo Gabba Gabba Live!* Paramount Theatre, Denver. Shows 2 and 5 pm. www.paramountdenver.com

Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys Workshops. Museum adm: \$6/adults, \$4/kids 5-16/under 5 free. 1880 Gaylord St. www.dmmtd.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. \$15/adult, \$7.50/kids 3-12. Keensburg, CO. www.wildanimalsanctuary.org

Tiny Tots, Inside the Orchestra. 45-minute Colorado Symphony concerts for kids 6 and under who sit next to musicians and hear classical music they may recognize! Various venues/dates. Concerts: 9:30 and 10:30am. \$5; children under 2 free. Tickets: www.jrsg.org

Tiny Tots Love Music, Denver Brass. Special concert for tiny tots and parents; introduce little ones to magic of live music. Various dates/locations. Tickets: www.denverbrass.org

KIDS CAMPS AND CLASSES

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

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

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

Start Art- Art classes. Startartkids.com

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

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

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

Stapleton All Sports- www.stapletonallsports.com

SolVida Dance Studio and Dance Camps- Kid/adult classes, workshops, camps, etc. www.solvidadance.com

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Email
summercamps@dmischool.com
for more information
206 Red Cross Way, in Lowry
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Stapleton/Park Hill Community Meeting on DPS Middle School Recommendations—Feb. 6

The meeting on Feb. 6, organized by the DPS Office of Community Engagement, will offer an opportunity for community input on the future use of the Smiley building, the growth of McAuliffe and other middle school options. Refreshments will be served at 5:30pm, meeting will be 6-8pm in the Smiley cafeteria, 2540 Holly. Childcare and Spanish interpretation will be provided. <http://communityrelations.dpsk12.org/regional-community-meetings/near-northeast/upcoming-meetings/>

Free Trees Offered to All Denver Residents

Any resident of Denver can apply for free trees to plant along the street in the public right-of-way courtesy of The Park People's annual Denver Digs Trees program and Denver's Mile High Million tree planting initiative. Those who have space for trees on the west side of their homes are eligible to have trees delivered and planted for them. Availability will be limited, applications are due no later than Feb. 15. Visit www.theparkpeople.org or call 303.722.6262 for a paper application.

Denver Recycling Contest

Show your love for recycling with the “I Heart My Purple Recycling Cart” photo contest. Submit creative photos showing your support for, and love of, recycling and your recycling cart. Submissions must include the purple recycling cart with no permanent markings or stickers on it. Email digital photo to DenverRecycles@DenverGov.org by noon, Mon., Feb. 11, 2013. Include name, phone and home address. Photo sizes should be between 500 KB and no more than 1000 KB. One photo per household or classroom. Winners notified by email Feb. 12 and announced on social media Feb. 14.

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Photo courtesy of Bill Roberts School

Khyaire Robinson holds one of the food packs donated and prepared by Bill Roberts students, who collected a total of 800 items.

Aurora Warms the Night the Recipient of Bill Roberts Students' Generosity

Sarah Hamilton, executive director of Aurora Warms the Night, wrote to the Front Porch to acknowledge the work of Bill Roberts students to organize a food drive, assemble kits and deliver them to Aurora Warms the Night. The non-profit just blocks from the school helps the homeless with a variety of services. Since Aurora does not have a homeless shelter, they provide motel vouchers for the coldest nights, food baskets (because often in the snow the homeless cannot access the food bank, or they are closed), a hygiene kit (the stay in the motel is an opportunity to shower but the motels are very basic and do not provide toiletries) and warm winter clothing such as hats, gloves, scarves and blankets.

Services include counseling for a transition out of homelessness, case management, job assistance services, partnership with the VA office for veterans' services, and an in-office free health care clinic and flu shots.

Aurora Warms the Night relies on donations and grants to continue their work. They are located at 1555 Dayton Street in Aurora and can be reached at 303-366-6806.

My Grandpa Is Your Grandpa A Stapleton Story—Where Neighbors Have Become an Extended Family

Although Stapleton is primarily known as a community of young families, it has a growing number of two-generation families as grandparents move to be close to their grandchildren. When Tom Downey and his wife, Lori Fox, moved to Stapleton, they moved in tandem with Lori's parents, Helen and Joe Fox. They found two adjoining homes, one larger family home and a smaller, handicap accessible one next door. A few years later, Helen and Joe's son Mike Fox and his family moved nearby.

At a time when it's not unusual for families to be spread far and wide, the Fox/Downey clan has recreated, in a young neighborhood, an old tradition of extended families gathering and participating in each other's lives. And in a neighborhood where families reach out to create close connections with their neighbors, many of the Fox/Downey's neighbors came to think of Helen and Joe as the neighborhood's grandparents.

When Joe retired, he and Helen moved to Denver to be closer to their children, settling in Edgewater. Retirement for Joe meant community involvement, and he was elected to the Edgewater City Council. When they moved to Stapleton, Joe added a greater dimension of fun to his community involvement. He was the grand marshal of the neighborhood 4th of July parade. Joe would dress up as Uncle Sam, decorate his red handicap scooter and lead the parade around the local park every year, giving away candy. But his retirement wasn't just about fun, he worked tirelessly on local political campaigns and was often the first volunteer to show up at the campaign office in the morning.

Joe Fox, a person beloved not just to his family but to his entire neighborhood, died on January 10 at age 80.



Photo courtesy of the Fox/Downey family

Joe Fox was grand marshal of his neighborhood's fourth of July parade.

Growth...A great word to sum up the local housing market this past year!



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

- Home prices metro wide bumped up by 14.5% year over year
- Average days on market decreased by 29.9% year over year
- Interest rates remain historically low and buyer demand remains strong

Some neighborhoods are out-performing these stats and in many cases we've got a Seller's market for a change. Give me a shout if you're curious about your own home and would like to work with a broker who is serious about the numbers.



Kim Kouba
Broker Associate
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-Miles McPherson in Do Something

DO SOMETHING

MAKE YOUR LIFE COUNT

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Meeting at the historic Hangar 61
Sundays 9:00 & 10:45 AM | 8700 E. 21st Ave. | Denver, CO **303.321.1014**



MLK Celebration in City Park

Left: N.E. Denver residents Ebonee Stark and Aspen Jacklin stand at the Martin Luther King Jr. monument in City Park, the traditional starting point for Denver's MLK Parade, one of the largest MLK celebrations in the country.



Above: The crowd sings during the celebration in City Park.



Far left: The frosty morning drew participants to the heaters provided for the event.



Left: Leading the Parade were (from left) City Councilman Chris Nevitt, State Rep. Beth McCann of Park Hill, City Auditor Dennis Gallagher, Director of Corrections and Undersheriff Gary Wilson and Police Chief Robert White, among others.

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School Board



Happy Haynes, At Large

District 3 board member Jeannie Kaplan (who represents schools in Lowry, Montclair and Mayfair, among others) about their upcoming task of selecting an interim board member.

What are the characteristics they'll be looking for?

Jeannie Kaplan says, "It's somebody who would listen to his constituents. I think at this point it would be important to be someone who is not polarizing. And somebody who is really supportive of neighborhood schools. My constituents, like many in District 4, are neighborhood school oriented. They would be pretty unhappy if they couldn't walk their children to school."

Characteristics Haynes will look for are: a commitment to high standards and accountability; passionate and committed to equality and closing the achievement gap; a commitment to good schools regardless of type; not caught up in the black and white issues of

being for or against specific types of schools (neighborhood, charter, innovation); committed to innovation and change where needed; collaborative; and informed by data and uses it to guide decision making.

Should this person be truly interim or should they have a commitment to run in the fall?

Kaplan believes "it would be good to have an interim person for Nate's seat—someone who doesn't want to run in 2013. If we don't do that, whoever gets selected will have an incredible leg up in the November election."

Haynes points out she is not looking for an interim person, saying it's important to find a person who is committed to running in the fall and has the capacity to run a campaign.

What are the issues the new board member needs to be knowledgeable about?

Kaplan's first issue is equity. "How do we provide an equitable educational opportunity for all of our kids? Equity, equity, equity." She points out that applicants need to know about the boundary situation at Stapleton, what's happened at Smiley and Bruce Randolph, which is one of the first innovation/turnaround schools and it is really struggling. What's really happening in the far northeast, with the push for non-traditional neighborhood schools? "It's a very complicated situation that we've created." The interim person needs to be aware of the various populations that

the northeast encompasses. She says that addressing the needs of English language learners is a huge issue for the district since, for many kids, it takes longer than the currently allowed three years to transition to English.

Kaplan adds that her three top priorities for the district are: a vastly enriched curriculum (art, music, social studies, PE and extracurricular activities); small class sizes, which she thinks are critical with the great diversity in the district; and more effective teaching and leadership education and training in our colleges and universities.

Haynes lists the following issues: First, high standards and accountability right down to the school level in our region. Closing the achievement gap between our students of color and other students in the district. Addressing the needs of English language learners. Being aware of the tremendously changing demographics and planning both for the needs of all students and specifically for students in the rapidly growing areas of Stapleton and far northeast. Growth issues include capacity as well as equity issues in the Park Hill/Stapleton neighborhoods. Haynes echoes Kaplan's call for equity. "Equity means all our kids have access to high quality schools. We need to look at performance and demographics of



Jeannie Kaplan, District 3

schools east of Quebec and those west of Quebec. There are stark issues that our board, and this board member in particular, need to address. Equity requires that we do what's needed so all kids have an equal opportunity to be successful. That calls for different things in different schools and in different neighborhoods." In far northeast,

Haynes says, the new board member needs to be tuned in to the continuing growth and support of the Summit Schools network and be involved in helping evaluate and draw lessons from the work that's being done in that area. In near northeast a number of the changes have been made for some years and the board has to stay on top of those. What's working, how do we make adjustments to continue progress and evaluate where we are with the previous changes that have been made to turn things around in that area? How does transportation serve the needs and goals in an area?

Should Nate's replacement share Nate's views?

"I would be happy to support someone who supports what Nate ran on, which was transparency, community engagement and neighborhood schools," says Kaplan.

Haynes thinks "it's important to choose someone who has similar views to Nate. Where we're at today is where we have been with Nate's involvement and leadership and that's how we should continue."



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Swallow Hill

(continued from page 11) and mandolin player, owned an advertising agency in Denver for 20 years before taking the helm at Swallow Hill five years ago. "I took half pay and double hours to do this but I love it," he said. "I have the best staff on the planet." He follows in the footsteps of the dedicated musicians and music lovers who nurtured roots music in Denver and helped it grow for nearly five decades. Swallow Hill was born out of the Denver Folklore Center, begun in 1962 by Harry Tuft. The Folklore Center offered instrument sales and repairs, music lessons and concerts. Among the performers there in the 1960s and '70s were Joan Baez, Doc Watson, Bonnie Raitt, Ry Cooder and Taj Mahal.

But despite the Folklore Center's world-class offerings, financial challenges threatened to close the doors until a group of visionaries formed the nonprofit Swallow Hill Music Association in 1979. The popular music center kept expanding and outgrew three facilities, landing at last in its permanent home at Yale and Broadway. Now the venerable organization is again having growing pains. "Our financial growth has quadrupled in the last four years and our number of students has doubled," Scharf said. He compares Swallow Hill's growth during the current depressed economy to the popularity of movies during the Great Depression of the 1930s. "During difficult times people need an inexpensive way to escape. We're a good alternative to the bars. As a nonprofit, we keep it affordable with support from dona-

tions and grants."

"We're faced with a choice: to find a bigger building or expand to different neighborhoods," Scharf said. "We decided to go to Lowry because it's a great place to grow our mission—to reach more people with music, especially children and families."

The 3,600-square-foot Swallow Hill Music at Lowry Quinlan School, named in memory of board member Jeff Quinlan, will have four classrooms for individual or small group lessons and two larger classrooms for larger groups. The classrooms will be soundproof and feature interior windows so parents can observe. The parent waiting area "will be comfortable, with free WiFi access," Scharf said.

Parents in Lowry look forward to taking their kids to the new school, according to Lowry resident David Weingarden, director of concerts/talent buyer at Swallow Hill and father of two young children. "There are 20 kids under 5 on my street alone," said Weingarden. "My neighbors are eager to take advantage of the new school and so am I. It will have a very positive impact on this neighborhood and the surrounding neighborhoods as well."

"Once we see how Lowry goes, we want to get out west, toward Boulder," said Scharf. "Our vision to build communities around music is happening by increments. It's evolution, not revolution."

For information about music lessons, classes and prices, go to swallowhillmusic.org, call 777-1003, Ext. 2, or email Swallow Hill Music School Director Michael Schenkelberg, Michael@swallowhillmusic.org.

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Stapleton Update



King Harris (right), Chair of SDC talks with Michael Kearns (left) about the affordable housing program at Stapleton.

Affordable Housing Program Awaiting Changes... and Waiting... and Waiting...

At the January 2012 Stapleton Development Corporation meeting, the board voted to have Forest City, the City and Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC) meet to revise the affordable program in a way that would make it more viable. Forest City's contract is to have 10% affordable housing and at the time of that vote they were at 5.6%. Justin Ross, a strong supporter of affordable housing at Stapleton, was the lone dissenter, saying, "I feel that what will happen is it will get taken up the ladder somewhere and it will be lost."

Fast forward a year... and there is no new plan. Happy Haynes pointed out, "There was a committee of this board that was supposed to be leading that conversation with the city." At the end of the discussion, King Harris concluded, "I recognize what now appears to be my responsibility, to go back to the city and say, 'Whatever you thought you were doing, it is not working,' so let's figure out how we're going to make it happen."

PAG/CAB Recommend "Uplands" Be Included in Design Phase of Westerly Creek North

The Parks Advisory Group recommended to the Citizen's Advisory Board that "the uplands," (the open space just east and west of Westerly Creek North near the confluence with Sand Creek) be designed at the same time Westerly Creek North is designed since the areas are adjacent. If it's designed, then

the project can move forward once funds become available (although no funds are currently designated for construction of those areas). CAB voted to send the recommendation to the SDC board and Park Creek Metro District.

26th Ave Park Update

Steven Rodriguez, City of Aurora Planning, confirmed that Forest City had not yet resubmitted their plan for the 26th Ave. park at the time the paper went to press. The plan is *tentatively* scheduled to be reviewed by the planning commission at 6pm on March 13, if Forest City submits the plans by the last week in January.

Aurora City Councilwoman Sally Mounier says the Planning Commission's decision on the application will be final unless it is appealed or called up by Aurora City Council.

DPS Board to Vote on Funding Plan for Two Stapleton Schools

David Hart, chief financial officer for DPS and a member of the Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC) board, announced at the January 24 SDC meeting that TIF funds are not currently adequate to fund the two addi-



David Hart

tional Stapleton schools.

A DPS statement from David Suppes explained further: "DPS is looking to raise capital to fund the school construction following agreement on project needs/costs with Forest City Stapleton, Park Creek Metro District, City and County of Denver and DURA, and development of a reimbursement agreement with DURA to repay the funds over the remaining duration of the TIF (2025).

DPS staff are currently negotiating the projects, costs and terms of any borrowing and a repayment agreement with the other parties. DPS staff anticipate bringing a recommended deal to the Board of Education in February (presentation at 2/11 Finance & Audit Committee and at the 2/19 Work Session). The Board of Education will be asked to approve/authorize the agreement with DURA (and potential ancillary agreements), and the parameters around a financing agreement to borrow the necessary funds at the 2/21 Board meeting vote."

Concerned residents can send board members their opinions about board votes by emailing board@dpsk12.org or calling 720-423-3210.



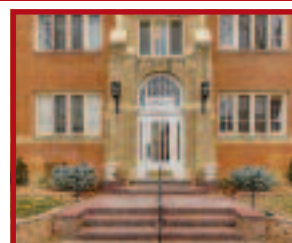
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Highlights from the November 2012 SUN Survey

By Mark Mehringer

Following are some highlights from the web survey conducted by Stapleton United Neighbors in November. SUN received 850 survey responses from the community.

As a result of a question about the new 7-Eleven that is under construction near Montview and Central Park Blvd., the SUN Board took a position of opposition to their beer license. As a result of community opposition, 7-Eleven withdrew its application, but has told SUN that it may resubmit its application in the future.

Which of the following options best describes your current opinion on the 3.2 beer license application submitted by 7-Eleven?

39.70%	Strongly Oppose (334)
19.80%	Indifferent or Not Sure (167)
16.60%	Somewhat Oppose (140)
13.30%	Somewhat Support (112)
10.30%	Strongly Support (87)



Respondents were asked to rate each option below for how important it was or will be in influencing their decision on which school to send their child to.

Location	Start time
Grade levels offered	Administration
Reputation	Programming

The results from this question told us that while many people in Stapleton express a desire for a school close enough to walk their kids to school, the programming and reputation of the schools are very important to more parents than is the location, as 90% said programming is very important and 78% said reputation is very important, but only 57% said location is very important.

The results of the question below confirm this result.

If you are considering putting your children in Stapleton 4, what influences your decision most?

72.50%	Programming / curriculum (433)
11.30%	Location (68)
11.00%	Leadership / administration (66)
5.00%	Other (30)



In Stapleton, nearly half of respondents to our survey prefer Singapore Math (45%) over Everyday Math (13%). This was a very specific curriculum question, which makes this a surprisingly strong result, though 29% are not sure and 11% have no preference.

Which math curriculum would you prefer Stapleton 4 use?

44.70%	Singapore Math (308)
29.20%	Not sure (201)
12.60%	Everyday Math (87)
11.40%	No preference (79)
1.80%	Other (13)



If you have a preference, please choose which type of programming you would like to see for the 4th Stapleton School?

37.10%	Neighborhood charter (Stapleton residents will have priority) (260)
32.7%	Innovation (can apply for waivers from district policies) (229)
11.7%	Do not have a preference (82)
10.5%	Standard (follows district policies) (74)
7.70%	Not sure/don't know (54)

Which type of programming would you most like to see at Stapleton 4?

21.20%	International baccalaureate, such as at Swigert (142)
20.70%	Language Immersion, such as at Denver Language School (139)
12.50%	Science and technology focus, such as at Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST) (84)
12.40%	Expeditionary Learning, such as at Odyssey (83)
12.10%	Traditional DPS curriculum (81)
11.80%	Core Knowledge (79)
4.60%	Arts focus, such as at the Denver School of the Arts (DSA) (31)
4.40%	Other (30)

There were also a range of specific responses to our survey about issues not asked in the survey, including unfinished parks, traffic and speeding, and many calls for dog owners to do a better job cleaning up after their pets. The SUN Board plans to review each of these comments and act on whatever issues we can.



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A Heartbreaking Goodbye to Stapleton

By Tim Muffley

In October 2008 my wife and I, and our two little Yorkies—Mia and Macy—moved from Boston to Stapleton. Over the years, Mia and Macy passed away from natural causes. After many tears and soul searching, we adopted two little Maltese-Yorkie rescue puppies. They were going to be drowned by a heartless breeder until being saved. Niko and Tanner quickly became a big part of our family. As brothers they were inseparable. They slept together, ate together, played together, and loved each other. And we loved them.

Recently we decided to move to a home south of Denver. This move was in large part to have a yard for them to chase and play with each other. We also felt uneasy about raising our pups while living on 29th Avenue. As one of the main thoroughfares in Stapleton, 29th Avenue experiences a great deal of traffic. And far too frequently cars zip along at speeds well above the speed limit while the driver can be seen texting or talking on their cell.

During halftime of the Broncos playoff game, “the boys” needed to go outside. We had been training them to stay in our courtyard, which is gated but not fully enclosed, and they had become quite obedient. As I stood by them, I noticed that Tanner began to make his way towards the opening. I called for him to stay and moved towards him. With an excited, playful look in his eyes as if he was saying “C’mon, dad, I have something to show you,” he darted onto the sidewalk. A few days earlier a fox was on the island that separates the east and westbound lanes. I knew that was Tanner’s target.

I yelled for him to stay. He would have nothing of that. “Hurry, dad...follow me!” As I began to run I noticed a car speeding down the street. Fear now overcame me. I knew he would make a turn at the crosswalk, a place where we often crossed on many walks. I could tell by the timing Tanner and the car would meet. I ran into the middle of the street wildly waving my arms for the car to stop. Tanner kept running. The car kept coming. Tanner made his turn onto the street. I waved and screamed frantically. The car never slowed down. Tanner never slowed down. THUD.

I immediately picked him up off the street. I looked into his eyes begging for him to move. To wake up. But I knew. He was gone. In a split second our world was turned upside down. He was only 18 months old. As I carried his lifeless body I looked down the street. That car never stopped, not even at the stop

sign, never to be seen again.

So many variables led to this tragedy. My mistake of not leashing him and trusting he would stay in our courtyard. That guilt will haunt me forever. Had I waited just 10 more seconds before taking him out. Had we gone to the mountains that weekend like we had every other weekend this winter. Had that car not been speeding and, as I can only assume, had the driver not been distracted. If for any of these Tanner would still be alive.

What makes this more gut wrenching is that we were just days from moving. A move designed to protect our little boys from traffic. While Stapleton brought us much joy and laughter over the years, we leave with heavy hearts.

As we leave we beg of you. Whether you are a dog owner, parent of a small child, or anyone for that matter, please SLOW DOWN. It may seem “difficult” to go 25 mph, but this is a neighborhood full of people and pets. Ask yourself: do those few seconds saved by speeding really matter? They don’t. Please obey stop signs. Stop means STOP. Please don’t be distracted when you drive. You may think sending a quick text won’t cause any harm, but you are wrong. Be aware. A life may depend on it.

None of this will bring back Tanner. But hopefully it may save your puppy, your child, your friend, or YOU.

Letter to the Editor
Recycling

People are not recycling as much as they should be. The landfills are filling up with trash and recyclables. In 2011, 75% of what you can recycle goes into the trash. Sam says, “I like it because it is good for the earth.” Sofia says, “I don’t like it because it seems to be hard.” We can get the city to charge the people for the weight of trash that they produce. The city could also make recycling free to companies. If everyone recycled, it would be better for the earth.

Gen Rothberg, concerned citizen and Mrs. Vogel’s second grade student

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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Above: At far left in the photo is the Martin Luther King Blvd. bridge over Westerly Creek and the finished open space/flood control area that has been planted with native species. The non-native trees growing along the creek show approximately the beginning of the Westerly Creek North area that will be regraded and planted with native species. When completed it will look much like Westerly Creek to the south.



The above map shows the boundaries of the currently unfinished Westerly Creek North open space. The Central Park Rec Center is visible at lower right. The area above is marked with a green box on the bike map at right.

(continued from page 1)
Westerly Creek, have, except for a temporary trail, been separated from each other by the unfinished 34-acre stretch of Westerly Creek North. “This is the safe off-road connector for commuters, for people’s recreation and for wildlife,” says Kate Kramer, Executive Director of the Sand Creek Regional Greenway.

“Westerly Creek North will be the signature park in the Denver section of the Sand Creek Regional Greenway. It’s not a park in terms of blue grass and soccer fields and play structures. It’s a natural habitat to accommodate a lot of native wildlife, native plants and showing people the original beauty of Colorado. It will have numerous trails going through it including a concrete trail that will allow all different kinds of recreational uses,” says Kramer.

Walkers and cyclists still face a long wait before they’ll see the natural space Kramer describes—environmental remediation and construction are likely to take at least two years. But the good news is that remediation has started. The City, Forest City, Park Creek Metro District and Stapleton Development Corporation have committed to construct the park and the funding source will depend on circumstances at that time, according to Amber Miller, press secretary to the mayor.

In the last week of January, a remediation crew started preparing for remediation activities, which will include removal of materials found in the soil in four areas totaling approximately 2.4 acres. According to Greg Holt of DIA, those areas will be remediated to a depth of four feet below the final grade of the park. All materials in the areas identified for remediation will be

Westerly Creek North



The top photo shows steep eroded banks near where Westerly Creek approaches Sand Creek. The banks will be regraded to a gentler slope and a drop structure will be built to reduce the slope of the creek and slow the flow of water. The above photo shows an existing drop structure in the Westerly Creek South area.

removed and disposed of and clean backfill will be used to fill the excavations.

The remediation process will remove all known non-friable asbestos and friable asbestos in soil and remove and check soil in an area where drums containing a nonhazardous tar-like substance were buried. (Friable asbestos-containing material means it can be crumbled under pressure from a hand. Non-friable cannot be pulverized by hand pressure. Both refer to material that contains more than 1 percent asbestos.) Most of the asbestos-containing material found on site is of non-friable material, primarily pieces of old siding material used on homes from the 1940s to the 1960s.

Charlie Nicola, senior vice president, Forest City, says 80 percent complete drawings were completed in 2007, then put on the shelf pending completion of remediation. Some design changes will be required before the drawings will be complete, including grading and

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Above: Existing dirt road in Westerly Creek north, looking west.

Left: Map showing existing and proposed bike routes in Stapleton illustrates the importance of Westerly Creek North as a connection that offers off-road biking on the trail along Sand Creek.

Below: Concrete and debris in Westerly Creek North near Sand Creek.



streambed changes resulting from the removal of the proposed 35th Ave bridge and for conditions remaining after remediation is complete. Nicola points out that Westerly Creek North will simply be an extension of the Westerly Creek area completed to the south which, in addition to functioning as a major drainage way, will be a natural habitat and a pedestrian passage way.

The construction work will include demolition and removal of debris left after remediation, streambed work, drop structures, landscaping, a pedestrian bridge and paths. The project will have to comply with various regulations including those governing storm water management.

Nicola says the project should be substantially complete approximately 18 months after construction commences depending

on when the project starts and weather conditions. "People will see a lot of grading, then we'll be in the streambed doing the drop structures and the bridge crossing. After the landscaping work is well under way it will be a long time before people start seeing the grass growing. A tremendous amount of hand planting has to take place. It will be barren at first and we'll have to hope that Mother Nature helps." The extent of irrigation installed will have an impact on how quickly plants get established. Many areas in the park will be off limits to users for the first couple of years.

Westerly Creek North is a big project and it's probably a couple of years away, but cyclists, pedestrians and wildlife have a beautiful open space to look forward to.

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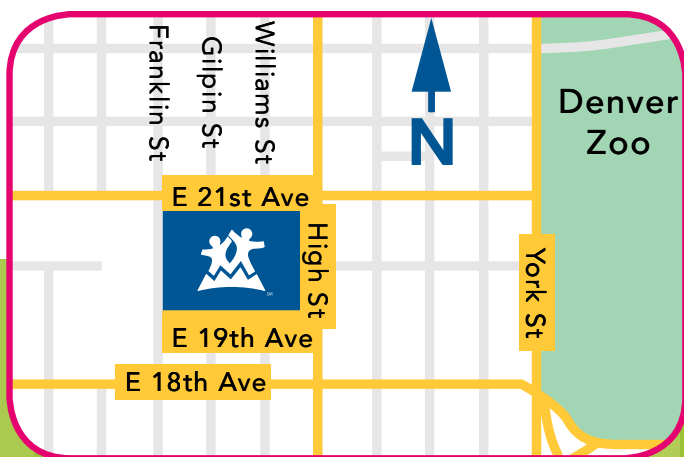


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