

Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

MAY 2013



A police officer, one of many, stands between the NRA protesters (right) and President Obama's limo as the presidential motorcade leaves the Denver Police Academy. The president came to Denver to speak in support of a bill broadening the scope of background checks (which since died in the Senate).



Gun Controversy Comes to Stapleton

By Carol Roberts

As the presidential motorcade arrived at the Denver Police Academy on April 3, NRA protesters gathered outside and shouted their message, "You can't take our guns."

Inside the police academy, President Obama spoke in support of a bill for universal background checks (which subsequently died in the Senate). He said, "Over the past 20 years background checks have kept more than two million people from buying a gun, but the loopholes that currently exist in the law have allowed way too many criminals and folks who shouldn't be getting guns to avoid background checks entirely... If you're a gun owner and you've been hearing someone's going to take away your guns, get the facts. We're not proposing a gun registration system. We're proposing background checks for the criminals."

As the president spoke, a few of the NRA protesters crossed the street and engaged in one-on-one conversations with a small group who came out to support universal back-

ground checks and gun control.

Following are some of the exchanges between the two groups. Statements by those in favor of background checks are shown in italics. Statements from the NRA protestors are in regular type.

We're talking about background checks and putting some limits on what people can do and carry. We're not talking about taking away everybody's guns. Make it universal so everybody plays by the same rules.

That will lead to registration. I embrace freedom and liberty. *So do we...with responsibility.*

Freedom with responsibility? I don't see that anywhere in the constitution. We are responsible. We don't need to be deemed responsible by our government.

Not everybody is responsible. It is gun control. It is not gun elimination.

I'm about peace, love and freedom. But I do want my guns and I also believe in defending what's true in my heart and my family. I have an AR15. They call *(continued on page 24)*

Community Arts Center at the Stapleton Tower? Maybe...maybe not...

By Carol Roberts

After more than a year of study using expert consultants to assess costs and local support for a community cultural arts center in Stapleton, the Master Community Association (MCA) concluded:

- The project is right—it aligns with identified needs in the community
- The location is right—there is community support for this use of the tower
- They're doing it for the right reasons—it creates a long-term asset that will benefit the community *(continued on page 7)*



Country Dance at the Urban Farm

By Carol Roberts

On April 13, 300 Urban Farm supporters gathered for Swing Your Sweetheart, an old-fashioned barn dance to raise funds and celebrate their love of the farm—a welcome break from the usual hard work of operating a farm. Executive Director Donna Garnett says there is always something that needs to be repaired or replaced and not enough funds to do it in their small nonprofit organization. The barn dance raised \$4,500 in ticket sales and another \$5,000 in donations toward a small utility tractor that will be used to plow and also to *(continued on page 6)*



Home Sales Are Hot!

By Carol Roberts

"The residential real estate market has only about one month's inventory now," says Kim Kouba of Perry & Co. She has been showing her clients, the chart on page 30 to help them understand what the limited supply of for-sale *(continued on p.30)*



The message above reflects a more typical real estate market—today perhaps it should read, "and we don't have very many others." Real estate agents today are scrambling to find enough homes for the ready and willing buyers.

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

Denver's Bluesman

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Like us at Front Porch Newspaper for updates on local news and events.



Anchor School for the Blind carries on with their Spring Festival despite snow from a late April storm.



CALENDAR

Events listed below are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC or support nonprofits.
(Additional events are listed on pages 16-20. Recurring events are listed on page 18.)

MAY

See additional MCA activities at right.

Fri., May 3–Sun., May 5

Park Hill Art Club Show and Sale
Fri. 4:30–8pm; Sat. 10am–6pm; Sun. 9:30am–4pm
Park Hill United Methodist Church
parkhillartclub.org

Saturday, May 4

Free Mulch and Compost Sale Site, NE Havana
Nursery and Fred Thomas Park (see page 22)

Thursday, May 9

Active Minds Seminar “Abraham Lincoln”
7–8pm. MCA Community Room*
events@stapletoncommunity.com

Sun., May 12 & Mon., June 3

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

Saturday, May 18

Five Points Jazz Festival, 11am to 8pm
27th and Welton streets (see page 4)

Thursday, May 23

Active Minds Seminar “Iraq” 7–8pm. MCA Community Room*, events@stapletoncommunity.com

Thursday, May 23

Stapleton Neighborhood Meeting for RTD Park
‘n Ride. 5:30–7:30pm. Sam Gary Branch Library,
2961 Roslyn St. (see page 6)

Thursday, May 23 – June 2

Northfield Family Festival. Rides, games &
festival food. Northfieldstapleton.com

Saturday, May 25

All four Stapleton outdoor pools open
pools@stapletoncommunity.com

MAY

Saturday, May 25

Sweet William Market. 9am–2pm. The Green*
events@stapletoncommunity.com

Saturday, May 25

Denver Day of Rock. Free concerts benefiting
kids, four stages. 2:30pm–9:30pm.
www.denverdayofrock.com

Monday, May 27

DJs at the Pools. Noon. Aviator, Puddle Jumper,
F15 and Jet Stream Pool* pools@stapleton-
community.com

Fri., May 31 & Sat. Jun. 1

Theatre on The Green. 7pm. The Green*
Also performed June 7 and 8
Aurora Fox performance of *Hairspray*
events@stapletoncommunity.com

JUNE

Every Sunday

City Park Jazz Summer Concert Series. Starting
in June. 6–8pm, rain or shine.
June 2: The Hazel Miller Band
City Park Jazz 6–8pm. CityParkJazz.org

*Stapleton MCA Community Room, 2823 Roslyn St.
Central Park Rec Center, 9651 MLK Jr. Blvd.
The Green, E. 29th Ave. and Roslyn St.
Aviator pool: 8054 E. 28th Ave.
Puddle Jumper pool: 2401 N. Xenia St.
F15 pool: 2831 Hanover St.
Jetstream pool: 3574 Alton St.

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

Events & Announcements at Stapleton

SUN Block Parties

The MCA would like to inform all residents and block captains about the park rentals for the block parties. The MCA has already reserved all MCA managed parks in Stapleton for the annual block party event. Reservations for the parks are free, but you MUST notify the MCA if you will be installing bouncy castles, canopies or other objects that penetrate the ground with the use of stakes. Please call 303.388.0724 to notify the MCA.

WOW: Wine on Wednesday

Wednesday, May 15

Wine on Wednesday (WOW) is an educational experience that focuses on pairing artisanal cheeses to wines from specific regions. This month will feature cheese and wine from Italy. All wine samples will be provided by the Wine Cellars of Stapleton, with artisanal cheese plates provided by Whole Foods Market—Cherry Creek. Tickets are \$10 each—space is limited! The next WOW event will be held from 6:30–8:30pm on May 15 in the MCA Community Room. To register for this event, visit www.stapletoncommunity.com or call 303.388.0724.

Active Minds

Abraham Lincoln

Join Active Minds for a look at the life of Abraham Lincoln, both the man and the legend. We will reflect on how he changed history in ways that continue to this day.

This event will be held in the MCA Community Room (2823 Roslyn St.) from 7–8pm on Thurs., May 9.

Iraq

Ten years after a US-led invasion toppled the government of Saddam Hussein, Iraq is still in the process of maintaining itself as a stable, self-governing nation. Join Active Minds as we look at the path for Iraq to stand on its own as well as the strategic role that the new Iraq plays in the region.

This event will be held in the MCA Community Room from 7–8pm on Thurs., May 23.

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

Pools Open for the Season

All four Stapleton outdoor pools are scheduled to open on Sat., May 25 at noon. DJs are scheduled to play on Mon., May 27 from noon until 4pm at each facility.

Please make sure you locate your Resident Membership Card before the pools open. Residents are required to scan their RMC at the front desk before entry or pay the daily entrance fee. If you have

lost your card, please visit the Stapleton MCA office during normal business hours to purchase a replacement card.

Sweet William Market

The summer market season opens on Sat., May 25 with the first Sweet William Market of the year. These markets are held on the last Saturday of each month through September. The markets will be from 9am–2pm on The Green. For more information, visit www.sweetwilliammarket.com.

Theatre on The Green

The Aurora Fox Theatre and the Stapleton MCA are excited to bring theatre to The Green again this summer! This year's show will feature *Hairspray*.

This performance will be featured during the last weekend in May and first weekend in June. The first performance will be held at 7pm on Fri., May 31 on The Green and also on June 1, 7 and 8. This event is free and open to the public.

First Friday Flight Wine Tastings at the West Crescent

The MCA will be partnering with Grape Leaf to host monthly wine tastings at the West Crescent. These tastings will also provide a fun-filled educational experience. Each wine will be presented by a sommelier who will be available to answer questions about each wine. Cheese and charcuterie plates will be presented and registration opens in May! The first tasting will be on Fri., June 7 at 6pm at the West Crescent.

Stapleton Rocks...a Concert for a Cause

“Stapleton Rocks...A Concert for a Cause” is a favorite concert every year featuring local bands. The event is intended to showcase local amateur talent. It is a full-day event on Sat., June 22 on The Green from 12–10pm. The Denver Children's Home is our “cause” again this year and we look forward to raising money for their programs. We will once again have the bungee trampoline, hamster balls and even a magician this year!

If you have a band that is interested in participating, contact events@stapletoncommunity.com. Please respond quickly as this is a first-come, first-served event. More information will be available as the date approaches.

Dani Mead

Communications Coordinator

Get the latest on

Master Community Association

Sponsored by Stapleton MCA

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Front Porch

www.FrontPorchStapleton.com

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.....
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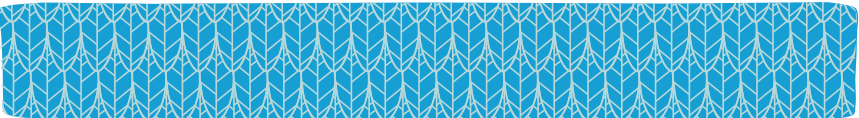
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A family membership more than pays for itself on your second visit to the zoo.

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- Family ~~\$110~~ \$99
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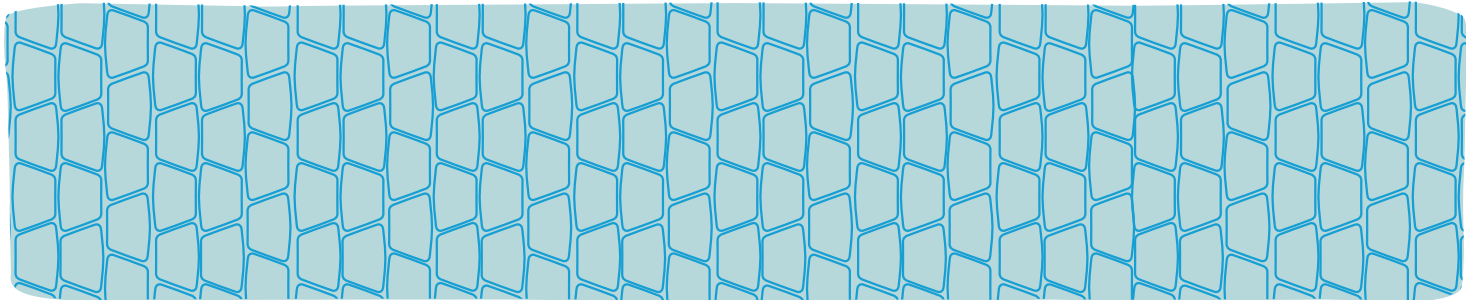
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*Ad is required for discount



Guide to Our Advertisers

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

“Nothing but the truth” for Denver’s own Bluesman Willie Houston

86-year-old shares bill with youth at Five Points Jazz Festival May 18

By Laurie Dunklee
“The blues are true; it must be true for me to write about it,” says Delta blues musician Willie Houston, one of the last authentic Delta players and a Denver resident since the 1940s.

Houston will bring his dapper style and Southern wit to the 10th annual Five Points Jazz Festival on May 18, 11am to 8pm at 27th and Welton streets. The free event will feature 20 bands on six stages.

“The festival is new each year, with different bands and other entertainment for all ages,” said Nicie Washington, special event coordinator for the city of Denver, which sponsors the festival. She expects 17,500 people to attend this year.

Several young bands will put their stamp on the jazz tradition. Included in this year’s lineup are the Denver School of the Arts Jazz Band, the Five Points Heritage Band and the Colorado Conservatory for the Jazz Arts. The wide variety of jazz genres includes violinist Katie Glassman and Snapshot, a country swing band.



The Absolute Family hip-hop group will bring their high-energy show as well.

“We have a new youth stage with break dancing, swing and salsa lessons,” Washington said. “All these styles came out of jazz roots. So the youth come for what they know and they get to hear some jazz too.”

The Five Points neighborhood, once known as the Harlem of the West, thrived as a jazz scene from the 1920s to the 1950s. It was home to more than 50 bars and clubs, where the great jazz musicians such as Billie Holiday, Duke Ellington, Miles Davis, Nat King Cole, Count Basie, Dizzy Gillespie and others performed.

One of the clubs was the Casino Ballroom (now Cervantes), where Willie Houston performed in the ’50s.

“Everybody was coming down,” he said. “It was great.”

Houston’s musical roots were far from the glamour and laughter of the Denver clubs. Growing up in the farm town of Grand Cane, La., Houston learned to play music by banging on a metal wash-tub and syrup bucket, or playing on a sugar cane quill. “You do that kind of a thing where I come from,” said Houston.

His family sharecropped a cotton plantation in the rich-soiled Louisiana Delta. “By age 8, I was cultivatin’ with a mule,” he said. “I did get kicked but I’m glad it wasn’t in the head!”

Photo, History Colorado

May 18 & 19

Bring the whole family to the first annual Hands On Heritage Festival, May 18 & 19 for a weekend of music, dance, food and culture, celebrating the places, traditions and stories that make Colorado a great place to live!

 HISTORY Colorado CENTER

Complete list of programs and information at AHPM-Colorado.org
History Colorado Center | 1200 Broadway | Denver

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Locals would stop by and offer young Houston change to play a Jew's harp, a plucked instrument held between the teeth. "I loved music from the beginning," he said.

Houston left Louisiana in 1944, when he was 17 1/2, and went to Joplin, Mo. He got a guitar and paid a local musician in beer for lessons. He learned the rich history and importance of blues music.

"Blues songs came about for a reason," Houston said. "It came from the slaves in the cotton fields, singing messages to each other so the master wouldn't know. When they sang 'Meet me Diana by the big oak tree,' it meant someone was running away. So the songs were about stuff that was actually happening.

"That's why I love it—'cause the blues are true."

Likewise, Houston's own songs come from his personal experiences, mostly inspired by his years on the cotton plantation. His song *Sally Mae* was inspired by a girl from his youth.

"Sally Mae was my little girl," he said. "We grew up together. She was a runaway and she and I became lovers. But then she left for another

Willie Houston, aka Bluesman, will perform at this month's Five Points Jazz Festival. He is pictured singing in Five Points—the mural behind him features notable people from when Five Points was in its heyday as a jazz destination.

plantation."

The Delta blues guitar style was made popular by such players as Muddy Waters and B.B. King. Houston's authentic style and longevity have made him the elder statesman of the Colorado blues scene.

He came to Denver in 1946 and did a stint in the Army from 1951–53. "My feet got tar on 'em and I stuck here," he said.

Playing in Five Points, Houston heard Count Basie, Duke Ellington, James Brown and Chuck Berry. He spent a memorable evening with well-known bandleader Louis Jordan and blues singer Charles Brown.

"Charles Brown did a few things he shouldn't have done and Louis sat there and drank and told us about it," Houston laughed. "You know how it is in music; people do things they aren't supposed to."

Keeping himself employed as a blues musician was not an easy road for Houston. "Rock 'n' roll came in and put me out of business," he said. "There were not a lot of blues clubs around but I was trying to get 'em all to listen to it. But my friends told me to keep going, so I did."

Houston played wherever he could, including the American Legion and Elks halls, parties and weddings. "I didn't get recognized 'til way later," he said. "But I'd have played if nobody but me was listening. I love the music world. I've been playing this music 60 years and I haven't give up yet."

"Way later" turned out to be 2001, when a fan helped produce Houston's self-titled CD. A DVD about his life and times, *Junk, Blues and Collard Greens*, was produced in 2006. He finished a soon-to-be-released live CD several months ago, and is writing new songs for another studio recording.

"People ask me, 'When do you plan on retiring?'" he said. "I tell 'em, 'When I can't say nothin'."

Houston's CDs and DVD are available on his website, williehouston.com.



The Bluesman acknowledges an old friend who walks by during the photo shoot.

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this Summer!

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June 29
July 27
August 31
September 28

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* 2012-13 Hanley Wood, LLC. Complete regional data from the Remodeling 2012-13 Cost vs. Value Report can be downloaded for free at www.costvsvalue.com.

Kim Kouba is one of your neighbors and owner of the Sweet William Market.

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Stapleton Front Porch

5

May 2013



Spring Market is Blooming by Wolfe & Epperson



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Swing Your Sweetheart

(continued from page 1) haul compost and hay—a laborious process currently managed using wheelbarrows. The farm has just three main paid staff to oversee the care and feeding of 200 animals on 28 acres—but they get help from about 700 volunteers through the course of a year. Some of the kids volunteer up to 20–25 hours a week, says Garnett, coming on weekends and during the summer.

Although the farm's mission is to provide agricultural and environmental education to urban children and their families (they serve over 3,000 children a year), they have branched out in a variety of areas. All are welcome to attend classes that range from raising chickens in the city; fiber arts including shearing, spinning; cheese mak-

Jeff Walker and his daughter Mariella, 3, (above left) dance to the music of Rudy Grant and the Buffalo Riders Band (middle). Young and old partiers learned the steps as a teacher called out the line dance instructions (above).

ing offered through a partnership with a dairy; and aquaponics (watch for a story on aquaponics classes next month). The Urban Farm still has a few plots available in their urban garden. And for those who want to have a party on the farm, they offer a party package. An upcoming partnership with a solar company will expand the size of their barn and cover it with solar panels that can be purchased by individuals to offset their utility bills (more details to come in a future issue).

For more information visit TheUrbanFarm.org.

Thursday, May 23—RTD to Show Renderings for Central Park Station Park-n-Ride

Attendees will see renderings of the Park-n-Ride facility and hear a presentation on its various elements. RTD is building a bus transfer center and parking for up to 1,500 vehicles, making Central Park Station the largest on the new East Rail Line. It includes a 12-gate bus transfer center for connections to other buses or to and from the East Rail Line trains. It will be built north of the existing RTD Stapleton Park-n-Ride. Construction is underway on the 22.8-mile commuter rail line between Denver Union Station and Denver International Airport and it is scheduled to open in 2016.

The meeting on Thursday, May 23, will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Sam Gary Branch Library, 2961 Roslyn St.

Harkins Theatres

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Tower
(continued from page 1)
for years to come.

But the tower and building will belong to Forest City when they purchase that land from DIA—and Forest City wants to retain ownership, with the MCA as a lessee. Forest City expects the most likely future use for the land around the tower will be high density residential.

In mid-April Forest City told the MCA they could lease the existing building, but they (Forest City) were not willing to add on the large theatre. After researching and creating programming plans that center around a large high quality performance space, the MCA determined a facility without that space does not meet their needs.

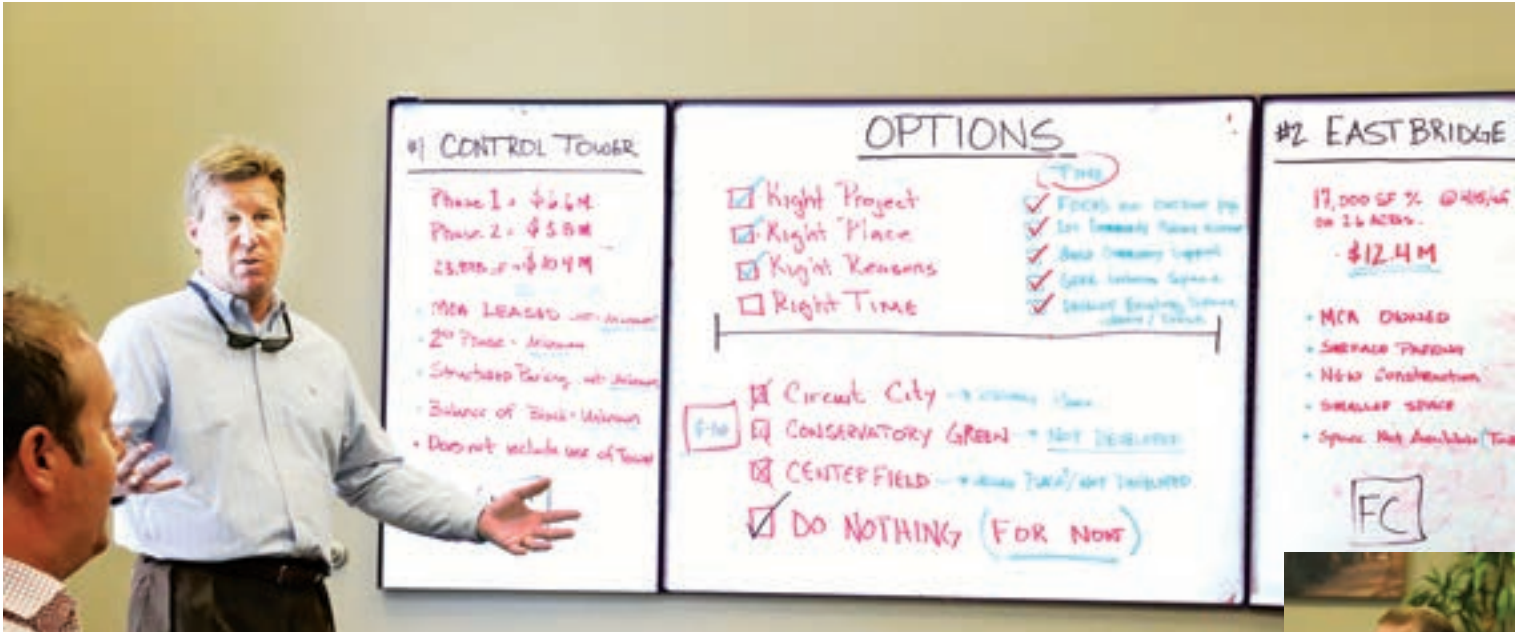
- Forest City offered four other options:
1. The old Circuit City space at Northfield—it would be the least cost and could be available soonest, but the MCA does not believe that space fits their vision for the arts center.
 2. Land in Conservatory Green—the MCA believes this could be viable in 8-10 years, once there's an established community, but not now.
 3. A plot of land behind JC Penney in the area called Centerfield—the area is not developed and not a desired location for their vision.
 4. Land in Eastbridge, north of MLK—because it's near a preschool it would not be eligible for a liquor license, a required component for the venue MCA envisions.

The MCA requested land at the west end of the Eastbridge town center, but Forest City says that land is not available since they are in talks with a grocer about it.

On April 24, Brian Fennelly of Forest City presented a modified proposal to the MCA community arts committee. "Forest City will now consider a phase two on the tower site, but it wouldn't be right away, it would be in a few years based on certain metrics being made—the project being successful, in effect. We don't want a project to go in there if it's not going to be successful. If phase one is successful, it (phase two) would be a possibility in three or four years."

Not all seven MCA delegates and not all five board members (composed of three from Forest City and two MCA delegates) were present. However, MCA director Keven Burnett and the MCA delegates who spoke felt that the large performance venue is central to the plan. They thought it wouldn't make sense to start with different programming that lacks the large space and then try to judge future success of a larger venue based on a smaller and different programming model.

Councilman Chris Herndon remains a strong supporter of the MCA's plan, saying, "I think the cultural arts center in the tower location is a solution that benefits all parties. For the community it gives an icon that will enhance the overall appeal of Stapleton, along with NE



Left: Stapleton Master Community Association Executive Director Keven Burnett summarizes the current alternatives for a community arts center.

Below: Brian Fennelly (right) and Lee Ferguson present Forest City's offer at the MCA's tower committee meeting.

Denver. For the tower itself it creates a permanent use so that we can assure that that beloved tower stays a part of this community and its structure will remain intact. And I feel that all the effort by the community, the MCA and Forest City to see if this is a feasible solution has deemed this is warranted. I hope that all the parties involved can come

together to make it work."

This meeting was one step in the process of finding a workable location for a community arts center and it ended without a solution. The remaining board members and delegates still need to weigh in—and the Front Porch will provide updates as the process evolves.



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Barre: Long, lean and beautiful

Low-impact workout is harder than it looks

By Laurie Dunklee

“I was challenged, yet comfortable. It’s long, lean, beautiful ballerina training for non-ballerinas,” said Vondra Abbott after a Barre workout with moves modified as needed for participants ages 50 and older. She says it is a good complement to her other fitness activities, which include yoga, walking and Tai Chi.

Barre is a low-impact workout that targets

small muscle groups for strength training and also stretches muscles to elongate and sculpt the body. “Women gravitate to Barre because of the sculpting and toning,” said instructor and Stapleton resident K.C. Perkins, 41. “It works on areas women want to work. It defines muscles to be longer, more fluid and more feminine.” Perkins says all fitness levels are welcome in the Barre classes at the Bladium, where she



Park Hill resident Karen Lichtenstein and trainer Brena Kautz work out in a Barre class at Bladium.

teaches—and where Abbott participated. “We have a wide spectrum of people in the classes,” Perkins said. “We can make modifications to any of the exercises so everyone can do it while maintaining good form.”

Karen Lichtenstein, a 63-year-old resident of Park Hill, has added Barre to her regimen of classes at the Bladium. Her other classes include combat, pump, step and yoga. She likes the Barre class because it provides muscle toning without the danger of injury.

“The way Barre is modified for older people is that they do things slower and put breaks in between the moves,” Lichtenstein said. “Also it’s low-impact so there’s no stress on your knees and joints.”

Barre targets small muscle groups and works them to fatigue in timed intervals. “Then we give the muscles a deep stretch to build long lean muscles instead of bulky ones,” Perkins said, adding that targeting the small muscles also works the large muscle groups around them.

The Barre technique was inspired by ballet training, which uses the barre for stretching and warm-ups. It is a low-impact workout.

“Low impact means it’s kinder to the body and not taxing,” Perkins said.

But it can sneak up on you. “It doesn’t look like much if you’re watching, but it really is work,” Perkins said. “People are caught off guard as to how hard it is.”

“I have a love-hate relationship with this,” said Sarah O’Neill after her first Barre class. “I love it because it’s a great workout, but it’s unlike anything else I’ve done and it’s very hard,” said the 36-year-old mother of two.

Barre began as the Lotte Berk Method, named for a German ballet dancer who fled the Nazis in the late 1930s and came to London with her British hus-

band. After injuring her back, Berk combined her ballet bar routines with rehabilitative therapy to form an exercise system. In 1959 she opened The Lotte Berk Studio in her West End basement. There she sculpted the bodies of her students, among them Brooke Shields, Joan Collins and Brit Ekland, as she entertained them with bawdy humor and tips on love.

The technique was brought to Manhattan in 1971 and has spread throughout the United States. Many spinoffs have evolved since then, including Pure Barre, the Dailey Method, Fluidity and Barre Physique.

The many varieties of Barre allow instructors to put their own twist on their classes. Perkins, who holds a Definitive Barre Fitness certification from the Aerobics and Fitness Association of America, brings some of her own background to her teaching.

“I’m a gymnast with ballet training, so I keep true to the ballet aspects while making it a bit more athletic and borderline aerobic, with current music,” she said.

Barre’s ballet roots dictate an emphasis on form and correct positioning. Traditional French ballet terms such as plié, relevé and arabesque are used to guide students through the moves.

“I love teaching and sharing this kind of fitness,” says Perkins. “The best compliment I can get from students is hearing moaning and groaning in class. That means I’ve done my job.”

Barre classes are offered in Stapleton at the Bladium and at the Central Park Rec Center.

K.C. Perkins can be reached at the Bladium at 303.320.3033 to answer questions about Barre classes.

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The Education Advocate

Marcia Fulton is happy these days. She is the director of The Odyssey School, an expeditionary learning (EL) charter school that is nationally recognized as a leader in the EL charter school community.

A big issue she faces is that Odyssey is very difficult to get into because the Denver community has embraced it so strongly. This is a problem most charter school directors would love to have.

She also sees the success of other alternative or charter schools in Northeast Denver as a reflection of how committed our neighborhoods are to a variety of educational choices for our children.

Fulton believes strongly that to achieve educational success in a community, there must be quality choices and opportunities for all children. She also believes that education is a cooperative effort that the entire community—city, state and nation—must be behind. Parents need to understand that in the end, what is good for an entire community of children will ultimately be good for their child.

Despite the frustrations of being the director of a charter school where there is never enough money to meet all the needs, Marcia is happiest around children, either in a classroom or standing in the Odyssey front hall greeting parents, teachers and kids as they come to school. She sees kids grow and change before her eyes and that makes the rest of her job well worth it.



Stapleton resident Marcia Fulton, principal of The Odyssey School.

a district-wide choice of schools where charters are included. That is very, very innovative.

Jon Meredith: If a group of parents in Northeast Denver wanted to start a charter school, what is the process and how rigorous is it?

Marcia Fulton: The first questions I would ask is why and what need are they intending to serve? There are many great schools in our area now and I would wonder what need the parents see as being unserved. The process is indeed very rigorous in Denver Public Schools. It can't be just anything; it has to have real clear alignment to standards. There is a high threshold for what gets approved and what is turned down. A charter school must be financially sustainable. Denver has gotten very good at the process of approving new schools and in communicating what organizers need to have in place in order to get approval. The process requires organizers to fill a need where there is one.

JM: Quite a few charter schools have failed recently. Do you see a pattern as to why this happens?

Fulton: I don't know the specific issues that resulted in failures of other schools like the Challenges, Choices and Images School that was in the Samsonite building a few years ago. Typically, it is leadership issues, lack of vision, lack of resources to

accomplish the work that is necessary and financial issues. Here at Odyssey we have lost \$1,000 per child in funding over the last five years. We have run a deficit over the last few years and that is not sustainable. Lack of state funding has made some schools cut their programs so much that they are no longer their programs. We are slowly recovering as the economy does. The passage of the mill increase has been a huge boost, and I am hopeful that with the pending finance act there is some real vision around how schools should be funded and supported. If we continued to lose funding, there would have been no alternative but to close Odyssey despite the fact that we are very high-performing.

JM: How is the charter school movement faring nationally?

Fulton: I really can't answer that on a national level. However, locally Denver is well known as an incredibly good charter school-friendly district. We have voice in their process, we have structures in place to give input and there is a lot of innovation that is looked at closely. I think Tom [Boasberg] has done a terrific job in building bridges between district schools and charter schools. We are having the conversation about making both kinds of schools work, and I know nationally there are lots of places where there is no conversation. I believe Denver is the only large school district in the country that has

JM: How could the process improve in Denver?

Fulton: Now I'm wearing my parent hat. [Marcia has a child at East High and one at Odyssey.] I would have each quadrant of the city to be so intentionally planned out that each would have their own portfolio of choice, so parents wouldn't have to drive all over the city to send their child to the school they choose. That kind of thing is possible in this district where there isn't a we-and-they attitude, rather a collaborative one that is about a high-quality portfolio of choice.

JM: One size does not fit all?

Fulton: That is so true. Odyssey is not right for all children; some parents love what is happening at Swigert. We are on the path to offering true choice, but we are not there.

JM: Your job is very demanding. What are some of the best moments you have had at Odyssey?

Fulton: My richest moments happen every day provided by kids and teachers. Last year when Park Hill and Stapleton were having discussions about schools, I asked some 4th- and 5th-graders, who were studying foundations of government, to have the same discussion in their classroom. What I found was that the children were able to come to far more consensus on the same issue in a relatively short period of time than the parents and facilitators were over a prolonged period. The kids were able to take those ideas and make a presentation to the district.



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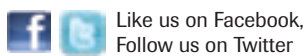
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Follow "Indie Prof" on Facebook for updates about film events.

Something in the Air (2013—Olivier Assayas)

Films about the late '60s and early '70s have been popular with filmmakers to frame coming-of-age stories. Most of these films tend to portray the characters as perfect idealists fighting hard-line conservatives, or ridiculous airheads who cannot face up to reality. Somewhere in between these poles lay the truth about the period, but it has never been portrayed as objectively as French director Olivier Assayas' (*Cold Water, Irma Vep, Summer Hours*) new film, *Something in the Air*. Assayas is the rare filmmaker who makes the movies he wants to make and stays away from any studio control; he also writes criticism for the storied journal *Cahiers du Cinema*. He counts the great French director Robert Bresson (*Pickpocket, A Man Escaped*) as his major influence, and it shows: the fine craftsmanship and attention to detail of both men are obvious, and neither director panders to the audience.

Something in the Air begins as young Parisians sit in a classroom; Gilles sells revolutionary newspapers outside after class; he and his friends riot in the streets; they print flyers in a basement; meet to discuss politics; smoke; paint; make love; graffiti and poster the school; set fire to a guard post. This is all in the first 30 minutes of the film, and thus the film moves as blithely from one action to the next as do the subjects. As the film follows this group of aimless and restless souls, the one thing we never see *is* their soul: the film is mostly feeling and atmosphere. We are trans-

ported to the early '70s, but we never really connect with it. And perhaps that is just the point: this period is inaccessible to us now, even incomprehensible. Even those—such as Assayas—who lived through the period have trouble defining it. And yet the beauty of the film unfolds in the interstices: the place between what we remember and what it really was.

The camera matches the content: documentary-style realism for the action scenes, and a classic voyeuristic camera for the contemplative scenes. The details are immaculate: the clothes, the hair, the scooters, the mimeograph. The editing also matches the content: fast and jump-cutting through the action sequences and a slower pacing when called for. In



A scene from *Something in the Air*

short, you should go to this film to see a master filmmaker at work, one who does not answer to a producer or a studio because he is so good at what he does. The only knock I have is the acting: it moves between indifference and listlessness. Perhaps this was by design too. On casting actors for the film, Assayas noted: "I had to find kids who fit the mold of that time. Today, kids have a more ironic sense of humor, a cynicism, and are more materialistic." Ouch.

Starts May 10 at the Mayan.

You will like this film if you enjoyed: *Taking Woodstock, The Baader-Meinhof Complex* and *Almost Famous*.

In a Better World (2011—Susanne Bier)

The Danish cinema has a long and storied history, dating back to the invention of the art form and remaining strong through the silent era. Mostly supported by the Danish Film Institute, Denmark has produced some of the best international films of the last 20 years. While Lars von Trier sucks up most of the air, other Danish directors such as Susanna Bier and Nicholas Winding Refn have produced quality films and received worldwide critical acclaim. Bier's *In a Better World* (2011), the winner of the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, is one



A scene from *In a Better World*

such film. It tells the story of two separate families, both dealing with their own tragedies and perhaps leading toward more tragedy together. The original Danish title of the film, *Hævnen*, is literally translated as "the revenge," and may describe the film better than the English translation.

No matter what the film is called, however, it is brilliant, expertly made and acted, and burns into our consciousness as a contemporary examination of a disaffected world.

Kids growing up too fast has long been a filmic convention: the Italian Neorealists used it as a plot device, and the French New Wave directors also found footing there. Both of these great movements influence *In a Better World*, and the children of current-day Denmark must do their share of growing up quickly. One family grieves the loss of their mother to cancer; the other family is dealing with a separation and the lingering effects of the father's affair. The kids seem to pay the price. The performances are all very good, but the revelation here is William Jøhnk Juels Nielsen as Christian. Christian's inner turmoil burns on his face; we feel his pain and worry for his demise throughout the course of the film—especially as he involves the young and impressionable Elias. Meanwhile, the action in Denmark cross-cuts between action in the Sudan, where Elias' father Anton works as a doctor in a tiny village.

There is an underlying uneasiness and tension throughout the film, and most of it is presented realistically and honestly. The cinematography wanes between close-ups of faces and long shots of landscapes, displaying the inherent, and invented, contradictions of our world. In the end, we are rewarded for that tension, and not in the trite, easy-to-resolve Hollywood sort of way.

Available on DVD.

You will enjoy this film if you liked: *Babel, A Separation* and *After the Wedding*.

Vincent Piturro, PhD, teaches Cinema Studies at Metropolitan State University of Denver. He can be reached at vpiturro@msudenver.edu.

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Parents/Kids Can Skate Together on Longboards

By Nancy Burkhardt

Stapleton resident Chad Workman had been an architect for many years when the economic downturn forced him to notice that architectural jobs no longer were as plentiful as they once had been.

About four years ago, Workman's stepson received a longboard, a larger version of the skateboard, for Christmas and forgot to take it with him when he left to go back to school.

"I would ride it around the Stapleton area at night so no one would see me," Workman said. "I would ride five or six miles every night. I had a flashlight built into the safety gear. I had to have a longboard after that."

So, when Workman decided that he wanted to open a retail shop of some kind, it was easy for him to decide on a shop that sells skateboards and longboards. He calls the shop the Pop-Up Skate Shop, located at 7489 E. 29th Place in the Stapleton Town Center.

"Longboards have been around for years, but in the past three years they have really taken off," he said. "They are a skateboard, but they're sized up. The wheels and board are bigger. It's a lot more stable. You're getting a lot of adults who either quit skateboarding or never skateboarded because it was too much of a risk for them. Longboards are for cruising around, getting from one place to another. They are used on a lot of college campuses. They're like a new mode of transportation, a new mode of recreation that has caught on really big."

"A lot of people who snowboard buy a longboard," he added. "It gives them the exercise and flexes the same muscles they would use if they were snowboarding. We get people who are lifetime skaters, people who were skating that are getting back into it, and also peo-

he said.

"You need to have a sense of balance and be big enough to carry the board," Workman explained. "We've got five-year-old skaters coming in. You just have to have the desire to learn to do it."

Workman's Pop-Up Skate Shop offers both one-on-one and group lessons for children and adults. It is a sport that relies on

Pop-up Skate Shop owner Chad Workman and instructor/salesman Josh Vincent show long and short boards in their new shop in the East 29th Ave. Town Center at Stapleton.

ple who are new to the sport."

Stapleton has a skateboard park, and both street skaters and bowl skaters can be seen in Stapleton, sometimes doing tricks, Workman said. Anyone can learn to use a skateboard or longboard,

mentorship for skateboarders and longboarders to become adept at it.

"It's like a club," Workman said. "It's pretty common for kids to hang out at skate shops, so we set up an area for them to hang out in. Skateboarding is a fraternity of sorts. They can learn more about the sport. They share knowledge and see the latest equipment. We have three really experienced skaters working here who will teach them things. I opened this shop to give the kids a place to go and help teach them life, so they can learn responsibility and responsible ways to act in every aspect of their lives, not just skateboarding."

"Adults are doing it as an activity that they can share with their kids," he added. "We have several people whose kids are just getting old enough, and because they were skaters in their day, they want to teach their kids to skate."

The Pop-Up Skate Shop offers everything needed for riding skateboards and longboards. Safety is encouraged with the use of helmets and kneepads. The shop also offers T-shirts and shoes, as well as scooters that are like skateboards with handlebars.

Folks who want to get the feel of skateboards or longboards before buying, since a longboard can reach \$250 to \$350, can rent one for \$15 an hour.

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New 7-Eleven Increases Fresh Food Options

By Nancy Burkhart

Stapleton is known for being a community that believes in healthy living, physical recreation and a close, neighborly atmosphere. Until recently, 7-Eleven stores have been known mostly for the convenience of sodas, fast food and sugary treats. But, Stapleton's new 7-Eleven is moving in a new direction befitting the Stapleton lifestyle.

Angelina and Everett Smith own the new 7-Eleven franchise at 8755 E. Montview Blvd. (just west of Central Park Blvd.). They have been Park Hill residents for the past five years, along with their children, Samara, 16, Myla, 8, and Tyce, 5. They appreciate healthy living and a friendly neighborhood atmosphere and want to offer that to their customers.

"We're trying to bring convenience to Stapleton," Angelina said. "We're also bringing fresh food. It's not fast food, but it's fresh: healthy sandwiches, salads, fresh fruit—things that normally you would have to go to a grocery store or a sandwich



Park Hill residents Angelina and Everett Smith are the owners of the new 7-Eleven at Central Park Blvd. and Montview.

shop to buy."

"This is one of 7-Eleven's latest stores," Everett said. "Stapleton is an upper-middle-class community, and 7-Eleven wants to bring lots of different things to that store. We wanted to be part of that as well. 7-Eleven is trying to raise revenues to where fast food and sodas aren't a big part of their sales. It's a great opportunity to

raise sales in fresh foods."

Angelina and Everett are open to customer suggestions. They would like to try new things too.

"We can change product mix according to what the customers coming into the store want," Angelina explained. "If customers want more organic foods, we have an opportunity to try it out. If people are becoming regular guests to the store and they

want something new, we have the opportunity to change."

When the new 7-Eleven was being considered by the city and the community, a liquor license was a consideration. However, as of now, they won't be selling beer.

"We're right across the street from Roberts Elementary, and you can't have a liquor license within a mile of school zoning," Angelina said. "7-Eleven withdrew their request for a liquor license."

"We didn't want it anyway," Everett added.

The Smiths also have no worries about crime in the area.

"We were worried about it in the beginning," Everett admitted. "But, after we looked at all the numbers and the demographics, we weren't. 7-Eleven hasn't had a robbery in quite some time. It doesn't bring crime to neighborhoods. 7-Eleven has an innovative system so that robbers aren't going to make money. It's a waste of time trying to rob a 7-Eleven. There is a max of \$30 to \$40 in the register at any time."

The growing number of businesses in the area was a draw for the Smiths to buy the 7-Eleven. "We hope to get involved with the businesses and the schools that are around us," Angelina said. "We want to participate where we can in the functions in the community so that we can contribute in some way. We want to help the community get away from the stereotype of what 7-Eleven used to be, to show that 7-Eleven can be a positive thing for a community."

"I plan to be at the store quite often," she said. "We plan to be very hands-on. People will be able to stop by and speak with us. We want to be there for the community with a nice, clean store."

"And we'll be there with fresh, good food, convenience and great customer service," Everett added.

The Smiths' 7-Eleven will have a Grand Opening Celebration on May 3 from 10:30am to 2pm where they will offer hot dogs and slices of pizza for fifty cents.

The store's phone number is 303-321-0341.



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Stapleton/Park Hill Parents Raise Questions/Concerns About Middle School Options



Stapleton and Park Hill parents packed the community room at the Central Park Rec center to get more information about DPS middle school options for their combined enrollment zone.

By Carol Roberts

In February and March, DPS held three community meetings for middle school parents where they explained the shared boundary concept for Park Hill and Stapleton middle schools and solicited community feedback about moving the McAuliffe IB program to Smiley. With broad support for the McAuliffe move shown at the prior meetings, the plan for the fourth meeting, on April 16, was to gather input from parents about desired programs to go in the vacated space at McAuliffe and for the new middle school north of I-70, both opening in 2014.

However, what DPS found was that parents still had many, many questions about shared boundaries and about Smiley. After answering numerous ques-

tions, the parents were asked if they were ready to move into small group discussions about desired programs for the new schools. One hand went up—and the questions about shared boundaries resumed. Although the purpose of the meeting was middle schools, several people raised the issue that many Stapleton parents would like to have neighborhood boundaries for their elementary schools. DPS said they would like to reflect the desires of the community and committed to setting a separate meeting to discuss that subject. One of the questions that drew applause was, “What will happen when ‘the bubble classes’ reach (continued on page 30)

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Parents/DPS Share Their Perspectives on New High School

By Carol Roberts

Stapleton families discover that when they move to a neighborhood where current schools are at capacity and their child's future schools are proposals, rather than bricks and mortar, it's difficult to not be anxious. To deal with their anxiety about the unknowns in their child's educational future, parents of preschoolers and young elementary children are attending meetings to plan for a high school their child won't attend for 10 years or more.

DPS invited parents to an April 22 community meeting to share their thoughts on a job description DPS will post soon—with the goal of hiring the high school principal to work with the community for two years before the school opens in 2015. Almost 50 parents showed up, but as DPS staff encouraged them to use the meeting time to give specific feedback on the school leader, the vision and the academic focus, many of the parents appeared unwilling or unable to concentrate on those subjects until other questions were answered. Is this one neighborhood high school or multiple smaller academies? Does DPS already have a plan in mind for what other school will share the campus? And parents are concerned that there won't be enough seats—Stapleton United Neighbors has done surveys and made projections that differ from DPS projections.

The Front Porch asked the parent groups and DPS to sub-

At an April 22 meeting with DPS, Stapleton parents gathered in groups to discuss and prioritize what they're looking for in a high school leader, the school's mission and its academic focus.

mit a clear and concise statement of their proposals and/or concerns regarding the high school. Following are their submissions.

From DPS:

In Northfield, Denver Public Schools will soon start work on a state-of-the-art high school complex to serve the growing Stapleton community. This project holds great promise for the Stapleton community, and we know there are some outstanding questions. We want to address those:

What will be built now with 2012 Bond funds?

\$40 Million of bond funding will be used to build a 900-1,000 student high school facility. This facility will house one district-run high school program designed by a soon-to-be-hired principal with input from the community. The school's boundary will be determined prior to the 2015 enrollment period, but it will cover the entire Stapleton community.

Will this school have room to serve all Stapleton students?

Yes. The initial 1,000 student phase will cover enrollment needs until 2018 or 2019. We intend to ask Denver voters to support a bond initiative in 2016 which would provide funds to expand the campus. DPS will ensure that any Stapleton-boundary student who wishes to attend this school, whether it is five



years, 10 years, or 20 years from now, will be able to do so. Current DPS projections show that a 1,500-student program will be large enough to address Stapleton's needs. However, if in the future the high school has to grow larger to fulfill that promise, it will do so.

How does DPS calculate the high school "projections?"

Our projections use Stapleton-specific census data, housing density data, construction projections, and existing enrollment figures. They look at every student currently living in the boundary, regardless of where those students currently go to school. We then look at when those students will reach a high school age. Finally, we use enrollment trend data from Stapleton and DPS-wide to project how many students will remain in the boundary and how many will choose out. That process provides us with the total number of students we expect to attend this high school. If every stu-

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May 2013

14

Stapleton Front Porch

dent living in the boundary chooses to attend this high school there will be a seat for him or her.

Will this high school have one mascot and sports team?

Yes. This high school will have a unified CHSAA sports program. Students will also have a multitude of other traditional high school experiences, including school dances, musical recitals, student councils, cheer squads, and student interest clubs.

Stapleton is growing rapidly, and we want to ensure residents that this high school will meet this demand. We are excited about the potential for a new, thriving high school, and we hope that the Stapleton community joins us in this excitement.

Submitted by Antwan Wilson, Assistant Superintendent for Post-Secondary Readiness at Denver Public Schools.

From Stapleton Parent Groups:

The Northfield high school design and programming committees began their work in February, excited to take on the challenge of creating an outstanding high school that reflects the needs and wishes of the larger Stapleton community and beyond.

Early in this process, DPS announced plans that initially plagued the committees with frustration and uncertainty about how to move forward. With recent reassurances from DPS, these key issues seem to be addressed now.

Central to the committees' concerns has been a lack of confidence in DPS projections for our increasing high school population. DPS projects our high school age population will peak at 1800 kids, but current elementary populations south of I-70 projected forward would approach this figure. This does not include development north of I-70, which Forest City estimates will yield a population similar to or larger than south of I-70. Stapleton's choice-out rate is also lower than other Denver neighborhoods', and we anticipate this may hold true for the high school.

These discussions about projections are ongoing, and SUN plans to conduct another



School board president Mary Seawell talks with attendees.

neighborhood census in the coming months.

At the joint programming and design committee meeting on April 23rd, Superintendent Tom Boasberg announced to the committees in clear language that all Stapleton students who wish to attend this new high school will have a guaranteed spot.

Further clarification with DPS staff revealed that DPS will expand the high school to honor this guarantee, relocating a second school on the campus if necessary to meet capacity needs. Additionally, DPS will allow the high school to expand beyond 1500 students if it is performing well.

The committees reiterated their desire to ensure enough capacity to enable students to choose in from other parts of Denver and provide for a more diverse student body. Mr. Boasberg confirmed DPS shares that vision.

SUN will present the results of its recent community survey at the upcoming SUN Forum on May 2nd.

Included in this survey was a question to gauge interest between two main options for the Northfield campus. The survey recently closed with over 2000 responses. Of those who have an opinion, over 80% favor a single comprehensive high school over a group of smaller schools.

With these assurances from DPS, we have greater clarity and understanding of the path forward as we plan an innovative and academically outstanding high school that serves the capacity needs and wishes of the larger community. Once a school leader is hired, community members will have the chance to plan all aspects of the school and ensure its success.

Submitted by Stapleton community members currently serving on the Northfield High School Programming Advisory Committee, the Northfield High School Design Advisory Group, and the Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) Education Committee.

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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.** 5-8pm. Santa Fe Dr. between 10th and 6th. www.artdistrictonSantaFe.com
- North Denver's Tennyson Art Walk.** 6-10pm. Tennyson St. and 44th Ave. 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.goldentrianglofdenver.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.** 5-8pm. Santa Fe Dr. between 6th and 10th. www.artdistrictonSantaFe.com

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.
- 5/4 Star Wars at the Hangar.** Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 9am-3pm. www.wingsmuseum.org
- 5/4 Victorian Tea.** Four Mile Historic Park. \$30/nonmembers, \$25 members. www.fourmilepark.org
- 5/10 Friday and 5/11 Saturday- Colorado Chocolate Festival.** Denver Merchandise Mart. I-

- 25 and 58th Ave. Admission \$5. Music, kids' activities, wine tastings, cooking demos, etc. www.chocolate-festival.org
- 5/10 Friday and 5/11 Saturday- Denver Botanic Gardens Plant Sale.** 8am-5pm. Horticulture experts answer questions and assist shoppers to choose right plants. FREE admission. 1007 York St. www.botanicgardens.com
- 5/10 Friday to 5/25 Thursday- Music Matters May.** Connects 18 local musicians and visual artists to produce live performances and raise money for youth music programs. 9 art galleries over 3 weekends and 6 days. www.flobots.org
- 5/11 Saturday- Cockpit Demo Day.** Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-12pm. www.wingsmuseum.org
- 5/11 Saturday- Wash Park Home Tour.** 10am-4pm. Benefits Steele Elementary. Tickets \$20 in advance; \$25 day of. www.washparkhometour.org
- 5/12 Sunday- Living History Day at Four Mile Historic Park.** Historic demonstrations, quilting, sewing blacksmithing, wagon rides, and more. 10-4pm. General admission applies. www.fourmilepark.org
- 5/15 Wednesday to 5/18 Saturday- Fair Trade Rug Event.** Hosted by Ten Thousand Villages, Ethically made, hand-knotted rugs from Pakistan. Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E. Alameda Ave. 303.316.8773
- 5/16 Thursday- Introduction to Oriental Rugs Seminar.** Explore history and art of rug making, from dyeing the wool to tying fringes. 7pm. Free. Reservations recommended. Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E. Alameda Ave. 303.316.8773
- 5/18 Saturday- Five Points Jazz Festival.** 11am-8pm. 27th and Welton. FREE. www.artsandvenuesdenver.com/events
- 5/18 Saturday- Dumb Friends League Harmony Equine Center Open House**
Open house and adoption day at Dumb Friends League Harmony Equine Center, 10am-3pm. 5540 E. Hwy. 86, Franktown. Take guided tour, enjoy food, horse trainings, demonstrations and meet adoptable horses. No RSVP required. 303.751.5772, www.ddfl.org/equine

- 5/20 Monday to 5/22 Wednesday- Damsels Dance Company presents Denver on Fire: A Social Commentary through Dance.** Program reflects on recent ordeals/events experienced by people of Colorado. The Damsels raise money for women in crisis. Tickets: \$20. Avenue Theatre, 417 E. 17th Ave.
- 5/23 Saturday- Colorado Corks and Cuisine.** 5:30-8:30pm. Food and wine-tasting event benefits Four Mile Historic Park. Tickets: www.four-milepark.org
- 5/24 Friday to 5/26 Sunday- 15th Annual Downtown Denver Arts Festival.** Denver Performing Arts Complex. FREE. www.downtowndenverartsfestival.com
- 5/25 Saturday- Denver Day of Rock.** Free concerts benefiting kids, four stages. 2:30pm-9:30pm. www.denverdayofrock.com
- 5/25 Saturday- Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony.** 9am-1:30pm, downtown Denver near Civic Center Park. FREE.
- 5/26 Sunday and 5/27 Monday- 34th Annual Old South Gaylord Memorial Day Festival.** FREE. www.southgaylordstreet.com
- 5/27 Monday- 49th Annual Commerce City Memorial Day Parade.** 1150+ entries, largest in Colorado and one of largest in U.S. 64th and Olive Commerce City, www.c3gov.com/parade
- 5/31 Friday to 6/2 Sunday- Denver Comic Con 2013.** 3-day fan convention featuring sci-fi, comic books, gaming and more. Denver Convention Center 14th and Curtis. www.denvercomiccon.com
- 6/1 Saturday and 6/2 Sunday- Denver Chalk Art Festival.** Larimer Square. FREE. www.denverchalkart.org
- 6/1 Saturday and 6/2 Sunday- Capitol Hill People's Fair.** Civic Center Park. FREE. www.peoplesfair.com
- Denver Film Society.** Daily movies/programs. Lowenstein Complex, 2510 E Colfax and various locations. www.denverfilm.org
- FREE Wednesday Senior Activities.** 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.denverurban-homesteading.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.soiledove.com
- Denver Botanic Gardens Summer Concert Series.** Concert lineup, tickets: www.concerts.botanicgardens.org
- Denver 2 for 1 Tix.** 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

- 5/4 Saturday- Wells Fargo Walk MS.** Denver City Park. Register 7:30am; walk 9:30am. www.walkMScolorado.org.
- 5/4 Saturday- Dumb Friends League Furry Scurry.** 2-mile walk benefits Dumb Friends League. Washington Park \$50/person. 9am. www.ddfl.org
- 5/7 Tuesday- Brain Health Education Series: Timeless Tips and Proven Strategies for Living Healthy in a Busy World.** 6:30pm. Learning Rx, 50 S. Steele St. RSVP: 303.284.6105, oradmindenver@learningrx.net, www.learningrx.net
- 5/12 Sunday- Mother's Day 5K.** City Park. 9am. \$30/individual, \$90/family. www.mothersday5K.com
- 5/16 Thursday- Free HIV testing at Rocky Mountain CARES non-profit for holistic HIV care.** 1-5pm, 3rd Thursday monthly and by appt. 4545 E 9th Ave, #120. Shannon Southall: 303.951.3694
- 5/18 Saturday- Bellco Colfax 5K.** Chipped-time race and all levels. City Park. www.runcolfax.org
- 5/19 Sunday- 2013 Kaiser Permanente Colfax Marathon.** Marathon, half marathon, marathon relay and urban 10 miler. www.runcolfax.org
- 5/27 Monday- Bolder Boulder.** 10K road race. www.bolderboulder.com
- 6/1 Saturday- Jodi's Race for Awareness.** 5K run/walk; 1-mile family walk. Denver City Park.
Register: www.colo-ovariancancer.org
- 6/8 Saturday- 6/15 Saturday- 28th Annual Ride the Rockies.** www.ridetherockies.com
- 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
- Fridays in April- Friday Night Yoga Club.** Various Denver yoga studios. www.fridaynightyogaclub.com
- Base Fitness Denver.** Boot camp classes, indoor/outdoor. 7565 E. Academy Blvd. info@basefitnessdenver.com, 303.539.4877
- 2013 Moonlight Classic Bike Ride-** Now open for registration. Sat., 7/27. www.moonlight-classic.com

LECTURES AND CLASSES

- 5/2, 5/9, 5/16, Thursdays- FREE Financial Workshops.** Trilogy Financial Services, 2000 S. Colorado Blvd, Tower 1, 3rd fl. Space limited; RSVP required: 303.300.3323 x5105
- 5/4 Saturday- Spring into Writing Fiction Seminar for Beginning Fiction Writers.** Denver Woman's Press Club. 8:30am-12pm. 1325 Logan. \$45. www.DWPConline.org
- Active Minds – Listing/info on all sessions: www.ActiveMinds.com. FREE.**
- 5/7 Tuesday- Saudi Arabia.** 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. 303.316.6359

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5/9 Thursday- Abraham Lincoln. 7pm. Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 2823 Roslyn St. 303.388.0724

5/14 Tuesday- U.S. Immigration Policy. 12:30-1:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727

5/21 Tuesday- Iraq. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center. 350 S. Dahlia St. Lil Shaw: 303.316.6359

5/23 Thursday- Iraq. 7pm. Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 2823 Roslyn St. 303.388.0724

5/28 Tuesday- Emancipation Proclamation. 5:30-6:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727

LIBRARIES
Visit www.denverlibrary.org for children's story hours, book club info, crafts sessions and complete program list. A few selected programs shown below:

Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. 720.865.0250. Closed Sun.

5/11 Saturday- Super Hero Day. 2-3:30

5/16 Thursday- Kids Genre Chat Book Club. 3:30-4:30

Pauline Robinson Library, 5575 E. 33rd Ave. 720.865.0290. Closed Sun.

Wednesday- Preschool Story Hour. 10:30-11:00am.

Monday to Thurs. 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. Open 7 days.

Mondays- Tales for Twos Story Time. 10:15am; repeats 11am

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

Fridays- Book Babies. 10:15am; repeats 11:15am.

5/2 Thursday- How to Grow a No Sneeze Breathe Easy Garden. 6:30-7:30pm.

5/4 Saturday- Maintain Your Bicycle with the Denver Bicycle Cafe. 11am.

5/9 Thursday- Picnic Foods. 6:30-7:30pm.

5/11 Saturday- Growing Herbs in Containers. 11am.

6/2 Sunday- Happy Healthy Baby Foods. 2-3pm.

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

5/4 Saturday- Make and Take: Felted Owls. 2pm.

5/5 Sunday- The Legend of Kid Curry with Anne Williams. 2pm.

5/11 Saturday- Make and Take: Introduction to Sewing. 10:30am-12pm.

5/13 Monday- Make Your Own Pasta and Sauces. Recipes and samples. 6:30-7:30pm.

You're invited to a public meeting about your East Rail Line's Central Park Station

Come see the preliminary design for the parking and bus areas for the Central Park Station Park-n-Ride on the East Rail Line.

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Learn more about the East Rail Line at rtd-fastracks.com.

Please call 303.299.2013 at least 72 hours prior for communication assistance.

 **RTD FasTracks**

5/20 Sunday- From Argentina to Zimbabwe, Introduction to World Music. 6-7pm.

NORTHEAST DENVER /AURORA EVENTS
5/6 Saturday- Montview Community Preschool and Kindergarten Carnival. 11am-3pm. 1980 Dahlia St. Tickets \$6/advance; \$8/at door.

5/7, 5/22, 6/4 and 6/9. Free Neighborhood Walking Trips. Get to know local retail centers, public transportation stops, restaurants, rec areas, groceries and community service centers on foot. NW Aurora (Tues., 5/7, 5:30-7:30pm); Stapleton (Wed. 5/22, 5:30-7:30pm); E. Montclair (Tues. 6/4, 5:30-7:30pm); Park Hill/Stapleton (Sun. 6/9, 2-5:30pm). Space limited. RSVP: jonathon@walk2connect.com, 303.908.0076.

5/16 Thursday- 3rd Annual Bill Roberts Community Carnival. 5:30-7:30pm. Everyone welcome, \$15/child, parents and kids under 2 are free. \$5 meal plan available. Bill Roberts School, 2100 Akron Way. billroberts.dpsk12.org

5/18 Saturday- St. Elizabeth's School Spring Garden Festival & Kids Carnival. 10-2pm. FREE. Plant sales, kids' games, entertainment, vendors, food. 2350 Gaylord St. 303.322.4209, www.stelizabeths-denver.org

5/19 Sunday- Bash Dash. Family adventure race, Stapleton Town Center, 8:30-11am. www.yppfoundation.org.

5/23 Thursday- Lowry Beer Garden 1st Anniversary Party. 5pm. Food, Colorado craft beer and silent auction with 30 local goods/services. Benefits Lowry Foundation. Tickets: \$20/adult (entree, side, 1 draft beer); \$10/kids (1 kid's item, drink, ice cream cone). www.blacktie-colorado.com/rsvp (enter event code LBG1). Bid items at lowry.org Foundation page under "About" tab. Lowry Beer Garden, 7577 E. Academy Blvd.

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

6/1 Saturday- Lowry Yard Sale. 8am-2pm. 300+ homes neighborhood-wide (11th Ave. (N), Alameda (S), Dayton (E) and Oneida (W). Lowry Community Master Assoc. will deliver yard signs to residents requesting them (sign up in May). 720.583.5262

6/8 Saturday- Park Hill Panther 5K Benefits Venture Prep High School. 9am. Venture Prep (Smiley Campus, 2540 Holly St). Registration \$15/individual, \$30/family. www.ventureprep.org

Fridays and Saturdays- Wine Tastings. Wine Cellars, the Bottle Shop of Stapleton. 4-7pm. FREE. www.facebook.com/WineCellarsat-Stapleton

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


(continued on page 18)



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(continued from page 17)

May events- Unity on the Avenue. 4670 E. 17th Ave. www.unityontheavenue.org or 303.322.3901.
May events- Center of Light. 2300 Forest St. Denver@CentersOfLight.org or 720.308.9944

BLUFF LAKE NATURE CENTER
3400 Havana Way, Denver. www.blufflakenaturecenter.org

5/11 Saturday- John Fielder and Sunset Photography at Bluff Lake. 2-8pm. Two-hour lecture by John Fielder followed by picture-taking at the Nature Center until sunset. Info re meeting place once registrants reserve spot. \$250 in advance.

5/16 Thursday- Guided Seasonal Tour of Bluff Lake Nature Center. 5-6pm. Guided one-hour sunset tour of nature center with historical and ecosystem interpretation. Tour groups gather at Welcome Station on north side of parking lot. Free. klewis@blufflake.org. Repeats 5/18 Sat., 10-11am.

5/16 Thursday- Fireside Chat “Birds of Bluff Lake with Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory’s Tyler Edmondson.” 6-7:30pm. Learn about many birds that call Bluff Lake home, or at least stop for a meal or rest. Marshmallow roast follows. Suggested \$1 donation. keith@blufflake.org.

5/30 Thursday- Fireside Chat “Music for Aardvarks with Janet Casson.” 6-7:30pm. Enjoy live children’s music with Janet Casson. Marshmallow roast follows. Suggested \$1 donation. keith@blufflake.org, www.blufflakenaturecenter.org

DENVER ART MUSEUM
100 West 14th Ave Parkway, www.denverartmuseum.org

Through 9/8- Rocky Mountain Majesty: Paintings of Charles Partridge Adams.

5/19 Sunday to 9/22 Sunday- Spun: Adventures in Textiles. Wide-ranging look at textiles in variety of exhibitions throughout the museum complex.

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

HISTORY COLORADO CENTER
1200 Broadway, www.historycoloradocenter.org

5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28 Tuesdays- Behind Closed Doors: The Artifacts You Rarely Get to See. State archaeologists lead 4-part workshop on rarely seen artifacts from museum during statewide Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month. \$75. 303.866.2394, www.HistoryColorado.org

5/18 Saturday and 5/19 Sunday- Hands on Heritage Festival. Food, music, dance and culture celebrates Colorado’s past and present. 10am-5pm, Sat.; 12-5 Sun. Adults \$10, students/seniors \$8, children 6-12 \$5, under 5 free.

Through 5/27 Monday- Thomas Jefferson’s Bible. From Smithsonian American History Museum.

DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE
Montview and Colorado Blvd. www.dmns.org, 303.370.6000

Through 5/27 Monday- Mammoths and Mastodons: Titans of the Ice Age. Special ex-

hibit ticket required.

5/16 Thursday- Science Lounge. Cocktails/entertainment every 3rd Thurs. of month. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/nonmembers
Planetarium. *Realm of Light; Wildest Weather in the Solar System; Black Holes; One World, ne Sky; Cosmic Journey: A Solar System Adventure.* www.dmns.org/planetarium/current-shows
IMAX Movies. *Titans of the Ice Age 3D, Flight of the Butterflies 3D, Rocky Mountain Express 2D.* Various times. Tickets: \$8/3-18; \$10/adult

NORTHFIELD EVENTS
The Shops at Northfield Stapleton:
Family Festival featuring rides, games and festival food. May 23-June2. Visit NorthfieldStapleton.com for hours of operation and prices.

Bass Pro Events– 720.385.3600, www.BassPro.com

5/17-5/27– Go Outdoors Event
5/18-5/19– Toyota Teen Driving Event
Hunting, fishing and marine seminars offered throughout month. Call or visit BassPro.com for details.

Harkins Theatres 18- 720.374.3118
New Releases

5/3 – *Iron Man 3* 3D
5/10 – *The Great Gatsby, At Any Price*

5/17 – *Star Trek Into Darkness, The Iceman*
5/24 – *Epic, Fast & Furious 6, The Hangover III*

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

5/2-5/5 – Rich Guzzi, Hypnotist
5/9-5/12 – Jay Phillips

5/16-5/19 – Dominique

5/24-5/26 – DL Hughley
5/30-6/1 – Mitch Fatel
Ticket prices vary based on comedian and show time. Call for details.
Toby Keith’s I Love This Bar & Grill– 303.728.9468, www.countrybarco.com
Local and regional live music nightly.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
Reservations required for events marked* at 303.289.0930. Free unless noted. Hours: Mon.-Sun., 6am-6pm. Visitor Center: Tues.-Sun., 9am-4pm. Refuge closed federal holidays. Directions/ events: www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal/
5/17 Friday- Disappearing Treasures: National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repository.* Tour: 10am-12pm

5/19 Sunday- Bike the Refuge.* 1-3pm
Last Saturday of month- Wild Rides.* 9:30-10:30am. 1-hour guided viewing tour.

Self-guided Wildlife Drive Auto Tour Route. Daily 6am-6pm

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

THEATRE
Through 5/5- The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas. Vintage Theatre 1468 Dayton St. 303.856.7830 or www.vintagetheatre.com

Through 5/11- Tigers Be Still. Firehouse Theatre Company at John Hand Theater. www.johnhandtheater.com

Through 5/12- The Color Purple. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E Colfax Ave. www.auro-rafoxartscenter.org

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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

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

NPET: First Saturday Clean Up Activities. 9am-12noon. Contact Caroline Fry, Sand Creek Regional Greenway CFry@Sandcreekgreenway.org or Lucia Correll Lcorrell@dotnet.net for place each month.

RE.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. Pinnacol 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

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

ADOPTEEES 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

Do you have Atopic Dermatitis (Eczema)?

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■ Males and females between 3 and 80 years of age who have AD

■ Males and females between 8 months and 80 years of age who have a history of, or an active case of eczema herpeticum (wide-spread herpes skin infection along with AD)

Study Involves:

■ One or more visits to the clinic

■ Skin swabs and small volume blood draw with test results for eligible participants


■ Study related medical evaluation including physical exam

■ We will also ask if you would like to be contacted in the future for other ADRN studies

Financial compensation is available for qualified participants

For more information and to enroll in this study, please call the Clinical Translational Research Center (CTRC) at 303.270.2222

Principal Investigator: Donald Leung, MD, PhD



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May 2013

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Stapleton Front Porch

Through 5/12- Motherhood Outloud. Avenue Theater, 417 E. 17th Ave. www.avenuetheater.com

5/17-6/16- And Then There Was Nun. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. 303.856.7830, www.vintagetheatre.com

Through 5/26- Dividing the Estate. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada. www.arvadacenter.org

5/25-6/29- Sylvia. Firehouse Theater and Spotlight Theater Companies at John Hand Theater. www.johnhandtheater.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Cooking Matters- Free courses for Colorado kids and families on how to shop on budget and make healthy, affordable meals. Volunteers needed at various locations/days to help families in your community. Email covolunteer@strength.org to learn about Share our Strength Cooking Matters and other volunteer opportunities.

Project Worthmore. Volunteers needed for teams (6-month commitment) to assist refugees from Burma by “cultural mentorship” (how to ride bus, grocery shop, bank, enroll kids in school, navigate 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

5/4 Saturday- Kids Marketplace. 10am-2pm. Clayton Early Learning Center, 3801 MLK Blvd. www.thekidsmarketplace.com

Through 6/30- Jack and the Beanstalk. Denver Puppet Theatre, 3156 W 38th Ave. Tickets: \$7 ages 3 and up. 303.458.6446, www.denverpuppetheater.com

Through 7/31- Toronado 1966-1992 at Forney Transportation Museum. \$6-\$8. 303.297.1113. 4303 Brighton Blvd. www.forneymuseum.org

Thursdays in May- 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

5/8 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 Plkwy. www.denverartmuseum.org or 720.865.5000

5/12 Sunday- Music Train Family Concert Series- Latin/Salsa: Los Bohemios. Presented by Swallow Hill. 4pm. Daniels Hall, 71 E. Yale. www.swallowhillmusic.org

5/12 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

5/24 Friday- Denver Botanic Gardens Family Fun Night. 4th Friday each month explore nature at night in Mordecai Children’s Garden. Monthly themes with performers in Sagebrush Stage, snacks by campfire, etc. \$20 member/family of 4, \$3 each additional. \$25 nonmember/family of 4, \$4 each additional. Kids 2 and under free. www.botanicgardens.org

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

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.smallhands-art.com

Start Art. Art classes. Startartkids.com

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

5/4 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

5/11 and 5/25 Saturdays- 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

Western Tennis Academy (WTA) Summer Program. 7/5 to 8/12. M/W/F 3-6pm. Ages 10-18. Smiley Middle School. Kerry Nash: 303.322.912, kerrynash@gmail.com

Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys Workshops. Museum adm: \$6/adults, \$4/kids 5-16/under 5 free. 1880 Gaylord St. www.dmmtdt.org for current workshops

The Urban Farm- Embracing Horses. Info@theurbanfarm.org

Neighborhood Music Stapleton. Private and group instruction. Ages 3 and up. Skye Barker Maa. www.neighborhoodmusicstapleton.com, 720.353.6622

Music Lingua Musical Spanish Classes. Ages newborn-6 years. Learn Spanish with your child in interactive parent/tot classes. samanthabensoncox@hotmail.com, www.musiclingua.com

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

Stapleton All Sports. Registering for spring baseball, t-ball, early ball skills, cheer and yoga. www.stapletonallsports.com

City Strings Guitar Summer Camps. Guitar & Songwriting, June 17-21, Guitar Mash-Up and Flash Mob, July 15-19. All levels, ages 7-14. 10am-3pm at Denver’s East High School. www.CityStringsGuitar.com or Jen: 720.341.9737

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



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More Events

May 5—From Foes to Friends: Buffalo Bill’s 167th Birthday

Buffalo Bill’s 167th birthday and the May 1883 birth of his Wild West Show will be celebrated at a free event, 12–4pm on Sun., May 5, at the Buffalo Bill Museum. There will be a special tribute to the Native Americans who performed in his show with the opening of a new permanent exhibit. Buffalo Bill advocated for their rights and gave them equal employment opportunities. In turn, the Lakota and members of other Native American tribes performed in his show, giving an authenticity unmatched in the U.S. at the time. Festivities include: Native American dancing, music the painting and raising of a tepee, free cake and ice cream, costumed re-enactors and a buffalo-chip-throwing contest. The Western Music Association’s Female Poet of the Year and songstress Susie Knight will join Rex Rideout, musical star of the movie Cowboys and Aliens, in performances. The museum is located at 987 1/2 Look-out Mountain Rd. in Golden. www.buffalobill.org

Weekends in May—First-ever Music Matters May at Santa Fe Arts District

Flobots.org members, Denver’s Santa Fe Arts District members and local recording artists will present Music Matters May to celebrate the Denver artistic community by connecting local

musicians and visual artists to produce authentic, live and unplugged performances. Over three weekends and six days, 18 different art galleries will serve as venues. Tickets for a single night are \$40 and include three drinks. All proceeds benefit Flobots.org, a nonprofit offering diverse programs that reflect the belief that music and the arts can create positive social change by harnessing the power of music and those who love it. Where: Fri. 5/10, Sat. 5/11 – Santa Fe 800 block; Sat. 5/18 and Sun. 5/19 – 700 block; Fri. 5/24, Sat. 5/25 – 900 block. For tickets and more info: https://adreprouductions.webconnex.com/Music_Matters_May

May 11—7th Annual Free Veterans’ Appreciation Breakfast

The Rotary Club of Denver Southeast is sponsoring their annual Veterans’ Appreciation Breakfast at the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum, Lowry Town Center, on Sat., May 11 from 8–10am. The event is free to veterans, their families and friends. There will be keynote speakers, a color guard and the chance to see the historic aircraft. Kids can get in some cockpits and imagine being at the controls. You can honor a veteran with a table display, or sponsor a table for 8–10 veterans for \$250. To learn more and register: Go to www.militaryevents.us, enter Event Code RCSD 511, and click on “I’d like to confirm my attendance and Register for this Event.”

May 18—National Alliance on Mental Illness Walk 2013 in Stapleton

On Sat., May 18, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) invites you to walk to raise awareness and fight the stigma about mental illness. There is no registration fee, but walkers are encouraged to obtain donations from family, friends and co-workers. Check-in begins at 8:30am and the walk starts at 10am in Central Park at Stapleton. NAMI Colorado affiliates provide education and support programs statewide and advocate for access to treatment and services. There is no charge for any of the programs that NAMI offers. Register for the walk at www.namiwalk.org/colorado. For more on NAMI Colorado, go to www.namicolorado.org.

May 19—Bash Dash 2013 Adventure Race in Stapleton Town Center

Bash Dash 2013 seeks preschool-, elementary- and middle-school-aged kids to team with friends to compete in an outdoor adventure race and tackle challenges while learning the value of making a positive community difference. Presented by BBVA Compass and Forest City, the event is on Sun., May 19 at 2pm on Founders Green in the Stapleton Town Center. Teams must have a minimum of four members, including one adult. Proceeds benefit its host organization, Young Philanthropists Foundation (YPF), which develops programs to engage youth in making the world a better place. Register at 1:30pm; race at 2pm; ice-cream social at 3:30pm. Additional tickets can be purchased for noncompeting family and friends. Prizes for individual challenges, best team costume and more. Cost: \$20/person in advance; \$25/person race day. Details and to register a team at www.yppfoundation.org/bashdash.

May 31—Children’s Museum of Denver’s 40th Birthday Bash

In 1973, a group of parents, educators and early childhood experts opened the first Children’s Museum of Denver. The objective: break traditional ideas of learning, offer children and families a place to learn by play and foster a lifelong love of learning. To celebrate its 40th birthday a gala, Your Golden Ticket to Imagination, will be held Fri., May 31, 6–10:30pm on the museum’s plaza. Enjoy Willy Wonka’s world with snozzberries, fizzy-lifting drinks and lickable wallpaper. Also, live/silent auctions, raffles, dancing, music, cocktails and heavy hors d’oeuvres. Benefits the museum’s educational

efforts, program supplies, exhibit development, community outreaches and sponsored admissions. Info or to purchase tickets, visit mychildsmuseum.org or contact Lisa Andersson at 303.561.0104 or LisaA@cmdenver.org.

June 1— The Un-Job Fair at Colorado Free University

Colorado Free University presents its 4th annual Un-Job Fair: An Exploration of Options and Opportunities for Successful Self-Employment on Sat., June 1, 8:30am–4:45pm, at its campus in Lowry, 7653 E. 1st Pl. Created to support the “little guy” who is running or thinking of starting a business, this daylong festival of presentations and seminars gives current and would-be entrepreneurs practical tips and tools and networking opportunities. Cost: \$76/person; \$64 for CFU members. More at www.freeu.com or 303.399.0093.

June 1—Baker Historic Neighborhood Home Tour

The Baker Historic Neighborhood Association (BHNA) welcomes all to experience six homes with the elegant charm of the late 1800s to early 1900s on Sat., June 1, from 11am–3pm. Architectural styles in the area include Queen Anne, Denver Square, Dutch Colonial Revival, Classical Revival, Italianate and newer Craftsman bungalows. The tour also hosts a silent auction. The First Ave. Presbyterian Church of Denver will participate in the Baker Bargain Bonanza and give tours of the church’s interior. Tickets may be purchased online at www.bakerhometour.com and at various locations. Before 5/17: \$8 Baker residents, \$13 nonresidents; after 5/17, \$2 more. No children under 12. Net proceeds help support both Baker Historic District schools and the BHNA for neighborhood preservation efforts.

June 2—Walk for Lupus Now at Central Park in Stapleton

Join the Lupus Foundation of America and thousands of walkers in nearly 60 cities across the nation to raise money for lupus research and increase awareness of lupus, an unpredictable and devastating autoimmune disease that affects an estimated 1.5 million Americans. All proceeds go to improving the lives of people living with lupus and their families. This is the fifth year for the Denver Walk to End Lupus Now, which will be held, Sun., June 2, at Central Park in Stapleton. Registration starts at 9am, the walk at 10am. To learn more and register, individually or as part of a team, go to www.lupus.org.



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Colorado's wildfires are getting worse. There are more of 'em every year. And more Coloradans, too.

When we read statements like these, it's easy to assume that wildfires are caused by having more people around. But that isn't always the case because correlation does not equal causation.

The severity of our wildfires is increasing at the same time our population is growing. But this relationship is only a "correlation"—a type of association where one pattern mirrors another. It makes sense that population size *could* cause an increase in wildfire severity; more people = worse fires. But this is not true. Rather, the increase in severe fires is caused by a combination of changing weather, forest conditions, forest evolution and historical fire-suppression practices.

Although we often make decisions based on such correlations, we have to be careful not to infer causation from correlation. Just because two things are "linked" or correlated doesn't mean that one causes the other.

"Causation," which is when something produces an effect, usually requires identification of a mechanism or dependence. Thus, although the *severity* of Colorado wildfires is not related to population growth, the *frequency* of such fires appears to be. More people = more chances for accidents

—> causes more wildfires. This is especially true for human-caused wildfires, given that more houses are being built at the interface between urban and wildland areas.

At other times, cause is harder to identify because it is indirect. For example, pine bark beetles have been ravaging more and more of our forests every year, and this pattern correlates with a pattern of warmer winters. The correlation occurs because fewer beetle larvae are being killed during our normally frigid winters, allowing more of these critters to wreak havoc on forests. But it isn't the beetles

that are causing the biggest increase in conifer tree deaths, it is the nasty "blue stain" fungus they infect trees with, and which symbiotically help them to thrive.

Sometimes correlation does not lead to an understanding of causation, but to other discoveries. For example, French citizens, despite their fatty diets, have relatively low rates of coronary heart disease. After this initial correlation was noted, there was debate about what caused this "French paradox."

Investigations are ongoing, but because red wine was one of the hypothesized causes, dietary effects of alcohols were scrutinized. Surprisingly, results indicated that moderate consumption of alcohol facilitates "good cholesterol" production, which inhibits "bad cholesterol" retention and thus causes less buildup of plaque in arteries. Red wine, in contrast to

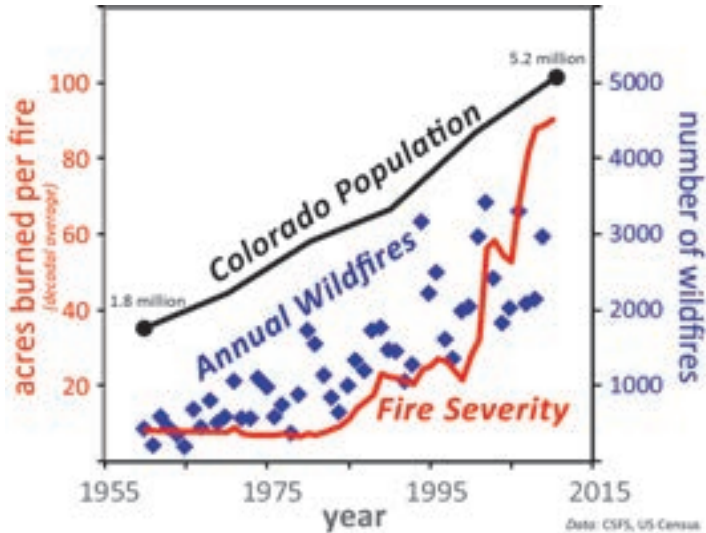
beer or other spirits, has additional compounds that cause less plaque formation and growth. Unfortunately, although this research triggered a renaissance in both wine drinking and the study of wine compounds, neither completely explains the French paradox.

Correlation can be useful even if we don't yet understand causation because it can alert us to problems that might occur. For example, Colorado is at the epicenter of a correlation that may have national implications—marijuana availability and kids' accidental marijuana consumption. Re-

Just the Facts

Forests, Wine and Cannabis

by Whitey Hagadorn

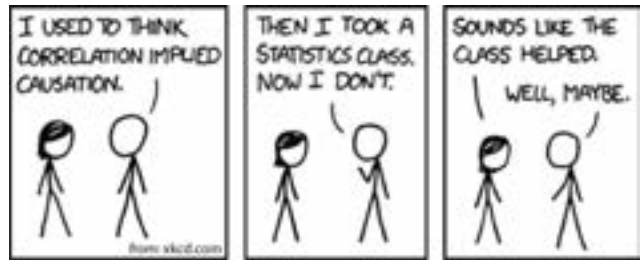


Correlation, causation, or both? Wildfire data is from non-federal Colorado lands, with average wildfire size used as a metric for fire severity.

cently reported incidents at Aurora's Children's Hospital Colorado mirror national trends in child marijuana exposure, where rates of possible marijuana poisonings have increased by approximately 40 percent in the last two years. These increases are concomitant with widespread rollout of marijuana dispensaries. If this correlation is causal, it predicts that such incidents will become more common with the full-scale legalization of marijuana in Colorado. It also begs questions of causation: Does marijuana availability cause more kids to accidentally ingest it? Or does it merely correlate with increased incidences of accidental marijuana ingestion? For children, a key mechanism for poisoning is eating marijuana-infused food products. Is the cause of these poisonings the product's packaging, or the children's curiosity, or negligent parents forgetting to put away the cannabis brownies and THC lollipops?

Colorado is at the leading edge of other similarly contentious issues. For example, will adoption of tighter gun-control laws reduce shootings or make our schools safer? Will loosening restrictions on over-the-counter sales of the morning-after pill lead to increased rates of teen sexual activity? Although we don't yet know the answers to these questions, identification of correlations and causes for these issues will be amplified well beyond Colorado—in the national debate about how to address them. By understanding the difference between cause and correlation, you can provide an informed voice in such discussions.

James W. Hagadorn, PhD, is a scientist at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Suggestions and comments welcome at jwhagadorn@dmns.org.



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Recognitions

Jim 'N Nick's BBQ Donates Meal for Colfax Marathon Runners

Paul Bestafka, local owner of Jim 'Nick's Bar-B-Q, has brought the restaurant's Southern hospitality culture to Denver. He reached out to the Colfax Marathon and offered to feed all the runners post-race...for free. The first year, 5,000 runners enjoyed a hickory-smoked pulled pork sandwich and scratch-made coleslaw; then it was 6,000; then 7,000; and this year 9,000 projected runners will enjoy a hearty meal at the finish. The Colfax Marathon seemed a perfect fit for the restaurant since the race is uniquely Denver and supports well over a hundred charities. So when the runners' legs are aching and the end of the Colfax Marathon is in sight, the marathoners can look forward to a special treat courtesy of Paul Bestafka and Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q. Jim 'Nick's serves only fresh food (they have no freezers) and they encourage a healthy lifestyle. The Northfield restaurant is located at 8264 Northfield Blvd, 303.371.1566.



Paul Bestafka

Announcements

Thursday, May 23—RTD to Show Renderings for Central Park Station Park-n-Ride

Attendees will see renderings of the Park-n-Ride facility and hear a presentation on its various elements. RTD is building a bus transfer center and parking for up to 1,500 vehicles, making Central Park Station the largest on the new East Rail Line. It includes a 12-gate bus transfer center for connections to other buses or to and from the East Rail Line trains. It will be built north of the existing RTD Stapleton Park-n-Ride. Construction is underway on the 22.8-mile commuter rail line between Denver Union Station and Denver International Airport and it is scheduled to open in 2016.

The meeting on Thursday, May 23, will be held from 5:30 to 7:30pm at the Sam Gary Branch Library, 2961 Roslyn St.

Saturday, May 4—Mulch Giveaway & Compost Sale 8am to 2pm

At the Havana Nursery, 10450 Smith Rd., just south of I-70 on Havana St.:
–Dig-your-own free mulch, purchase pre-bagged compost, or fill the bed of trucks and trailers with our loader service for mulch and compost at this location.
–Compost will be sold pre-bagged in 1.25 cubic feet bags (9 gal.) at \$3.50 per bag and in bulk at \$30.00 per cubic yard (tax included, limit of 3 cubic yards of compost per vehicle)
Dig-your-own free mulch will also be available at Fred Thomas Park, Quebec St. & 26th Ave.

Mulch is ground wood chips from storm debris and holiday trees collected through Denver Recycles' Treecycle program. Compost is made from decomposed organic material from leaves collected through Denver Recycle's LeafDrop program.

Bring your own pitchfork or shovel and your own bags or containers. Bring a tarp to cover trucks or trailers. This event is for Denver residents only. Commercial vehicles are prohibited from taking or selling the city's mulch. Sponsored by Denver Public Works and Denver Parks & Recreation, in partnership with A1 Organics. For more information, visit www.DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles

Denver Public Schools Hiring More Than 275 Math Tutors for 2013-14

Denver Public Schools is expanding its Denver Math Fellows program for the 2013-14 school year from seven to 46 schools. The program, which will provide math tutoring to students at 46 schools in 4th, 6th, 8th and, in some cases, 9th grades, is an expansion of a successful pilot program begun in 2011-12.

Math Fellows provide mathematics instruction to students in groups of three or four for 45 minutes during the school day in addition to the daily math class. Fellows receive training, development and support throughout their year of service.

Piloted in seven schools in Denver's Far Northeast region, the program raised student achievement more than one grade level in math during 2011-2012, with many students growing multiple grade levels. The success of the pilot program led DPS to ask its taxpayers to support a citywide expansion of the program, which voters approved via a mill levy in November 2012.

Anyone interested in positively impacting a child's education is encouraged to apply. Math Fellows earn an annual salary and receive benefits through Denver Public Schools. Fellows are also eligible for a \$2,000 bonus for maintaining 95 percent attendance throughout the year and meeting certain performance benchmarks. To be eligible to apply, Fellows must have a bachelor's degree and pass a math aptitude test. All majors are encouraged to apply. A teaching certificate is not required.

For more information, visit www.denver-mathfellows.com

The Social Edge

By Joyce Malone

Manners, remember them? The rules of civility do change, and are seemingly generational.

Here are a few social standards that remain a nongenerational commonality and evolve into current acceptable behavior.

As parents we arm our children with manners and behavioral patterns that help make the right choices in all situations, planned and unexpected delicate challenges.

Polite and proper greeting skills, small talk, and general conversation, bring charm and confidence to all those interacting in a social setting and weave a thread of ease in complex situations.

Thank you, you are welcome, excuse me, I am sorry, please, may I...are all worth their weight in gold both by parents respecting their children and hence, children learning respect for others.

Qualities that parents model and children learn from give lasting impressions:

Primary lessons in cleanliness and hygiene, appropriate dress, eye contact and facial expressions, conversational skills, language skills that avoid rudeness and include an interest in other individuals and what they have to say.

Polite and proper table manners, and the skill and sensitivity to apologize.

Success and happiness are dependent on communication in a mannerly way, with respect to others, and knowing what to do and how to behave.

We are social, and are generally happier and more successful learning and embracing social graces that enrich interacting with all generations both in work and play and home environments.

A good model, and a few minutes each day teaching and reinforcing proper behavior is a road to ensuring a pleasant, socially skilled civil society.

The way one develops good manners is by using them.

Not teaching good manners is a disservice and makes for a vulnerable adulthood.

Not practicing good manners is failing our children and ourselves.

Joyce Malone is the founder of a staffing company.

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by Jon Meredith

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Going Forward We Must Not Fear

By the time you read this I will have gone to Oklahoma City and tried to run a marathon. That in itself is insignificant to everyone except myself and the caregivers I'm sure to need afterward. What may be significant is that this is the first major marathon in the United States after the bombings at the Boston Marathon. Further, the Oklahoma City marathon is staffed and operated entirely by volunteers in order to provide financial support to the mission of the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum. The museum memorializes the first major terrorist attack perpetrated by an American citizen on our soil. There were 168 men, women and children murdered as they went to work on April 19, 1995.

People have asked me if I'm concerned about possible copycat terrorism. I have a lot of ways to back out of this asinine ordeal I intend to subject myself to, but worrying about a terror threat is not one I would ever consider. A possible bombing makes me even more motivated to go and compete. Fear to go about our lives in a normal way will hand the terrorists, whether foreign or domestic, the victory they seek.

After the shootings last summer in Aurora, did you hesitate to go into a movie theater? Maybe to see *Batman*, but not in general. After all the school shootings, do you hesitate to send your kids off five days a week? The threat is in the back of your mind but it doesn't dominate one's life. It can't if we are to remain sane.

In Israel, war and violence are a way of life. Generations have lived with it. When a bombing happens they investigate the scene and quickly clean it up and go on about their lives. Their media covers it but not in a 24/7 cycle like ours does here.

Our democracy has elected a Congress that for whatever reason does not think there is anything they can do to really keep us safer from gun violence. As I have written on several occasions here, I can't imagine why anyone should get a gun without a background check or why on earth anyone needs the right to go down to a gun shop or gun show and buy a semi-automatic weapon with large-capacity clips. Those columns are certainly good at getting me plenty of really nasty emails but little else. This Congress must know something I don't by failing to pass some kind of gun control legislation. What I do know is that the National Rifle Association has a tremendous amount of money and power and Congress is loathe to cross them.

Bombs are a different problem. I can think of virtually no way we could stop what happened in Oklahoma City and Boston. The bombs those Boston boys made had components available everywhere and instructions are found widely on the Internet. The only way to stop McVeigh or the Tsarnaev brothers is with a police state that impinges on everyone's liberty, which would be far worse than the random acts of terrorism

that few people perpetrate in this country.

The solution is within all of us. Know that this can happen and be aware of that at all times. Meanwhile, we all need to go on with our lives, enjoy them, hug our partners, our kids, do our best, extend kindness, help your fellow man, and never let these incidents change our lives unless in the very unlikely event we, or a loved one, are the victim of one.

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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Stapleton Front Porch

23

May 2013



Left: An NRA protestor crosses the street to talk to gun control advocates. Stapleton resident Ron Ludwig holds the Talk It Out sign.

Gun Controversy

(continued from page 1) that an assault rifle. You know why they call it an assault rifle? Because they use it as an assault rifle. What I have a right for and what I love is that I do have that weapon and it is not an assault rifle. It is a recreation and a defense rifle. I have a family that I defend in the society we live in today with my rifle.

Would you feel comfortable with your child's teacher having a gun in their possession within a school?

Yes, because it's going to protect my kids.

I respect that you are out here exercising your freedom to do this, but understand, as this (guns) is taken away, your right to do this (protest) will also be removed. As you take away the Second Amendment, the rest of them will fall. It's happened in history.

How does gun control do anything except empower criminals, who are going to get the weapons anyway? I can have a million-round magazine. I'm a good person. It's my right to own property. I'm not trying to take your rights away. Why are you trying to hurt me? How does a government body have the authority to tell me how to live? That's outrageous.

The idea of doing away with the Second Amendment, you have to legally have a constitutional convention and have the

consent of the governed in order to do so. If you violate that then we will secede and the Constitution will be null and void.

Are we asking to abolish the Second Amendment? No. The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

The text of the Second Amendment says, the right to bear arms in defense of one's country as part of a well regulated militia.

My body is my country, ma'am, and I'll defend it. It's a natural right. The Constitution was founded on natural rights. A

natural right to defend oneself against a tyrannical government if they begin to build something like the Department of Homeland Security.

Another NRA protester: Obama is trying to change the Second Amendment to say we do not have the right to bear arms. How are you going to keep a criminal, someone who doesn't care about the law, from getting those weapons? It's never going to happen.

It's the same as anything we regulate. We can't keep people from drinking and driving. We just have to prosecute those laws. If you have people who illegally have guns, we ought to prosecute that. Other countries have kept guns out of the hands of people by regulating them. Do you keep your gun in a gun safe?

It's at home in a safe in my basement. If someone breaks into your house, how are you going to be able

to protect yourself?

That's not the purpose of my gun. The purpose of my gun is for when there's a revolution, that's the truth. You've got people who are totally fed up with the way our country's run.

An NRA protester being taped by a TV station: I represent a group called "We Are Change Colorado." The founding fathers and Thomas Jefferson would be quite upset with what's going on in this country right now. My personal number one message for the president today is that we Americans are free and we were born free. I, for one, am not giving up my inalienable rights. It doesn't matter what unconstitutional laws are passed. I remain free. The government becomes illegitimate the moment it states it's going to take my freedom away.

Editor's Note:

In late April, weeks after the event at Stapleton, a bipartisan bill to expand background checks for gun sales (sponsored by Senators Pat Toomey, R-PA and Joe Manchin, D-WV) was killed in the U.S. Senate when the required 60 votes to avoid a filibuster couldn't be reached—ending efforts to pass gun control legislation in the U.S. Congress for now. Some states, however, have passed their own laws (Colorado, New York, Connecticut and Maryland)—at least some of which may be challenged and reach the Supreme Court. (Colorado's new gun laws are described at right.)

In light of the dialogue described above about the Second Amendment, it should be noted that the U.S. Supreme Court hasn't shut the door on gun control legislation. Following is language from conservative Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia's majority opinion in the current definitive case on gun control, District of Columbia v. Heller (2008), which struck down a D.C. law banning hand guns:

"Like most rights, the Second Amendment right is not unlimited. It



Some Bill Roberts students and parents came out after school to observe the protestors and the police presence.



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Pete Sousa, Official White House Photo

President Obama hugs one of the attendees at his speech inside the Denver Police Academy.

is not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose: For example, concealed weapons prohibitions have been upheld under the Amendment or state analogues. The Court's opinion should not be taken to cast doubt on longstanding prohibitions on the possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill, or laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings, or laws imposing conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms.

[United States v.] Miller's holding that the sorts of weapons protected are those "in common use at the time" finds support in the historical tradition of prohibiting the carrying of dangerous and unusual weapons."

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Colorado's New Gun Safety Laws

By Beth McCann, Colo. State Representative, House District 8

Gun safety took center stage in the Colorado state legislature this year. Last year was a grim year for gun violence with 14 mass shootings, two of which gripped the nation. James Holmes used several guns including an assault rifle with up to 100 rounds of ammunition when blasting away at his victims in a darkened Aurora, Colo., movie theater. Adam Lanza wielded an assault rifle with a 30-round magazine and a shotgun with two 70-round magazines as he massacred 20 school children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Conn. In Colorado, the innocent victims, distraught families and devastated communities deserve a thoughtful response to this senseless violence. The Democratic majority produced a comprehensive package of gun safety legislation that, when taken as a whole, will do a better job of keeping guns away from dangerous people who should not own them. Colorado is out in front on this issue; all the more so now that the U.S. Congress has failed to act.

Three important gun safety bills have already been signed by the governor. The first, HB 1229, which I co-sponsored with Rep. Rhonda Fields, requires universal background checks for all firearm purchases. Currently, background checks are required in Colorado only when a licensed firearms dealer makes the sale. Now, all sales, including private, Internet and gun show transactions, will require a background check. People who are given a gun by a family member or inherit a gun are exempt. Guns can be loaned for a 72-hour period, and for the purposes of competition shooting, hunting, instruction and self-defense. Gun owners are liable for the unlawful use of the gun while on loan. Gunsmiths can repair weapons without a check.

The second bill, HB 1224, limits ammunition magazine sizes to 15 rounds. The bill also bans any shotgun magazines that hold more than 28 inches of shotgun shells. Anyone who currently possesses a magazine that holds more than 15 rounds will be able to keep it, although if they transfer or sell the magazine, that individual will face a class 2 misdemeanor charge.

Manufacturers can continue to produce larger magazines, but they will be required to date stamp each device.

A third bill, HB 1228, ends the state subsidy for performing firearm background checks and sets a \$12 fee. Two additional bills will soon be on their way to the governor's desk for signature. SB 197, co-sponsored in the House by

myself and Rhonda Fields, requires individuals convicted of domestic violence or who have protective orders against them for child abuse or domestic violence to turn in their firearms.

SB 195 changes a 2003 statute so that parts of the mandatory training course for a concealed carry permit must be performed in person with a licensed instructor, ending online-only courses. Finally, in mid-April, I introduced HB-1306 establishing a task force to address mental health and gun possession. The task force will include broad representation from mental health providers, mental health consumers, the medical community and law enforcement.

I appreciate hearing your thoughts and suggestions. Contact me at beth@bethmccann.org or 303.866.2959.



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Right: Jessie Carter, manager of service and planning for RTD (holding microphone) addresses neighbors who attended an April 11 meeting to voice their concerns about the new RTD Route 89 on E. 29th Ave. in Stapleton.

Far right: E. 29th Ave. resident Michael Sennett gives a presentation explaining neighbors concerns about the bus route.



Neighbors Meet w/RTD about Rt. 89

By Carol Roberts

When Stapleton was planned more than 15 years ago, 29th Ave was designed to be a centrally located “connector” or “feeder” street that would carry a lot of traffic and be part of the bus route from the Stapleton Transportation Center to the Fitzsimons/Anschutz Campus. But the majority of neighbors on and near 29th say the street has become something different than what the planners had envisioned—and MLK, two blocks away, would better serve the community for that eight-block stretch of the bus route. At a

community meeting on April 11, over 30 neighbors met with RTD representative Jessie Carter, Manager of Service Planning and Scheduling, and made their case for changing the route to MLK.

Michael Sennett, who lives along 29th, Ave., says drivers have discovered there are very slow lights at Central Park Blvd. and at Beeler at MLK, so they don’t use that stretch of 29th as a through street as planners had projected. He also points out that the planners projected one child per four or five houses—and now Stapleton has 1.16* children per household. “From a traffic standpoint, it’s not a feeder street,” he says. “What it is a feeder street for, is kids on bikes.” He says kids use the bike lane to go east to Westerly

Creek Park and ride under MLK. And family groups with young children on training wheels and babies in buggies behind their bikes use the bike lanes to go west to the town center.

After the bus route started in January, neighbors said they had not been informed they were buying a home along a bus route and circulated a survey asking for a yes or no response to the statement, “I support the initiative to move Route #89 just 2 blocks to Martin Luther King Boulevard.” Sennett and Heidi Adkins reported there were 136 responses and 130 favored rerouting the bus.

Following are the responses to a recent Stapleton United Neighbors online survey that asked: “Would you prefer if the 89 bus line route...?”

Is changed so that the bus stays on MLK, instead of 29th Ave (36%)

Remains the same (20%)

No opinion (29%)

Not sure/Don’t know (15%)

There were 2,054 responses to the Rt. 89 question on the survey (which also asked numerous questions about Stapleton schools).

Some of the neighbors at the meeting thought buses were exceeding the speed limit, and, with no riders getting on or off the buses along that stretch of 29th Ave., the buses are increasing their speed as they go since they don’t have any stops to slow them down.

Heidi Adkins described driving (slowly) along 29th when a very young child out riding with his dad heard her car and turned to look back. As he looked, he swerved in the direction he was looking, taking him into the lane in front of her car. She pointed out that no accident happened that day because she knows that 29th Ave has become a major bicycle and pedestrian route in Stapleton with many young children. But she believes that now, with 64 buses a day, there is a big safety risk with very young bicyclists so close to the bus lane.

“One of the things we stress is safety with all of our contractors and all of our bus operators,” replied RTD’s representative, Jesse Carter. “The first thing we have to do is verify. And that means putting someone out there with a radar gun.” He agreed to report RTD’s findings back to the community. He also acknowledged that although the street was planned for transit, “the current environment asks us to take another look.” He said he would take the neighbors’ petition back to RTD and explained that the RTD staff makes recommendations to the RTD Board three times a year and the Board votes on route changes. He also pointed out that safety concerns are addressed when they arise, separate from the route change process, and RTD will investigate the neighbors’ safety concerns right away.

Typically RTD waits six months to evaluate a new route, said Carter, but reminded the community they can make their voices heard at board meetings (every third Tuesday of the month at the RTD Administrative Office, 1600 Blake St.).

Carter confirmed that RTD had worked with Forest City and the City of Denver in the original planning for the route and road design, and RTD’s official position now is that the route should be on 29th Ave. because it’s the most central and it passes by the most houses. “I’m hearing your concerns but at the same time I’m also thinking about the folks who are trying to use the service and there has to be somebody who advocates for them too. People who will potentially use the service in the future are not here.”

The sentiment among the gathered neighbors was, “We’re not asking to eliminate the route. We’re asking to relocate it two blocks. People who want to ride the bus will walk an extra two (short) blocks to get to it.”

Editors Note: The Front Porch contacted the Stapleton TMA, which issued a statement that they are waiting for RTD’s analysis of the issues.

*The estimate used in a Stapleton funding agreement in 2004 for school planning was .26 elementary students per single family household and subject to change as necessary. The 2010 census showed .85 kids per household (all kids, not just elementary students).

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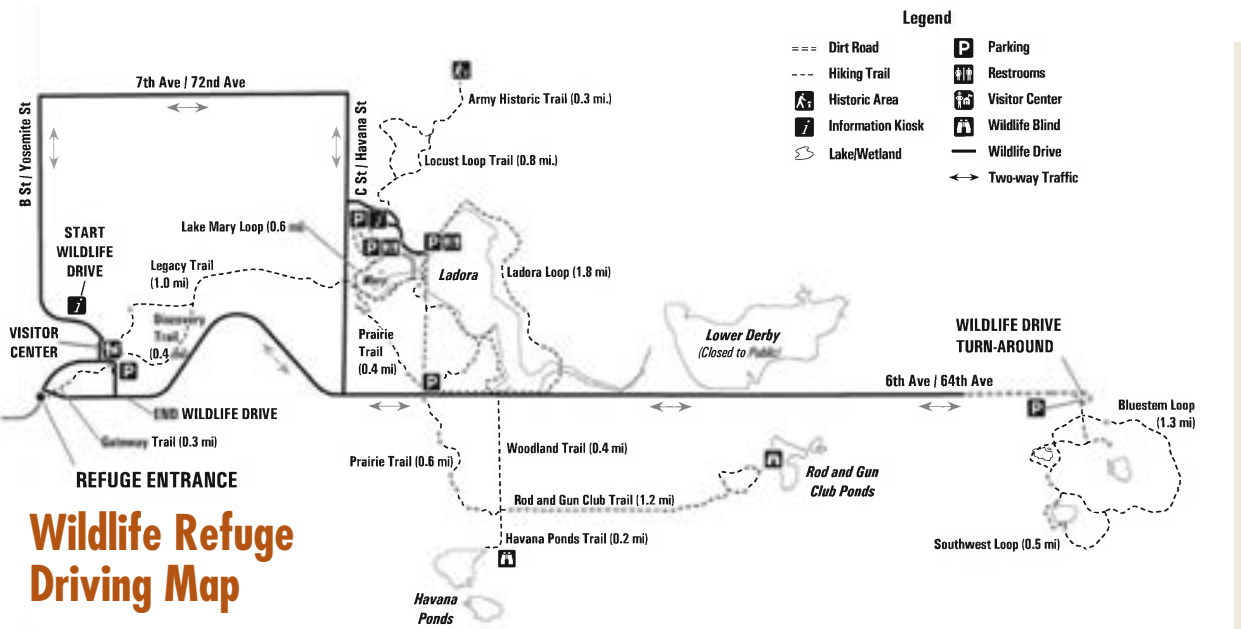
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A self-guided driving tour map of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, with suggestions on what to look for, is available at the entrance to the refuge, on the refuge website and at FrontPorchStapleton.com >Supplements to Articles.

Construction has begun on the connector streets between Stapleton and northwest Aurora.

26th Ave Denver/Aurora Street Connections

Construction is underway on the street connections to Aurora along 26th Ave and they are expected to be completed by September 1. The 26th Ave. Park will not be on the same construction schedule as the streets, but completion is anticipated in the fall. Forest City has not yet “taken down” (purchased) the land for a future park west of Emporia. At this time Forest City does not have a scheduled date to take down the land and build the temporary paths that will connect the new park at Fulton St. to Westerly Creek Park.

Police Update

Officer Reyes Trujillo reported at the April Citizens Advisory Board meeting that there has been a spike in burglaries and theft from items in cars. People are reminded to be proactive—lock doors and keep garage doors closed. A number of the burglaries have been to open garages and unlocked doors. He also reminded people to call 911 when they see a crime in progress. And police are also asking people to be vigilant and call the police non-emergency number with a good detailed description when

they see suspicious people hanging around in the neighborhood. The non-emergency number is 720-913-2000.

Wildlife Refuge

Stapleton resident David Lucas, acting refuge manager of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge and Rocky Flats, was announced as a new member of the Citizens Advisory Board. He reminds NE Denver residents, “Rocky Mountain Arsenal is a really neat place...There are about 16,000 acres there, four times the size of Stapleton.” He points out that they are writing a new master plan for the next 15 years now that the cleanup process has been completed. Watch for announcements asking for input on their new plan. (Do you want to request bicycle access in the future?)

Lucas encourages people to take the self-guided driving tour of the wildlife refuge. They had over 80 eagles this winter and one nest that just hatched. They have 70 bison and expect 18 babies in May. See map information above to take the driving tour.

The refuge has had about 30,000 visitors a year in the past and they expect to see

300,000 this year. The refuge is open 6am to 6pm. Dawn and dusk are good times to view the wildlife.

New Eastbridge Elementary Accepting Enrollment/Parents Invited to May Meetings

Eastbridge Elementary, Stapleton’s fourth elementary school is currently accepting enrollment and will open in August 2013 in a temporary location while the new building is under construction. Eastbridge will open in its temporary location with kindergarten and first grade classes and grow to include ECE through fifth grade.

Interested parents are invited to gather to meet each other and the leadership team, Sonny Zinn (Principal/Lead Administrator) and Jeff and Traci Bushnell (Lead Teachers), and to participate in the planning process for the new school.

Coffee and conversation meetings will be held Wednesday May 8 and 22 from 10 -11am at Mitchell Campus, 1350 E. 33rd Ave, Room 219, Denver 80205 (the temporary office until school starts in August).

Planning meetings will be held Thursday May 2, 16 and 30 from 6–7:30pm at SMIS Campus, 3480 Syracuse St.

The temporary location for the 2013-14 school year will be at 11200 E. 45th, Denver 80239 (the Samsonite building currently the home of Monarch Montessori), and transportation will be provided by the district. The new building is being constructed in the Bluff Lake neighborhood, just south of Bluff Lake Nature Center.

This is a neighborhood school, open to anyone who lives in the Stapleton enrollment zone and seats are still available for kindergarten and first grade starting in August 2013.

The mission at Eastbridge Elementary is to provide diverse learners with a compassionate, intellectually stimulating, vigorous learning experience that ensures their well being, engagement, academic and personal success, and contribution as global citizens.

For the 2013-14 school year, Eastbridge Elementary will apply for innovation status, which allows them to petition to waive district policies, for example specific curriculum or school day hours to gain increased flexibility.

For more information visit <http://eastbridge.dpsk12.org>, contact principal Sonny Zinn at sonny_zinn@dpsk12.org or lead teachers Jeff Bushnell at jeff.bushnell@gmail.com and Traci Bushnell at traci.bushnell@gmail.com.

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



Stapleton Neighborhood Forum To Be Held May 2

A Stapleton Neighborhood Forum will be held May 2 at 6:30 pm at the Central Park Rec center. Doors will open at 6pm. The agenda will include the following items:

- SUN Election
- SUN Survey Results
- MCA Updates
- Education Update
- Traffic Issues (CPB @ 33rd, Havana/Iola, Aurora Street Connections)
- Parks Update (Westerly Creek North, 26th Ave Park)
- Forest City Development Update

The SUN Board Annual Vote

By Damon Knop, SUN Board Member

The first item on the agenda at the upcoming forum is for the community to vote on a slate of new SUN board members. Each year, some SUN board members stay on and continue their term and some new seats are filled by new applicants who have submitted a biography and met with the board prior to the annual meeting. The current SUN president, Mark Mehringer, will continue his term. This year's slate of candidates includes four new members, Michael Goodman, Lyn Kathlene, Sean Tierney and Garrett Weekley, and three incumbent members, David Vogel, John Keene and Erin Jones. Following are biographies of the new board members. Please check out StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com to see the biographies of the existing members and for more information on SUN.

Michael Goodman—Given my work experience and passion for our neighborhood, I know that I would be a good addition to the board. My wife Jessica and I moved to Stapleton in 2005. We researched various neighborhoods in the city and decided on Stapleton based on a number of factors passionate to us. Things like proximity to Denver, city parks, the abundance of open space, green belts, running paths, the summer activities in the green, the restaurants, and most importantly, the community feeling we got from meeting other residents. These factors 8 years later remain as important if not more and I find myself compelled to become actively involved in ensuring these pieces of Stapleton are preserved for others today and in the years to come to enjoy.

Lyn Kathlene—We moved to Stapleton in 2007. Having never owned a home built later than the 1930s, Stapleton was a big change. But we chose Stapleton over the many other great neighborhoods in Denver because of its New Urbanism design. I am a political scientist (PhD from CU-Boulder) with a specialty in public policy. Having studied how neighborhood design affects civic engagement, I was excited to “try out Stapleton.” We love it so much we convinced three of our extended family households to move here, too. My mother-in-law lives but two blocks away. We have grown children that live in their own homes in Stapleton, a granddaughter at McAuliffe Middle School and a grandbaby in the neighborhood. We also have a daughter who attends Swigert. I was a professor for 20 years. I am now a senior research associate at

a public policy research firm in Denver where I work on a variety of projects, including farm to school, sustainable local food systems, and water policy.

I want to be a SUN Board member because I am dedicated to making Stapleton the best new urbanism community in the country. I worked at the City of Boulder in the Research and Evaluation Division in the late 1980s and helped craft their first transportation master plan. I ran the citizen participation component and it was through that citizen engagement process that the Ad Hoc Transportation Committee had the backing they needed to put into place a very progressive multi-modal system. I also worked with the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County on a multi-modal corridor project that was highly contentious due to the opposition of the wealthier west end neighborhoods. We were able to use research and citizen engagement to implement the project, which is now a vibrant bike/ped and park corridor that connects 15 neighborhoods in south Minneapolis. I believe my experience working with neighborhoods and my commitment to using objective research are strong assets I would bring to the SUN Board.

Sean Tierney—I have long brought my ‘Geography 101’ students from the University of Denver (DU) on field trips to Stapleton so they could understand, experience, and visualize the mission of new urbanism. Therefore, when my family returned to Colorado (after three years in Texas), the decision to move to Stapleton was an easy one. If I were selected to serve on the SUN board, I would be interested in working with the transportation and sustainability committees. As a member of the geography department at DU, my research examines energy, transportation, and economic issues, and most of my inquiries relate to the urban (and increasingly, the new urban) environment. I hope my background and training will bring a new lens to the SUN board, but I also expect to learn from the viewpoints of other committee members as we work to both enhance the Stapleton experience for our residents, and maintain an active outreach program to ensure that we continue to mesh with the broader Denver community. On a personal note, my wife works for Level 3 Communication, we have two kids (ages 6 & 3), and we live in the Central Park West neighborhood.

Garrett Weekley—I would like to be a part of the SUN Board. I live in Central Park North with my wife and three children. I have been a middle school teacher for almost 20 years where I have also been involved in various roles in my teacher leadership association. I believe I represent a forgotten and glossed-over voice in the Stapleton community—parents of “older children.” Having a teenager and an almost teenager and a kindergartener really clears up how our community makes decisions—for the immediate and now, but with a distant eye on the future. I would like to be a part of the SUN Board and bring my experiences as a parent, husband, teacher and neighbor to this decision making process.

I have lived in Stapleton for three-years and have told anyone who will listen I plan on living here forever. I am very committed to this neighborhood and enjoy being a part of this community. Maybe I put up or took down your holiday lights or I stained your fence or my daughter was your babysitter or we walked your dogs or house-sat for you and your family. We love it here.

Letters to the Editor

Response About Rt. 89 Bus Route

As I scanned my latest issue of *The Front Porch* I stumbled across a letter to the editor on page 28 from Michael Sennett that posed the question, “Is this what you want on your street?” Beneath the brief letter is a photo showing an automobile and an RTD bus. At first I was a bit mystified by this, but upon some thought I concluded that Mr. Sennett doesn't like seeing a RTD bus route within Stapleton.

My simple answer to his question is yes, I do wish to see RTD buses on our streets. Does Mr. Sennett also wish to not see fire trucks, police cars and ambulances upon our streets? What about all the construction vehicles that move back and forth on a frequent basis? Or perhaps he is irritated by the school buses that transport our many students to the local schools?

Surely Mr. Sennett must realize that he purchased a home in an urban environment. If Mr. Sennett doesn't wish to see RTD buses on our streets, he should sell his home and move to a suburban neighborhood.

Dave Weller

Boy Scouts Should Welcome All in Upcoming Membership Policy Decision

As the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) reconsiders its membership requirements, it finds itself at a crossroads in American history. Just as the Civil Rights movement of the 1960's propelled much of America towards the ideals of non-discrimination and equal opportunity, the movement for equal rights for our gay and lesbian compatriots today embodies the same ideals. And while gay individuals will benefit when discrimination directed towards them ends, non-gay scouts will also benefit from a more diverse Scouting membership.

As an organization, the BSA has always emphasized preparing young men for leadership roles. While Scouting should continue these praise-worthy efforts, it should also recognize that future leaders will require the ability to understand and effectively manage individuals from very diverse backgrounds. Indeed, tomorrow's leaders will direct teams that are more diverse than any generation has previously seen. Whether these leadership roles are in the classroom, boardroom, small office, or even the military, the future generation will need the experience and understanding to work well with people of all ethnicities, religions, genders, races, physical conditions, language groups as well as sexual orientations.

In the coming months, the BSA will make an important decision concerning its membership policy. Scouting can continue its exclusion of gay scouts, teaching its members to be suspicious and fearful of alternative lifestyles and thus severely limiting these boys' future leadership skills. On the other hand, Scouting can welcome all individuals regardless of sexual orientation into its ranks, reflecting our society's makeup and hence providing our young scouts with an understanding that will be a significant advantage when they enter the workplace.

Indeed, it is extremely important for each current or potential Scouting family to communicate with the BSA that the organization must change its membership policy to allow young men from all backgrounds to become a scout. Scouting must train leaders who are familiar with all forms of diversity so that our young men are able to effectively work with all members of society. Yes, Scouting should decide to prepare today's youth for the leadership positions of tomorrow rather than the leadership positions of an era gone by.

Dave Pilarowski, Park Hill

Eagle Scout and proud father of a Tiger Cub Scout

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Earth Day Fest at Bluff Lake



The 2013 Race for Open Space 5K drew 220 walkers and runners, about 60 of whom were kids. Following the run/walk, an estimated 600 people attended the Earth Fest that offered fun and educational activities for attendees. About \$25,000 was raised to support the ongoing activities of Bluff Lake and Sand Creek through registration fees and pledges for the run/walk, a \$5/person donation for the Earth Day Fest, donations and sponsorships from Subaru, the Stapleton MCA, Forest City, the City of Aurora, and First Bank.

Top: Bethany Norman, Mrs. Colorado, congratulates team "Major Babes" who work at Big City Mountaineers, a wilderness mentoring charity that works with at-risk kids. From left are Claire Elliott, Sherry Manning, Elizabeth Williams and Dana Miller.
Above: Stapleton resident Katie Hofstetter, 9, holds Rosie, a tarantula from the Butterfly Pavilion.

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Middle Schools

(continued from page 13) middle school age? Won't this be completely different in terms of who gets their first choice?"

"I don't think so," said Will Lee-Ashley from DPS. He reminded parents that each time a new school in Stapleton opened there were the same fears that people wouldn't want to try the unknown, and each time the new schools were amazing—most recently Swigert and McAuliffe.

DPS confirmed, in response to a question, that 5th graders at Bill Roberts who want to continue there in middle school will be assured of getting in as a 6th grader.

A parent of a Swigert student expressed concern that her child might not get in Smiley and wouldn't be able to continue with the IB curriculum. However Antwan Wilson from DPS clarified that it would not be impossible to put a smaller IB program at Swigert if that is a strong preference, despite prior discussion that a larger school is more conducive to IB. The school would need additional funds, but that

option can be considered in the discussion of the new middle schools.

The next community meeting, to discuss the two new middle schools, will be held Tuesday, May 7, at Denver School of the Arts, Concert Hall, 7111 Montview Blvd. Refreshments at 5:30pm; meeting to be 6-8pm. For more information visit: Communityrelations.dpsk12.org.

Upcoming School Board Votes

The vote on this (McAuliffe to Smiley) recommendation is scheduled for Thurs., May 16, with additional public comments occurring prior to the vote that evening.

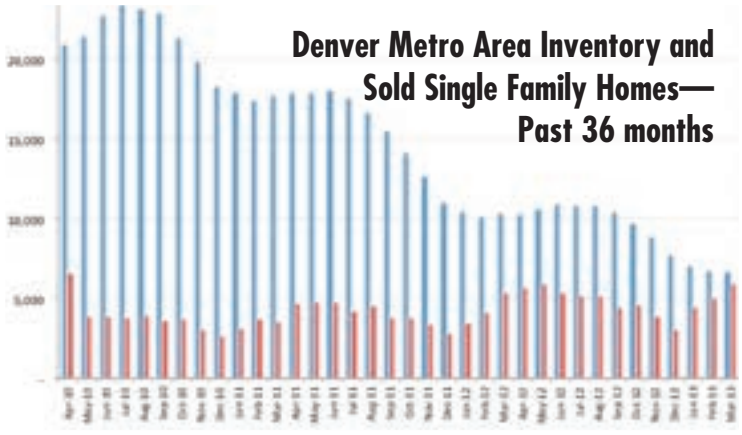
DPS staff is also proposing to the Board a shared middle school boundary for Greater Park Hill and Stapleton. That BOE decision is scheduled for Thurs., June 20. The Board will hold a special public comment meeting regarding this and other city-wide recommendations on Thurs., June 13.

Recommendations for other middle school options in the region (the Swigert

McAuliffe building and a new middle school in North Stapleton) will also be voted on during the June 20 Board meeting. These middle schools will also be recommended to be a part of the proposed shared boundary.

To sign up for public comments, members of the public may contact the Board office at 720-423-3210 or email Tiffany_Lambalot@dpsk12.org by 5pm on the day prior to scheduled public comments. Updated information on the Board of Education meeting schedule is available online at www.boarddocs.com/co/dpsk12/Board.nsf/Public.

Chart courtesy of Metrolist. ©1998-2012 Metrolist, Inc. All rights reserved.



The blue bars on the chart above show inventory of unsold homes each month. The red bars show number of sales per month. With available homes barely exceeding the number of sales in the past few months, homes have been selling quickly, many at the list price and some even higher.

(continued from page 1) houses means to today's buyers and sellers. For a seller it may mean multiple bids above the list and a quick sale. That's the good news. The down side is it may not appraise at the level offered, and the seller may not be able to find a new home. For buyers it means they will have to make a decision quickly and may find themselves out-bid. Kouba says she knows of buyers who had gaps of \$63,000 and even \$100,000 between the offered price and the appraisal. "The accelerating values

are outpacing the comps." Jay Epperson of ReMax Cherry Creek says his office has discovered a computer glitch caused by this unusual market. The software wasn't designed to calculate prices above the list prices. It just shows the sales price compared to list as 100% rather than the actual amount above the list price. He says "secret sales" are happening

where people write letters to potential sellers and sales take place without the house ever going on the market. Epperson says he had a client who took out a private loan with a friend in order to be a cash buyer so appraisals wouldn't be an issue. He says two or three years ago, appraisers looked at one-year old comps. Now six-month-old comps are out of date.

In the new-build market at Stapleton, Lisa Hall says due to the recent snows, Forest City has been unable to get the lots ready to sell to the builders as fast as they need them.

"The builders are selling off plans. KB is the only model open...the rest are getting models ready, but they are still selling. Generally people like to wait because they want to walk it and see what it's going to live like."

Tasha Jones adds that low inventory is prompting demand in the new Conservatory Green

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and New Home Sales Are Booming



Evergreen residents Aaron and Maggie Torrisson and their three children take a look at the first model homes in Stapleton's newest neighborhood, Conservatory Green, north of I-70, where 500 homes will be built.

The Aster Apartments will have 354 units north of I-70.



The Bluff Lake neighborhood, east of Havana, will have over 350 homes.



neighborhood. "In the first quarter, 153 new homes were sold in Stapleton. Of that number, 32 were sold in Conservatory Green before a model ever opened. In the past, we didn't see sales increase until the models were open."

Hall says of the 158 homes in Stapleton's Bluff Lake neighborhood (east of Havana) only about 20 are left, though another 100 lots further east will go to builders in the fall. "There's just hardly any inventory left on the south side." Hall reflects on what Forest City learned from the downturn...to manage inventory and not get caught with a lot of land or

homes that would have to have reduced prices. They also kept a range of homes in all price ranges, not just moving toward the lowest priced homes.

Dan Connerly, who oversees sales and operations for New Town Builders, a local Denver company, says they have almost sold out their first eight single family lots in Conservatory Green and they have only eight or nine lots left on the south of I-70. And sales are up 20% over last year. "There's a lot of pent up demand out there, I think. The market conditions were such that peo-

ple weren't buying as many houses. They were in the rental market because of the unemployment rate and the overall economic uncertainty. Some people lived with their parents or in a rental a little bit longer." He says their townhomes have found an especially strong market in people coming out of rental situations.

How about the rental market? Is it hot? Tom Cummings of TJC management says, "Not as hot as it was last spring, but still very, very hot. From 2011 to 2012, average rents were up probably \$100 to \$150 across the board," he says. "From 2012 to 2013 it's more like \$75 to \$100. My gut on that is that investors started gobbling up properties and that's one of the main reasons this whole market is crazy now... The investor properties have added inventory to the rental market now, compared to last

year." Cummings says he currently has his typical inventory, "but some people have sticker shock, absolutely." Still, he says, properties are priced to rent within a month and have zero vacant time (by marketing while they're still occupied). Investors from a year ago are still holding on to they're properties—they're not ready to sell despite the current market.

Lee Ferguson, who is responsible for multi-family rental apartments at Forest City has some theories about the relationship between the rental and for-sale markets.

"In the housing boom of the last decade, we stopped building apartments, as a nation, and the rental industry lost millions of renters who moved to for-sale in the past decade. But demographic issues switched people to become renters again.

"The milleniums, the kids of the baby boomers, are just leaving home. In the nation we've had 4 to 4.5 million people turning 18 every year for the past few years. Typically that demographic is a renter.

"Kids coming out of college have more debt than ever before. And credit is harder to get now than it was 10 years ago, which keeps people stuck in an apartment while they build up a down payment. Young people in their twenties are getting married later and having kids later. Those are the events that push people from rental to for sale. But this generation is sticking around the rental community longer.

"Lastly, and this is a little more speculative, there is a sense that the twenty-somethings aren't as enamored with the for-sale market as prior generations. Kids who have witnessed their parents stuck in a home that's under water may be less likely to enter the for-sale market. They prefer the rental market more than prior generations did."

Ferguson says his crystal ball looking into the future isn't as clear as it is looking backwards, so he predicts, "Either there will be rising prices on the for-sale side and people will view it as a good investment and that will pull them into the for-sale side. Or, you might have rising home prices, which makes it that much more difficult to enter for-sale housing and these households stay on the rental side longer."

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