Dr. Amy Gile (left) and Lisa Ortiz (right) stand at the site where the new High Tech Elementary will be built between Verbena and Willow Streets at about 51st Avenue. Gile will be the principal and Ortiz the assistant principal. The two understand the community’s frustration in the decision process of the new school for Stapleton. They look forward to building trust and excitement in the community for the new program.

Reagan (Ray-Ray), an English bulldog, pants due to the warm weather at Stapleton’s first farmers market, held every year on Father’s Day on the green in Stapleton’s 29th Ave Town Center. Stapleton resident Sarah Beck says she named her dog after the president and also to make a statement about fiscal conservation. Although the number of fresh produce vendors was limited at this time of year, the crowds turned out to buy from food trucks, enjoy a meal on The Green, and to pursue the many specialty vendors offering handcrafted items, food and more.

Stapleton resident Henry Tate, 3, checks out the artichokes and tomatoes.

By Madeline Schroeder and Carol Roberts

A fter five months of community involvement with DPS about middle-school capacity, programs and boundaries, the Stapleton community was taken by surprise with DPS’ last-minute selection of an elementary school for Northfield. The sudden decision raised questions in the community about why they were left almost entirely out of the process.

“Why weren’t we allowed more time to provide input as to whether or not this was the right type of school for our community? Why weren’t there more options? This lack of communication between DPS and Stapleton is frustrating and disappointing,” says Jennifer Knowles, parent of a two-year-old. But, she adds, “Having said that, now that the school has been approved, I plan on getting involved in the school planning committee to ensure that our children’s educational needs are met.”

School board member Happy Haines explains that new school proposals are due in April, and DPS then goes through an intensive effort to determine the best program for each new school. As it turned out, DPS staff thought the two strongest programs were ones that both applied for a Green Valley Ranch school. With the short, intensive process, (continued on page 6)

Everybody Loves the Farmers Market

Stapleton’s New Elementary Takes Community by Surprise

By Madeline Schroeder and Carol Roberts

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See additional MCA activities at right.

**July**

**Saturday, July 20**

City/Park Jazz Summer Concert Series 6-8pm, July 7: Seney/Mydel Blues Band July 14: Colorado Conservatory for the Jazz Arts July 21: Kenny Weller Sextet July 28 Los Bohemios August 4: Henry Reder

**Mon., July 1 & Sun., July 21**


**Thursday, July 4**

Pancake Breakfast & Parade – 9-11am. Central Park Fountain Parkfest® events@stapletoncommunity.com

**Friday, July 5**

First Friday Flight – “California,” 6-8pm. West Crescent® events@stapletoncommunity.com

**Saturday, July 6**

Concert on The Green – Hazel Miller, 6-8pm. The Green* events@stapletoncommunity.com

**Saturday, July 13 & 20**

Plates in the Park from Mat Plates on Founder’s Green. Free. andrea.loschi@ymail.com

**Sunday, July 7**

Farmers Market, 8:30am–12:30pm

**Tuesday, July 9**

Active Minds JumpStart, 7-8:15 pm. Free class with life coach to inspire positive changes. MCA Community Room*. Register at www.myideallife.com or call 303-321-0783.

**Monday, July 15**

Free Stress Management Workshop, 7-8pm. Stapleton MCA Community Room*, by Sandra Thabush, www.stressintel.com

**Tuesday, July 16**

Movie on The Green – “Brave.” Dusk, The Green* events@stapletoncommunity.com

**Saturday, July 21**

Active Minds Music Seminar & Potluck Brunch – Explore The Music of the Phonos, 9-11 am F15 Pool* events@stapletoncommunity.com

**Saturday, July 21**

Concert on The Green – Hazel Miller Band. Six Foot Creek School. www.hightechelementary.com (see page 1 article). Info on p.17. Deadline is submissions of upcoming local events and story ideas (see information on p.17). Deadline is the 15th for the next issue.

**The Central Park fountain is open again now that the filtration problems have been resolved.**

**Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast & Parade**

The annual Pancake Breakfast will begin at 9am at the Fountain Pavilion in Central Park. Tickets will be sold for the pancake breakfast at the event. Tickets will include pancakes, sausage, and water or juice. All donations will benefit the Stapleton Stringrays Swim Teams. Bring your decorated bicycles, tricycles, wagons or scooters for the parade, which will begin at 10am at the Fountain Pavilion in Central Park. Participants should line up along the promenade at the fountain and walk toward the lake, looping around back to the fountain area. There will be parade leaders at the start of the parade to guide participants through the course. Following the parade, the pools will open as scheduled. There will be a DJ at each pool from noon until 4pm and all pools for open swim will close at 6pm.

**First Friday flights**

The second wine flight will be held at the West Crescent and will showcase wines from California. The next flight will begin at 6pm on Fri., July 5. This event will be divided into four sections—featuring a new wine (provided by The Grape Leaf), sommelier and an assortment of cheese and charcuterie plates (provided by Whole Foods Market – Cherry Creek). Tickets are $15 each for residents and $20 each for nonresidents. Participants will need tickets for this event. You may pick up your tickets at the MCA office prior to the event (includes online registrations). 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., July 5 at the West Crescent. Space is limited. To register, visit www.stapletoncommunity.com or call 303.388.0724.

**Concerts & Movies on the Green**

Bring your family and friends to our annual music and movie series on The Green. The first concert of the series will begin at 6pm on Sat., July 6 and feature The Hazel Miller Band. Six Foot Joe & the Red Hot Rhinos will play at 6pm on Sat., July 20. Local food trucks will be parked at The Green during all concerts and movies.

The Sandlot is scheduled for Fri., July 12. We need to change two movie dates due to summer restrictions from Disney. Brave will be featured on Fri., July 26. Lincoln will now be presented on Fri., August 9. All movies will begin at dusk.

The concession stand will be open during all movies and will benefit local nonprofit organizations. Popcorn, candy, sodas and water may be purchased at the stand—cash only.

**Active Minds**

**Hinduism**

Join Active Minds for an examination of its origins, teachings, beliefs and practices. This seminar will begin at 7pm on Thurs., July 11 in the MCA Community Room.

**The Music of the Movies**

Join Active Minds as we explore this delightful genre. No prior musical or movie knowledge is required—only a curiosity for the experience of both. This seminar will be held at 9am on Sun., July 21 at the F-15 Pool (2831 Hanover St.) and will be 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.

**Stapleton Beer Festival**

SFB tickets are now on sale! Mark your calendars for the 4th annual Stapleton Beer Festival. This event will be held on Sat., August 17 at The Green. VIP tickets will include an extra hour of beer tasting (includes specialty craft beers), souvenir glass, tasting glass and food truck vouchers. General admission will include a tasting glass, food truck vouchers and tastings during the event. Residents may register for this event through their online ActiveMinds account. Nonresidents must complete a “Nonresident Registration Form” (available on our website, www.stapletoncommunity.com) to register for the event. This is a ticketed event. Tickets may be picked up in the MCA office on Wed.-Fri., 9am-5pm prior to the event.

**2013 Kids Triathlon**

The 2013 Kids Triathlon will begin at 8am at the Jet Stream Pool on Sun., August 25. Details regarding the triathlon will be posted to the MCA website, email blasts and Facebook page (facebook.com/StapletonMCA). To register your child, visit www.stapleton-community.com. Space is limited.

**Dane Mead**

Communications Coordinator DMead@stapletoncommunity.com Stapleton MCA www.stapletoncommunity.com Facebook.com/StapletonMca 303.388.0724
A long-awaited natural food grocery store is opening in northeast Denver. At 7am on Wed., July 10, a new Sprouts store will open on Colfax three blocks west of Colorado Blvd. The 25,000-square-foot store will be metro Denver’s third Sprouts store.

Sprouts is not your conventional grocery store, explains store manager Mike Rogers. It started as a produce stand in 1943 in Arizona by its founders, the Boney Family. The new Denver store includes a soup/olive bar and sushi station as well as the large bulk foods section Sprouts is known for. The store will have both full-service and self-service meat departments.

Mike Rogers, a veteran of all aspects of running grocery stores, says his staff is hard at work in preparation for opening day. When he was 16 years old, Rogers worked as a bagger at a grocery store. He enjoyed the business so much he never left. He has worked at grocery stores his entire life and worked every job from stocker to meat cutter to store manager.

“It’s great; you get to work with people, and it keeps you very busy,” he said. “There’s definitely no sitting around.”

In 2005, Rogers got into the natural food business. He worked at Sunflower Market before it merged with Sprouts, and then worked at the Sprouts Market in Grand Junction. Now he’s the manager of the new Sprouts Farmers Market opening on Colfax Ave. between Monroe and Garfield streets on July 10.

A Lincoln Elementary and Kennedy High School graduate, Rogers is thrilled to be back in the Denver area, and Sprouts makes a great fit for him. “I love good food. All-natural beef chicken and pork, fruits and vegetables have always been a big part of my diet,” Rogers said.

Sprouts has special plans for opening day including giveaways, music and big sales. The market also offers regular weekly deals. Sale flyers will overlap on Wednesdays when shoppers can save on both the previous and current week’s specials.

The new store has hired 101 employees, including Park Hill and Stapleton residents, and is still hiring more.

To learn more about events during the store’s grand opening or regular deals, visit http://sprouts.com/.
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Summer Boredom?
Just Zoo It

Clockwise from upper left:
Denver Zoo visitors watch the elephant show.
A trainer tosses Grucho the elephant a piece of fruit in the Elephant Passage demonstration.
Sail and sea lion trainer Jessica Jeninks hangs out by her favorite spot at the zoo—the Northern Shores.
Animal shows not only entertain but also help maintain animal health. A trainer checks Nick the sea lion’s flippers in the daily sea lion show.
Denver Zoo shows are interactive. Instructor Lara GiIlock calls a young visitor to feel the shell of Sir Shellin’ the armadillo.
By Madeline Schroeder

Seal and sea lion trainer Jessica Jenkins permanently smells like fish but doesn’t care; she loves her job at the Denver Zoo. “I don’t even smell it anymore,” she said and laughed. Jenkins has worked with the seals and sea lions at the Denver Zoo for eight years and thinks it’s a great place to visit, especially now. The Denver Zoo has several animal shows this summer. When summer boredom sets in, families can stop by to watch Nick the sea lion jump for food, Groucho the elephant cool off in a hose bath, and Sir Shellin’ the armadillo pose for photos. Daily events entertain families but also educate about conservation, animal health, and how to become an animal trainer. The shows allow trainers to inspect the animals’ health, like having Nick smile with his mouth wide open to check for dental problems. “People can come and see the magnificent animals, and I want them to leave the show thinking, ‘What can I do to help, what can I learn about these animals?’” Jenkins said.

To see the full list of summer events at the Denver Zoo, visit http://www.denverzoo.org/.
High Tech Elementary Selected for New School in Northfield

(continued from page 1) A time frame for assessing proposals, it was early June when they concluded they should recommend one of them, High Tech Elementary, for Stapleton. "As a district-run neighborhood school (rather than a charter), High Tech was the better fit, given the Stapleton community's desire to work in an advisory role with the principal in planning a new school.

"All of us, and I include myself, could have been a little bit more diligent to get the word out to the community," says Haynes. She added that initial calls for a committee to plan that she and other board members agreed it get that committee going. Haynes explained hindsight, they should have pushed harder to the new school had a limited response, and, in response has shown that schools need at least a full involvement, but they voted yes because experiencing proposals, it was early June when they con -two year of planning. Delaying the vote would have been best to have more community involvement, but they voted yes because experience has shown that schools need at least a full year of planning. Delaying the vote would have handicapped the school by shortening the start-up time...and DPS would still have recommended High Tech as the strongest applicant.

The sudden decision left most of the community without knowledge of the new program, so the Parent Advisory asked Dr. Amy Gile, principal of the new school, to share her vision for High Tech Elementary School. "The High Tech vision of a school is that students participate in instruction that is not only rigorous and academically focused, but also part of their day will be spent in learning how it connects to the real world. I hear my daughter say, 'I have no idea why I'm doing this,'" says Gile. She believes the High Tech model gives kids a purpose and a meaning behind what they're learning. And, she says, "It's focused on learning how to think and problem solve and work within our 21st century changes."

Gile, who worked for six years as a curriculum coordinator in the central DPS office, three years as an assistant principal, and many years as a teacher throughout Colorado, is thrilled to now head this new school. "What we're hoping is that people realize that the timeline was out of our control, and that isn't held against us...the more I get to know the community, I hope people feel like they can trust me and that I'm committed. Just because it was a last-minute change (in the selection process) doesn't mean that's the way I am as a professional. Wherever I am working, that's my community. I know the families, the kids; I embrace it completely."

The basic curriculum focuses on reading, writing and math skills taught using the Singapore math program and the Imagine It! reading program. Giles says the widely used reading program accommodates varying reading levels and allows kids to work at their highest level, whether above or below their actual grade level.

"High Tech" refers to using computer programs to track student progress and pinpoint where specific students need extra instruction. It does not refer to a curriculum that has a primary focus on technology. "High Tech" also refers to the program's goal of teaching students to be 21st century thinkers and learners through project-based learning (PBL). Themes will be selected for six-week units, and students will devote a minimum of 45 minutes a day to working on a project of their own choosing within that theme. Students will also have one 45-minute period a day of specials (music, physical education, art, library, technology). When possible, these special classes will be tied to the current theme, adding another 45 minutes to the PBL time.

"We want to use those specials as more than just a stand-alone. We believe when learning is connected and we are really studying one theme and understanding it deeply, that is going to help make learning meaningful to kids," Gile says.

"Especially if it (the project) is of their own choosing," Assistant Principal Lisa Ortiz added. "Because then it becomes more personal. They're more interested." Students will be required to produce individual projects, but they will take a course called Kagen to learn how to hold each other accountable and work effectively in groups. "No matter where you end up or what career path or life path you take, the ability to consume information accurately, to problem solve, to collaborate, to network is essential," Gile says. She believes PBL offers students a setting where they will learn critical thinking, communication and collaboration as they gather information and present their projects.

Gile and Ortiz believe PBL will support gifted students who need to be challenged because there are no limitations on how students pursue their projects. Students can get as creative or ambitious as they are able. At the end of the six-week units, parents will be invited to view students' work.

Parent involvement is very important to Gile and Ortiz. They have a strong commitment to and belief in their core program, but they welcome input from the community as they flesh out the many parts of a new school program. They welcome parent volunteers to be on the Parent Advisory Committee, to help plan themes for PBL units, after-school enrichment options, rewards programs, and other areas in which parents are interested.

(continued on page 13)
Board Decisions for NE Denver

— Shared boundaries for Stapleton/Park Hill middle schools
— New district-run middle school at SMIS building
— DSST Middle School at Northfield

By Carol Roberts

The June 20th Denver school board decision on shared boundaries reshaped the middle school landscape for Stapleton and Park Hill. During six well-attended community meetings from February to June, where DPS presented and explained the new concept, parents had numerous opportunities to view presentations, ask how the new system will work, and hear about potential new programs.

Shared Boundaries

Starting in 2014, students in the former Smiley attendance area and students in Stapleton will be guaranteed a seat at one of five schools: (1) McAuliffe IB at Smiley, (2) DSST-Stapleton, (3) DSST-Northfield, (4) a new district-run middle school at Swigert-McAuliffe (SMIS) in Stapleton, and (5) Bill Roberts middle school. The board approval of DSST for the new Northfield middle school and a new program in the SMIS building (which will be vacated when McAuliffe IB moves to Smiley in 2014) brought together all the pieces of the five-school shared boundary plan.

SMIS

At the June 10 DPS community meeting, DPS Chief of Innovation and Reform Alyssa Whitehead-Bust announced that DPS is searching for a new principal for the SMIS program. Parents are invited to participate in the principal selection process and subsequently the program planning. At this time, the district does not have more specific information on the SMIS program, but hopes to have more information to share in the August Front Porch.

DSST-Northfield

Whitehead-Bust also announced on June 10 that DPS staff would be recommending the new-approved DSST program for the new school that will open in Northfield in 2014. This announcement brought both pro and con comments from the audience at the June 10 meeting—though at the board hearing on June 13, all speakers were in favor of the DSST program. Stapleton resident Chris Fickel, an engineer who appreciates the STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) curriculum, points out, “We need a standard liberal arts education that is well-rounded in both the sciences and arts.” He went on to say that artistic kids may suffer from academic discomfort if they get placed in a STEM program. Celeste Archer echoed the same sentiment. “There are a lot of students who want STEAM (STEM with arts added) and not STEM. I know DSST very well—it wouldn’t work for my child. I think...there’s a frustration that DSST is expounding and it’s not necessarily what is the wish.”

Park Hill resident Dwaine Holloway pointed out that while a number of people spoke out to say there’s not a demand for DSST, “I don’t think these individuals speak for the entire proposed boundary. I think it’s a little different in certain places.”

Following the meeting, DPS staff confirmed that when shared boundaries go into effect in 2014, it is expected that all students will have equal priority for DSST, giving Park Hill students equal access to those programs.

After the board decision approving the new DSST and SMIS programs, the Front Porch followed up with DPS to learn more about the balance of middle school seats. With two DSST programs and (per DSST’s charter) approximately 45% of DSST seats set aside for free and reduced lunch students (FRL), will there be a good balance of seats so that families can fund a program that suits their student?

In 2014, DPS projects there will be a total of 640 sixth grade seats in the five schools. Of those, 126 DSST seats will be set aside for FRL students and there will be 154 unrestricted DSST seats. In the non-DSST programs, there will be a total of 360 seats.

The Front Porch also asked Bill Kurtz, CEO of DSST Public Schools, to address the concerns expressed at community meetings that although DSST has a quality STEM program, there appears to be a desire for more STEAM programming.

Kurtz says the DSST program at Northfield will have a focus on computer science/digital design, “the digital world of both creating and designing software and digital art. It’s going to be more of a design focus than an engineering focus.”

Kurtz also points out that DSST has always had a studio arts program and now with the 2012 mill (continued on page 26)
The Stapleton Family Eye Center, opening July 1, is providing a full range of eye care services for all ages at their new facility located at E. 23rd Ave. and Central Park Blvd.

Lynette Bridges, CEO of the Stapleton Family Eye Center, explains that the center’s full-time optometrist is trained to provide care for everyone from babies to seniors. Stapleton Family Optical offers a full array of eyewear from single vision and bifocals to prescription sunglasses for the whole family. And for children with any kind of eye condition that requires medical care, pediatric ophthalmologists will be on-site two days a week.

**Optometry Services**

Optometrist Amanda Huston will be in the eye center Wednesdays through Saturdays. “I’ll be seeing children, adults, elderly— anyone who wants to come in,” Huston says. “I’ve specialized in pediatrics over the last year, and I’m happy to see kids. But I was trained to see adults and the elderly.”

The Stapleton Family Eye Center is moving to Stapleton to bring eye care closer to the community and allow family members to all go to the same place for eye care.

“While we’ll see drop-ins, and it’s more convenient to make appointments, we offer that too,” Huston said. “We have made a big effort to be very accessible and convenient for people. Referrals aren’t required, unless a patient’s insurance demands it.”

Besides being open on Saturdays, early and late-in-the-day appointments can be scheduled, she added. If Huston identifies a possible medical problem as she performs children’s eye exams, she’ll refer them to a pediatric eye physician, who will be at the Stapleton Family Eye Center on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Huston and her husband, Chad, have just moved to Stapleton from Cincinnati, Ohio, where Huston completed her residency specializing in children’s optometry at the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. “I love Colorado,” Huston said. “My family lived in Missouri and would go to Colorado for vacations during the summer. And I spent a summer doing an organic chemistry project that was a research experience for undergraduates at CSU. I’m a runner, but I’m more recreational than a competitive runner. I run for fun and I’m interested in doing more biking.”

“If it’s time for a check-up or if you aren’t seeing a computer well, it’s time to come in to see us,” Huston adds. Walk-ins are accepted. Or to make an eye examination appointment, call the Stapleton Family Eye Center at 303.597.1640.

**Optical Store**

Greg Files, an optician for 17 years, will fit, sell and dispense eyeglasses at Stapleton Family Optical. Files will assist patients in choosing appropriate eyeglass frames for their prescriptions and to fit their faces. “I’ll be adjusting the eyewear so that it fits the patient correctly.”

“We offer everything from boutique styles down to basic eyewear for everyone. We market for high-dollar and low-dollar optical and everywhere in between—and all the choices of eyewear are selected by me. I will carry everything from Oakley sunglasses to protective sports eyewear.”

If a patient has seen eyeglasses online that they would like to have, or desires eyewear for children or adults for use in sports, Files will be happy to obtain the requested eyewear. “I want to treat eyewear as if it were a piece of jewelry on the face,” he explained. “It’s all about the focal point and being able to offer nicer frames at a lower dollar, as well as boutique frames.”

“I want to make sure the eyewear works with the prescription lens. Some won’t fit a rim less design. I’ll work one-on-one with everyone and help them choose the frame and make it something that they like.”

Files encourages people to come into the Stapleton Family Optical to shop for eyewear even if they have other optometrists because he offers such a wide range of options. And, he says, once people come into the Stapleton Family Eye Center, they will learn how much easier it is for them. “It’s one-stop shopping,” Files explained.

Stapleton Family Optical will accept most insurance, he said.

“I will be able to fill 80 to 90 percent of the eyewear prescriptions with insurance,” he noted. “We will work hard to make sure that your insurance will find it acceptable. Medicare will be one of our prime focuses. The Vision Service Plan (VSP) and Eyemed Vision Care will be the plans used 90 percent of the time.”

“I want to offer a very wide range of ophthalmic glasses and a wide variety of sunglasses, including Oakley, Ray-Ban and Nikon,” Files said. “I will be able to offer any type of corrective lenses to help you with any sports activities. If I don’t have it, I will get it.”

Files said people should ask for him, “The Big Guy,” when they then come in for eyewear. “I think I’m the biggest person in the company, but I’m a teddy bear,” he said. “I’m ready to answer any question. I’m a doctor’s assistant as well, so I’ve done every aspect of the optometric and ophthalmology world.”

To inquire about orders for eyeglasses or contact lenses, call Stapleton Family Optical at 303.597.1650. Appointments are not necessary for selection of eyewear.

**Pediatric Eye Physicians**

Dr. Adrienne Ruth is one of seven pediatric ophthalmologists who will rotate through Stapleton Family Eye Center to provide specialty medical services to children. The seven physicians from the Children’s Eye Physicians practice also work at Children’s Hospital and other clinic locations throughout the Denver community, and they will be at the Stapleton Family Eye Center on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Children’s Eye Physicians will allow the Stapleton Family Eye Center to offer board-certified expertise in a variety of areas, so if a surgeon or advanced eye care is needed, an expert will be available.

“We manage both complex and routine eye problems, including the more complicated glaucoma, cataracts, eye tumors and vision problems that may be associated with systemic diseases and brain tumors,” Ruth explained. “We consider Dr. Huston to be the first line because she’s there more often, but a patient can see one of the seven pediatric eye physicians if they like. Our goal is to provide the care that is most appropriate for everybody. Our main goal is to touch the lives of everyone who walks through the door, and make their lives better.”

“We (Children’s Eye Physicians) have patients from our state and internationally,” she said. “We have approximately 30,000 patient visits per year, and perform about 1,000 eye surgeries. As a pediatric eye expert, Ruth emphasizes the need for children with vision problems to see a-
It's important for kids to have their eyes checked," said. “Vision continues to develop until seven years old, but in the first seven years, cataracts can cause blurred vision or there can be a lack of normal visual development. Up until the age of seven is a critical period for vision development, and if not checked, the child won’t have good vision permanently. Even a simple intervention like glasses for a four-year-old can make a difference for life.”

Ruth adds that Children’s Eye Physicians is excited to be a part of the new Stapleton Family Eye Center where close-to-home eye care is now available for all ages.

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• Color Consultation
• Custom Interior Design
• Window Coverings
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Dr. Adrienne Ruth is one of seven pediatric ophthalmologists who will rotate at the Stapleton Family Eye Center to provide specialized care for children.

diatric eye physician early.

“Vision continues to develop until seven years old, but in the first seven years, cataracts can cause blurred vision or there can be a lack of normal visual development. Up until the age of seven is a critical period for vision development, and if not checked, the child won’t have good vision permanently. Even a simple intervention like glasses for a four-year-old can make a difference for life.”

Ruth adds that Children’s Eye Physicians is excited to be a part of the new Stapleton Family Eye Center where close-to-home eye care is now available for all ages.

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- Safe, compassionate care in a nurturing environment
- Focus on emotional as well as physical support
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Stapleton Family Taps into a New Business

By Courtney Drake-McDoughnagh

The buzz started months ago when news started brewing that there was going to be a tap house serving craft beer in Stapleton. The first pours of up to 30 local microbrews will start in mid-July with the grand opening celebration on July 27 or “727” in honor of Stapleton’s airport history.

The old control tower is part of the Stapleton Tap House logo, which has led people to ask the owners why they didn’t open the Tap House there, instead of in Northfield, a few doors down from the Harkins Theatres. Co-owner Michael Kearns responds, “Other than costing several million dollars and not being for sale, we wanted to be in the middle of the community, and as Stapleton continues to grow, Northfield will be right in the middle.”

If Michael Kearns’ name sounds familiar, it’s because he and his wife, Diana Kearns, have been deeply involved in the community since moving to Stapleton in 2004. In addition to being “The Kearns Team,” husband and wife RE/MAX Realtors whose signs are often seen around Stapleton, they serve on many boards including Stapleton United Neighbors, the Master Community Association, Westerly Creek Metropolitan District, and the MCA Executive Board. Michael Kearns is also a mayoral appointee to the Stapleton Development Corporation. The couple organizes and sponsors the Stapleton Community Garage Sale every year. And they are parents of a 9-year-old daughter, Aydan. If all of that wasn’t enough, they wanted to add a brand-new venture to their already busy lives.

It started a couple of years ago when Diana told her husband “You need a hobby!” Home-brewing became that hobby, which inspired Michael to entertain the idea of opening a brewery or some variation on the theme. Eventually, Michael, whose title on his Stapleton Tap House business card reads “Optimist,” and Diana, whose title is “Realist,” decided to open a place where people could try a variety of Colorado’s microbreweries producing in small batches. The selection will rotate depending on demand and what the brewer provides. Customers can order a beer flight to sample five and can then order a “full pour” of a beer they like.

According to Diana, “It’s a way for people not familiar with beer to expand their horizons. And it’s a way for people who are ‘beer geeks’ to have tastes and decide what they want to enjoy that day.” The Kearns hope the opportunity to try a variety of beers will inspire people to visit the breweries they have sampled to see the brewery in action.

While the Stapleton Tap House will serve a limited snack food menu, customers are welcome to bring in food from neighboring restaurants, some of which will deliver. People can even bring in food from home, but the hope is to help support local businesses. The Tap House’s neighbors have been very supportive. The owners of Marco’s Pizza and Jim ‘N Nick’s Bar-B-Q even spoke in support of the Tap House at their liquor license hearing.

The atmosphere will be like an indoor beer garden with patio-inspired furniture seating up to 75 people and strings of lights across the ceiling. Three screens above the tap wall and bar will show the menu of beers and provide announcements about the breweries and upcoming events. There will be one large TV screen on one wall for those times when people want to follow along with a big game. But the Kearns want the beer to be the focus, not TV.

They also see Stapleton Tap House as a neighborhood gathering place where families are welcome. It’s certainly a family project for the Kearns whose daughter has been busy taste-testing snacks to serve and asking what her job can be in a brewery. “We’re doing this for Aydan. She wants the beer to be the focus, not TV.”

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By Carol Roberts

The above statement was made by John Kasarda, who is considered the developer of the aerotropolis concept. Kasarda calls airports “powerful economic engines” that can attract all types of aviation-linked businesses. In 2011, Time called Aerotropolis “One of the Ten Ideas that Will Change the World.”

The Front Porch interviewed Kasarda in January 2012, and Kasarda said he views DIA as an ideal candidate airport for the first U.S. aerotropolis built from the ground up. With 53 square miles of land surrounding it, DIA is the third-largest international airport in the world (in land area). Kasarda added, “The City of Denver must get their planning of an aerotropolis right. If there is not appropriate planning in the past year and a half to take advantage of this ‘powerful economic engine’ in far NE Denver?”

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In early May, Adams County sent a letter to Denver stating that Denver had agreed in the IGA not to develop the annexed land in a way that would compete with more distant Adams County developments. They also requested that Denver propose a sharing of tax revenues that would benefit Adams County. Denver responded that they had not violated the terms of IGA, “nor do we intend to.” However they pointed out that airports around the nation and globally are moving forward quickly. “If we fail to develop an economically sustainable and mutually dependent regional plan, we will fall behind.”

In a subsequent letter (May 31) Denver proposed a special district that would impose a mill levy on projects on or around airport property and use the revenue to pay for public infrastructure in an off-airport area in Adams County. Aurora, Commerce City and Denver.

Adams County rejected the proposal and responded that Denver must strictly adhere to restrictions in the IGA. In response to a request from the Front Porch for the specific clauses in the IGA that Adams County thinks Denver is violating, they referred to a clause that specifies that airport land can be used only for purposes that are directly related to the operation of the airport area in Adams County, Aurora, Commerce City and Denver.

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

Available homes for sale increased by 18%, but homes are still selling faster than inventory levels are rising. Denver is an undersupplied housing market. It’s a swell time to take the plunge. Happy to help you ‘hang loose’!

Metrolist Market Snapshot

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Listings</th>
<th>May '13</th>
<th>Prior Month</th>
<th>%Change</th>
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<tr>
<td>Active</td>
<td>8,214</td>
<td>6,945</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under Contract</td>
<td>7,252</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sold</td>
<td>5,865</td>
<td>4,714</td>
<td>29%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Saw a surge in inventory this month. Thank you, Sellers!

The Upcyclers • The Decorators • The Gift Givers

The Collectors • The Dressers

Are you a Sweet William Market shopper?

We’re celebrating the many reasons to shop Sweet William Market...which lot do you fall into?

- The Collectors • The Dressers
- The Upcyclers • The Decorators • The Gift Givers

Maybe it doesn’t matter!

Market season began May 25th and continues every last Saturday through September!

Save the dates!

GET MARKET UPDATES BY SIGNING UP FOR OUR FETCHING EMAIL BLASTS AT SweetWilliamMarket.com.
I used to live in smoggy Los Angeles where on summer days breathing air required a spork. Colorado’s air has been a refreshing respite—until a couple of weeks ago. As I drove home from the mountains, I could barely see downtown Denver. One double-take and a home from the mountains, I could barely see change of radio stations later, it was confirmed—a new forest fire roared to the south.

I noticed that our air still wasn’t very clear. Are there more forest fires? Or is the “brown cloud” returning to smog our cities? Is our air safe to away, the biggest dangers from inhaling wildfire smoke are getting soot lodged in your lungs or inhaling PAH (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons). If inhaled regularly and/or in high doses, these nasty compounds can cause cancer, mutations, childhood disorders, or retardation—particularly in fetuses. Sounds scary, but such risks are low because your eyes, nose and throat will give you irritating alarms that you’re breathing too much smoke. If this happens, move to a place where the air is filtered—whether it is your home, a library, or even better, your local brewhaus.

Far more concerning and less visible than smoke are the four horsemen of air pollution: fine particles, ground ozone, carbon monoxide and nitrous oxides. These compounds surround and impact us every day. Fine particles mostly come from engine and power plant exhaust; they are like shrapnel or miniscule time bombs that get lodged in the tiny sacs of lung—like shrapnel or miniscule time bombs that get lodged in the tiny sacs of lung. Ozone is produced near the ground when sunlight hits your car exhaust, paint vapors and lawn-mower fumes; it behaves like bleach or hydrogen peroxide for your lungs. Nitrogen oxides mostly come from tallpipes; it suffocates your red blood cells. Nitrogen oxides mostly come from cars; they act like acid in your lungs and help form the “smog” that you see weekday afternoons.

Together, these compounds act as invisible and visible toxins in the air we breathe. They don’t just affect people who have asthma, bronchitis and emphysema. They affect the active, the sedentary, the old, the young, and even the unborn.

The good news is that we control how much of this stuff is emitted into the air, and Coloradans have done a remarkable job of improving air quality from the days where the Front Range was shrouded in the “brown cloud.” Even given the haze of late, Colorado has better air quality now than it had 10, 20 and even 30 years ago—despite adding more than two million new residents. For example, Colorado’s Front Range cities have, on average, fewer fine particles in their air than most comparable U.S. cities, and levels of ozone and nitrous oxides have annually decreased in lockstep with levels in many formerly smog-shrouded cities in the U.S.

We’ve earned some of these improvements by implementing new technology, such as oxygenated gas and road de-icing agents. In other cases municipalities have fostered cleaner air by expanding vehicle inspections, by restricting wood burning, and by making available more shared transportation.

There is much left to do, and the remaining improvements are up to us. Some changes are as easy as filling up your car at night, not topping off your tank, and postponing that summer painting project until the fall. (I never thought I’d get to invoke “the environment” to procrastinate further on my most overdue house projec—)

But the big Kahuna of change involves the use of your car, and tips for what you can do are at www.ozone aware.org. If you already have an air-related sensitivity—or think you might encounter one—check out www.colorado. gov/airquality, where you can take the pulse of current conditions and use the air quality forecast to plan your activities. Be sure to look at the AQI (Air Quality Index), a handy metric that synthesizes the effects of all four major air pollutants into one number.

In the meantime, let’s keep on keeping that brown cloud at bay. We all share the air, including the rains we can’t see.

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

**Just the Facts**

Smoke and Brown Clouds

by Whitey Hagadorn

Where did the mountains go? Evening views of Denver the day before and after the Black Forest fire. Camera is ~1 mile southeast of downtown. Images courtesy of CDPHE.

**Dimensions:**

United States

Colorado

**Fine Particles:** 1999-2010

- **United States**
  - Average: 0.95 µg/m³
  - Maximum: 8.6 µg/m³
  - Minimum: 0.3 µg/m³

- **Colorado**
  - Average: 0.8 µg/m³
  - Maximum: 4.8 µg/m³
  - Minimum: 0.3 µg/m³

**Recent Solds:**

- **8421 E 29th Ave**
  - $358,000
  - SOLD in 5 days
  - MckStain BY Rowhome

- **2949 Emporia Crt**
  - $550,000
  - SOLD in 3 days
  - John Laing 2

- **3404 Xena St**
  - $430,500
  - SOLD
  - Multiple Offers

- **2674 Dexter**
  - $320,000
  - SOLD
  - Multiple Offers

- **2797 E 24th Ave**
  - $430,500
  - SOLD
  - Multiple Offers

- **7737 E 24th Ave**
  - $380,000
  - SOLD
  - Buyer Representative

- **8044 E 24th Ave**
  - $430,500
  - SOLD
  - Buyer Representative

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Century Riders Pick Their Challenge

By Madeline Schroeder

More than 1,600 cyclists joined the 4th Annual Denver Century Ride on Saturday, June 15 that started and ended in Northfield Stapleton Town Center.

The ride’s motto is “Choose Your Challenge” and offers courses of all difficulties and terrains along bike-safe paths. “We’ve got options for extreme long distance and options to leisurely cruise around,” Media and Marketing Director, Jeannie McFarland Johnson, said.

This year, the 25-mile loop, appropriate for families and groups of friends riding with child trailers, went along the Cherry Creek Bike Path. The route appropriate for experienced cyclists ranged from 62 to 100 miles. Every route was fully supported with aid stations every 15 to 20 miles that provided food, drinks, sports bars, medics, technical assistance, and more.

“We want to make sure every cyclist is taken care of,” Johnson said. The day provided an option for every cyclist, including children who could decorate their bikes and ride in a parade hosted by Macy’s along Northfield Main Street.

Proceeds went to BikeDenver, a non-profit that promotes biking as an energy-efficient, enjoyable transportation and works to make Denver a more bike-friendly city through creating legislation and building infrastructure. The Century Ride previously donated the largest single donation BikeDenver has ever received and raised $12,380 this year.

Early bird registration for the 2014 ride is now open. To register or learn more about the Century Ride visit http://www.bikedenver.org/.

High Tech Elementary (continued from p.6) willing to share their expertise.

On July 9, from 5:30 to 6:30pm at Westerly Creek school, Gile and Ortiz will hold a public meeting to further explain the program, answer questions and solicit parent involvement. Gile says she sees this school as an “amazing” opportunity to work with parents who want to be involved, even when it means working with parents who are unhappy.

“At my core, being a parent, I know that even the most upset parent is there because they love their child and they want what is best for them,” Gile said. “And I will love their child and want what’s best for them because that’s how I work as a leader. So please call me. Please say what your concerns are.”

For more information, visit www.hightechelementary.com.
A Hijacking (2013)

This new film from Danish director Tobias Lindholm marks only his second feature, and I can announce with certainty that “a star is born.” A directing star, that is. His first film, R, was a taut prison drama that showed promise; A Hijacking delivers on that promise. The best of Danish cinema, as I mentioned a few months ago, delivers both realism and psychological study of the characters. This film does both brilliantly.

The story is simple: a Danish ship is hijacked by Somali pirates far away from the Indian shores. The film then cross-cuts between the ship and the corporate office where negotiations with the pirates ensue. It is not hard to make corporate executives look cold and callous; it is very hard to make them human and likeable, and the film accomplishes the latter. As the negotiations drag on, however, the crew begins to fall apart as the CEO Peter (wonderfully played by Soren Malling) juggles difficult negotiations with the hijackers and pressure from the families and his board. And there is his wife, who at the height of the crisis sashays into his office and sputters out that she is going shopping. His reaction is both shocking and intensely real. The action on the ship centers on the cook, Mikkel (Pilou Asbæk), who becomes a de facto spokesman and the focus of psychological torture by the pirates. The crew members separated from each other, forced to unite in their rooms, and at various points may have guns in their backs or celebrate a fish catch with the pirates. We, and they, never knew what to expect.

The semi-documentary style of the cinematography is perfectly oppressive with a plethora of close-ups that make us feel the claustrophobia, tension, and heat of psychological torture. The pirates. We, and they, never knew what to expect.

The special effects here are very good, and they were all created by Edwards and his laptop. The entire budget of the film was about $800,000, and the cast and crew of five traveled (economically!) through Central America for a few weeks filming the primary footage. Edwards did the rest.

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Each month, the Indie Prof reviews a current film in the theater and a second film that is available on DVD or an instant-streaming service. Follow “Indie Prof” on Facebook for updates about film events and more reviews.

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While the story is alluring, the depth resides in the alley. There are obvious statements about immigration, but a more resonant comment centers on the Iraq and Afghanistan wars spanning the decade. What happens when you have a war and nobody pays attention? Is it possible to completely obliterate two wars and thousands of deaths? Apparently, the film states, it is.

Available on DVD in the Sam Gary Library or on Netflix Instant Queue. You will like this film if you enjoyed: Moon, Children of Men, Solaris

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

Monsters (2010)

A film about monsters where you rarely see the monsters is a gamble. Yet that is what you get here with Monsters (directed by Gareth Edwards), an intense, affecting, and indelibly watchable film that does what the best sci-fi does: it focuses on the ideas. If you are a fan of action, don’t turn away just yet because there is plenty of action to keep you sated through the sprite 94 minutes of the film. The result is utterly satisfying.

The setup is tantalizing: several years ago a U.S. deep-space probe to the Jupiter moon Europa retrieved specimens of alien life forms. The probe crash-landed over Mexico, and now, seven years later, the area straddling the U.S. and Mexico has become quarantined and infected with the alien monsters. The daughter (Whitney Able) of a U.S. newspaper magnate gets caught in an attack just south of the area, and then is escorted back to the U.S. by a paper employee (Scoot McNairy). They have to divert through the infected zone, and the action ensues.

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T

The email hit me as if someone had taken a 2x4 to the back of my head. For an hour each week, I volunteer at a local middle school helping children with reading. The librarian wrote to me in March, "I want to let you know why Carson was absent last week. He went into the hospital for lack of energy and inflammation around his heart. As he was being evaluated, it was discovered that he has childhood leukemia. He will be living in the hospital for six months while he receives chemotherapy and other necessary therapies."

Just a few weeks prior Carson had been a typical 7th grader, a lacrosse and hockey player who was appropriately disinterested in anyone "helping" him with reading. He was much more interested in talking hockey or Broncos.

Lots of people get cancer, many are survivors, and many don’t make it. Both of my parents and back, she felt as if the walls of the hospital were hearing the news when the initial results came of her lungs as she drove home. The next day who lives by keeping her life in balance. Upon gist, to his core, but he is determined to win deal was testing this man, who is a microbiolo-

When I ran into Carson’s father, Carl, normally a handsome outgoing guy, he looked as if his last breath had been sucked out of him. The or-

dal was testing this man, who is a microbiolo-

gist, to his core, but he is determined to win the battle no matter what it takes.

Carson’s mom, Kathy, is a yogi, a person who lives by keeping her life in balance. Upon hearing the news when the initial results came back, she felt as if the walls of the hospital were closing in on her. She left, screaming at the top of her lungs as she drove home. The next day she was back at the hospital, centered and ready for what lay ahead.

Carson is now starting his fourth and final chemo treatment. The first two went as well as can be expected. The third caused him to have fevers that reached almost 107F, during which his body convulsed hourly and his providers were concerned about brain damage.

At one point, Kathy told Carson while he was in the middle of a chemo session that the procedures were causing more pain for her than they were for him. Carson responded that she was just sitting there, and he was the one having chemicals pumped through his body caus-

On a recent night, I visited the family. Car-

son would be back in Children’s the next morn-

ning and really wanted to play video games, but we talked for more than an hour. I noticed a change in him, a maturity, an ability to lead, a show of strength and above all, courage. He understands that he is able to help others by being himself, allowing people to understand what he and his parents have been through. It has made him stronger and he has given that strength to every person that sees him, espe-

cially his parents.

I asked about how the insurance company has handled the claim. Carl said that as of the end of May the bill was almost half a million dollars and insurance claimed they would only cover 70% of the total. By the time Carson is through, that could be hundreds of thousands of dollars, yet another unfair detail of this story.

On July 20, there will be a fundraiser for Carson at the Thin Man Restaurant, 2015 E. 17th Ave, starting at 4pm. For more informa-

tion, contact Kathy at khhiliker@boundles

work.com.

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

*Fishwrap is a slang term that started in the ’60s and refers to the transient value of yesterday’s newspaper.

Premium Fishwrap* by Jon Meredith

A Young Man’s Courage

July 2013

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Soccer Academy Camp Focuses on the individual technical development of each player through a series of fun and challenging skill-intensive games. Ages 6-12.

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To sign up for camps or to get more information, call (303) 320-3033 or email denvercamps@bladium.com.
4TH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS
7/3 Wednesday - Civic Center Park Independence Day Eve Celebration. 8pm. FREE community concert, patriotic favorites by Colorado Symphony lightshow, fireworks. Denver Civic Center Park. www.civiccenterconcer.org
7/4 Thursday - Aurora’s 4th of July Spectacular. 6-9:30pm. Live music, largest fireworks display in metro area, fireworks at dusk. www.aurorafireworks.com
7/4 Thursday - Old-fashioned 4th of July Celebration at Four Mile Park. www.fourmilmpark.org
7/4 Thursday - Elitch Gardens. Fireworks at dusk. RECURRING ARTWALKS
First Fridays Santa Fe Arts District. Santa Fe Dr between 10th and 6th. 5-8pm. www.santafeartdistrict.com
North Denver’s Tennyson Art Walk. Tennyson St. and 46th Ave. 6-10pm. www.denverartwalk.squarespace.com
River North (RiNo) Art District. 6-9pm. RiNo starts at Broadway and Walnut St. www.RiverNortharts.com
Golden Triangle Museum District. 5-9pm. www.goldentriangleofdenver.com
Navajo Street Art District. 5-9pm. www.navajostreetartdistrict.com
Third Friday Santa Fe Arts District. Santa Fe Dr between 10th and 6th. 5-8pm. www.santafeartdistrict.com
DENVER METRO EVENTS
Denver Public Art Tours. FREE tours by foot, bike, scooter for architecture lovers. www.denverarttours.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 9pm; fireworks at dusk. www.arvadafestival.com
7/4 Thursday - Old-fashioned 4th of July Celebration at Four Mile Park. www.fourmilmpark.org
7/4 Thursday - Elitch Gardens. Fireworks at dusk.
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Golden Triangle Museum District. 5-9pm. www.goldentriangleofdenver.com
Navajo Street Art District. 5-9pm. www.navajostreetartdistrict.com
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7/4 Thursday - Olde Town Arvada Spirit of America 4th of July Festival. Free family events; classic car show 9pm; fireworks at dusk. www.arvadafestival.com
7/4 Thursday - Old-fashioned 4th of July Celebration at Four Mile Park. www.fourmilmpark.org
7/4 Thursday - Elitch Gardens. Fireworks at dusk.

Tuesdays through 8/13– Film on the Rocks. Open 6:30pm. Live music 7pm. Movies at dusk. www.redtrucksonline.com


37/18 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


7/17 Saturday- Kaiser Permanente Moonlight Classic. Charity bike ride through city at night. Family wave 10:30pm. www.moonlight-classic.com


7/14 Sunday– 3rd Annual Possibility 5K Run/Walk & Possibility Run/Walk 2013

37/18 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


7/17 Saturday- Kaiser Permanente Moonlight Classic. Charity bike ride through city at night. Family wave 10:30pm. www.moonlight-classic.com


FREEDenver 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., Lowery. info@basefitnessdenver.com, 303.539.4877

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Health and Wellness

Saturdays through 8/10- Bluff Lake NaturallyFit Outdoor Fitness Classes. 8:45-9:45am, except 7/6. 3400 Havana

First treatment is FREE ($250 value ) With purchase of 1 month package. Start today–303.321.0023

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

2373 Central Park Blvd, Ste 300, Denver 80238 www.denverweightlossclinic.com

2373 Central Park Blvd, Ste 300, Denver 80238

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$80/couple

10am - 2pm

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**BLOW LIBRARY**
3400 Havana Way, Denver. www.blufflakenaturecenter.org
7/1-7/7 Thursday- Fireside Chat "Stars of that fly like airplanes! $175. Camps also 7/22-7/26 with purchase of more hours). Learn about animals that fly like airplanes! $175. Camps also 7/22-7/26. keith@blufflake.org, www.blufflake-naturecenter.org

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

**ARVADA CENTER FOR THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES**
12427 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada. www.arvadacenter.org
7/11 Thursday- Colorado Symphony presents Tribute to Arthur Fiedler and Boston Pops. 7:30pm, $20-$45.

7/18 Thursday- Jazzfest with Hazel Miller, Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra and Neil Bridge+ with Karen Lee. 7:30pm. $10-$18.

7/19-7/20 Friday- Ballet Nouveau Colorado presents Perpetual Beauty. 7:30pm. $15-$32.

7/26 Friday- Colorado Symphony presents Mozart’s Moonlight Sonata, 7:30pm, $20-$45.

**DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE**
and Montview and Colorado Blvd. www.dmns.org, 303.370.6800

7/18 Thursday- Science Lounge. Cocktails/entertainment every 3rd Thurs. monthly 6:30-9:30pm. $10 members, $12 nonmembers

Planetary-rium- Planet to the doorstep: Realms of Light, Black Hole, Ours, One Sky, Cosmic Journey: A Solar System Adventure. www.dmns.org/planetary-rium/current-show

IMAX Movies- Titanic of the Ice Age 3D, Flight of the Butterflies 3D, Galapagos 3D, H2O Deep 3D Sea 3D, Great White Shark 3D Rocky Mountain Express 2D. Various times. Tickets $8-18, $10 adult

**NORTHEASTERN EVENTS**
Hunting, fishing and marine seminars offered through-out month. Harkins Theatres 18- 720.374.3118
New Run.

1920- 7/3 – 3D Dispicable Me 2, Kevin Hart: Let Me Explain, The Lone Ranger
7/5 – Auguste, Byzantium, Just Like A Woman
7/11 – Grown Ups 2, Pacific Rim; The Way
7/17 – Turbo
7/19 – The Hot Flashes, Only God Forgives,
ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Reservations required for events marked* at.
303.289.0910. Free unless noted. Hours: Mon.-Sun., 6am-6pm. Visitor Center: Tues.-Sun., 9am-4pm. Refuge closed federal holidays. Directions/events:
http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

7/19 Friday- Summer Hike N Bird.* 8:30-11:30 Adults.
7/20 Saturday and 7/21 Sunday- Wildlife Viewing Tours.* 11:30am

7/27 Saturday- Nature Drawing for Kids.* 10-11:30am.
7/28 Sunday- Art Safari Sunday. Kid’s art projects in Discovery room from 9am-3pm.

Self-guided Wildlife Drive Auto Tour Route. Daily 6am-4pm 2013 Fishing Season- Catch and Release, Tuesdays, Saturdays, Sunday, $3 fee.

3rd Annual Refuge Amateur Photo Contest. Entries due 9/2.

THEATRE


7/5 to 7/8- Curtains. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. Arvada. www.arvadacenter.org

7/7 to 7/9- The Hobbit Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E Colfax Ave. www.aurorafacetheatre.com.


VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Cooking Matters- Kids/families free course on budget shopping and preparing healthy, affordable meals. Volunteers needed at multiple locations/time(s) to help. Learn Share Our Strengthen Cooking Matters and all opportunities at cookvolv.org and strength.org.

Project Worthmore. Volunteers for teams (6-month commit) to assist Burmese refugees by “cultural mentorship” (how to ride bus, grocery shop, bank, enroll kids in school, navigate government paperwork, etc.) www.projectworthmore.org.


Volunteers of America Foster Grandparent Program. Seeks adults 55+ with lower incomes who love working with kids and can give 15hours+ per week. Small stipend given, transportation reimbursed. Jen: 720.353.6622, www.neighborhoodmusicstapleton.com

KIDS AND FAMILIES

pettheater.com

7/10 Wednesday- Create Playdates at Denver Art Mu-
seum. 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 16th Ave Pkwy. www.denverartmuseum.org or 720.865.5000.

Through 7/31- Tornado 1966-1992 at Forney Transporta-
tion Museum. $6-$8. 303 Brighton Blvd. www.forneytransportationmuseum.com


7/26-28 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 Sagrach Stage, snacks by campfire, etc. $20 member/family of 4 & $4 each additional. Kids 2 and under free. www.botanicgarden.org

KIDS CAMP AND S
Aurora Fox Theatre- Drama classes ages 4 and up. Lisa Mumpton: 303.739.1573 or www.aurorafox.org

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

Spark It! Studios- Art classes in Stapleton. www.sparkitdenver.com

Start Art- Art classes. StartArtKids.com

Play On Executive Arts- Camps through 7/26 at westcreek creek Elementary. Dramas, film, musical theater A.m. and p.m. camps available. Ages 4-14.

The Art Garage- Classes ages 4 and up. Now offers adult evening classes. 6100 E 23rd Ave. Park Hill www.artgaragedenver.com

Sparks Jr.- Youth Camps through 7/24- Tribal Tots Camps. 10-10:45am. www.solviddance.com

Western Tennis Academy (WTA) Summer Program. 7/5 to 8/12 9am-3:30pm. Ages 10-18 Sunday Midway School. Kay Brown 303.348.8698, kaybrown12@gmail.com

7/6 Saturday- Home Depot Kids Workshops. 9am-12pm


7/6 Saturday- Red Cross Babysitters Training. 8am-3pm. Stapleton MCA. 2823 Roslyn. www.redcross.org/take-a-class. Repeats Sat. 7/13.

7/9 Tuesday to 7/11 Friday- Star K Nature Camp. 9am-2pm. Ages 6-12. Morrison Nature Center. $50/student. Register: www.auroragov.org or 303.739.2428.

7/12 and 7/26 Saturdays- Lowes’s Build and Grow Kids Clinics. Bring kids to Lowes to build free wood project. free apron, goggles, project-specific patch, merit certificate on completion. 10am www.lowesbuildandgrow.com

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

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

Neighborhood Music Stapleton- Private and group instruc-

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

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

Stapleton All Sports- Registering for summer tennis, multi-
sports, grif www.stapletonsports.com

City Strings Guitar Summer Camps- Guitar Mash-Up and Flash Mob, July 15-17, all ages. 7-7:45pm Denver’s East High School. www.CityStringsGuitar.com or jen: 720.341.9737

Sol Vida Dance Studio and Dance Camps- Kids/adolescent, workshops, camps, etc. www.solvidance.com

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Stapleton Front Porch

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Finding Space That Fits. Selling Space So You Can Move On...
July 12–Poultry Fun Day
On Fri., July 12, Stapleton’s 4-H program from the Urban Farm will host a free event. From 4 to 7 pm at Founder’s Green (29th and Roslyn), children will share what they’ve learned about poultry. They will bring various birds including chickens, ducks, turkeys and geese. Stations will have information, games and demonstrations like how to walk a goose, candle eggs, wash a chicken, hold a duck, and burp a turkey. Come to learn more about poultry and 4-H programs, which teach youth about nutrition, leadership and citizenship. For more information contact Caroline Batorowicz, at caroline@bierow.com with any questions.

July 13–Sand Creek Half Marathon/5K/10K
Explore the trails in Northeast Denver at this Sat., July 13 mid-summer half marathon and 5K/10K. The course goes through Central Park in Stapleton, along Sand Creek Regional Greenway, and through Bluff Lake Nature Center. The half marathon and 10K begin at 7am, and the 5K at 8am. The 5K costs $35, 10K costs $40, and the half marathon costs $50. Proceeds go to the Bluff Lake Nature Center. To register, go to www.runninghuru.com/event/schm2013.

July 13–Consignment Crawl
From 12 to 6 pm on Sat., July 13, hop from store to store in a summer Consignment Crawl. The crawl promotes resale, which is an environmentally friendly shopping alternative. Stores will provide refreshments, special promotions and giveaways throughout the day. Northeast and Central Denver locations include: Plum Consignment, Zoe’s Chic Resale Boutique and Roslyn Furniture Boutique. Check www.consignmentcolorado.com for other Colorado locations and information.

July 17–Biennial of the Americas
Tuesday, July 16 kicks off Biennial of the Americas, a four-day series of thought-provoking workshops, discussions and exhibits about energy and sustainability held at Sustainability Park (29th and Arapahoe). An exhibit called Imagined Realities on July 17 hopes to open public dialogue about sustainability in the 21st century. Artists will discuss the challenges and solutions to sustainable living and show their art to the public. To see the list of artists or other Biennial of the Americas events, visit http://www.biennialoftheamericas.org/.

July 20 and 21–Stapleton Yard Sale
The 8th Annual Stapleton Garage Sale invites the community to get rid of unwanted items in one of the state’s biggest yard sales. Started by Diana and Michael Kearns in 2006, the sale has grown to more than 333 registered homes in seven years and is expected to reach 400 this year. Register online for one or both days at www.BuildingStapleton.com. Everyone who signs up will be added to the yard sale map and participant list, which is posted before the sale. Sign up or stop by Hours are 8am to 1pm both Sat. and Sun.

July 21–Dash for Smiles, Central Park
Many people think cleft lip and palate is a foreign issue, but the Dash for Smiles program aims to correct that misconception. The third annual Dash for Smiles 5K walk/run takes place Sun., July 21 in Stapleton Central Park. The charity raises social awareness about cleft lip and palate, which 1 in 600 are born with each year in the U.S. Dash for Smiles also helps fund craniofacial programs for underprivileged patients and raised $14,000 in the past two events. Join the race or find out more at www.dashformiles.com.

July 27–Destination Health: Walk/Run/Learn
The Sat., July 27 3K runs/mile family-friendly run and walk benefits The Center for African American Health, which is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the African-American community. It includes a Health Education Expo, an interactive Children’s Health and Safety Zone and entertainment by the Mary Louise Lee Band. Cost (includes T-shirt customed by D&K $30 for team members, seniors 50+ and kids ages 6–17; $10/kids 5 and under). Location: Denver City Park, Colorado Blvd and 23rd St., adjacent to Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Contact: info@caach.org or 303.333.3423.

August 1, 8, 15, 22–Civics for Citizens
Have you forgotten what you learned in civics course? That’s OK. Civics for Citizens is a free refresher course on federal, state and local government that is open to the public. From 7 to 8:30pm the first four Thursdays in August, Representative Lois Court will teach at Montclair Civic Center.

August 3–11—Denver Days
This summer Mayor Michael B. Hancock is launching a new citywide tradition called “Denver Days,” in an effort to create more united neighborhoods. Mayor Hancock invites Denver residents to work with neighbors to organize community service projects or host social gatherings. These activities can be anything from community yoga classes to block parties to starting Neighborhood Watch programs. The inaugural event runs from August 3 to 11. Visit www.denver.gov/denver-days for more information or planning ideas.

August 24—NEWALKFEST
NEWALKFEST is a free event dedicated to bringing together communities and showing the convenience and benefits of walking to destinations. People of all ages in Park Hill, Stapleton and Montclair are encouraged to join from 9am–1pm on Sun., August 24 for a fun stroll. Participants can choose either a 30-minute, one-hour or two-hour walk through the neighborhoods. Activities hosted by businesses are held along the way and help teach pedestrian safety as well as build connections among the community. For more info, go to www.newalkfest.com.

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Stapleton Front Porch

July 2013
Stapleton Boy Scouts Improve Santa Fe Trail

Most people kick off their summers by going to the pool, having a barbecue, or relaxing with family. Five 11-, 12- and 13-year-old boys from Stapleton experienced a different kind of Memorial Day weekend. They traveled with their Boy Scout troop to Prowers, Colorado, and did service work for the Santa Fe Trail Association, which works to preserve and protect the trail. In 1821, the Santa Fe Trail became America’s first international commercial highway and is now a historic landmark.

The boys helped improve the trail by digging holes, pouring cement and putting signs along it. They spent a night in a kiva at the Koshare Indian Museum and a night in La Junta. On Sunday they learned how to harness horses and took rides in draft carts.

The troop has also done service work at Bluff Lake, Four Mile Historic Park, and they have helped at various Denver events and parades.

Neighbors Recycle What Denver Recycling Doesn’t Take

On June 20, a group of Stapleton residents helped sort trash that will be sent to TerraCycle, an international recycling company that collects hard-to-recycle items and repurposes them into innovative products. Community members drop off bags of items that Denver Solid Waste Management cannot accept. The volunteers sort the items and ship them (at no cost) to TerraCycle. The contents of the trash bins shown in the photo are worth about $100, which the volunteers will donate to the Urban Farm at Stapleton. The group previously donated $500 to the Urban Farm, as well as $500 to Stapleton United Neighbors, which helped plant new trees in the neighborhood. Nico Nagel-Gustafson (shown in middle) says she makes the effort “not for the money to the charities, although that’s good, but for the good of the environment.”

In photo at right (left to right): Trinity Vierow, 3, Caroline Batorowicz-Vierow, Nico Nagel-Gustafson, Darr David, 12, and Marcel Batorowicz, 12, sort trash TerraCycle Recycling.
Co-op Market in Eastbridge?

By Madeline Schneider

Despite living across the street from one another and both working on the Anschutz Medical Campus, Juli Pearson and Amanda Allshouse didn’t meet for two years. Something more unconventional brought them together.

When Pearson heard rumors that retail development in the Eastbridge neighborhood of Stapleton wouldn’t begin until an anchor, like a grocery store, was found, she jumped on the idea of bringing a natural market. She began research and presented at a meeting of Eastbridge residents in January. “I was sitting there listening and thinking, ‘Wow, we are really on the same page,’” Allshouse said. “After that meeting was when we really starting working together.” The two discovered they also both went to graduate school at UNC Chapel Hill in North Carolina and both shopped at a favorite co-op together. They agreed Stapleton needs a natural market like it.

Pearson and Allshouse call the Stapleton area “food desert.” The nearest natural grocery stores are 15 to 20 minutes away. They began pursuing natural markets but faced a frustrating string of calling grocery stores that showed interest but couldn’t commit. “So we thought ‘Why can’t we create it ourselves?” Pearson said.

They believe a co-op grocery store, specifically, offers exactly what Stapleton needs. A co-op is owned by the community and can operate as a nonprofit. It provides natural, neighborhood co-op fills a different niche than a large grocery store and would not be in competition with other grocery stores. “It’s not just about a grocery. It does serve that need but fills other needs around Stapleton,” Pearson said.

Pearson and Allshouse think people live in this area because they believe in the values the community promotes like biking, walking, sustainability and conservation. They believe a co-op matches those values.

“A co-op is a synergistic connection between food and community where you go to get really yummy healthy food and learn about food and see familiar faces and spend some time there. It’s a more authentic feeling of community and food together,” Pearson said.

Another benefit, according to Pearson and Allshouse, is the co-op may draw people who work at the Anschutz Medical Campus. Pearson and Allshouse have researched and are ready to move to the next phase of planning. They continue to receive positive feedback through social media. Eighty-six volunteers have agreed to help start the co-op and a six-person board has been formed. They are building interest and support but have struggled moving past the negotiating phase. They plan to meet with architects soon and with Forest City on July 24 to hopefully move forward with plans. “We hope for a letter of intent to claim a hold on the land that allows us to begin fundraising,” Allshouse said.

The two remain hopeful and plan to continue their research and efforts to build public support for an Eastbridge co-op market.

To get involved or learn more about the possible co-op, email SUNoutreach@gmail.com or like “Stapleton Co-op Market & Cafe” on Facebook.

Eastbridge Site for Community Center?

By Carol Roberts

“The tower is not going to be, for a myriad of reasons, a site that is viable for us to pursue (for a community arts center),” says Stapleton Master Community Association (MCA) Executive Director Keven Burnett. “For what we were trying to put in and what the development plans were for that parcel, those two things did not work together. It was not from lack of effort on our part. We tried to make it work and there were just too many development issues that precluded us from moving forward with the control tower site.”

The arts center planning committee evaluated other site options and has concluded that a 2.5 acre plot in the Eastbridge town center, near Knowledge Beginnings, meets or exceeds their expectations for a site. Their criteria include lot size that fits their proposed facility, cost, access (walkable, bikeable and transit), parking and whether they could own the land. “The MCA is not slated to go away, ever,” says Burnett. “It certainly is in the best interest of the MCA and the community to be the owners of this facility because this is what it’s going to operate out of for the next hundred years.”

Another consideration for the arts center site is adjacent uses. The Eastbridge location is near the rec center, Bluff Lake and the Urban Farm, nonprofit the MCA could partner with—and it’s also near parks. The plans for a town center with nearby retail would also complement the arts center. Knowledge Beginnings operates all day on weekdays. Many of the arts center activities that draw a crowd would be evenings and weekends. Initial concerns that they couldn’t get a liquor license due to the nearby preschool appear to no longer be an issue.

Burnett also points out that Forest City is a supporter of the project, “and (they) are looking for ways they can help in that process. When we both end up on the right piece of land, I think, certainly, favorable conditions are going to exist for that land to be conveyed.”

Currently Forest City has agreed to hold the Eastbridge property for a 90-day period in which the MCA can further investigate building an arts center on that site, i.e., their space needs, where the building sits on the site, and how it would be accessed. If, after 90 days, the MCA believes the property merits further investigation, they will renegotiate time to take the next steps.

“Everything that we are moving forward with is consistent with the budgeting and the financial forecasting that we have previously looked at.” Burnett points out that all the research they did to determine if the tower was an option is still applicable. “Our vision planning, our feasibility study, our basic program outline—we’re just trying to lock in on a site that makes sense given all the work that we’ve done to this point. We are truly evaluating this site based on the parameters that go into a successful community arts facility.”

Armed with that level of information, the arts committee will decide if it’s a good enough plan to take to the community and, if so, what materials they need to develop to communicate the potential for the site.

Stay tuned.
Uproar Over Unfinished Uplands

By Carol Roberts

When the City of Denver negotiated the contract with Forest City to buy and develop the land from the old Stapleton Airport, over 1,000 acres (30%) were designated to be parks. When Forest City buys Stapleton land to be developed, they also pay an additional $15,000 per acre for parks development. However, it was known from the beginning that additional money beyond those fees would be needed to develop all the parks shown in the plans, a gap estimated to be about $30 million today. To develop all the parks shown in the plans, a gap of money beyond those fees would be needed to develop the park as well as a school and retail in East-West Denver. Tom Gleason, VP for public relations at Forest City, says there are ongoing discussions at the city to fund parks that are planned at Stapleton, but he says there are ongoing discussions at the city to fund parks that are planned at Stapleton, but also stresses that a lack of the park, he says, it’s that he expected the park as well as a school and retail in East-West Denver. Tom Gleason, VP for public relations at Forest City, says there are ongoing discussions at the city to fund parks that are planned at Stapleton, but he says there are ongoing discussions at the city to fund parks that are planned at Stapleton, but he also stresses that a lack of the park, he says, it’s that he expected the park as well as a school and retail in East-West Denver.

By C arrol Roberts

A number of buyers at Stapleton, however, were not aware of that funding gap and bought homes near park land, expecting park development to happen soon after they moved in. John Meaurt bought a home near the Uplands open space park in 2007 and says he understood from the builder’s sales person that the area would soon be developed to look like Western Creek open space. It’s not just the lack of the park, he says, it’s that he expected the park as well as a school and retail in East-West Denver. Tom Gleason, VP for public relations at Forest City, says there are ongoing discussions at the city to fund parks that are planned at Stapleton, but he also stresses that a lack of the park, he says, it’s that he expected the park as well as a school and retail in East-West Denver.

Stapleton officials Bar Chadwick (foreground) – Department of Finance, and Dave Erickson – director of the department of environmental health (back right) look at the steep cliff in the Uplands that is kept up by debris from the old Stapleton airport. They are joined by (from left) Kate Kramer-Sand Creek Greenway; Paul Casey-environmental consultant to Park Creek Metro District; and Charlie Nicola—Forest City. All the entities are concerned about environmental and safety issues in the area.

Plans for the Uplands, the future open space park just south of Sand Creek between Westerly Creek and Havana, will be drawn up at the same time North Westerly Creek park plans are completed. City officials Bar Chadwick (foreground) –Department of Finance, and Dave Erickson–director of the department of environmental health (back right) look at the steep cliff in the Uplands that is kept up by debris from the old Stapleton airport. They are joined by (from left) Kate Kramer-Sand Creek Greenway; Paul Casey-environmental consultant to Park Creek Metro District; and Charlie Nicola—Forest City. All the entities are concerned about environmental and safety issues in the area.

By Madeline Schroeder

The Stapleton pool staff says over the past two summers excessive drinking among adults has increased, causing safety concerns and disturbances at the pool. “The pool is not the place to be doing this,” Kevin Burnett, executive director of the Stapleton Master Community Association, said. “We understand if people want to come in and be able to drink a beer or a glass of wine, but the pools are not the right environments for lengthy and excessive consumption of alcohol.” The staff says overconsumption has become a recurring problem on weekends, holidays and family fun nights.

According to pool staff, there have been incidences of loud behavior and angry interactions due to drinking. Last season, pool staff members made more than one alcohol-related 911 call. One guest passed out after drinking too much; another guest overconsumed and was rude to children for splashing him in the pool.

Burnett emphasized that the pool staff’s main job (continued on page 25)
By Mark Mehringer

Every year after SUN’s annual election meeting, the SUN Board picks officers for the organization, as well as chairs for each of the various SUN committees. This year, SUN has decided to form two new committees and invites all community members to join either of these new committees, or the longer-standing committees listed on SUN’s website: StapletonUnitedNeighbors.org.

One of the new committees will focus on reevaluating the elementary school selection process in Stapleton to see if there is a consensus approach that can be developed to balance the desire of some residents to be ensured that their child can go to the closest school to them, and the desire of others to be able to choose their children’s elementary school, regardless of location within the Stapleton boundary. SUN President Mark Mehringer convened the first meeting of this committee on June 24 at Westerly Creek Elementary School. The goal for the committee is to develop a community-supported proposal by October that shows the top ten choices. The full survey (including other questions) is posted at www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com > Education and at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com.

In addition to these two new committees, SUN welcomes volunteers for the Transportation, Safety, Outreach, Sustainability, Education, and Kickball Tournament Planning committees. Details about each, including the chair, are listed on SUN’s website. If you have further questions, please email SUN President Mark Mehringer at Mehringer@gmail.com.

SUN Invites Volunteers to Join Committees

By Mark Mehringer

In 2014-2015 school year, the second committee will focus on recruiting new businesses to Stapleton, either in the vacant lots near Central Park Blvd. and Montview, or the planned Eastbridge Town Center. The most recent SUN survey included a section to gauge resident interest in a variety of retail options to help guide efforts for the community to be more proactive in attracting businesses to the area. The SUN Board hopes to show some of metro Denver’s more popular retail options that they can thrive in Stapleton. The chart below shows the top ten choices. The full survey (including other questions) is posted at www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.org > Education and at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com.

Guest Column

What the DOMA Ruling Means

DOMA restricts all federal officials, and indeed all persons with whom same-sex couples interact, including their own children, that their marriage is less worthy than the marriages of others.—Justice Anthony Kennedy, U.S. v. Windsor, June 26, 2013

DOMA Is Now Unconstitutional

On June 26, 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court held that part of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was unconstitutional. Under DOMA, the word “marriage,” when used in any federal law, meant a legal union between a man and a woman, and “spouse” could only be of the opposite sex. Although the case questioned a specific tax issue, the Court observed that DOMA’s definition of marriage affects the application of over 1,000 federal laws and held it violates the Fifth Amendment’s equal protection clause, treating same-sex marriages as “second-class marriages.”

Effect on Coloradans?
The Court did not rule that states must recognize same-sex marriages. Rather, it left it to states to determine their own laws on the issue. Thus, same-sex marriages are still banned under Section 31 of Article II of Colorado’s Constitution. So, the question is whether the DOMA decision affects Colorado’s same-sex couples. The answer is “no...and “yes.”

In Colorado, not much changes. Although unable to marry, same-sex couples can enter into a “civil union.” As a result, they will enjoy the rights of married Colorado opposite-sex couples. Also, same-sex couples lawfully married in another jurisdiction (such as the current 13 U.S. states and D.C. that currently permit same-sex marriages) who move into Colorado will be treated as Colorado civil union partners, enjoying the rights of Colorado opposite-sex couples.

That said, as civil unions partners are not married under Colorado law, they will NOT enjoy the rights given to “spouses” under federal laws, despite the Supreme Court’s DOMA decision, including the unlimited estate tax deduction for spousal gifts, Social Security survivor’s benefits or being buried at military cemetery, next to a veteran partner.

Until a repeal of Colorado’s ban on same-sex marriages, Colorado same-sex couples who want federal spousal benefits may want to marry in a jurisdiction that recognizes same-sex marriages. However, the effect of living in a non-same-sex jurisdiction is not clear from the DOMA decision. That will be the subject for another legal battle.

—Allen F. Rosenwag, Esq., a Stapleton resident and 20-year attorney with the Denver firm of Hatchett and Associates, practicing in the areas of wills, trusts, probate, tax planning and business entities.

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Alcohol Problems at Pools
(continued from page 23) is to watch the pool, but their ability to do that is affected when situations like this occur. “If our staff is dealing with an overserved individual, it takes their energies to manage that when they should have their eyes on the pool and be attentive to swimmers,” he said.

The lifeguards are typically teenagers or in their early 20s. Burnett doesn’t want to put his young employees into these situations. “We look to residents and patrons to be responsible for their own consumption, but if visitors notice someone drinking excessively and causing problems, they should tell a pool manager,” he said.

Pool managers have asked several people to leave when they have had too much to drink. “The pools have a policy of people to leave when they have had too much alcohol. The pools have a policy that the guest cannot return for 24 hours. If they continue drinking excessive, they should tell a pool manager,” said Cent-Newell.

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Although excessive drinking has become more common and has initiated safety concerns, the issue in the future if the problem continues. “So many of our residents and non-resident guests enjoy their beverages in a responsible fashion. It’s unfortunate that we have to have this conversation because there are people who don’t,” Vincent-Newell said.

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Letter to the Editor

Venture Prep HS
to Stay at Smiley

We understand the community’s concerns about the middle school closures within the Smiley Campus. I am also aware that there has been misinformation posted online, in the press, and in community meetings regarding the status of Venture Prep HS. To be clear, Venture Prep High School is a strong school and plans to remain in the Smiley Campus. We are excited to work with the McAuliffe program in a shared-space capacity. As a high-achieving, highly rated high school in Park Hill, we are currently accepting applications for 9th-12th graders for the 2013-2014 school year. Please contact me at kburdette@ventureprep.org or at 303-893-0805 to set up a tour and/or meeting.
Ken Burdette, Principal

Aerotropolis

(continued from page 11) the airport and a clause that states “Denver shall take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that no other use of the new airport site occurs.”

In a June 7 letter to Denver, Adams County wrote that other than direct operations of the airport, “The IGA requires all economic development around DIA to take place on Adams County land.” They further stated that if the annexed property ceased to be used “only for aviation purposes,” the Annexation Agreement called for the land to revert to Adams County. A separate letter on June 7 said, “We demand that Denver stop its planning efforts to develop airport property in a manner that would violate the IGA...the annexed land must be returned to Adams County in order for such development to take place on the airport property.”

Evan Dreyer, senior advisor to the mayor, believes Adams County’s statement about de-annexing is a bargaining position—not a serious counter proposal. Amber Miller, press secretary for Mayor Hancock released the following statement: “We are in discussions with our regional partners and hope those will continue to be productive conversations about how we can all move forward with a mutually beneficial plan. Denver’s goal is to work with our neighbors to create a regional infrastructure plan and economic development plan that foster major economic growth in the region.”

Although Adams County commissioner Chad Tedsen says, “The airport city, right now, is a violation of the IGA,” he also says, “I’m willing to have a conversation to air those topics,” and that they are working on scheduling that conversation.

For more information about Denver’s Aerotropolis concept visit AirportCityDenver.com

For more Adams County information visit http://storiify.com/adamscountyjo/giving-flight-to-dia-the-historical-pact-between-d-d
from Stapleton and a short drive from downtown, the arsenal is an easily accessible resource that allows people to connect with nature.

The 16,000-acre expanse equals four Stapletons, or the size of Manhattan. The refuge provides environmental education and interpretive programs, catch-and-release fishing, 10 miles of hiking trails, wildlife viewing and site tours. More than 330 species of animals including deer, coyotes, prairie dogs and burrowing owls live on the refuge. Seventy-eight cinnamon-colored geese roam the site. During winter, nearly 80 bald eagles can be seen.

"From bugs to bison, every wildlife component plays an important role in balancing the ecosystem. Everybody out here has a niche," Lucas says with a smile.

Lucas stops for a bison to cross the road.

The goal of the arsenal is to create a balanced prairie ecosystem. With its transition from farmland to wartime chemical manufacturing to refuge, the site is a conservation success story. But, to maintain a functioning ecosystem in an urban area takes a highly managed system. "Our goal is to get as close to what we call biological integrity, which allows systems to function the way they are supposed to naturally without human input," he says.

Reaching that biological integrity is an important function of a refuge. Lucas wants people to understand the difference between park and refuge. All aspects of a park are open to uses and compatible with wildlife. "We want to use this urban wildlife refuge to connect millions of people to conservation and the outdoors," Lucas says. "There is no other place in America we can connect with people in such a great way."

To check out what’s happening at the arsenal, visit: rockymountainarsenal.fws.gov. Don’t forget to register for fall soccer.

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<th>SUMMER CAMP</th>
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<tr>
<td>Development Camp 1 or 2</td>
<td>June 10-13 or June 24-27</td>
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<td>Junior Academy Day Camp</td>
<td>June 15-14 or July 6-12</td>
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<td>Junior Academy Skills Camp</td>
<td>June 17-20 or July 22-25</td>
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<tr>
<td>U9-U14 Skills Camp</td>
<td>June 17-20 or July 22-25</td>
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<td>Development Camp 3</td>
<td>July 8-11</td>
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<td>Boys Elite Preseason Camp</td>
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<td>Boys High School Preseason Camp</td>
<td>Aug. 5-8</td>
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<td>Goal Keeper Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Elite Preseason Camp</td>
<td>July 22-25</td>
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Tuesdays, July 30 Public Meeting on Future Plans for the Arsenal

“We’re soliciting the public’s advice and input in the direction we want to go with this place for the next 15 to 20 years. That’s important. We need to hear from them. We want to design a plan that best supports what they’re after,” Lucas says.

The NE Denver meeting will be held on July 30 at the Central Park Recreation Center, 9651 E. MLK Blvd., 5:30-7:30pm. Arsenal staff will make a presentation in the first half hour; feedback from the audience will follow.

"We want to use this urban wildlife refuge to connect millions of people to conservation and the outdoors," Lucas says.

To check out what’s happening at the arsenal, visit: rockymountainarsenal.fws.gov. Also see upcoming events listed in the events list on page 19.