

Front Porch

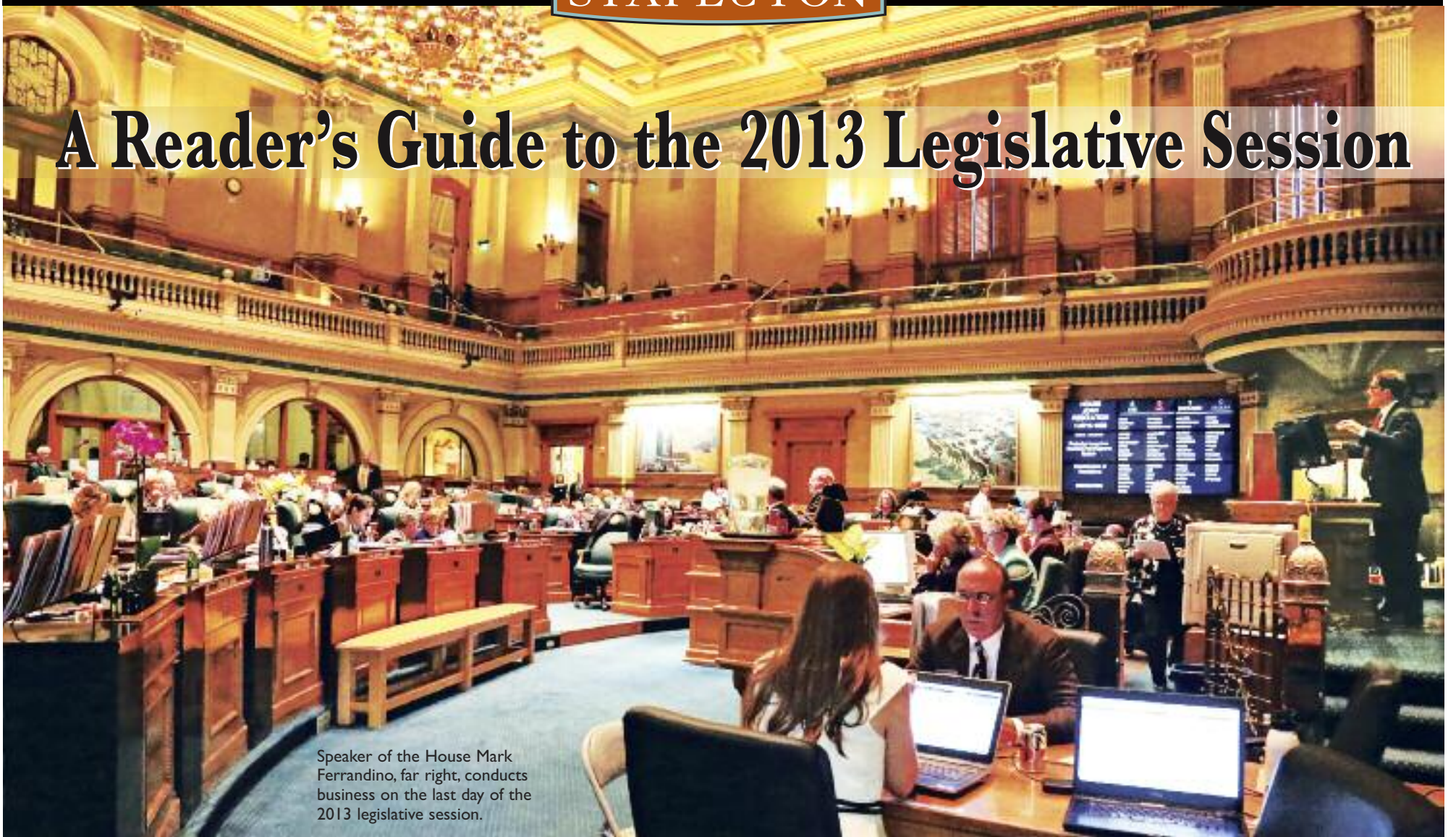
Distributed to the Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair, Hale and East Colfax neighborhoods

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

JUNE 2013

A Reader's Guide to the 2013 Legislative Session



Speaker of the House Mark Ferrandino, far right, conducts business on the last day of the 2013 legislative session.

By Carol Roberts

The Front Porch talked to the five state legislators who represent our distribution area to identify significant changes in state law that occurred during the 2013 legislative session. State Senators Michael Johnston and Pat Steadman and Represen-

tatives Angela Williams, Beth McCann and Lois Court contributed to the compiled legislative highlights listed on page 10.

On pages 8 and 9, each legislator shares his/her reflections on the accomplishments of this session, which ended May 8.

Isabella Bird—Stapleton's 4th School

*Unique Model for
New Elementary School
Drawn from Staff's
Years of Experience*

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Isabella Bird Community School (IBCS), Stapleton's fourth elementary school, will start up this fall in a temporary location and move to its new building in the Bluff Lake neighborhood in the fall of 2014. The school is named after a turn-of-the-20th-century explorer and adventurer who dedicated her life to helping others, a value that is a part of the school's philosophy.

IBCS is currently designated as an ECE-grade 5, but could change to ECE-8 based on community input in the coming years. This fall's kindergarten and first-grade classes are still open for enrollment.

The curriculum is comprised of elements including experiential and service learning, art and performance. "It's a combination of things—we've found our own model," says Lead Teacher Jeff Bushnell. The blended philosophy comes from the collective 75 years Bushnell, his co-Lead Teacher and wife, Traci Bushnell, and Lead Administrator/Principal Sonny



Lead Administrator/Principal Sonny Zinn (middle) meets with Lead Teacher Jeff Bushnell and his wife and co-lead teacher Traci Bushnell about hiring teachers and planning the new school.

Zinn have from teaching in the U.S. and internationally.

A particularly unique aspect of this school is to enroll students from other countries who may not speak English. Starting in the fall of 2014, the school will be designated a Newcomer Center for families new to the United States and will have a Family Resource Center. Its purpose will be to provide services such as parenting and nutrition classes and to connect families with resources they may need including medical and dental health services. (continued on page 4)

Free Entertainment!

Hairspray: Open Air Theatre

This free and open to the public performance of *Hairspray* on the Green at Stapleton will be at 7pm, May 31 and June 1, 7 and 8. The fun and popular musical is also a commentary on the injustices of parts of American society in the 1960s.

Story on page 3.



City Park Jazz



Free Sunday concerts will be held at the City Park Pavilion, June 2 to August 4, 6 to 8pm. Organizer Chris Zacher thinks it's the best lineup ever.

Story on page 30.

Puerto Rico Festival

This family-oriented, cultural event featuring Puerto Rican food, dancing, music, art, history and heritage will be held through the day June 9 at Central Park in Stapleton.

Story on page 12.



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

Stapleton resident Scott Steiss splashes the kids with a cannonball at Aviator pool on May 25, opening day for all of Stapleton's pools.



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.)

JUNE

See additional MCA activities at right.

Every Sunday

City Park Jazz Summer Concert Series. 6–8pm, rain or shine. CityParkJazz.org
June 2: The Hazel Miller Band
June 9: AOA
June 16: Tribute to Neil Bridge
June 23: Salsa Con Jazz
June 30: The Ron Miles Quartet

Sat., June 1 & 8, Fri., June 7

Theatre on The Green. 7pm. The Green*
Aurora Fox performance of *Hairspray*
events@stapletoncommunity.com
(see article on page 3)

Saturday, June 1

Lowry Community Yard Sale. 8am–2pm. 300+ homes. Electronics Recycling at Hangar 2. Car Seat Inspection & Car Seat Recycling at Hangar 2 11am–1pm. www.lowry.org.

Monday, June 3 & July 1

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

Monday, June 3 to August 10

Denver Public Library Summer of Reading.
Sign up at any library.

Thursday, June 6 & Sat. June 15

Guided Seasonal Tour of Bluff Lake Nature Center with historical and ecosystem interpretation. Thursday, 5–6pm; Saturday 10–11am.
klewis@blufflake.org

Friday, June 7

First Friday Flight. 6–8pm. West Crescent*
events@stapletoncommunity.com

Saturday June 8

Park Hill Garden Walk. 10–4pm. Featuring 15 Park Hill Gardens, artists, musicians and more. Tickets at www.greaterparkhill.org (see page 20)

Saturday June 8

National Get Outdoors Day. City Park, 9am–3:30pm. getoutdoorscolorado.org

Sunday June 9

Taste of Puerto Rico Festival. Stapleton Central Park. www.atasteofpuertoricofestival.com (see article on page 12)

JUNE

Thursday, June 13

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

Friday, June 14

Movie on The Green "Moonrise Kingdom" Starts at dark. The Green*
events@stapletoncommunity.com

Sat. and Sun., June 15 & 16

Wildlife viewing tours at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, 11:30am.

Sunday, June 16

First Farmers Market of the Season. 8:30am–12:30pm; Sundays through Oct. 13
The Green* events@stapletoncommunity.com

Sunday, June 16

Active Minds Music Seminar & Brunch. Explore the life and times of George Gershwin 9–11am F15 Pool. events@stapletoncommunity.com

Saturday, June 22

Stapleton Rocks...a Concert for a Cause. Noon–10pm. The Green* events@stapletoncommunity.com

Saturday, June 22

Bicycle Library Grand Opening at the Hub 10am–3pm (see article on page 20)

Wednesday, June 26

Bike to Work Day
www.3.drcog.org/BikeToWork
(see page xx for breakfast stops)

Friday, June 28

Movie on The Green "To Kill a Mockingbird" Starts at dark. The Green*
events@stapletoncommunity.com

Saturday, June 29

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

*Stapleton MCA Community Room, 2823 Roslyn St.
The Green, E. 29th Ave. and Roslyn St.
F15 pool: 2831 Hanover St.
West Crescent: Fountains on 29th Ave and Roslyn St.

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

Events & Announcements at Stapleton



Theatre on The Green

The Aurora Fox Theatre and the MCA will be presenting three more showings of *Hairspray* on The Green! Theatre on The Green will begin at 7pm and will be featured on June 1, 7 and 8.

First Friday Flight

The MCA and Grape Leaf are excited to present the first wine tasting of our summer wine-tasting series. First Friday Flight will be held at 6pm on Fri., June 7 at the West Crescent (the fountain area on 29th Ave. and Roslyn St.). The first flight will feature Italian wines and cheeses.

Participants will need tickets for this event! You may pick up your tickets at the MCA office prior to the event (includes online registrants). Tickets will be available for pickup from Wed.–Fri., 9am–5pm each week. If you cannot pick up your tickets at this time, please visit the will call station on the day of the event. The will call station will open at 5:30pm on Fri., June 7 at the West Crescent. Space is limited. To register, visit stapletoncommunity.com

Stress Relief Yoga

Stress Relief Yoga will continue every Tuesday and Thursday evening in the MCA Community Room. Classes are 60 minutes and begin at 5:45pm. To participate in the yoga classes, please purchase an activity punch pass from the MCA office during normal business hours (9am–5pm, Monday–Friday). Resident punch passes are 5 punches for \$25 and nonresident passes are 5 punches for \$40. For more information, visit stapletoncommunity.com or call 303.388.0724..

Active Minds

The Great Depression

Join Active Minds for a look back at the Great Depression. We will examine its origins and legacy as well as view it through the lens of our current economic environment.

This event will be held in the MCA Community Room (2823 Roslyn St.) from 7–8pm on Thurs., June 13.

By George!

Join Active Minds as we explore the life and times of George Gershwin. We'll examine the musical and cultural influences that made his music some of the most recognizable and beloved of America's songwriter/composers.

This event will be held at the F15 Pool from 9–11am on Sun., June 16. The program begins at 9am, followed

by a potluck brunch at 10am. Please bring a dish to share.

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

Farmers Market

The first Farmers Market of the season is scheduled for Sun., June 16 from 8:30am–12:30pm on The Green. Colorado Fresh Markets features local produce, gourmet products and delicious food in a European-style, open-air market setting. The market will run every Sunday through Oct. 13.

The first market will also feature a pancake breakfast sponsored by the Stapleton Rotary Club.

Family Fun Night

Bring your family and friends for Family Fun Night at the pools. Each pool will have a designated Family Fun Night and stay open an hour later than its usual closing time and close at 8pm. Lifeguards and staff will provide games and entertainment. Jet Stream will be open late on Mondays, PJ on Tuesdays, F15 on Wednesdays and Aviator on Thursdays. Family Fun Night will begin the first week of June.

Stapleton Rocks...a Concert for a Cause

"Stapleton Rocks...A Concert for a Cause" is scheduled for Sat., June 22 from noon–10pm on The Green. The Denver Children's Home is the selected nonprofit organization again this year and we look forward to raising money for their programs. Event activities include the bungee trampoline, hamster ball, a magician and a concession stand (equipped with snacks, water, soda and adult beverages).

Movies on The Green

Movies on The Green will begin this month for the MCA's annual summer series! All outdoor movies are free and open to the public. *Moonrise Kingdom* will be played at dark on Fri., June 14. *To Kill a Mockingbird* will be played at dark on Fri., June 28. Concerts on The Green will begin in July.

A concession stand will be featured at each Movie on The Green. Proceeds from the concession stand will benefit select local nonprofit organizations. Food trucks will be parked along The Green during all movies and concerts.

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303-388-0724

Get the latest on

Master Community Association



Sponsored by Stapleton MCA

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Free theater production brings fun with a message

By Laurie Dunklee

“Hairspray is my favorite show,” said Piper Lindsay Arpan, director of this summer’s Theatre on The Green musical, May 31 to June 8. “It’s impossible for me to watch the show and hear the great songs and not dance. It’s also a good story with an important message about seeing through stereotypes.”

The fun and popular musical is the third annual free theater production to be presented at Founder’s Green in Stapleton, E. 29th Ave. and Quebec streets, by the Stapleton Master Community Association (MCA) and The Aurora Fox Arts Center. Performances are at 7pm, May 31 and June 1, 7 and 8.

Arpan said, “Hairspray is perfect for the Stapleton performances because it lends itself to families. Kids appreciate one aspect of it, while adults take away another. The audience will laugh, cry, dance and sing. Plus the kids can run around on the grass!”

Approximately 2,000 people are expected to attend the four performances this year, according to MCA Community Director Diane Deeter.



Hairspray

Hairspray, set in 1962 Baltimore, is the tuneful story of plus size teen Tracy Turnblad and her ambition to dance on a popular—and segregated—local TV show. The Stapleton production will feature a cast of 23 actors and a live band onstage. The high-energy dance numbers are choreographed by Arpan.

At two hours long, including a short intermission, “this production will fly,” said Arpan. She said the fast-moving set changes and high-energy musical numbers will “leave the audience breathless by intermission.”

Producing a full-scale musical outdoors,

rather than in a more controlled theater space, makes it “a different beast,” Arpan said. She said sound, lighting and costume changes all present challenges.

To ensure that every line of dialogue is heard, each character will wear a body microphone and the sound designer will sit at the sound board, script in hand, adjusting volume levels in real time.

Arpan said lighting is the biggest challenge because instead of lighting areas of an indoor stage, the designer must illuminate the darkness outside. “The lighting is by necessity more functional than artistic,” Arpan

Back row, from left, Audrey Gachire, Erica Lyn Cain and Brandice Graham form the singing group The Dynamites in the musical, Hairspray. Terra Salazar, front, plays Tracy.

said. “But our people do manage to make amazing things happen.”



Because dressing rooms are a challenge, the crew gets creative about costume changes. “We plan to make two costume changes onstage while other things are going on, where the audience won’t see.”

The outdoor space can also be a plus. Arpan plans to build a platform on the grass at

ground level in front of the stage, so actions in two locations can be shown at once. “For instance, in the scene where Tracy is watching TV, we can watch both her and the TV studio,” said Arpan.


For Arpan, performing outside keeps it real. “There are more risk factors, like wind,” she said. “But what’s precious about live theater is every performance is different. It keeps the performers in the moment. For audiences it’s fresh every night, not like seeing a movie that is always the same.”

Hairspray is not just another pretty musical; it is a social (continued on page 4)



Advice About Endometriosis

Katie Rustici, MD and Valerie B. Ginsburg, MD, FACOG




Stapleton OB-GYN


PHYSICIAN NETWORK

Valerie B. Ginsburg, MD, FACOG
Katie Rustici, MD
2807 Roslyn Street
(behind King Soopers)
303-403-6333

Open Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If you would like to make an appointment with Dr. Ginsburg or Dr. Rustici, please contact the Stapleton Ob/Gyn office.





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Endometriosis is one of the most common health problems for women, affecting more than five million women in the United States.

What is endometriosis?
Endometriosis occurs when the tissue lining the inside of the uterus grows outside of the uterus on other organs or structures of the body. Most often these growths occur on the:

- Ovaries
- Fallopian tubes
- Tissues that hold the uterus in place
- Lining of the pelvic cavity

Am I at risk?
You might be more likely to get endometriosis if you have:

- Never had children
- Menstrual periods that last more than seven days
- A short menstrual cycle (27 days or less)
- A family member (mother, aunt, sister) with a history of endometriosis

How do I know if I have it?
The most common symptom is pain in the lower abdomen or lower back during your period. Other symptoms may include:

- Very painful menstrual cramps; pain may increase over time
- Pain during or after sex
- Intestinal pain
- Painful bowel movements or urination during menstrual periods

If you exhibit more than one symptom listed above, talk to your obstetrician/gynecologist. The only way to properly diagnose endometriosis is through a minor surgical procedure that allows the physician to actually see the endometriosis tissue. Endometriosis cannot be diagnosed through pelvic exams, blood work or ultrasound tests.

Is endometriosis treatable?
There is no cure for endometriosis but it is treatable. Treatment options include pain medication, hormone treatments or surgery. Talk with your doctor about which treatment option may be best for you. Your best option will depend on your symptoms, age and plans for getting pregnant.

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Hairspray

(continued from page 3) commentary on the injustices of parts of American society in the 1960s. The story deals with segregation and overcoming stereotypes.

“I read that a Georgia school had its first integrated prom this year,” Arpan said. “Segregation is alive in America. It’s hard to believe this story still needs to be told but evidently it does. My heart is into getting it out. I hope the message shines through this production.”

Hairspray began as a 1988 movie starring Divine as Edna Turnblad, Tracy’s mother. When it was adapted as a musical for the Broadway stage in 2002, the producers maintained the tradition of casting a male in the role and hired veteran actor Harvey Fierstein. John Travolta played the role in the 2007 movie.

“The casting reinforces the show’s theme—that you can’t look at someone and size them up and know who they are,” Arpan said. “Our Edna is Todd Simmonds, also known as drag queen Mona Lotts. We were so thrilled when he auditioned.”

Arpan said the actors like to perform to the broader audiences attending the free performances. “Whole families can come for free and the actors feel the audience is engaged. It amps up our fun to look out and see people enjoying themselves. It turbo-charges our performance.”

Stapleton MCA plans to host more outdoor theater productions this year, including A Midsummer Night’s Dream in August, in conjunction with the Colorado Shakespeare Festival. According to Deeter, they hope to present another Aurora Fox production in October.

For more information about the Theatre on The Green offerings, see www.stapletoncommunity.com or auro-rafoxartscenter.org.



Isabella Bird Community School

(continued from page 1) “As a New-comer Center, we anticipate the majority of families who will utilize the Family Resource Center services will be those who are new to the country, since they will generally have a greater number of unmet needs than those currently living in Stapleton,” explains Lead Teacher Traci Bushnell. “However, the services available in the Family Resource Center are offered to all families.”

Because it is a new school with a unique philosophy, the community has expressed concerns during the various meetings the planners have held. Principal Sonny Zinn isn’t surprised. “We’re the new kids on the block,” she says. “[People wonder] what we’re really going to be able to pull off but we hope that as people get to know us, they’ll understand what we’re about.”

Some parents have expressed a concern that time and resources will be taken away from English-speaking students. Jeff Bushnell is quick to point out that the school uses a model that meets children at their point of need to individualize instruction while addressing the needs of the whole group. Traci Bushnell adds that

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The new facility, paid for with Tax Increment Financing (TIF), will have a cafeteria/auditorium ("cafetorium" for multiple uses), large music room, art room (with kiln), library, science lab, flex lab/space, computer lab, pods between classrooms for common use, a family resource/engagement center, middle school-sized gym, full-size soccer/football field and baseball diamond, along with a large, multi-use playground. The entrance to the school is at 26th Ave. and Lima St.

the plan calls for English-speaking students to be taught Spanish while the ESL students receive concentrated English language time, creating what the staff refers to as a joint "world language time" for all students.

The staff feels the multicultural element has many benefits. "There's a richness of having kids who bring different cultures and ideas together to prepare them for what they are going to face in the world," explains Jeff Bushnell. "It's essential that they have the skills to work with anyone on the planet." Zinn adds, "That's the 21st century learning profile."

One of the standard concerns the staff has heard centers around making sure children will be sufficiently challenged and will develop a love of learning. "Those are questions every parent has," says Zinn. "So that's one that we absolutely embrace because we're parents too. We get it."

The staff understands parent concerns are to be expected, but they also see many unique opportunities. Along with the blended curriculum and student body, the primary one, according to Zinn, is the "opportunity to literally grow a school to-

gether...and to receive a tremendous amount of input on the new building, the name and the programming." That input has come from Denver Public Schools, the community and specifically families that are already enrolled. "Their level of support is so lovely," says Zinn. "We already feel like we're a part of Stapleton."

For more information about The Isabella Bird Community School, visit <http://eastbridge.dpsk12.org/>. See also page 27 in the May issue of the Front Porch.

Enrollment Projections:

- 2013/14: Three kindergarten classes, one first grade class (100 students anticipated at temporary facility at 11200 E. 45th Ave.)
- 2014/15: Addition of ECE-4 plus a second grade class at new facility
- 2015 and beyond, add one grade level (three classrooms each) per year
- Estimated size when school is ECE-grade 5: 525
- 2020/21: First year with ECE-grade 8. Total estimated enrollment: 750

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Whether an aspiring elite player or a young player just starting in the sport, our camp offerings will engage and challenge all participating players in a safe and enjoyable environment. Each Colorado Rapids Youth Soccer Club Summer Camp is designed and led by our highly qualified technical staff and is based on our Colorado Rapids youth development curriculum.

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Development Camp 3	July 8-11
Boys Elite Preseason Camp	July 22-25
Boys High School Preseason Camp	Aug. 5-8
Goal Keeper Camp	6/13, 6/27, 7/11, 7/25, 8/1
Girls Elite Preseason Camp	July 22-25

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Add a Taste of Art to Your to Life

By Nancy Burkhart

In 2008, Stapleton artist Ansley Young founded the Small Hands Art Studio to give children ages two to 12 an opportunity to add an element of creativity to their lives. Since that time, the children have grown, but they still want to take art classes. And their parents have expressed a desire to have classes of their own.

In answer to the demand, Pam Peters, who specializes in clay and has been teaching some of the classes, has become Young's partner. And, the art studio has a new name: Spark It Studios. "We would like to expand our focus," Peters explained. "It's not just for small hands anymore. It's for all hands. We want to focus on older kids—teenagers, as well as adults. We've put a few more adult-only classes in our



Ansley Young, left, mixed media specialist, and Pam Peters, clay specialist, help a class construct a collage of a caterpillar.

materials, painting, found objects, collaging, and layering all kinds of materials together to make one art creation," she explained. "We will be maintaining our classes going into the schools in the northeast Denver area," Young added. "We also are working on the adult classes in the studio. We also are working with some restaurants to do some evening art nights on a regular basis." The restaurant art nights would take the studio's previous Mosaics and Sips of Sangria for adults to a room in a restaurant where

adults can create mosaic tiles, frames or garden pots, using shards or stained glass. "Part of the reason why we're looking at partnering with other businesses is that we want to create an atmosphere where people will want to create things," Young said. "Adults, especially, have felt it intimidating to be in an art studio." "This might encourage people to try drawing or working on a mosaic piece," Peters added. "It will be a one-time activity."

The studio, located at 2667 Xanthia Court, will be the site for several adult classes. "Martinis and Mud" will be offered June 12 and 19 for \$60. The first class will teach hand-building techniques, while the second class will allow students to finish their art pieces with a colorful glaze. The fired piece can be picked up the next week. Spark It Studios will have an art-making booth at the Sweet William Market in Stapleton. And, on June 13, from 4 to 6pm, the studio will host a Teen Art Mob for kids 11 years and older. At that time, the students can work with clay on a potter's wheel or make wood pieces. It will give them an opportunity to decide whether they are interested in art and want to go to another class. Children's art camps, for kids 4 years old and up, will be offered all summer, starting June 17, at Westerly Creek Elementary School. "We want to light your creative fire," Young explained. "We want to give that opportunity to kids and adults alike. We feel like art is for everyone. We feel that when people find the right avenue for being artistic, they can feel really good about what they create." "The creative process spills over into so many parts of your life," Peters said. "It makes you a really balanced and whole person." For more information about Spark It Studios or to register for classes or children's summer camps, go to www.sparkitdenver.com or call 303.349.0961. Contact Pam Peters at pam@sparkitdenver.com and Ansley Young at ansley@sparkitdenver.com.

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Dr. Lauren Roth (left) and Dr. Ruben Alvero in the new Stapleton office of the Advanced Reproductive Medicine Clinic.

CU Reproductive Medicine Clinic Moves to Stapleton

By Nancy Burkhart

Sensing a need to make reproductive medical services easier to reach, the University of Colorado has moved its Advanced Reproductive Medicine Clinic to Stapleton at 3055 Roslyn St., Suite 230, where patients will be seen starting June 4.

"We deal with patients who have difficulty conceiving," explained Dr. Ruben Alvero, one of the six physicians located at the Stapleton Clinic. "We also deal with couples who have significant, recurrent miscarriages and women who have hormonal issues. We also deal with young women who have abnormalities of the uterus, vagina, ovaries and things that make it difficult for them to have normal menstrual cycles or reasons they have acute pain."

Alvero noted that he is a robotic surgeon who uses the da Vinci robot to remove fibroid tumors. He also is a professor at the University of Colorado Medical School and holds the title of Division Director of Reproductive Endocrinology and Fertility at the Stapleton Clinic. He says he has three roles, that of: clinician, educator and researcher.

In all human populations worldwide, one in eight couples experience infertility, according to Alvero. The Stapleton Clinic's patients are both couples and individual patients.

"We actually see more couples than individual patients," Alvero said. "We will evalu-

ate both the man and the woman. After an evaluation, we will have a

discussion about how to deal with these difficulties and how they can achieve a family. A significant number of our patients are same-sex couples, and we help them have babies as well. We also see women with abnormal reproductive development and women with significant difficulty with menopause."

The clinic was moved to Stapleton to make it easier for patients to get help, Alvero said.

"We felt the patients would be benefited by the clinic being in the community," he said. "Stapleton has a demographic of young, reproductive individuals. By being closer to them, we can serve them better. We still are able to keep the very sophisticated, top-of-the-line equipment and techniques. It's a good hybrid of the benefits of clinical practice at the Stapleton Clinic and with the Anschutz Campus."

"Most patients are looking for an assessment and a treatment, with the goal of having one or several children," Alvero noted. "Some want to know why they are having difficulty getting pregnant. Some also want to undergo treatment to have a family. For most patients, we will get an assessment completed within one menstrual cycle, and implement treatment and achieve pregnancy within several weeks or months. We hope to have treatment completed within half a year

and, hopefully, then send them to their obstetricians once we determine it's a viable pregnancy, late into their first trimester."

Once a patient's needs are determined, Stapleton Clinic physicians help them work out a plan.

"We try to individualize the patient's needs and use the techniques that are the least invasive and the least expensive," Alvero explained. "The University also has a Wellness Center, and improvement in diet and exercise may be helpful for patients to get pregnant or help them with other prob-

lems. We feel pretty strongly that this is a complement to treating their overall health needs."

Patients don't usually need a doctor's referral to use the Stapleton Clinic's services, depending on their insurance company, according to Alvero.

For information about the University of Colorado's Advanced Reproductive Medicine Stapleton Clinic, call 303.724.8089 on and after June 4, or before June 4 call 720.848.1690. Go to the website at www.arm.coloradowomenshealth.com.

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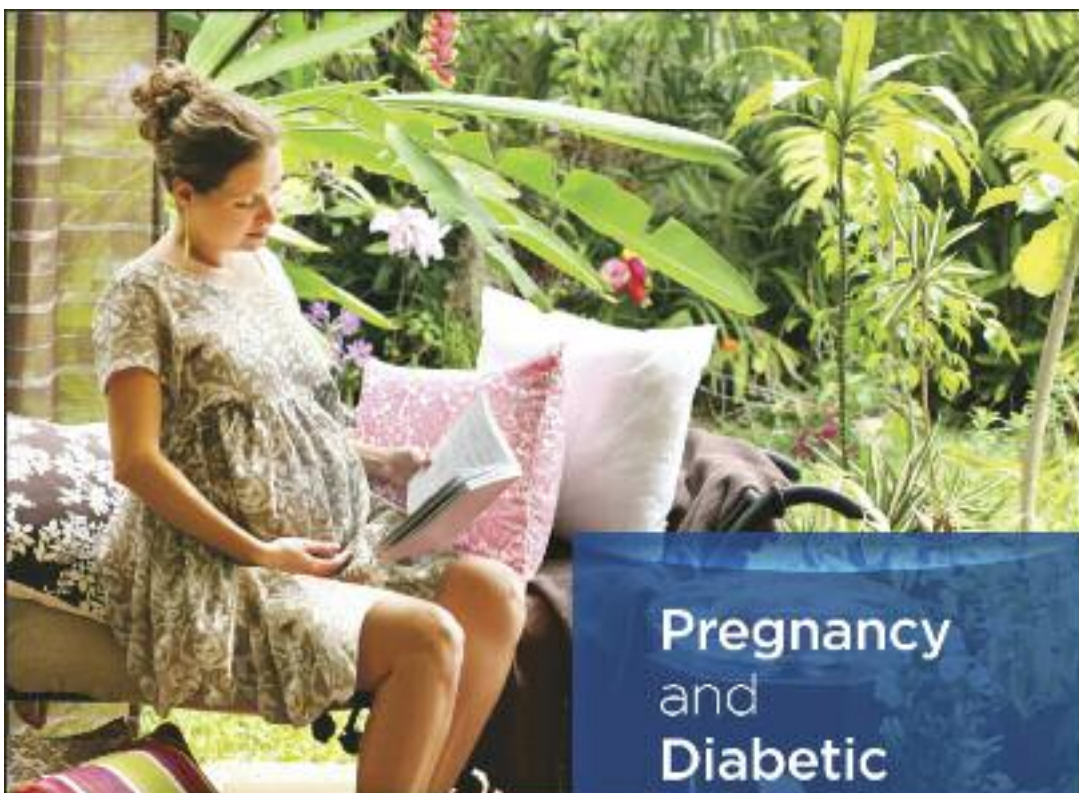


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A good treatment plan should include:

GOOD BLOOD SUGAR CONTROL

Your body continues to change as the baby grows and your pregnancy progresses. These changes will affect your blood glucose level. Controlling your diabetes may require more effort while pregnant. Work with your doctor to determine your specific pregnancy blood glucose targets to help minimize the risk of birth defects or miscarriages.

POSSIBLE MODIFICATIONS TO YOUR INSULIN OR DIABETIC MEDICATIONS

If you take insulin or oral medications, you may need to adjust the levels as your pregnancy progresses. Generally, your body will require more insulin the last trimester of your pregnancy.

WEIGHT GAIN

Many women think that pregnancy gives them license to eat for two. However, your daily calorie intake should only increase by 300 additional calories. So how much weight should you gain? Gaining between 20 and 25 pounds is typically a safe range during pregnancy, but this also depends on your pre-pregnancy weight. Discuss your appropriate weight gain with your doctor.

For more information about managing gestational diabetes or managing diabetes during your pregnancy, please contact the Exempla Diabetes Education Center directly.

Our Legislators Reflect on the 2013 Session



Sen. Michael Johnston

Senator Michael Johnston

"I think we came to the legislature with a charge from the voters that there were a lot of things that seemed like common sense solutions that we hadn't gotten done and this year we got those done. And those are all things that have, if you look at the polling on them, very, very broad public support, whether it's election reform or gun safety or immigration reforms or civil unions or education. They just

got caught in political grandstanding. I think people sent us here to get things done and I think people are mostly excited that what you see is a state government that works far differently than the federal government. Things that have broad public support get done and get done pretty efficiently.

"The voters will determine the outcome of the School Finance Bill, so it's not like when the legislature votes for something and you feel like they didn't represent you. This is people themselves voting, so either they'll really strongly oppose this and it will be defeated, or we'll really get a coalition together and the voters will pass it. If the voters pass it, it's sort of like waking up and finding that the person you wanted for governor didn't win. The process still worked fairly. I think if it doesn't pass there will be more of a sense of Colorado feeling like it still has a wide open wound that hasn't been treated and we've got to figure out now what's our next option. We can't just let it sit there and bleed. I think there's less polarization around this issue than there is around some of the other social issues. I think there's a broad agreement about the need for the best education, there's just disagreement about how to do it and how much."

Sen. Michael Johnston represents Senate District 33, which includes Stapleton and Park Hill. He voted in favor of all the legislation on pages 10 & 11. He can be reached at 303.866.4864 or at mike.johnston.senate@state.co.us.



Sen. Pat Steadman

Senator Pat Steadman

"First, I'll chime in with what everyone is saying about this year's session. It was incredibly productive and we worked really hard. I've never seen the legislature put in this many hours and tackle this many significant meaty issues that really do make a difference in people's lives. Whether we're talking about criminal justice reform or civil unions or immigration issues or health care reform or election laws, all of these things really do touch people in their everyday life."

Do you think the legislature overreached?

"I think the things people list when they say it was an overreach are all things that enjoy really broad popular support, like the gun safety legislation or the civil unions legislation or election reforms and same day registration and mail ballots. These are all things that some of the folks who worked on the ground on these issues supported—like the county clerks supported the election bill. If the county clerks are on board with an election bill, you know it's going to make elections run better. More cost effective, more fair, more open. Those are the things people are complaining about when they say overreach, and yet they were all things that are really popular with the voters of Colorado. It's just that we did so much of it. Part of the problem is that certain things have been bottled up for a couple years. They should have passed in prior years and they were blocked. Some of why this year was so busy is because there was a lot of unfinished business that was overdue."

Sen. Pat Steadman represents Senate District 31, which includes Montclair, Mayfair and Lowry. He voted in favor of all the legislation on pages 10 & 11 except the marijuana "DUI" bill. He can be reached at 303.866.4861 or Sen.Steadman@gmail.com

Representative Lois Court

"We did so much, you see it everywhere. It was the most productive and progressive session in a couple decades at least."

At the top of the list is that we passed civil unions, which is something that I've believed in for many years. I'm thrilled that we passed civil unions. I see it as the civil rights issue of our time. As a professor, it's fascinating to me that my students, when I've talked about this with them over the past several years, are like, 'What's your problem, old lady? Get it done already!' Young people just don't see why this isn't just obvious to allow same sex couples to have the same rights as anyone else. I think it's just phenomenal how fast this issue has turned around.

Another one that I was thrilled to see pass was the ASSET bill. The old United Negro College Fund slogan was, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste." And that's exactly how I feel about the ASSET Bill. That was one I was really pleased to see a huge amount of support from business leaders, because they recognized the same thing. And I was pleased with the election bills.

One interesting bill I worked on relates to a non-profit foundation that took over the Eisenhower Chapel in Lowry. They didn't find out until a year or two after their purchase that they would owe back property taxes. The Denver County Assessor said the law didn't allow for a protest that far back. Pat Steadman and I did the bill together to change state law so non-profits can protest property taxes back further and get out from under back taxes. Not earthshaking, but meaningful to constituents.

On the budget, one of the most important things for people to know is that we always balance the budget. We aren't spending money we don't have. And the historic thing we did this year was infusing millions of new dollars into mental health."

Rep. Lois Court represents House Dist. 6, which includes Lowry, Mayfair and Montclair. She voted in favor of all the legislation on pages 10 & 11. She can be reached at lois@loiscourt.com or 303.866.2967.



Rep. Lois Court

A View from Across the Aisle

Since all the NE Denver legislators in our circulation area are Democrats, the Front Porch asked Ryan Call, Republican State Party Chairman for his perspective on the 2013 session. Call says, "More than anything, I think what Coloradans have seen from this legislative session is that when you put Democrats in control, you see a radical, dramatic shift to the left in ways that are out of touch with Colorado values. Whether it is on divisive social issues, whether it is on tax increases, regulatory burdens,

or whether it's making it harder for the people of our state to make ends meet and succeed, it seems that everything the Democrats were pushing for is designed to limit opportunities and infringe on fundamental freedoms. I believe very strongly that that is a reflection of the shift that the Democratic party had in our state with Democratic control. Even perhaps more disappointing is the fact that our Democrat governor John Hickenlooper, who campaigned on a platform that he would be a moderate, pro-business governor and a backstop to the most liberal policies, has proven unable, unwilling or ineffectual at checking this dramatic shift to the left."

When asked about polls that show broad public support for universal background checks, Call responded, "The problem is that the legislation that was enacted is unworkable and probably unconstitutional. The way it restricts temporary transfers between family members, the way it restricts and limits inheriting guns from your grandfather...is evidence of poor drafting and a willingness to push for legislation not because it actually works or fixes the problem that they say is there, but more out of a kneejerk reaction, I think, responding more to what Joe Biden and Michael Bloomberg want than what Coloradans want."

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Rep. Angela Williams

Representative Angela Williams

"Being the prime sponsor of bills really makes me feel like I'm making a difference, apart from all the politics and partisanship. I passed the compensation for the wrongly convicted bill. Robert Dewey served 18 years and was proven innocent through DNA evidence and exonerated. The bill that I passed is going to compensate him \$70,000 for each year he was incarcerated, he will be given tuition waivers at a state educational institution so he can go out and make a living, he'll get access to health care, and he has to complete financial counseling. Making a difference in someone's life...this was a big one for me.

"The ASSET bill was very gratifying. I felt like it was one of those bills where you're making a difference in someone's life directly.

"One more big highlight for me was the Colorado Firefighters Safety Act. I was really proud to have been the sponsor of this in the house. It's going to give firefighters the ability to hold meaningful discussions with their employers on workforce safety, equipment needs and other employment issues where they've never been able to do that. We made great strides by passing this bill.

"The Modernization of Elections Act was just huge for Colorado.

"I think overall we had a very aggressive agenda and you'll hear people talk about that a lot. But Democrats have the majority and I believe that we delivered on what we told the people of Colorado we would deliver on and that we're moving the dial and making a difference in the lives of Coloradans. It was a very successful session for us."

Rep. Angela Williams represents House Dist. 8, which includes Stapleton and part of Park Hill. She can be reached at 303.866.2909 or angela.williams.house@state.co.us. The Front Porch was unable to reach Rep. Williams to verify whether she supported all the bills on pages 10 & 11.

Representative Beth McCann

"I thought we had a very productive and exciting legislative session and I was very pleased overall with the amount of work we were able to get done.

While some of the issues were clearly controversial, actually about 90% of the bills we passed had some bipartisan support.

"And I think we really addressed a number of important issues for the state, including some of the things we did to promote jobs and manufacturing development and our economy, which didn't get a lot of attention, but we did do quite a bit of legislation in those areas. We also addressed some pretty important social issues, such as the child welfare and mental health issues, which I was very pleased that we were able to do. I think the election reform bill and the education reform bills are both really important bills for our state. Whenever I'm talking to people about what we did this year, I'm always amazed at how much we got accomplished in such a short time.

"We also addressed some of the environmental issues. There were some important bills that didn't get a lot of attention. We have a bill now that allows for the use of gray water, which is water from bathtubs and showers and reuse of that water is now allowed for flushing toilets. We were the only state that didn't allow the use of gray water, so there were smaller bills that were really important.

"I was disappointed that my mental health taskforce bill didn't get passed and my foreclosure bill didn't get passed, but otherwise I thought we really did a good job, and we, of course, balanced the budget."

Rep. Beth McCann represents House Dist. 8, which includes Park Hill, E. Colfax and a small area of Stapleton. She voted in favor of all the legislation on pages 10 & 11. She can be reached at 303.866.2959 or beth@bethmccann.org



Rep. Beth McCann

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What Happened in the 2013 Legislative Session?

BUDGET/FINANCE

—**The budget was balanced**, with about ½ billion more revenue in the general fund than last year due to the economy getting better. Funding is starting to be restored in areas that were cut deeply during the recession including: education, higher education, economic development and job creation, job training, human services and tourism.

BUSINESS

— **Sales tax for online purchases:** A bill was passed so the state can move forward with online tax collection once the US Congress passes the Marketplace Fairness Act (which will give states the authority to compel online retailers to collect state tax). Currently local businesses are unfairly impacted since they are required to collect tax and online businesses aren't.

—**Workers' rights:** Workers employed by small businesses now can sue for the same type of damages that are recoverable against large businesses when they have been illegally discriminated against at work. Also, potential employers are now prohibited from using credit scores in the hiring decision except in limited situations; another law prohibits employers from asking for an employee's Facebook password.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

—**Homeowner association regulations:** HOA's can no longer file a lien or start foreclosure without offering a fair debt collection plan; paid community association managers are now required to be licensed, which will require knowledge about proper

HOA and fiduciary practices; HOAs are now required to register with an HOA information resource center, a first step before a regulatory agency for HOAs can be established.

—**Timeshare resales:** Legislation was passed to prevent fraudulent timeshare resale practices.

—**Home Loan Modification Protection Act:** New loan servicers are required to honor agreements with prior servicers.

EDUCATION

—**A School Finance Reform Bill** (to update the current bill created in 1994) was passed by the legislature, signed by the governor and will be on the November ballot for voters to decide on approval of the taxes needed to implement it. Look for an explanation of the tax formula in the fall with your ballot information (and in the Front Porch).

The bill modernizes how education is funded. Instead of a one day student count, it will make every day count in the student funding formula. Multiple learning modes are available now, and the bill will allow funding to follow students in the learning mode that works best for them, whether it's in the classroom, online learning, work study, internships, or concurrent enrollment in higher education. The bill will also provide funding for districts that want to extend the school day or the school year to more closely match the level of education being provided in many other countries in the world.

The bill calls for investments in what has been shown to make the most difference. It provides Early Childhood Education (ECE) for eligible children and full day kindergarten for every family that wants it. It calls for investing in effective teachers and principals who can implement Colorado's new standards and assessments. And it designates resources to meet specific needs including gifted and talented, special education, at-risk students and English language learners.

The bill makes funding transparent, accountable and fair. A website will be created to track all education funding to show comparisons between districts. Two accountability evaluations will be performed every four years: to measure the return on taxpayer investments in education and to



One of the traditions for the last day of the legislative session is for state legislators and staffers to shoot rubber bands at each other. Above right, Democrat Andy Kerr shoots a rubber band at Republican Bill Cadman, minority leader of the Senate. Another tradition, according to Sen. Mike

determine ongoing funding shortfalls. Funding will be distributed more equitably so children in all districts get the resources they need and everyone is paying a fair share of the state's education costs (currently some districts have a mill levy ten times higher than others).

ELECTION LAWS

—**Same day voter registration:** Technology now allows tracking to prevent duplicate votes, making same day registration feasible. Bill had substantial input and support from county clerks.

—**No more "inactive voter" status:** All registered voters will receive ballots, even if they missed an election.

ENERGY

—**Renewable energy:** Rural co-ops will be required to increase their renewable energy to 20% by 2020.

—**Fracking:** Changes in the fine structure were discussed but the governor and the bill sponsor couldn't come to agreement. The issue will likely be revisited next year. (Oil companies have purchased agreements for drilling in Green Valley Ranch.)

GUNS

—**Universal background checks:** Private, internet and gun show purchases will require background checks. Guns given to family members or inherited guns are excepted.

—**Background check fee:** Estimated \$12 fee will be paid by purchaser at time of sale.

—**Size of magazine:** Limited to 15 rounds. Existing magazines are grandfathered in but can't be sold. Manufacturers in Colorado can produce larger magazines but can't sell them in Colorado.

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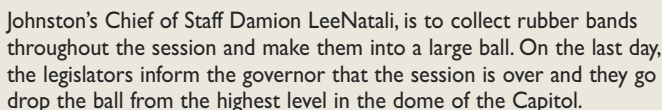


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(Formation of a task force to address mental health and gun possession did not pass.)

—**Driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants are now allowed:** License does not indicate citizenship but it enables drivers to get insurance. Proof of Colorado residency, payment of taxes, and ID from country of origin are required. A prior law requiring police to notify federal officials of people suspected of being undocumented was overturned.

—**Growth of businesses:** Increased access to capital to promote the growth of advanced industries (such as aerospace, bioscience, electronics, IT, energy); assistance for businesses to expand internationally; funding for Small Business Development Centers to help entrepreneurs start new businesses and provide support for existing small businesses.

—**Compensation for wrongly convicted:** Wrongly imprisoned people who can prove their innocence will get compensation of \$70,000 per year incarcerated (with a requirement to take a financial literacy counseling course), tuition waivers to state colleges, reasonable attorney fees, and child support paid for the period of incarceration.

—**Marijuana and Driving:** A “DUI” bill sets a limit for the amount of marijuana in the system while driving.

—**Civil Unions:** Gay couples now have rights such as hospital visitation, parental rights and

—**Spousal Maintenance Bill:** Establishes guidelines for courts to use in ordering permanent alimony in divorce cases.

—Two tax measures will be placed on the November ballot: school finance and regulation of marijuana (see education and marijuana sections). Both tax questions will place the taxes in statute, not in the constitution.

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Puerto Rico Festival

Attendees in 2012 are pictured during a dance contest, one of many free activities at the daylong event to be held on June 9 at Central Park in Stapleton.



By Christine Hollister

When the annual Taste of Puerto Rico Festival returns to Stapleton's Central Park on Sunday, June 9, the swirling skirts and traditional drumming sounds of a new Puerto Rican dance and cultural group are sure to be remembered as a highlight.

The Barrio E'nsamble, the organization's formal performance group, will perform throughout the day at the annual family-oriented, cultural event featuring Puerto Rican food, dancing, music, art, history and heritage. The festival coincides with a tradition that began in New York City in 1995: Puerto Rican National Day, which is celebrated the second Sunday each June. Over the years, the Denver event has grown from a small gathering of 350 in 1997 to more than 5,000 in recent years.

Barrio E' was founded by Puerto Rican native Tamil Maldonado in September 2012 in Boulder. Maldonado and her husband, Daniel León, teach traditional drumming, singing and dancing to all ages and skill levels of students.

"I want to share my culture with other people," Maldonado said. "Our theme is building a diverse community that embraces Puerto Rican traditions. Barrio E' is a very inclusive group from all personal and professional backgrounds, ethnicities and ages: adults, kids, teens and seniors."



The Barrio E'nsamble performers are part of the Barrio E' organization whose larger mission is to teach and embrace Puerto Rican traditions.

Since Barrio E' began last fall, the group has quickly expanded, with workshops in Denver and Fort Collins, after-school groups in Boulder, and performances across Colorado's Front Range.

Elena Fernández, who participates with her 6- and 10-year-old children says, "What's nice about this is it's very family friendly. It's one activity where all of us can participate equally...and the children love it. It's a really comprehensive learning experience. We're not just learning how to drum and dance and sing; we're learning a lot about the Puerto Rican culture by doing it."

Maldonado and Fernández agree that the appeal of Barrio E' is much more than simply the music. It's the sense of inclusion and community that the group brings.

At the festival, Barrio E'nsamble members will answer questions, hold auditions, and sell Barrio E' T-shirts and tickets to the inaugural Barrio E'vent FUNdraiser (to be held at the Mercury Cafe in Denver Sat., July 6, from 1 to 5pm). A four-week Bomba Summer Class for kids, teens and adults will be held in June and July.

For more information on Barrio E', visit www.barrio.org. For more on the Taste of Puerto Rico Festival, visit www.atasteofpuertoricofestival.com.

Christine Hollister is a journalist who has written for publications in Colorado and across the Midwest.

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Rene Wilson, a cancer survivor, sits at the Green in Stapleton where the Relay for Life will be held. Wilson is a volunteer to help plan the event.

NE Denver Relay for Life, Aug. 2-3

“If you think about the people you know, somebody has cancer.”

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Come early August, a group of determined people will stay up all night, taking turns walking or running around Founder's Green in Stapleton. Periodically, they will stop off at their campsites for a little shut-eye before taking another lap—or 20. It's not the usual scene at The Green—it's a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, the Relay for Life on August 2–3.

Last year was Rene C. Wilson's first year participating, serving as the “Survivor Chair” for Stapleton's event. This year, she is the event chairperson, putting in a minimum of 12 hours per week for the past six months coordinating meetings for the committees and teams, doing community outreach and increasing awareness. She juggles this volunteering position with her jobs as a casino auditor and working with at-risk youth. She does it because she's been there.

Wilson was declared free of breast cancer two years ago, this June. “I'm one of the luckier ones,” she says. “I had very good doctors who were just amazing.” She went through chemotherapy but was able to avoid radiation. She continued working, only taking a total of three weeks off. “I didn't miss a beat,” she recalls, describing her attitude as “I have it; what do I have to do to get rid of it and go forward?”

Participants include anyone affected by cancer, whether it's cancer sufferers, survivors, those remembering loved ones who have passed away, medical staff, caretakers or friends. Wilson describes the event as emotional but also a lot of fun and a great way to meet people.

Money is raised for the American Cancer Society by teams of participants. The suggested fundraising goal is at least \$100 per person. Wilson says teams get together to raise the money in a variety of ways from holding yard sales to asking people to donate spare change and drop it in a canister. The method is up to each

team, which typically ranges from 10–15 people.

During the overnight event, teams take turns in relay fashion, walking, running or pushing cancer patients in wheelchairs around a track. They stop for a rest and maybe a quick nap at campsites decorated according to each year's theme; this year's being “birthday parties,” in honor of the American Cancer Society's 100th anniversary. There is also entertainment including a DJ, Zumba and yoga classes and themed laps around the park between midnight and 6am as people start to get tired. Perhaps it will be a 1970s' lap with disco music and people wearing platform shoes. Or laps in celebration of winning a hand of poker.

“Anybody you know is affected by some form of cancer. It doesn't just target one person here and there. It targets and affects everyone and not just the person who has cancer but also the caretakers, family members and friends,” she says. “If you think about the people you know, somebody has cancer. To me

it's very important to raise money and awareness and to know which organizations do what and to know what's out there.”

According to Christina Breiner, Community Relationship Manager for the American Cancer Society (ACS), the 2012 Relay For Life of NE Denver raised \$40,000, had 25 teams, 168 participants and celebrated 26 cancer survivors.

To register a team for the Relay for Life, visit RelayForLife.org. To volunteer or for more information contact Christina Breiner at 720.524.5454 or christina.breiner@cancer.org.

ACS financial information posted at ColoradoGives.org shows that in 2010, revenue for the organization was \$72 million and 80% of expenses were for programs, 14.5% for fundraising and 5.5% for administration.



Stapleton resident Dan Oltersdorf promised the Relay for Life team at his company that if they raised \$50,000 or more he would shave his head. The group reached that goal in February and Oltersdorf kept up his end of the bargain. He is pictured right after the shave.



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Natural Prairie Dog Control: Raptor Roosts



Scott Gilmore, Deputy Manager for Denver Parks, (red shirt) explains to Bill Roberts Elementary third graders (coincidentally out on a walk), that raptor roosts are being tried out to see if they will help control the prairie dog population that is destroying vegetation in Westerly Creek. The poles and installation were provided by Xcel Energy.

By Carol Roberts

Stapleton has become the first place in Denver to have raptor roosts—two poles in Westerly Creek south of Montview (one near 26th Ave.) and two in Northfield, just west of Bass Pro.

Scott Gilmore, deputy manager of parks for the city of Denver, says the city had removed prairie dogs from Westerly Creek because they were eating the vegetation in the park. But the park adjoins the Stapleton open space in Aurora and he was concerned those colonies would move into Westerly Creek. Gilmore says he was aware raptor roosts have been tried elsewhere and, “We wanted to be proactive and figure out additional ways to help manage the prairie dog colonies within the city.

“We have a great working relationship with Xcel and explained it to them. They thought it was pretty exciting and

wanted to help us out.” The raptor roosts were planned for January, says Gilmore, but Xcel sent crews to assist with hurricane Sandy, and were unavailable for this project until May 15. Excel donated the roosts and the installation.

Gilmore explains that when there’s an area they want to restore and there are prairie dogs, Denver Parks has a contractor live trap as many as possible and they are euthanized on site with CO2. Those euthanized prairie dogs are then provided to the raptor centers to feed to injured raptors that have been rescued.

“The Bill Roberts third grade students just happened to be out there and they got pretty excited,” says Gilmore. “I talked to them about prairie dogs, ecology and wildlife.”

No prairie dogs have been removed in Northfield. “But,” says Gilmore, “we don’t want them to spread too much there so we put in two poles just to try to keep the population down. If they start getting into the detention pond or other areas where we don’t want them, we reserve the right to remove them.”

Gilmore says Denver Parks and Rec would appreciate hearing from neighbors about the raptor roosts. If you view raptors on the poles, record the date and time and email pictures to the

city’s naturalist, Kelly Uhing. (Kelly.Uhing@DenverGov.org.) Also send photos to FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com. We will post some of them on our Facebook page.

At the north end of Westerly Creek Park, Gilmore says they have installed a barrier to prevent the prairie dogs in the unfinished area of North Westerly Creek Park from entering the finished park that starts about 33rd Ave. “Prairie dogs will need to be removed off the (North Westerly Creek) site before they build the park though. That’s something that has to be done.”

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Just a quick note about how I review films each month: I screen many films that will be released after the first of the month, and I choose one of the best films I've seen. I stick to films from the Landmark theaters and the Sie Film Center, but occasionally I view films that will play in the multiplex as well. I do not publish negative reviews because I feel it would be a waste of your time. Please be sure to check out the Facebook page ("Indie Prof") for mid-month updates of more films and film events around the city. Thank you for reading!

The Iran Job (2012)

We all act differently when there is camera on us. The only exception might be the first "true" documentaries, made by filmmakers in the early '60s when handheld cameras were first invented. The seminal documentary *Primary* is one such film, and as it follows Hubert Humphrey and John F. Kennedy campaigning in the 1960 Democratic primary, nobody knows how to act in front of a camera since they'd never seen such a documentary before. Everyone knows how to act now.

The Iran Job is a documentary about basketball player Kevin Sheppard, a U.S. Virgin Islands native who accepts a job to play for a professional basketball team in Iran. He makes the journey by himself, without his reticent girlfriend and family, and he is initially unsure of the deal. He decides to go despite warnings from family and friends, and the film charts his journey—cutting between his life off the court and the action on the court. While this is an



Scene from *The Iran Job*

interesting film, I will not call it a "great" film; but it does give us a peek into a world we rarely get to see, and therein lies the fascination. It is certainly worth a viewing.

There are political overtones throughout the film, but it sells that storyline short and keeps returning to the action on the court, tamping down any possible controversy. The story of the team is interesting, but not in the *Hoop Dreams* sort of way; it is more the story of one person and how his team will fare, which, by the way, is a very American way of telling a story. And that is the major issue here: it is an American story in a foreign land. We don't get a true pulse of the people or their politics. We get a sense they are acting for the cameras, Kevin included. When he meets an Iranian woman in whom he is obviously interested, the story makes its way back to the basketball. What did we miss? Although it seems harmless, why do we feel dirty and voyeuristic when he speaks to his girlfriend back home? The answer: because we know more than we should.

Opens June 7 at the Sie Film Center. You will like this film if you enjoyed:

- *Hoop Dreams*
- *42*
- *Hoosiers*

Drive (2011)

You'll want to put the kids to bed before this one.

Few films, if any, have ever reminded me of *Taxi Driver* (1978—directed by Martin Scorsese), but

Drive (2011—directed by Nicholas Winding Refn) is one of them. It tells the story of a Hollywood stunt driver (Ryan Gosling as The Driver) who moonlights as a getaway driver for robbers. He befriends a harried, dew-eyed mom neighbor (Carey Mulligan as Irene), and we think the ne'er do-well will change his ways, go completely straight, and the film will blossom into a beautiful love story. Think again. The Driver agrees to do a job for Irene's recently-released-from-prison-husband, and of course, things don't go so well. But the ride is exhilarating!

This is a complex film with a simple plot, masterfully



Scene from *Drive*

directed by Danish director Nicholas Winding Refn (*The Pusher* trilogy) who is known for his realism, violence, and hyper-masculinity. All three are present here. The cast is stellar, including Gosling, Mulligan, Bryan Cranston, and Golden Globe-nominee Albert Brooks in a supporting role. The cinematography is superb—echoing late '60s and '70s B-movies, the editing is crisp, and the soundtrack is particularly inspired.

The film has moments of serenity and beauty punctuated by moments of extreme violence when we least expect them. It is such a pleasure to watch a film and not know what to expect. It was nominated for various awards after its release but snubbed by the Oscars. The Academy tends to do that to films released on an Independent label (see: *Requiem for a Dream*). It is a film that requires a bit of interaction from the viewer, but you are rewarded for it. I think it was one of the best films of 2011 and one of the better films of the past several years.

Available on the Netflix instant stream and on DVD in the library. You will like this film if you enjoyed

- *Taxi Driver*
- *Bullitt*
- *The Pusher Trilogy*

Please look for my DVD reviews in the Sam Gary Library under the "Staff Choices" section.

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

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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.

PREVIEW OF DENVER-AREA 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS

7/3 Wednesday- Independence Day Eve Celebration in Civic Center Park. 8pm. FREE community concert with patriotic favorites by Colorado Symphony, lightshow and fireworks. Denver Civic Center Park. www.civiccenterconservancy.org

7/4 Thursday- Liberty 4 Mile and Firecracker Kids Run. 8:30am. Wash Park. www.hallucinationsports.com

7/4 Thursday- 3rd Annual Park Hill 4th of July Parade. 1:30pm. 23rd Ave from Dexter to Kearney. www.parkhillparade.org

7/4 Thursday- Colorado Rapids v. New York Red Bulls. Fireworks after game. 18th annual 4th Fest Family Activity Zone begins 5pm. www.coloradorapids.com

7/4 Thursday- Denver Outlaws Lacrosse v. New York Lizards. Fireworks after game. www.denveroutlaws.com

7/4 Thursday- Colorado Rockies v Dodgers. Fireworks after game.

7/4 Thursday- Olde Town Arvada Spirit of America 4th of July Festival. Free family events, classic car show at 4pm; fireworks at dusk. www.arvadafestivals.com

7/4 Thursday- Old-Fashioned 4th of July Celebration at Four Mile Park. www.fourmilepark.org

7/4 Thursday- Elitch Gardens. Fireworks at dusk.

RECURRING ARTWALKS

First Fridays

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

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

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

Golden Triangle Museum District. 5-9pm. www.goldentriangleofdenver.com

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

Third Friday

Santa Fe Art District. Santa Fe Dr. between 10th and 6th. 5-8pm. 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.

Through 6/2 Sunday- Denver Comic Con 2013. 3-day fan convention featuring sci-fi, comic books, gaming, 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

6/2 Sunday- 2012 AT Expo: Technology for Living and Learning. Hardware, software, educational materials, assistive technology (AT) devices for those with disabilities or aging limits for home, school, work, play. 11am-6pm. FREE. Conference Center at Adams 12, 1500 E 128th Ave., Thornton. www.assistivetechologypartners.org

6/6 Thursday to 6/9 Sunday- B-17 Fly in at Centennial Airport. Sponsored by Wings Over the Rockies Museum flight plan and details available at www.wingsmuseum.org

6/6 Thursday to 8/25- Arvada Center Summer Gallery Exhibitions. Perception/Color/Line/Pattern"; 21 artists. FREE. www.arvadacenter.org/galleries

6/6 Thursday- Larimer Square Summer Film Series. www.larimersquare.com

6/7 Friday- Garden, Grapes and Hops at the Botanic Gardens. 6:30-10pm, Food, drink and live entertainment. General adm. \$65/advance, \$75 at door till sold out; plus other ticket options.

www.botanicgardens.org

6/8 Saturday Through 7/23- Colorado Renaissance Festival. Larkspur. www.coloradorenaissance.com

6/8 Saturday- National Get Outdoors Day Denver. Rock climbing, live music, kayaking, outdoor arts, junior ranger activities, bicycling, fishing, etc. Denver City Park, 9am-4pm. FREE. www.getoutdoorscolorado.org

6/8 Saturday- Brewgrass, Rock the Block. 1200 block Old S. Pearl St. 12-10pm. \$5 www.swallowhillmusic.org

6/9 Sunday- Living History Day at Four Mile Historic Park. Historic demonstrations, quilting, sewing blacksmithing, wagon rides, and more. 10-4pm. General adm. applies. www.fourmilepark.org

6/9 Sunday- Festival for Water. Free concert by Borerama, Motet and Broken Tongues. Presented by Water for People. Civic Center Park, 4-9pm. www.festivalforwater.org

6/9 Sunday- Taste of Puerto Rico Festival. Stapleton Central Park. www.atasteofpuertoricofestival.com

6/13 Thursday- Music and Martinis benefits Central City Opera. Silent auction/cocktails 6pm, Dinner 7pm, Live auction/entertainment 8pm. Cable Center on Univ. of Denver Campus. Tickets from \$150. www.centralcityopera.org

6/13 Thursday- Date Night at the Gardens. Denver Botanic Gardens, 6-8pm. dessert bar, free swing dancing lessons, live music. \$25/members \$30/nonmembers. www.botanicgardens.org

6/14 Friday to 6/16 Sunday- Denver Greek Festival. Greek food, dancing, boutique, cathedral tours and more. 4610 E. Alameda. www.thedenvergreekfestival.com

6/15 Saturday- Cockpit Demo Day. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-2pm. www.wingsmuseum.org

6/15 Saturday- Juneteenth Festival. Parade, art walk, music festival, more. Denver Five Points neighborhood. www.juneteenthmusicfestival.com

6/15 Saturday and 6/16 Sunday- Denver PrideFest. Civic Center Park, downtown Denver: Coors Light PrideFest parade (starts 9:30am, Cheesman Park) and more. 11am-7pm Sat., 10am-6pm Sun. www.denverpridefest.org

6/20 Thursday- Heart and Soul Benefit Concert. Featuring 17th Ave Allstars, Pink Champagne and Cure d'Ars Gospel Choir. Benefits Colorado Vincentian Volunteers. Newman Center, 2344 Iliff. \$35/adults, \$15 students. www.newmantix.com

6/20 Thursday- Do at the Zoo. 7-10pm. tickets from \$175 www.denverzoo.org

6/21 Friday- Make Music Denver. Daylong celebration of local live music; sidewalks, parks, street corners, etc., become stages for free concerts in downtown Denver. www.downtowndenver.com

6/21 Friday- Play in the Park. Celebrate summer with ping pong, gardening, yoga and more. FREE. Food trucks on site. 2-10pm. Civic Center Park. www.denvergov.org

6/22 Westword Music Showcase. Golden Triangle, www.westwordmusicshowcase.com

6/22 Saturday and 6/23 Sunday- Denver Cherry Blossom Festival. Sakura Square, Lawrence St between 19th and 20th. www.cherryblossomdenver.org

6/28 Friday to 6/29 Sunday- Epic Beer Festival. 300+ craft beers from around the world, 3 tasting sessions. Colorado Convention Center, 14th and Curtis. Tickets \$40. www.epicbeerfestival.com

6/29 Saturday- Aurora Arts Festival. Arts and crafts, games, live music, art displays. 12-5pm. Fletcher Plaza, 9898 E Colfax Ave, Aurora. FREE. www.auroraartsdistrict.com

7/5 Friday to 7/7 Sunday- Cherry Creek Arts Festival. www.cherryarts.org

Colorado Rapids Women Professional Team June Home Games: 6/14 v Seattle Sounders 6pm. 6/16 Palisades Blues 3pm. 6/25 Bay Area Breeze 6pm. 6/27 Santa Clarita 6pm. Dicks Sporting Goods Park, www.coloradorapids.com/women

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

Tuesdays through 8/13- Film on the Rocks. Doors open 6:30pm, Live music 7pm. Movies start at dusk. www.redrocksonline.com

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

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

Denver Botanic Gardens Summer Concert Series. Concert lineup, tickets: www.concerts.botanicgardens.org

Denver 2 for 1 Tix provides weekly 2 for 1 ticket and admission discounts for metro Denver arts and entertainment. www.denver2for1tix.com

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

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

6/1 Saturday- Jodi's Race for Awareness. 5K run/walk; 1-mile family walk. Denver City Park. Register: www.colorado-ovariancancer.org

6/2 Sunday- Walk for Lupus Now. Stapleton Central Park, 9am. www.lupiehugs.com

6/8 Saturday to 6/15 Saturday- 28th Annual Ride the Rockies. www.ridetherockies.com

6/9 Sunday- 7th Annual Strides 5K Run/Walk for Epilepsy. City Park. Register 8:30am, start 9am. www.epilepsycolorado.org

6/15 Saturday- Take Steps Walk for Crohn's and Colitis. Presented by HealthOne. Denver City Park. 4-7pm. www.cctakestepsdenver.org, 303.639.9163

6/15 Saturdays to 8/10 - Bluff Lake NaturallyFit Outdoor Fit-

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ness Classes. Saturdays 8:45-9:45am. Bluff Lake Nature Center, 3400 Havana Way. \$15/class. Proceeds benefit Bluff Lake. <http://NaturallyFitChallenge.eventbrite.com>. 303.503.9335

6/20 Thursday- Free HIV testing at Rocky Mountain CARES nonprofit for holistic HIV care. 1-5pm, 3rd Thurs. monthly and by appt. 4545 E 9th Ave, #120. Shannon Southall: 303.951.3694

6/22 Saturday- Undy 5000: A Brief Run to Fight Colon Cancer. 5K in your undies at Denver City Park. www.undy5000.org

6/26 Wednesday- Bike to Work Day. www.biketowork2013.org to register

7/13 Saturday- Sand Creek Half Marathon and 5K/10K. Stapleton Central Park. Packet pickup 5:30am. ½ starts 7am. 5K/10K 8am. www.runningguru.com

7/14 Sunday- 3rd Annual Possibility 5K Run/Walk & CYAR Community Picnic. Benefits Colorado Youth at Risk, local nonprofit that empowers teens to make positive life choices. 8am start; 6:30am register. \$20 youth, \$30 adults, \$20 seniors. Stapleton Central Park. Caroline Meyers: caroline@coloradoyouthatrisk.org, <http://www.active.com/running/denver-co/cyar-5k-possibility-run-walk-2013>

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

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

2013 Moonlight Classic Bike Ride. Open for registration. Saturday, 7/27. www.moonlight-classic.com

LECTURES AND CLASSES

6/22 Saturday- Home Tour and Energy Workshop in Park Hill. 10am FREE. Experts from City's Denver Energy Challenge on energy-saving measures for home and tools used to assess home's efficiency; tour house with improvements. RSVP: <http://www.denverenergy.org/forms/home-energy-workshop-rsvp>

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

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

6/4 Tuesday- Emancipation Proclamation. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. 303.316.6359

6/11 Tuesday- Brazil. 12:30-1:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727

6/13 Thursday- The Great Depression. 7pm. Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 2823 Roslyn St. 303.388.0724

6/16 Sunday- By George! Explore the life and times of George Gershwin. 9 am program, 10 am potluck brunch. Stapleton F15 pool, 2831 Hanover.

6/25 Tuesday- Cybersecurity. 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, Summer of Reading programing, crafts sessions and complete program list. A few selected programs shown below: All libraries closed Thurs., July 4th.

Summer of Reading kicks off 6/3 to 8/10. Read and win prizes! Sign up at any DPL branch. Summer of Reading Neighborhood Challenge. Branch library with greatest increase in SOR registrations 6/3–6/15 wins ice cream party with Mayor at winning branch.

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

6/8 Saturday- Ann Lincoln presents the Dino Girl Show. 3-4pm.

6/15- Dig into Reading Magic with Mark Strivings. 3-4pm.

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

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

Monday to Thurs. weekly-Summer of Reading programs. 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.

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

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

11am

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

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

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

6/6 Thursday- Denver Zoo Presents Wild Wonders. 2-3pm.

6/12 Wednesday- Tie-dyed T-shirts with My Art Workshop. 4-5pm

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

Thursdays in June, 3pm: Book Babies and Baby Yoga.

6/4 Tuesday- Meet an Ambassador Dog with the Dumb Friends League. 10:30am

6/10 Monday- Teen Craft. 4pm. for grades 6-8.

6/11 Tuesday- Dig into Reading Magic! 10:30am
(continued on page 18)



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(continued from page 17)

6/17 Monday- "Books and Bites" Teen Book Club. 4pm. Grades 6-8.

6/18 Tuesday- Children's craft. 10:30am

6/19 Wednesday- "Banana Splits" Book Club. 2nd and 3rd grades. 2:30pm

6/24 Monday- Zine Workshop with Arna Miller. 4pm. Grades 6-12.

6/25 Tuesday- Justin Miera Presents Creepy Crawlies! 10:30am

6/26 Wednesday- "Teens Read." Book Club. 4pm.

6/27 Thursday- "Word Up" Book Club. 1pm, for 4th and 5th grades.

NORTHEAST DENVER /AURORA EVENTS

6/7 Friday- Shabbat Service and Concert Featuring Sababa. Jewish folk /rock band. 6pm. Temple Micah, 2600 Leyden St. FREE. www.sababamusic.com

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

6/8 Saturday- Lowry Wine Walk. Lowry Town Center. Wine Walk 5:30-10 pm, \$15. Free Concert: Funkiphino. www.lowry.org

6/23 Sunday- Clayton Early Learning Open House. Learn about enrollment for children under age 5. 2 locations: 3801 MLK Blvd and 4800 Telluride St. www.claytonearlylearning.org

6/29 Saturday- 2nd Annual Stapleton Pride Summer Event. Poolside evening of food, drinks, kids' games, giveaways, sponsor raffles and DJ. 7-10pm. \$10/adult, kids 12 and under free. Aviator pool in Stapleton. Stapletonpride.com or info@stapletonpride.com

Fridays and Saturdays- Wine Tastings. Wine Cellars, the Bottle Shop of Stapleton. 4-7pm. FREE.

www.facebook.com/WineCellarsatStapleton

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

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

June 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

6/6 Thursday—Guided Seasonal Tour of Bluff Lake Nature Center. 5-6pm. Guided 1-hour sunset tour of nature center with historical and ecosystem interpretation. Gather at Welcome Station on north side of parking lot. Repeats Sat. 6/15, 10-11am. Free. klewis@blufflake.org

6/10 Monday to 6/14 Friday- Summer Camp Take Flight!" at Bluff Lake Nature Center. 8:30am-12:30 pm (add time with purchase of more hours). From airplanes to aerodynamic animals, learn about animals that fly like airplanes! \$175. Camps also 6/17-6/21 and 6/24-6/28. Bluff Lake Nature Center, 3400 Havana Way. keith@blufflake.org, www.blufflakenaturecenter.org

6/13 Thursday- Fireside Chat "Nature's Recyclers." 6-7:30 pm. Plus marsh-

mallow roast. Suggested \$1 donation. keith@blufflake.org. Repeats Thurs. 6/27 with "The Diva of Dung."

DENVER ART MUSEUM

100 West 14th Ave Parkway, www.denver-artmuseum.org

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

Through 9/22- Spun: Adventures in Textiles.

Final Friday at Denver Art Museum. 6-10pm. *Untitled* is 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

6/6 Thursday- Green Building Tour. History Colorado Center, Free with admission. 2:30-3pm.

Ongoing- Denver A to Z. Free with admission. Discover Denver letter by letter.

DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE

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

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

Planetarium- Wildest Weather in the Solar System; Realm of Light, Black Holes, One World, One 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, Galapagos 3D, Hubble 3D Deep Sea 3D. Various times. Tickets: \$8/3-18; \$10/adult

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

The Shops at Northfield Stapleton:

Coldwell Banker Denver Century Ride, June 15, 6am-4pm. Featuring children's bike parade along Northfield's Main Street, four optional cycling courses, live music and more!

Bass Pro Events - 720.385.3600, www.BassPro.com

Hunting, fishing and marine seminars offered throughout month.

Harkins Theatres 18 - 720.374.3118

New Releases

6/7 - *The Internship, The Kings of Summer, The Purge,*

6/14 - *The East, Man of Steel 3D,*

6/21 - *The Bling Ring, Monsters University, Much Ado About Nothing, World War Z*

6/28 - *The Heat, Twenty Feet from Stardom*

Improv Comedy Club and Dinner Theatre - Tickets: 303-307-1777

www.ImprovDenver.com

Ticket prices vary based on comedian and show time.

Toby Keith's I Love This Bar & Grill - 303.728.9468, www.countrybarco.com

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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/

6/8 Birding for Beginners.* 11:30am

6/9 Sunday- Art Safari Sunday. Kids' art projects in Discovery room from 9am-3pm.

6/15 Saturday and 6/16 Sunday- Wildlife Viewing Tours. 11:30am

6/22 Saturday- Owls Underground. 11:30. Repeats 6/29

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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 NETWORKING GROUP. First Tuesday, 8:30-10am, Aaron.Ktafoya@farmersagency.com, 303-955-0861

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

Civic Groups

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

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.

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

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

Interest Groups

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stapleton Groups

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

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

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

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

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

Support Groups

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

AA OPEN MEETING. Every Tuesday, 6pm. St Thomas Episcopal Church, 22nd and Dexter. Shirley 303-726-2998

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

ADOPTEDS IN SEARCH SUPPORT GROUP. 2nd Wednesday, 7-8:30pm. Montview Presby. Church, Robinsom Rm. AISCTC.org 303-232-6302

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

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

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



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2013 Fishing Season- Catch and Release. Tuesdays, Saturdays, Sundays 6am-6pm. \$3 fee.

3rd Annual Refuge Amateur Photo Contest. Entries due 9/29.

THEATRE

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

Through 6/23 - Vintage Theatre Presents RFK. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E Colfax Ave. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

6/1 - Grease Sing-a-long. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada. www.arvadacenter.org

6/21 to 8/3- Minimum Wage. Avenue Theater, 417 E. 17th Ave. www.avenuetheater.com

Through 6/29- Sylvia Firehouse Theater and Spotlight Theater companies at John Hand Theater. www.johnhandtheater.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Cooking Matters- Free course to kids/families on shopping on a budget and preparing healthy, affordable meals. Volunteers needed at multiple locations/days to help. Email covolunteer@strength.org to learn Share our Strength Cooking Matters and all opportunities.

Project Worthmore. Volunteers needed on teams (6-month commit) 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

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

Through 7/31- Tornado 1966-1992 at Forney Transportation Museum. \$6-\$8. 303 Brighton Blvd. www.forneymuseum.org

Thursdays in June- 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

6/2 Sunday, Try it! Musical Instrument Petting Zoo & Class. 3-4:30pm. Neighborhood Music Stapleton. Ages 4-13. Cost \$5-\$10. www.neighborhoodmusicstapleton.com

6/8 Saturday- Kids Spree @ Yumfest. Entertainment, family activities, FREE, food trucks. Parking \$5/car. Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E Alameda Pkwy. www.auroragov.org

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

6/12 Wednesday- Create Playdates at Denver Art Museum. Kids 3-5 roar, bang, stomp 2nd Wed/month. 10am. Art, story times, scavenger hunts. Included in museum adm.; 5 and under free. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy. www.denverartmuseum.org or 720.865.5000

6/28 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 Mump-ton: 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.small-handsart.com

Start Art- Art classes. Startartkids.com

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

Saturdays 6/8 to 8/24- Tribal Tots Camp. 10-10:45am. www.solvidadance.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

6/22 Saturday- Red Cross Babysitters Training. 8am-3pm, Stapleton MCA, 2823 Roslyn. www.redcross.org/take-a-class. Repeats Sat. 7/6.

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 Staple-ton- Private and group instruction, piano, voice, guitar, ukulele, mandolin, violin and drums. Ages 3 and up. Skye Barker Maa. 720.353.6622,

www.neighborhoodmusicstapleton.com

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

Jewish Community Center- Variety of camps and other programs for kids grades K-5. www.jcc.org

Stapleton All Sports- Registering for summer tennis, multi-sports, golf. 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. Denver’s East High School. www.CityStringsGuitar.com or Jen: 720.341.9737

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

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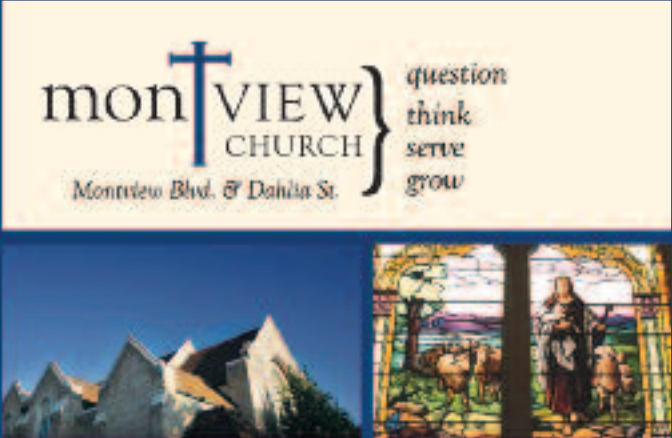
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More Events

Tuesdays at 10am—Denver Center for the Performing Arts 10 for \$10 Tickets

Each Tuesday at 10am, The Denver Center for the Performing Arts will release a limited number of \$10 tickets. Ten seats for every Denver Center Theatre Company performance in the coming week will qualify (up to 25 shows per week). Tickets available by phone (303.893.4100) or in person in the Helen Bonfils Theatre Complex lobby at Speer & Arapahoe. Play information at www.denvercenter.org.

June 6 to 9—Denver Public Library’s Gigantic Used Book Sale

DPL’s Annual Used Book Sale will take place Thurs., 6/6 to Sun., 6/9. Located on the north lawn of the Central Library, 14th Ave. & Broadway, it features over 70,000 items: children’s, audio and nonfiction/fiction books, CDs and DVDs; prices start under \$1. New items added daily. DPL Friends Foundation preview is Wed., 6/5 from 6–8pm. On Sun., 6/9 from 2–3pm, teachers and representatives from nonprofit organizations (with valid ID) can take home ANY remaining items for FREE during the Great Book Giveaway. Throughout the sale, teachers with valid ID receive a 25% discount coupon. Public hours: Thurs., 10am–7:30pm; Fri. and Sat., 10am–4pm; and Sun., 10am–1pm. To donate year-round, contact Hannah Miles at HMiles@denverlibrary.org or 720.865.2045. More info: dplfriends.org or 720.865.2051

June 8—Park Hill Garden Walk

Master gardeners, enthusiasts and strollers alike will enjoy the diversity and beauty of the 2013 Park Hill Garden Walk. This all-ages event takes place on Sat., June 8 in Park Hill and features everything from native xeriscape gardens to lush formal plantings. Also, view a restaurant uniquely dedicated to growing its own produce on-site and artist showings at each of the 12 gardens. Tickets: \$12 in advance (\$10/seniors 65 and up). For more info and to purchase tickets online, visit <http://greaterparkhill.org/>. Tickets also available at Denver King Soopers locations, the Park Hill Library, and on day of walk at the Art Garage at 6100 E. 23rd.

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Sam Ramirez, manager of the new Bicycle Library at the Hub in the Stapleton Town Center.

Up with Bicycles!

June 26 is Bike to Work Day
Riders are asked to register at www.biketowork2013.org to win prizes and help in reporting the impact of taking thousands of vehicles off the road that day. Free breakfasts will be served to riders at: the Stapleton King Soopers; Cake Crumbs at Kearney St.; Primrose School at Stapleton and Denver Police Dept. District 2. After work, a Stapleton Bike Home Party will be held at The Hub @ Stapleton/Cycleton, Stapleton Town Center, for bike tech and prizes.
Local sponsors are Stapleton Area Bicycle Library, Stapleton Area Transportation Management Assoc., The Hub @ Stapleton and Cycleton Bike Shop.

New Bike Library Opens Saturday, June 22
Join the new Bike Library for \$20/year and have access to loaner bicycles for up to 48 hours at a time. Membership also requires eight hours of community service, but on opening day, June 22 from 10am to 3pm, everyone is invited to come and try out a bike at the Hub, in the Stapleton Town Center (behind Cycleton.) Visit www.StapletonTMA.com or call 303.468.3233.

NE Denver Bike Coalition Is Being Formed
Whether you ride to commute or for pleasure, whether young or old, beginner or advanced, a group is forming to share information about bicycle connections that are available and identify new ones needed. Email SRamirez@StapletonFoundation.org to get on an email list for future information.

2013 Stapleton Yard Sale To Be Held July 20-21

- The 2013 (8th annual) Stapleton Community Garage Sale will be held Saturday and Sunday July 20–21.
- Online Registration will begin June 1 at www.BuildingStapleton.com/garagesale.
- Participants can sign up for Saturday, Sunday, or both days.
- Signs will be available to the first 300 homes to sign up.
- Everyone who signs up will be included in the map and participant list, which will be posted online before the sale.
- The sale will be advertised in the *Denver Post*, Craigslist, the *Front Porch* and via social media.

Organized by realtors Diana and Michael Kearns in 2006, the first Stapleton Community Garage had 75 registered participants. In 2011, the sale expanded to two days; last year 333 homes registered to participate. This year the Kearns expect over 400 participants. Michael Kearns believes that the Stapleton Community Garage Sale must be one of the largest sales in Colorado. He says he has received emails from people as far away as Kansas who come to the sale each year.
Kearns says participants have reported average sales of over \$300 each and points out that community organizations use the event to raise funds and awareness. After

the sale, many participants choose to donate unsold items to charity. Charity (donation) partners haven’t been determined yet, but in 2012 they were The Denver Children’s Advocacy Center, Goodwill Industries, and the Epilepsy Foundation of Colorado.
Diana and Michael Kearns, who organize and sponsor the event at no cost to participants, say they do it as a thank you to the community where, through their business, The Kearns Team, RE/MAX of Cherry Creek, they help their neighbors buy and sell homes. The Kearns can be reached at: Diana@KearnsTeam.com or Michael@KearnsTeam.com.



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June 2013 20 Stapleton Front Porch

Just the Facts

Buses and Neighborhoods

by Whitey Hagadorn



I shouldn't be surprised that folks have strong opinions about anything affecting their neighborhood—but I was taken aback by controversy over a new bus line recently installed near our house. While some neighbors jumped for joy at the prospect of an easier commute, others circulated protest petitions. The impacts on traffic, parking, litter and privacy were discussed, but the greatest worries were safety, noise and property values. These are not uncommon concerns and as a result, studies have been done on the impact bus lines have on residential neighborhoods. Let's review the data to see what the impacts are.

Safety: Adding bus lines does not add significant accident risk for cyclists, pedestrians or children playing in a neighborhood. In fact, for buses the number of accidents per mile traveled is astonishingly small compared to all other passenger vehicles. Buses account for less than 1 percent of the injuries, fatalities and property damage caused by all U.S. drivers.

Noise: The impact of buses on noise pollution is hard to measure because the impact is a function of many factors: duration, intermittency and peak levels of noise, and its relationship to background noise. Noise hazards are also hard to quantify unless one knows how many cars are effectively "removed" from the road by riders of the bus. Regardless, using any metric, even a new diesel bus emits more noise pollution than does a passenger car/truck/SUV. However, natural gas and electric buses are quieter—emitting about the same or less noise than most passenger vehicles.

\$\$\$: Studies from outside of Colorado indicate that adding a new local bus line (i.e., not an express or rapid-transit bus line) either has a negative or no impact on home values. To get some locally comparable data, I studied the impact of RTD's Route 20 in Denver's Park Hill neighborhood. Proximity to the bus line does not correlate with increased or

decreased property values. Nor does having a bus stop in front of a house correlate with significantly lower property values.

Traffic: Because most buses in Colorado are run by a municipality or a partner agency, integrated route planning occurs before bus lines are added to streets. This minimizes the

addition of unnecessary buses and reduces their impacts on traffic. Outside of urban cores, adding buses does not cause significantly greater traffic delays.

Litter: "Common sense" suggests that new bus stops bring more litterbugs to an area and concentrate the activities of existing litterbugs. Ironically, I found no quantitative data to support this correlation. That said, maybe this hypothesis (more buses = more trash) is so obvious, nobody has ever tested it.

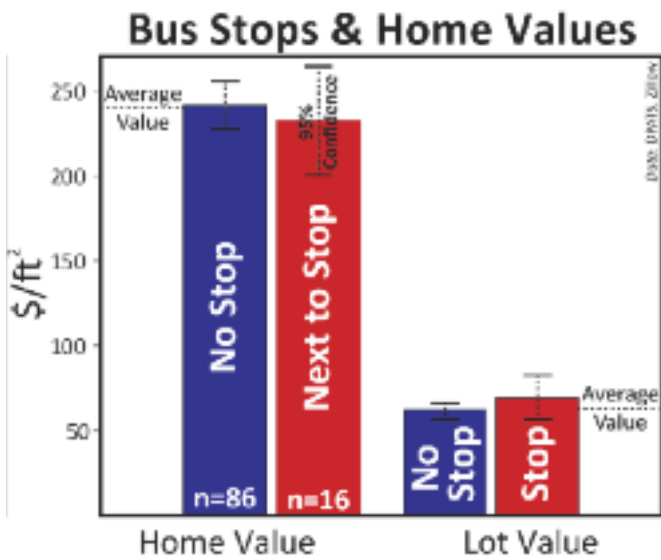
Parking: Data on the parking impact of bus service is equivocal. During installation of a bus line, street parking is sometimes removed to create bus stops. At the same time, in urban cores and along key arteries, buses can free up parking by reducing the number of cars requiring parking spaces.

Crime: In some cases, installation of a bus line correlates with changes in the distribution of already-existing crime types in a neighborhood (e.g., vandalism). But in residential neighborhoods most data suggests that the presence of a bus line does not correlate with or cause an increase in crime. Nor do homes closer to bus lines typically experience more crime.

Buses are our most cost-effective, flexible and common form of public transportation. They carry more passengers than all other modes of public transportation combined. Nonetheless, they can have a negative impact by increasing litter, noise and street wear. Some types of bus lines reduce home values, whereas others increase them. Buses typically have minimal to no net impact on safety, traffic, parking or crime. On a per-passenger-mile basis their im-

act on air quality, energy use and greenhouse gas production is often either negligible or an improvement.

The data above are only a starting point. Bus routes bring indirect economic benefits to cities and adjacent neighborhoods. They have social benefits such as connecting residential areas with entertainment areas. They provide accessibility



Single-family home values on E. 23rd Ave. between Colorado Blvd. and Syracuse St., excluding commercial intersections.

for seniors, students, the disabled, those without a car, and those who might be partaking. Such impacts are more difficult to measure but merit a spotlight in community discussions about transportation planning.

For now, I hope this summary gives you some data to help shape your opinions. My 3-year-old, for one, is eager for me to take him on the new "very very big big" bus.

James W. Hagadorn, PhD, is a scientist at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science.

Suggestions and comments welcome at jwhagadorn@dmns.org.

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

New! Guide to Music Teachers in the Front Porch Distribution Area

The Front Porch is creating a guide to music teachers in our distribution area. It will be printed in our September issue. Parents and students, please ask your teacher to submit their information to help us create our new resource guide.

All music teachers who live or teach in our distribution area can submit information, at no cost, which must be received by August 10. Please include: business name (if applicable); teacher name; instruments taught; a brief description of your philosophy, expertise and credentials; whether child/adult or both; pricing; and contact information. If you don't receive a confirmation within four days, please re-send and then call 303-526-1969 if no confirmation is received.

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Premium Fishwrap*

by Jon Meredith



Now That We Have Legalized Pot, What Have We Gotten Ourselves Into?

A bright weekday May morning brought me to the Town Center's Starbucks for my daily dose of overpriced caffeine. Between two buildings, I was overpowered by the sweet but pungent, unmistakable odor of someone smoking pot. I wondered, was this a transient who had wandered into our little niche in the city? Was this person waiting for the local liquor store to open up? That was my thinking, but the reality was a bit more disconcerting and eye-opening. A well-dressed middle-aged man in a late-model European sedan was casually smoking a joint in the parking lot.

Should I have been surprised by this? Probably not, considering the smell of pot is nearly ubiquitous downtown. I've seen people light up at Coors Field, at bus stops and in the downtown library basement. There are currently no blunt stands at DIA, Sports Authority Stadium or the Pepsi Center, but that possibility may not be far off. The signs will read, "Get your Colorado stash before flying home to your dry state," or "Don't worry about the score, get high instead." The idea of this may be facetious now, but America's corporate marketing geniuses have not had the opportunity to feast on pot advertising—but sooner or later they will.

When Amendment 64 was on the ballot last November, I simply didn't think through the implications of making less than an ounce of pot, used for personal consumption, legal in Colorado. I didn't like that we had to amend our state Constitution to make it legal, but I thought I would be somewhat of a hypocrite if I voted it down. It seemed so simple, such an easy libertarian process. Legalize marijuana and give citizens the benefit of taxing its sale and consumption. It seemed no more complicated than regulating liquor stores. But it's turning out to be more complicated.

The Colorado Department of Revenue is developing regulations for businesses. Existing medical marijuana dispensaries will be able to sell recreational marijuana starting January 1, 2014. New recreational marijuana businesses will be able to open nine months later. The City of Denver will determine whether and how it can be sold and used in Denver, within the state laws. The legislature has passed a marijuana "DUI" law to limit the amount of marijuana in the system for driving.

On the November ballot will be a tax question to pay the cost of regulating the new marijuana industry—a 10 percent sales tax and a 15 percent excise tax. If voters don't approve the tax, money will have to be pulled from the state's general fund to pay for the regulation of marijuana, as required by Amendment 64. Money pulled from the state's general fund for marijuana regulation would reduce money available for education and many other state services. Amendment 64 also designates that the first \$40 million collected from the 25 percent excise tax be used for the construction of schools in Colorado.

Now that we have legalized marijuana, let's be sure its regulation is paid for by those who use it—not by reducing funds for our children's educations or our state colleges and universities.

The picture of Civic Center Park with thousands of people and billowing pot smoke was national news prior to the shooting that took place at the event. That is certainly not the image of Denver that the local chamber of commerce wants as they try to bring business to the metro area.

Years ago, I was playing golf with a friend and his brother. The brother grew up in Denver and became an investment banker in Hong Kong. During the round he chimed in about Coloradans in general, saying "The business world doesn't want to locate here because they believe Coloradans care more about their free time, biking, skiing and drinking than people in other parts of the world." I believe Coloradans believe in a healthy balance of work and recreation, which may be one factor in our being the least obese state.

Now that we have legalized pot, I can hear that banker saying all those Coloradans want to do "is smoke pot and live off the government."

Colorado, we can be a frontrunner in the legalization of marijuana. We just need to carefully think through the far-reaching consequences of the legalization.

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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Urban Farm Launches Aquaponics Classes



By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Growing one's own food can be a somewhat romantic, yet practical notion with visions of working the land in return for a bountiful harvest. Watching tiny seeds grow into food that moments later can be served for dinner...it makes you feel wholesome just thinking about it. But the space involved in gardening can be prohibitive if yard space is limited or nonexistent. What's a would-be-farmer to do? The Urban Farm, located at the northeast corner of Stapleton on Smith Rd., has the answer and will teach you how to do it.

The Urban Farm is starting aquaponics



classes in which the public can learn, hands-on, how to create a system for their own homes, potentially growing enough produce to feed their family and some neighbors too.

Aquaponics refers to a closed system in which fish, such as tilapia, which can later be harvested as a protein source, swim around in one container. The fish and their waste nutrients are what differentiate this system from hydroponics where nutrients have to be added to the water. The nutrient-rich waste water the fish produce is pumped up and circulated into another container to water and feed plants such as lettuce, cucumbers, strawberries and herbs.

Another pump pushes the water through the plants' roots and soil, providing the fish with clean water. The circulating water is constantly being aerated. "The fish have to have oxygen and the plants have to have carbon dioxide," explains Donna Garnett, executive director and co-founder of The Urban Farm. "With this closed system, you're getting all the nutrients, all the oxygen, everything that lives in that closed system needs to survive." The system can be as small as the width of a 55-gallon drum or much larger, incorporating a "hoop house," (shown above) a greenhouse of sorts that enables people to grow outside, year-round. When the plants are growing and vining, Garnett describes it as a big chia plant. "It's really something!" she says.

The aquaponics system is inherently organic. "You can't do anything but have organic food because you can't add anything to your fish tank; otherwise you'll kill the fish," explains Rick Garcia, farm manager at The Urban Farm. "The food that comes off of these systems is high quality." It's also sustainable. Garnett explains that "In Denver, if our whole transportation system shut down, we would run out of food in about 48 hours. The idea behind sustainable agriculture is that we're not dependent on a transportation system or on our international agricultural partners being mad at us or having a tsunami, drought or whatever. The idea is that we can sustain ourselves at a very local level and be able to provide ourselves with nutritional, wholesome,

good food."

Garnett sees this as part of The Urban Farm's efforts to help with the obesity problem in America. "A system like this using fish and vegetables is really to help create a healthier population where eating habits are not so unhealthy," she states. This is a cause near and dear to The Urban Farm's mission of helping children, youth and families make healthier lifestyle choices.

Now in its 20th year, Garnett says, "From day one, we've been an educational organization. Even before anyone else was talking about urban farms, we were out there as pioneers saying that city dwellers need to know about urban farming." She adds, "You need to know where your food comes from; you need to not be dependent on some other type of system that might not be able to feed your family." As the movement around good food and sustainable agriculture has picked up in Colorado and beyond, Garnett feels teaching aquaponics is a logical step for the nonprofit to take. "I like to think about it as that saying, 'Give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day but teach a man to fish'...well, if we can teach you to grow your fish and your vegetables, you'll be able to feed yourself and others," she says.



The Urban Farm also works with school groups, offers a community garden, camps and classes in horsemanship and working on a farm with animals, gardens and an orchard. For more about The Urban Farm and the aquaponics classes, contact Donna Garnett at 720.810.5475 or Rick Garcia at 720.495.6876.

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The Reader

Mary Trujillo, known to many Park Hill school-age children as “Miss Mary,” has become the Pied Piper of reading in Northeast Denver. Through a program funded by the Denver Foundation, she runs after-school activities at the Pauline Robinson Library and she reads with children in Early Childhood Education programs at 12 elementary schools through a library literary program.

Trujillo grew up in a family with strong roots in the San Luis Valley. She went to college in California and taught English on the Chilean island of Chiloé for seven years, where she met her husband. She came back to Denver to get her master’s degree and has worked in the North Park Hill community ever since. All of the places she has lived have a strong sense of community, each different in many ways. She has found that same sense of community at the Pauline Robinson Library, in the schools where she reads and especially in the children who always perk up and smile when they see “Miss Mary.”

Jon Meredith: Tell me about the after-school program at Pauline Robinson?

Ms. Trujillo: The program is on a drop-in basis. Any children who want to participate can by simply coming to the library. There are five libraries in Denver that have this program. We focus on 8- to 12-year-olds, although I do have lots of younger-age kids who come in. It is a great way for them to have something positive to do after school and also to make great connections with us at the library. It continues through the middle-school kids. Although they



Mary Trujillo, in the Pauline Robinson Library, holds a favorite pop-up book, *Big Frog Can't Fit In*.

JM: Tell us about the Denver Public Library’s summer reading program?

Trujillo: The summer reading program starts June 3rd and runs until August 20th. There are great prizes for reading and the kids can read what they want, be it magazines or blogs. It keeps the middle-school students engaged and tries to have them avoid the “summer slip.” We don’t see some kids all yearlong, but when the summer reading signup comes along, they come in. It definitely gets

more children to come into the library.

JM: I interviewed Commander Calo, who is in charge of District 2 of the Denver Police Department and was formerly the leader of the Gang Task Force. He told me that 33rd and Holly, specifically the old Holly Square shopping area, was ground zero for gang activity in Northeast Denver. How has that influence affected what you do here?

Trujillo: I feel completely removed from that side of this neighborhood although I am not oblivious to it. I know what goes on around here, but the library is kind of a safe island. I have worked here for five years and there has been one incident I can remember, a girl versus girl fight. The library does not get tagged and kids act appropriately. I love working in this community. I love the people here and especially the children. It may have a bad reputation but I don’t feel or touch that side of it.

JM: Having spent so much time in Chile, what has your experience here taught you that you could bring back to Chiloé?

Trujillo: Books and free libraries. My husband Jaime says that he is amazed by the literacy resources we have in this country. In Chile, I don’t think I ever saw or went into a library and books have an 18 percent sales tax.

may not participate any longer, they come in and know they are welcome.

JM: How does a parent get a child involved?

Trujillo: Come into the library and join in. There are no signups or parental permissions required.

JM: What is the Read Aloud Program?

Trujillo: The Denver Public Library runs the program through its Early Literacy Department. Volunteers and staff go out to classrooms and read to 3- to 5-year-olds who are either in the ECE programs or Head Start. I go to 8 to 12 classrooms a week; the same ones every week. The kids get very excited when I come because they know we are going to read and talk about books. It gets them familiar with the library, with someone who works at the library and encourages literacy at a very young age. At the end of each semester we give them each a book, in English or Spanish.

JM: How do you see this helps the children?

Trujillo: It is amazing. I start at the beginning of the year and I always forget how young the kids are. They are 3 and 4 years old and I forget what books I can read to them. I’m afraid I will lose them. By the end of the year they want more books, longer books and always pop-up books, because they are the fun ones. The change comes in the way they begin to talk about books, the way they talk about the pictures, the sounds and what they notice in the illustrations.

JM: Why does Denver Public Schools need someone from the library to come in and do this?

Trujillo: The schools make a great connection with the library. It makes reading fun. All the teachers receive big bins of books from the library’s deleted books section and every child gets a book twice a year. It puts a familiar face at the library for the kids and ensures that when they come into Pauline Robinson there will be someone there that knows them and will help them.

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Recognitions

By Carol Roberts

Westerly Creek 5th Graders Step In to Replace Stolen Items

English Language Acquisition (ELA) students at Westerly Creek School have had the benefit of using high quality headphones purchased by ELA teacher Yaisa Banek to assist them



ELA teacher Yaisa Banek with fifth graders Ethan Zichter, Taylor Howard and Ethan Poland. Photo by Jenny Zichter

in their learning. Banek also allowed other students to borrow the headphones. Recently, however they disappeared. When Ethan Zichter, whose 5th grade class is just down the hall from Banek's classroom, learned they had been stolen, he decided the four 5th grade classes at Westerly Creek (about 100 students) could find a way to replace the headphones.

Zichter, his teacher Amy Dickson, and his friends Ethan Poland and Taylor Howard organized the four 5th grade classes to sponsor two bake sales. Their plan was to sell before school, at lunch and after school, but at both sales the baked goods donated by the 5th grade families were sold out by lunchtime.

Bake sales to raise money for various causes aren't unusual at Westerly Creek and the students managed to keep the purpose of their sale a secret from Ms. Banek until after the first bake sale when they surprised her with the news. On May 28 at the monthly awards assembly, the students presented Ms. Banek with two new headphones.

Beloved Montview Preschool Teachers Retire

After 28 years, Montview Preschool teacher Edie Buchanan has taught countless children and worked in every room in the school. But her influence extended beyond her students. Twenty-three years ago, when Carolyn Hill brought her child to Edie's class, she was so taken by her son's teacher and the school she quit her job in the business world and decided to go back to teaching —and she has been at Montview Preschool ever since. Both women, after devoting over 20 years to teaching hundreds of Montview Preschool students, retired when this school year ended.



Edie Buchanan

ance of open-ended and teacher directed activities and repeats John Dewey's quote, "Knowing we cannot teach students everything, it is most important we teach them to learn." Buchanan particularly loved the school-home connection at Montview and embraced parent involvement. One of her favorite memories of teaching happened over 20 years ago when a little boy playing hospital in her classroom put a stethoscope to her heart and said, "Edie, I hear the kids in your heart."

Edie Buchanan says she was influenced by her father, a teacher who had a calm and respectful manner with his students. She says it was a gift to teach at Montview's cooperative school, where children are accepted as they are. She believes in the bal-



Carolyn Hill

As Carolyn Hill reflects on her years Montview, she says what's most special is that it truly feels like a community people can depend on. As a parent herself, she realizes the struggles parents can face sending their children to school for the first time. She knows these parents put a lot of trust in her and she thinks having Montview teachers visit families and get to know them was especially important in developing that trust. She acknowledges the "awesome responsibility and honor" that come with being a child's first teacher. "I hear 'You're the best teacher I've ever had!' a lot, but that's because I'm the only teacher they've ever had!" Hill says memories of all her favorite moments in teaching sometimes made her wonder if she should re-

consider retirement, but she knows she won't be far from the community she loves. "I know I will still see everyone at the grocery store, or pool or just out walking my dog." Her greatest wish for her students is that they will always love school as much as they do now! "They are so enthusiastic about coming and learning new things, I hope they carry that love of school with them forever."

Information about Hill and Buchanan was provided by Montview Preschool in articles by Trisha Pshak and Melissa Kroll.

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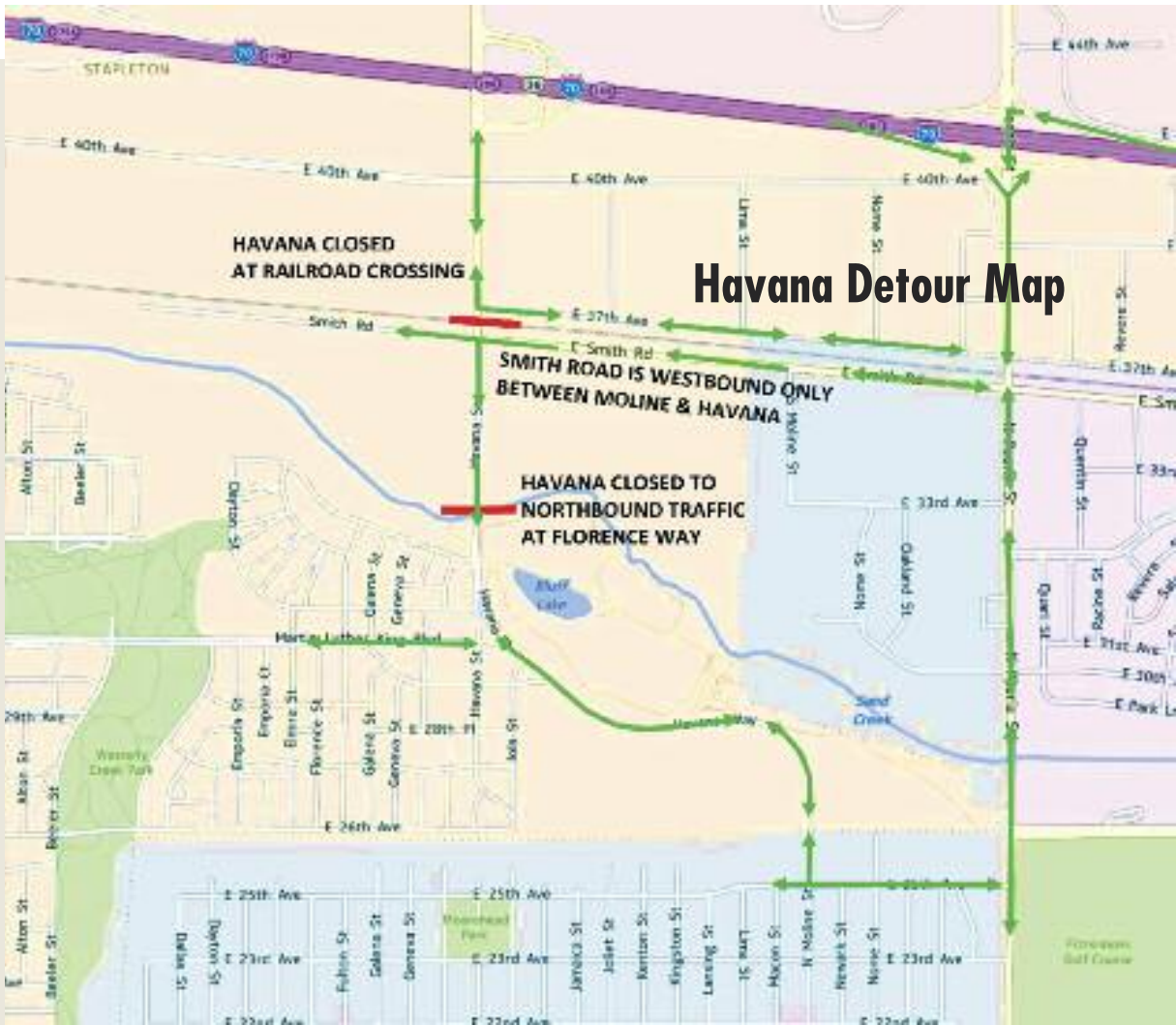
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SUN president Mark Mehringer compares DPS student projections with SUN's projections. "Their estimates look about right," said Mehringer at the May 2 SUN Community Forum.

Mehringer says, "I looked at DPS' projections for kindergarten each year for the next several years and calculated from that how many kids they are estimating and compared that with how many our survey is suggesting we'll get. Do we have twice as many kids as DPS projects? Do we have half as many? I actually found it to be good news because they are estimating more kids about to enter elementary than our survey suggested, which actually makes a lot of sense because we're still building houses. Their estimates look about right, plus they added some more because we're still building houses."

Keven Burnett, Executive Director of the Stapleton Master Community Association (MCA) reported that they have been working on spring maintenance projects, and with the help of the SUN sustainability committee and community volunteers they recently planted about 100 trees.



Volunteers helped plant 100 trees in Stapleton. Photo courtesy of Caroline Batorowicz.

Burnett also informed the attendees that the MCA has about 2.5 million feet of alley and annually they take on the projects in greatest need of repair. Residents can report alley issues on the contact page at www.StapletonCommunity.com.

Graffiti in parks can also be reported online.

June 29—Stapleton Pride Pool Party

To celebrate diversity, Stapleton Pride will hold its 2nd annual Stapleton Pride Pool Party on Sat., June 29 from 7–10pm at the Aviator Pool, 8054 E. 28th Ave. All who celebrate the diversity in our community and world are invited—singles, couples, traditional and LGBT families—to enjoy food, drinks,

kids' games, a DJ and music, giveaways, sponsor raffles and fun in the pool. Cost: \$10/adult; kids 12 and under free. Benefits Bluff Lake Nature Center and Stapleton Pride. Sponsorships available. Space is limited. Respond by June 10 to stapletonpride.com or info@stapletonpride.com.

Forest City Update

Forest City is considering two additional rental apartment projects south of I-70 and has not decided which will be built first. The empty square block in the 29th Ave. Town Center (across from Sam Gary Library) is being evaluated for apartments wrapped around a parking garage, possibly with one floor of public parking and potential retail on the ground floor. The number of residential units is still to be determined.

The second project is phase

Havana Detour

As those who live in the Eastbridge neighborhood of Stapleton already know, Havana is closed to northbound traffic from Florence Way to Smith Road and Smith Road is one way going west between Moline and Havana (see detour map above). Denver Transit Partners expects Havana will be closed to through traffic until the end of June. Alternative plans would have caused 22 weeks of work in the area so they chose this re-routing option that will last for six weeks. For construction information from Denver Transit Partners call 303-297-5284. For after-hours construction related emergencies call 1-855-EAGLE-P3 (324-5373).

SUN Community Meeting May 2

Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) president Mark Mehringer shared the results of a March community survey on a range of subjects that had over 2000 responses from approximately 5000 households ("an astonishingly

high response rate," said Mehringer). The results of the survey are posted at StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com > Education.

The majority of the questions were about schools. For the Stapleton high school there was a strong preference (67%) for a single comprehensive high school rather than a group of separate smaller schools. DPS superintendent Tom Boasberg has stated there will be enough seats at the comprehensive high school that every Stapleton student who wants to attend will be guaranteed a seat.

The middle school survey showed a strong preference (56%) for separate schools grades 6-8 rather than the K-8 model (25%). See the Middle School Update article on page 31 of this issue for upcoming meetings and information on middle school programming.

At the elementary level, the survey showed a desire to move away from the current open choice system in Stapleton (23%) in favor of a tiered priority system (45%) that would give priority to new students to attend the school closest to their home. DPS has clarified that existing students would not be displaced under such a system.

A number of Stapleton parents have been concerned that DPS numbers don't accurately project the number of school age children in Stapleton in coming years.

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Left: Stan Szabelak, Civil Engineering Manager for RTD, discusses the concept drawings for the Stapleton Transfer Center and Park n Ride at a May 23 community meeting at the Sam Gary Library. **Above:** The view rail passengers would have of the bus transfer center as they depart the train. Smith Rd. is in the foreground.

two of the Aster Town Center Apartments (at MLK and Roslyn), which is anticipated to have 130 new apartments, in addition to the 85 units already completed.

Lee Ferguson from Forest City reported at the May Stapleton Development Corporation meeting that Horizon senior housing has purchased their land along MLK, across from the self-storage units, and he thinks they will be breaking ground on the 109-unit apartment building in the next month or two.

Community Center/Tower Update

Keven Burnett says the community center project is still on hold as they explore all options. Forest City has offered them another possible location—the lot across the street from the control tower is available since the pediatric office building proposed for that location has fallen through. The steering committee still loves the project, says Burnett, but for now it is a fluid situation. They need to find a way for the MCA steering committee to come to consensus with the MCA Board, the majority of which is, and will remain, Forest City representatives until Stapleton is significantly more built out.

At the May Stapleton Development Corporation meeting, Tom Gleason stated Forest City's issue is "What is the cost of the cultural center and where does it make sense to build it? We have said we intend to preserve the

tower. The issue is what about the base building, which we intend to market for office use because the figures we run show that the cost of utilizing that for the cultural center would be prohibitive and would cause an increase in HOA dues for the community that probably would not be supported by the community."

Councilman Chris Herndon responded, "I do think there's a difference of opinion between Forest City and the MCA. There was never a mention of a phasing process when the MCA was doing their analysis for a cultural arts facility. The MCA also talked about owning the building when they were doing their analysis. I think we've reached this point of stagnation, and that's why I'm hoping that other entities, the board, the mayor's administration, other people can come together and say, 'We need to make sure this happens, so we need to bring these parties back to the table.'"

RTD Shows Plans for the Stapleton Park-n-Ride and Bus Transfer Center

At a May 23 community meeting at the Sam Gary Library, RTD showed drawings of the bus transfer center, parking lot plans, Kiss-n-Ride drop off routes, bike parking, and access to the rail station across Smith road, which is being

built by Denver Transit Partners. Parking rows have been designed at an angle to direct commuters toward the Smith Road street crossings to the rail station. The Stapleton Park-n-Ride, with 1,500 parking spaces is one of RTD's largest lots.

Canopies in the bus transfer area slope toward the south so in the future solar panels could be placed on them. Four separate parking lots will be built, with construction on two of them starting in the fourth quarter of 2013. The smallest lot was placed in the center of the Park-n-Ride, next to the bus transfer area, with the idea that the first transit oriented development may occur on that lot (but the developer would be required to make up the 100 spaces that would be lost when that lot is developed). A pdf of the drawings is posted at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com > Article Supplements.



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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 Block Party Day 2013

By Dan Oltersdorf, Co-Chair, SUN Outreach Committee

The 9th annual Stapleton Block Party Day took place on Saturday, May 18, with residents gathering in Stapleton alleys, streets and parks across the neighborhood. "Block party day was started by Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) as a way to facilitate community connections in Stapleton," shares Mark Mehninger, SUN president. "It has turned into a very successful event and we encourage residents to continue to build their own traditions and to plan other events with neighbors throughout the year. The City of Denver hopes to create its own similar tradition this August with 10 days of service projects and community events they are calling Denver Days."

This year, block parties ranged from BBQs to breakfast gatherings. Some were informal potlucks and others were large events with activities, games, live music and entertainment. Amanda Allshouse, co-chair of the SUN Outreach Committee, facilitated members of the Denver Fire Department coming out with a truck to several block parties. Staple-

ton resident Lisa Tartar says her block loves the tradition. "This year it's been a lot of fun, as we've had a few new families move in. It's great to catch up with old friends and get to know the new ones as well."

Block Party Day has benefits that go beyond just having fun with neighbors. Community events and traditions like this are very instrumental in creating an environment where neighbors know each other and look after one another, ultimately creating a stronger and safer community.

The SUN Outreach Committee wishes to thank everyone who helped make this Block Party Day another success. The Master Community Association (MCA) provided free reservations of all pocket parks for use on the day while local businesses including Rocky Mountain Chili Bowl, Mici Italian Stapleton, Stapleton Wine Cellars/The Bottle Shop and Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q all offered specials for Stapleton block parties. We appreciate the time and efforts of the block captains as well. If you are interested in being a block captain, or you want to find out who your block captain is, email sunoutreach@gmail.com.



Left: Xavier De Leon commands the corn bag toss at a Clinton St. block party.

Below left: Unidentified girls exclaim as they go down a bouncy slide at a block party near the Jetstream pool.

Below: Jackson (3 1/2 years) and Asher Allshouse (13 months) enjoy popsicles at the Galena St block party in NE Eastbridge.



Letters to the Editor

Please Clean Up After Your Dog!

Please, please do a BIG BANNER article on dog poo!! It's completely amazing to me that people who choose to live in a nice neighborhood like Stapleton fail to understand the simple principle of picking up their dog's poo! Children run around on our grasses and babies crawl around, putting things in their mouth. A firm reminder that there are laws against this would be ever so helpful!

Thanks so much, Linda Pryor

Bus Route 89

It is my hope that the article entitled "Neighbors Meet with RTD about Route 89," also run in the May issue of your paper, provided clarity to Mr. Weller's puzzle over the picture posted in your April issue by Mr. Sennett of a bus on 29th Ave. with the caption "Do we want this on our streets?" If it did not I would like explain that Mr. Sennett's motive for posting the picture was purely selfless. Mr. Sennett and others are concerned about the recent addition of Route 89 on 29th Ave. 29th Ave. is used by cyclists of varying ages (many that are inexperienced riders) to travel to and from Stapleton's many attractions. The picture was to demonstrate what a cyclist needs to navigate during their 29th Ave. travels when a parked car and a bus lock a cyclist in a small space. I personally would like to thank Mr. Sennett for his post and for all his efforts to look out for the members of this community.

Heidi Adkins

Families Needed to Host "Up with People" International Cast Members

Families in the Denver area are being asked to host one or more members of the Up with People cast in their home from July 12 to August 12 (or for a two-week period). One hundred members, representing 20 countries, will begin their summer world tour in Denver. During their stay, they will be volunteering at various local nonprofit agencies. Host families are asked to provide a bed, local transportation at the beginning and end of each day, as well as breakfast and most dinners and to share experiences and cultures. Hosts will receive complimentary tickets to Up with People's production of *Voices* to be held on Aug. 10 at 7:30pm. Those interested in hosting should contact Abby Hull, staging manager, at ahull@upwithpeople.org or call 720.215.3209. Up with People is an independent nonprofit, [501(c)(3)] organization without any religious or political affiliations. For more information, visit www.upwithpeople.org.

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Kudos to Venture Prep High School

Four full-ride scholarships this year
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The four Venture Prep High School students who received full ride scholarships to college this fall stand in front of the Smiley building in Park Hill, where their school is located. The students, from left, are Hassan Sufi, Huseen Sufi, Tomas Manriquez-Hernandez and Selena Piña. David Guillen, right, is the school's college and career coordinator and Principal Ken Burdette is pictured in the back row.

By Carol Roberts

Venture Prep High School, a DPS charter school, boasts an impressive list of college acceptances with full-ride scholarships and top students who already have firm ideas about their majors. Hassan Sufi, who wants to major in computer science and engineering, will be going to Brown University. His brother Huseen Sufi will major in computer science at Colorado College. Tomas Manriquez-Hernandez plans to study political science and pre-law at Syracuse University. And Selena Piña will study physics and philosophy at Cornell College in Iowa.

This is Venture Prep High School's third

year and its second graduating class. Last year all 17 graduates were accepted to college and this year all 41 were accepted. The school had 180 students last year and 220 this year. They expect 255 next year, and plan to keep growing until they reach their capacity of 350.

Principal Ken Burdette explains that they use an expeditionary foundation combined with project-based learning to carry out their vision of sending all their scholars to college. College and career counselors work with every student and the school focuses on small class sizes and individualized attention and instruction. "We are a small community, a small family that's geared toward college and career success for everybody," says Burdette.

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City Park Jazz— “Best Lineup Ever”

Memorial for slain officer to precede June 23 concert

By Laurie Dunklee

City Park Jazz is back this summer, stronger than ever. The 27-year-old grassroots festival is a labor of love for volunteers and concertgoers, who are determined to continue the popular concert series despite last year’s shooting of a police officer.

“People understand that the shooting last year was an isolated incident,” said Chris Zacher, president of the board of City Park Jazz. “This celebration of our community will go on. We won’t allow violence to take over our public facilities.”

The concert series showcases Colorado musicians in free Sunday concerts at the City Park



AnDré Mali plays trumpet in the Lionel Young Band at the City Park Jazz Festival in 2012.
Photo courtesy of City Park Jazz.

Pavilion, June 2 to August 4, 6 to 8pm. “This is probably our best lineup ever,” said Zacher. “We’ve got some of the household names and

some acts that are new to the City Park Jazz stage.”

Zacher expects to welcome 85,000 concertgoers for the 10 concerts.

On June 24 last year, police officer Celena Hollis was shot and killed after she and other officers were alerted to break up a scuffle in a parking lot a half hour after the concert was over. According to news accounts, the shooter was running from gang members when he fired.

Zacher says there was no lack of security, and no concertgoers were in the immediate area. “The guy shot into the air as Celena was walking down the hill. He wasn’t going after her; she just got in his way.”

Zacher said Hollis was a friend and a professional who will be greatly missed. “Celena had worked with us for six years; she was a trusted member of our team. She could walk into a situation and diffuse it without yelling or weapons. She was a calming presence and a well-respected cop.”

This year’s June 23 concert will be preceded by a memorial ceremony for Hollis at 5:30pm, at-

tended by Mayor Michael Hancock and Chief of Police Robert White. Plans will be unveiled for a memorial bench and walkway to be built in the parking lot where Hollis was shot.

“This season is dedicated to Celena,” said Zacher. “She did her job that day to protect the community. So we remember Celena and move on to celebrate our community.”

Zacher said increased security measures this year include two additional police officers for each concert, several horse-mounted officers, and a police all-terrain vehicle. “The police will be both more visible and better able to move through the crowd quickly if necessary,” Zacher said.

City Park Jazz is a showcase for Denver and Colorado musicians. “They are the best of the best,” said Zacher. “They often play for small numbers of people at clubs. We get them in front of big audiences.”

Concert highlights will include a rare performance of Miles Davis’ famous *Concierto de Aranjuez* jazz adaptation. Another first will be the Harmony Chorale, a GLBTS (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, straight) chorus, backing up singer Hazel Miller.

Denver favorites in this year’s lineup include pianist Neil Bridge, bassist Kenny Walker, bluesman Sammy Mayfield, New Orleans-style pianist Henry Butler and jazz/variety band AOA (Alive on Arrival). AOA will feature special guest Aleks Girshevich, a 10-year-old drummer Zacher calls “a phenom.”

Trumpeter Ron Miles and his quartet will front the Denver Municipal Band in a performance of *Concierto de Aranjuez* and *Solea* from Miles Davis and Gil Evans’ *Sketches of Spain* album. *Concierto de Aranjuez*, a classical piece for guitar and orchestra by Joaquin Rodrigo, was arranged in the jazz idiom by Evans and Davis. Davis said of the piece: “That melody is so strong that the softer you play it, the stronger it gets, and the stronger you play it, the weaker it gets.”

“It will be a rare performance,” Zacher said. “The last time it was performed in the U.S. was in 2008.”

City Park Jazz started in 1986 by neighbors wanting to reclaim City Park. “The park was full of drug dealers,” said Zacher. “But these cultural facilities are ours to use. Denver has a dynamic parks system and when we use them, we win.”

Volunteer-run City Park Jazz is a nonprofit organization that raises its own funds to produce the concerts. “We pay for the musicians, permit fees, security and toilets,” said Zacher. “The city loves us because aside from providing a few extra police officers, they pay nothing.”

“The concerts are free so everyone can come: straight and gay, black, white and Hispanic, young and old. It breaks through socio-economic barriers. The City Park Jazz concerts show we’re strong and united as a city. It’s what keeps us going.”

For concert information, see cityparkjazz.org. To make a donation to the Denver Police Foundation’s Celena Hollis Fund or to her family, go to denverpolicefoundation.org and click on Celena Hollis Memorial Fund.

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Stapleton/Park Hill Middle Schools Update

By Carol Roberts

School Board Approves McAuliffe Move to Smiley

At the Denver School Board meeting on May 16, the board voted 6-1 in favor of the Denver Public Schools' staff recommendation to move the McAuliffe IB program to the Smiley building. The vote followed months of well-attended community meetings in which DPS staff proposed, explained and answered questions about combining the Stapleton and Smiley enrollment areas. According to DPS, over 600 people went to five large community meetings and smaller "living room" meetings. The move allows McAuliffe to grow to a size principal Kurt Dennis believes is optimal for his programming and opens more middle school seats in what has quickly become a very successful and popular program.

Dennis says he listened to the speakers' comments at the Board meeting, where approximately nine people spoke in favor and two opposed the move. "There weren't really any new arguments expressed. Honestly, I feel like 90% of the people are behind us. I got so many thank you emails and people from Park Hill saying, 'Welcome to the neighborhood.' Folks on the Stapleton side, especially the parents we currently have, are very happy about it."

Board member Happy Haynes says in the public comments at the board meeting the frustration she heard was not so much focused around the decision to move McAuliffe to Smiley, though a couple wanted it to stay. "I think the frustration was what they perceived as expectations and promises from the home builders and Forest City about where things would be and what they could do when they bought their homes...go to the closest school...have the school in the neighborhood. What they had expected would happen didn't. But I don't think we heard anything at the public hearing that night that hadn't already surfaced in the previous meetings that had been held on the topic."

Though the decision means a big move lies ahead for Dennis and his program, he says his number one priority for next year is getting his 210 new sixth graders off to a great start. "Once the new students and staff are comfortable we'll begin to shift some of our attention to the move." But, he points out his administrative staff

will handle the move, "so it will have as little impact as possible on the students and teachers."

Approximately 48 Smiley students will be guaranteed a spot at McAuliffe when they are 8th graders in 2014-15. Dennis says those students don't have to give up their identity or who they are or what they were. But they will also need to "acculturate"—become a part of the culture of McAuliffe, a culture of rigor, high expectations and accountability. Dennis says McAuliffe offers learning opportunities year round and hopes to bring the Smiley and McAuliffe students together over the summer of 2014 to ease the transition in the fall.

Dennis has met with Venture Prep High School Principal Ken Burdette and believes they won't have any problem sharing a campus. (See Venture Prep High School article on page 29.) Venture Prep Middle School will remain on the Smiley campus in 2014 with approximately 50 8th graders, the last year before that program is phased out.

Dennis' program is moving into a location where other programs have failed in the past and he faces the challenges of bringing together several different neighborhoods under one roof. These are challenges school districts all over the country have faced—and frequently have not succeeded. The Front Porch asked how the pressure to make this program work is affecting him.

Dennis, who lives in Stapleton, says from an academic perspective he'll be interested in the data that comes from the program to see if it's something that's replicable and can be used as a model across the country. But, he adds, "When you're working with your neighbors' kids and your work influences your neigh-



Stapleton parent Marty Hebeler participates in a discussion with another parent at DPS' middle school programming meeting at Denver School of the Arts (DSA) on May 7.

bors' kids future, that's where the pressure comes from." However, he says, "I'm very confident we're going to succeed."

At this point no decision has been made about changes to school names. If the McAuliffe program keeps its name after moving to Smiley, will the Swigert-McAuliffe building become Swigert-something else? DPS says they will listen to input from the community on that subject.

Programming for Two New NE Middle Schools

DSST was the only middle school program to submit a proposal for the two new middle schools that will open in 2014 at the Swigert-McAuliffe building and the new school in Northfield. Following a presentation by Bill Kurtz, CEO of DSST public schools at the May 9 community meeting at Denver School of the Arts, some parents expressed concern that since DSST holds 40-50% of their seats for free and reduced lunch (FRL) students, the school won't offer the capacity needed to accommodate non-FRL students. Other parents expressed a concern that the strict culture isn't right for all students, and with a DSST middle school already in this area, adding another will limit the range of choices.

DPS says staff recommendations on the new middle school programs will be presented to the School Board on June 6th and are expected to be posted on the Board website (<http://board.dpsk12.org/>) a day in advance. DPS staff will share these recommendations at a community meeting on June 10 at Smiley Middle School from 5:30-7pm. (<http://communityrelations.dpsk12.org/regional-community-meetings/near-northeast/current-community-processes/greater-park-hill-stapleton-middle-school-process-2012-2013/>)

The board is expected to vote on middle school programming and on the shared boundary for the Stapleton and Smiley attendance areas on June 20th. Public comment about those votes is scheduled for June 13 at 5pm, with registration required a day in advance.

Stapleton Elementary School Boundaries

DPS plans to start having community meetings about Stapleton elementary boundaries in the fall. If a new boundary system is implemented, it would only impact new students. Students who are currently enrolled at a school within the boundary would not be displaced or have to go through the Choice process to maintain their seat. The exception to this, which is the case in all regions of the city, is for ECE students.



McAuliffe Principal Kurt Dennis talks with parents at a Stapleton/Park Hill meeting about middle schools this spring.

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