

Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

SEPTEMBER 2013



New Streets Connect Stapleton to Original Aurora

Join the block party celebration on September 29.

Residents and officials from Aurora and Stapleton stand on freshly paved Fulton Street, one of the new roads opening this month that will connect the two neighborhoods for the first time. A block party celebration with food, games and music will be held on Sept. 29. Left to right back row: Hector Galindo, Alejandra Gonzalez, Vanessa Hernandez (Aurora residents),

By Madeline Schroeder

The visual is striking—modern larger homes on the north side and smaller, 1950s brick homes on the south side. This is the view from the strip of land south of 26th Ave. between Aurora and Stapleton. The empty land has been a barrier between the two neighborhoods, but soon that will change.

In September (exact date not known at press time), as part of an intergovernmental agreement between Aurora and Denver, new roads will open on Iola and Fulton streets and later Kingston, opening up a direct north-south artery between NW Aurora and Stapleton.

(continued on page 30)

Donny Roush (Stapleton resident), Denver Director of Regional Affairs Anthony E. Graves, Nadine Caldwell (Aurora resident and former councilwoman), Damon Knop (SUN Inclusivity Committee). Left to right front row: Monique, Beatriz, Viviane and Vicky Hernandez (Aurora residents), Denver City Councilman Chris Herndon, State Representative Angela Williams and Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan.

East High School, Can it Be Replicated?



From yearbooks to team uniforms, the Tower Museum at East High School stores everything East-related to help celebrate and preserve its 130 years of history.

By Madeline Schroeder

Up a flight of stairs, around a corner, and tucked below the Clock Tower is a room that feels more like a friend's log cabin—the Tower Museum. This room is the mecca for Denver East High School historical memorabilia.

Basketball players in '70s short shorts and integrated wrestling teams from the early 1900s pose in old photos. One shelf is dedicated to famous alumni—Judy Collins,

(continued on page 4)

Neighborhood Block Party Sept. 29

On Sunday, September 29, 2013, Stapleton and Aurora residents are invited to a block party celebration of the new roads from noon to 3pm on Iola Street between 25th and 26th Avenues. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be at 1pm. Radio Disney, games, food and more entertainment will follow. Join to meet and greet new neighbors.

Inaugural Front Porch Music/Arts Guide

More than 50 musicians and artists are listed in the first Front Porch guide to music and arts teachers in our distribution area. See page 22.

Right: Stapleton piano teacher David Ross



Relieving Congestion on Quebec

Everyone agrees Quebec is congested between 6th and 26th Avenues, but what should be done? The city is weighing three alternatives and wants citizens' input. See page 10.



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

New Middle School Principal 6 | Jewish Life Center 8 | New Children's Book 11 | Blind Children "Feel" Sound 13 | Free Seminars on Life's Issues 14

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



One Westerly Creek student runs to catch up with friends on the "Pool to School" walk, a Stapleton tradition for the first day of school.



CALENDAR

Events listed below are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC or support nonprofits.
(Additional events are listed on pages 17- 21. Recurring events are listed on page 20.)

SEPTEMBER

See additional MCA activities at right.

Every Sunday

Farmers Market, 8:30am–12:30pm
The Green* events@stapletoncommunity.com

Friday, September 6

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

Saturday, September 7

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

Saturday, September 7

Museum of Contemporary Art Denver
With new art-making space for children, "The
Bubble Garden." 1¢ admission on first Saturdays
1485 Delgany St., MCADenver.org

Sunday, September 8

End of Summer DAYS festival. 26th and Holly,
12–6pm. FREE festival; four live bands, kids' zone,
artists, food vendors & brewers.
Denver Area Youth Services (DAYS)
www.denveryouth.org/events/end-of-summer-
days-festival

Sunday, September 8

Dog Daze, 1:30-3:30pm. F15 Pool*
events@stapletoncommunity.com

Sunday, September 8

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

Thursday, September 12

Active Minds—"The Challenges of Mexico," 7–
8pm. MCA Community Room*
events@stapletoncommunity.com

Monday, September 16

Mike Johnston speaks on school finance reform
and ballot initiative #22 at League of Women Voters
meeting. Montview Presbyterian Church, Fel-
lowship Hall, 5:30pm, 1980 Dahlia St, Denver.

Saturday, September 21

Town Hall Meeting with Congresswoman
DeGette on the Affordable Care Act
McAuliffe School, 10am, 3480 Syracuse St.

Saturday, September 21

10th Annual Stapleton Kickball Tournament —
Between 10am and 2pm at Central Park. Go to
www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com/SUNKickball
to register. (see page 28)

Saturday, September 21

Urban Farm 3rd Annual Farmfest & Barn Dance
Farmfest is free; buy tickets for kids activities.
Barn Dance is 6–9pm; buy tickets by 9/16. 303-
250-5790 or Wendy.Dressel@verizon.com.
(see page 17)

SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 22

35th Annual Park Hill Home Tour & Street Fair.
11am–5pm. Street fair on Forest St. Silent auc-
tion, music, food, and 6 featured homes.
(more info on page 17)

Monday, September 23

Rep. Angela Williams Town Hall, 6–8pm
DPS School Board Candidate Forum for
District 4 and At-Large Candidates.
MCA Community Room*

Thursday, September 26

Active Minds—"Mount Everest," 7–8pm. MCA
Community Room*
events@stapletoncommunity.com

Friday, September 27

GAS! (Green Art Sale) at the Art Garage in
Park Hill, 5:30–8:30pm. Artists, craftspeople,
musicians and food vendors. FREE. 6100 East
23d Avenue, www.artgaragedenver.com.

Saturday, September 28

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

Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 28 & 29

Stapleton Open Studios Tour. 11am–5pm. Kick-
off reception 6–8pm Sept. 27 at Art & Framing
at Stapleton in Town Center. www.Sta-
pletonOpenStudios.com. (see page 17)
Sunday, September 29

Sunday, September 29

Aurora/Stapleton Block Party. 12–3pm. Lola St.
between 25th & 26th. (see p. 1)

OCTOBER

October 1–7

3rd Annual Stapleton Community Food Drive
benefiting Food Bank of The Rockies
www.facebook.com/NPREco, 303-394-4526,
sponsored by New Perspective Real Estate

Tuesday, October 1

League of Women Voters—School Board Can-
didate Forum. Montview Presbyterian Church,
7pm, 1980 Dahlia St. Denver.

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

**The Front Porch welcomes
submissions of upcoming local
events and story ideas (see
information on p. 19). Deadline is
the 15th for the next issue.**

Events & Announcements at Stapleton



All Pools Will Close on Labor Day

The summer is coming to an end and all pools will close on Monday, Sept. 2. The MCA pools will also be observing holiday pool hours on Labor Day. Each pool will open at 12pm and close at 6pm. To celebrate the final day of pool season, the MCA will equip each pool with a DJ from noon–4pm on Labor Day.

First Friday Flight

The fourth wine tasting will be held from 6–8pm on Friday, Sept. 6 at the West Crescent and will showcase 90+ rated wines! Tickets are \$15 per person and include wine samples and a complimentary Govino stemless glass. Tickets can be picked up prior to the event (Wed.–Fri., 9am–5pm) at the MCA office or at the will call station at 5:30pm on Sept. 6 at the West Crescent. A valid ID and ticket will be required for entry.

Tickets are also available for the October Wine & Food Pairing on Friday, Oct. 5 at the West Crescent! This event will feature a variety of wines and each wine will be paired with a small plate of food. Each pairing will be made to enhance the flavor profiles in both the wine and the food. There will also be a live jazz quartet and we will be playing Breakfast at Tiffany's on a screen at the event. Tickets for this event are \$20 per person and the event will be capped at 150 people. To register, visit www.stapletoncommunity.com.

Concert on The Green

The next Concert on The Green will be held at 6pm on Saturday, Sept. 7 at The Green and will feature Dotsero. This event is free and open to the public. This is the last concert in our summer concert series.

Dog Daze at F15 Pool

On Sept. 8, before winterizing the pool for the season, F15 will open its gates for an afternoon of fun for the dogs! All dogs will have plenty of room to run, play, swim, fetch and socialize throughout the afternoon. A DJ will be poolside pumping out fun-themed tunes and taking special requests from the crowd. Registration is \$5 per dog and proceeds will benefit a local nonprofit animal group. To register, visit www.stapletoncommunity.com.
Schedule:
1pm – small dogs (under 40lbs)

1:45pm – break (all dogs must exit the pool)

2pm – large dogs (over 40 lbs)

Active Minds

The Challenges of Mexico

Join Active Minds for an in-depth look at Mexico. We will cover Mexican history and recent events as we seek to understand how this country fits in the regional puzzle of North, Central and South America. We will examine key issues in Mexican relations with the U.S. such as violence associated with drug trafficking, trade agreements and immigration. This program is free and will be held from 7–8pm on Thursday, Sept. 12 in the MCA Community Room.

Mount Everest

As the tallest mountain in the world, Everest holds a special place in the minds and hearts of many. It has religious significance for inhabitants of the region; additionally, it captivates the many mountaineers who have attempted to summit it and thus stand "on top of the world." Join Active Minds as we explore the stories of Everest—both triumphs and tragedies—and examine different perspectives on the mountain's past, present, and future. This program is free and will be held from 7–8pm on Thursday, Sept. 26 in the MCA Community Room.

Kids Night Out

The MCA and the Central Park Rec Center are partnering to host a night of entertainment for children ages 7–12. This event will be held at the Central Park Rec Center at 6–9pm on Saturday, Sept. 14. Bring your swim gear and an appetite (a hot dog dinner will be provided). The event will include snacks, dinner, games, pool time and music. Preregistration is only \$10 per child. To register, visit www.stapletoncommunity.com. Space is limited.

Sweet William Market

The final Sweet William Market of the season will be held on Saturday, Sept. 28 from 9am–2pm on The Green. The Sweet William Market is a stylish outdoor market that hosts a variety of artsy vendors and local food trucks.

If you have any questions about the information above, please contact the MCA at 303.388.0724.

Dani Mead
Communications Coordinator
dmead@stapletoncommunity.com

Get the latest on

Master Community Association



Sponsored by Stapleton MCA

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Front Porch

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Police District Change Brings More Officers



Stapleton has recently been changed to police district 5. The change to new police districts has added more officers to each neighborhood. District 5 officers left to right: Commander Les Perry and Community Resource Officers Brandi Thomas and Sherikera Heflin.

To all our new citizens, neighbors and friends,

The Denver Police Department, District 5 is excited to have the opportunity with the new redistricting of the neighborhoods of Stapleton and Northfield to serve you, your family, and your neighborhood. These changes by the police department were incorporated to balance workload and staffing of precinct areas.

The new precincts are designed to have more officers assigned in a geographical area, which provides better police service and allows officer flexibility to address emerging issues. Additionally, these changes allow officers more time to focus on crime prevention, community collaboration, and partnerships to provide safe neighborhoods, schools and businesses.

I have been the Commander of District 5 since April of 2012. You can access my bio on the DPD home page at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUfVIQXPwFY>. I am a resident of this area and like you, I work, play and live in this section of town by choice. My focus as a commander is community collaboration and crime prevention to ensure safe neighborhoods for all.

I encourage you to become familiar with our station at 4685 N. Peoria St. and the staff, supervisors, detectives, and officers who work in your area. Another great resource we have is our Community Resource Officers, Heflin and Thomas. These dedicated officers are the community liaison for questions, information and community problems. They will be at a community meeting in your area, so be sure to introduce yourself and bring up any concerns.

Moreover, I have an open door policy and encourage you to stop by, call or email any information, concern or issues. The staff and I are dedicated to working with you and for you to solve any type of problem no matter how large or small.

I am looking forward to the new challenges of the redesigned District 5 and collaborations from the area citizens, businesses, and neighbors. Please become involved with this exciting opportunity in your neighborhood.

Sincerely,
Les Perry, Commander, District 5

Sherikera.Heflin@denvergov.org 303-376-2317 Brandi.Thomas@denvergov.org 303-376-2305

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be Flavorful 9/7/13

Participants will engage in a flavorful tasting of healthy foods from restaurants and organizations in the *be well* Zone.

*Hosted in partnership with the Colfax Community Network.

Colfax Community
Network, 1585 Kingston
Street, Aurora CO
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

be Healthy 10/5/13

FREE health screenings, such as dental, vision, immunizations, blood pressure, height, weight, cholesterol, glucose, and various others will be available to families. Other unique opportunities, including free haircuts, youth dialogues, cooking demonstrations, and line dancing will also be available. All at your local boys and girls club!

Nancy P. Anschutz Boys
and Girls Club, 33rd &
Holly, Denver CO
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



be Active Fitness Festival



You and your family can win cool prizes by participating in these fun **fitness challenges** - including the grand prize of a Radio Disney Dance Party!

Fitness Festival Hosts & Activities:

- | | |
|--|---|
| War on Obesity Today (WOOT)
50/50 Fitness
Nancy P. Anschutz Boys and Girls Club
Moorhead Center
Colorado Rockies Youth Soccer
Mile High Fitness
be well Youth
Bladium Sports & Fitness Club | Javelin Throw
Obstacle Course
Tug-of-War
Parachute Lift
Goal Kick
Dash Zone
Jump Rope Hut
Basketball Shoot |
|--|---|

Fred Thomas Park
Quebec & 23rd
Denver, CO
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
9/21/13



For more information about the *be well* Health & Wellness Initiative of the Stapleton Foundation, call 303-468-3220, email info@stapletonfoundation.org, or visit www.bewellconnect.org.

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



East High Tradition

(continued from p. 1) Don Cheadle, members from Earth, Wind & Fire. Books stack high with the history of East. A manikin wears a retro cheerleading uniform. A corner of the room stores even more trinkets—an old typewriter, photos, books and student projects. There is almost too much history to fit in the room. By the entrance is a book of signatures. Freshmen visit the museum in their English class and learn about East history. At the end, each one signs the book of visitors. Casually flipping through, familiar names appear. “Claire Simon 09!” “Sarah Marquez ‘09!” Seeing friends’ names stirs nostalgia of going to East again. East Angel pride returns, the same as cheering “inner city” at basketball games or just walking down the hall and talking to classmates. What is it about East that makes it East? How can graduates return 5, 10, 50 years later and feel at home? Principal Mendelsberg emphasizes celebrating every single student, and he thinks they are doing a better job of that. Since the beginning, East has been diverse, and it is an exceptional part of the school’s identity, Mendelsberg says. Diversity is important in the classroom



as well. The school recently started an AP for Excellence program to promote upper-level classes to Latino and black students. Students of color who have taken AP classes go to other classrooms and share why they liked it. The number of students in AP classes is increasing. Mendelsberg says their goal is for every student to have at least one AP class during their time at East so they deter from tracking. All kids need access to every program, he says. He thinks kids are more interested in classes with teachers like themselves so they work hard to hire teachers who mirror the student population. “People draw kids, programs don’t,” he says. Diversity has been a longstanding tradition at East, and traditions build pride and a sense of culture, Mendelsberg says. He always knew he wanted to be at East, and when he got there

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Clockwise starting top left:

Principal Andy Mendelsberg explains why he loves being at East.

An 1875 angel statue now in a garden in the south lawn was created to show the school's dedication to youth and was the inspiration for the angel mascot.

Many famous people, including Judy Collins, graduated from East.

A photo dated 1900 shows East had an integrated wrestling team at the turn of the century.

"East has 130 some years of tradition behind it that has allowed it to be what it is today," he says. "There has always been a perception in the school and in the community that East is a great place."

So, East has a reputation as a place where people want to be, and many people in Stapleton have said they want the new Stapleton high school to be like East. But how can a new high school achieve this? Can another school replicate 130 years of tradition?

Mendelsberg doubts it's even possible with a new school. But, he says too often other schools are compared to East. "I think every school has to have its own identity." He advises that

new schools like the Stapleton high school can learn from East's tradition, but Stapleton needs to be Stapleton.

He actually discourages other schools from trying to replicate East.

"It's not about being great. Anybody can be great, but you might have to go a different direction to be great."

A new school may not instantly have the same culture or tradition, but those develop

over time. It can't start out like that, Mendelsberg says. "If I were the principal of the new Stapleton high school, the first thing I'd think is 'what's going to be best for the kids who walk in our door.' If I can ask that and answer it you're in good shape."

Mendelsberg thinks all of Denver's high schools have the ability to be excellent. And, East is going to get better when there are ten other high schools that have the same reputation.

"It helps everybody when we're all great."

Watch a video about East High School at FrontPorchStapleton.com



21 years ago, he never wanted to leave. He started as a student teacher and a baseball coach. He has now been principal for almost two years.

Mendelsberg wants to preserve East traditions, like bringing all freshmen to the Tower Museum. Along the wall of the third floor is a Heritage Hall that celebrates East graduates. Six years ago, they started the East Athletics Hall of Fame and invited hundreds of former athletes and their families to attend an event.

Bringing back lost traditions is also a goal. In 1936, the school closed off the Esplanade and had a bonfire and tricycle races. For the past couple of years, on the last week of school, the Esplanade is open only to seniors. They have competitions, play kickball against the teachers, and do tricycle races.



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2839 Wabash St • **SOLD** • \$415,500
2853 Willow St • **SOLD** • \$572,900
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2966 Emporia St • **SOLD** • \$530,000
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Local Mom Takes Reins at New Middle School

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Someone recently asked Kristen Atwood what her hobby is. "Is education a hobby?" she responded. The newly named principal of the yet-to-be named middle school in the Swigert-McAuliffe building says, "When I'm running or playing with my kids, I'm thinking about education. It's what I live and breathe." Atwood says the new position is a dream opportunity.

Along with her husband, Tom, and children, Willem, 7, and Ella, 3, Atwood has lived in Stapleton for five years. She is currently in what is called "year 00" of a new middle school—the year in which the details of the school are created, from the name to hours to policies and curriculum. During this year, Atwood will have an office at Smiley Middle School, where she taught for many years in the course of her 17 years teaching the K-12 levels with Denver Public Schools. Most recently, she was the director of achievement at McAuliffe International School.

The new school will be housed in the space that will be vacated by McAuliffe International School when it leaves in the 2014-2015 school year for its new home on the Smiley Campus. Atwood's new school will be one of five middle schools that will be available to families under the new shared boundaries. The other schools are McAuliffe, Bill Roberts Middle School, DSST-Stapleton and the new DSST-Northfield location.



Kristen Atwood

When it opens, the new school will start with sixth grade, adding one grade per year through eighth grade in 2016-2017 with approximately 75–125 students per grade. Atwood is looking forward to the smaller size of the school because it allows for a level of intimacy and accountability for all and allows the faculty and students to feel like they are developing a team. "I want every student to feel valued and heard and that we're truly a community. Every student (will know) everyone on a first-name basis and inner talents (will be) acknowledged. I think a smaller school is such a strength," says Atwood.

The new principal sees the creation of the school as a group effort that will determine the school's name, hours, curriculum, discipline policies, potential uniform and more. That will happen with the help of the community. First, Atwood will enlist a steering committee with 7–15 people that accurately represents the Greater Park Hill/Stapleton community. Together, she says, the group will meet to "research, draft and think."

Atwood will also hold community meetings to inform the public and get feedback. In addition, Atwood plans to go out into the community, talking to parents, attending church services and meetings. "I insist upon getting interest and input from the entire community," she adds.

One of the primary concerns Atwood is currently hearing from the community involves parents wondering if their children will be able to ensure a spot at a specific school. She explains that it will be the same type of system currently in place, only students will have a choice of the

A Community Day of Walking



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five schools. “They can place a first choice but that doesn’t mean they’ll get it,” she explains. Another concern is whether the new school will have an IB program like McAuliffe. Atwood says that is one of the many issues to be decided depending on the community’s interest. She does

say that if the new school does not have a formal IB program, she is open to picking and choosing from a variety of programs to create something unique. Whatever plan ends up being adopted for the school, Atwood outlines a set of non-negotiables that she feels will also resonate with the community. “It’s simply what every family wants for their child: learning that is rigorous and differentiated, a classroom environment where every child feels valued, where learning is meaningful, with teachers who are incredi-

bly masterful and have rich content knowledge and know how to create learning connections in their classrooms.” Atwood has a big, longterm vision for the impact her new school will have on her students. “In this highly competitive work environment...what’s going to separate our greater Park Hill/Stapleton kids from everybody else is going to be their ability to persevere. They need to know that you can’t give up. Once you give up, somebody else has won the battle and that can be in the world of art, engineering or education...but you

have to persevere.” Atwood pauses and realizes that without ever having put a name on it that is what she has done in her own life. “This is yet another one of those challenges in my life and I know failure isn’t an option.” She adds, “It’s probably going to be the biggest professional challenge of my career but to me, that’s the best part about it.” To inquire about being part of Atwood’s Steering Committee, contact her at kristen_atwood@dpsk12.org.



Attendees laugh when Atwood cracks a joke at the community meeting to introduce the final principal candidates for the new McAuliffe middle school.

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- 6-year-old Girls
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- 7-year-old Boys
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- 7-year-old Girls
Maisie Cowan
- 8-year-old Boys
Cole Younoszai
- 8-year-old Girls
Abby Dembeck
- 9-year-old Boys
Nate McHugh
- 9-year-old Girls
Leah Hill
- 10-year-old Boys
Graham Tuohy-Gaydos
- 10-year-old Girls
Christina Doolan



Photo courtesy of Andrea Felsner

- 11-year-old Boys
Mason Snyder
- 12-year-old Boys
Bobby Danahey
- 13-year-old Boys
Noah Hill
- 11-year-old Girls
Lily Martin
- 12-year-old Girls
Marley Anderson
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Couple Seeks to Celebrate Judaism with Community

By Madeline Schroeder

For years, Rabbi Mendel Popack and his wife, Estee, wanted to move to a community with no Jewish infrastructure, either religious or social, and create a place for people to celebrate Judaism.

They remember driving through Stapleton to visit Mendel's family. "We were amazed with what we saw here and thought it's such a perfect place," Mendel says. "People want it; it's just not available."

In March, they moved to Stapleton and started what they call a Jewish Life Center.

Groups like the Jewish Life Center exist all over the world. There are 15 Jewish centers in Colorado; this is the first in Northeast Denver. Mendel and Estee are among 3,800 couples worldwide who move to a community and dedicate their lives to sharing Judaism.

They host Jewish dinners, events and

discussions in their house or rent public space. They offer a nonthreatening, friendly environment for anyone in the community to express their Judaism.

"We want to help every Jew be able to relate to their Judaism in their own way, wherever they're at in their life," Estee says. That is the goal of Chabad-Lubavitch, a 250-year-old movement to bring Jews back to Judaism.

Rebbe Schneerson, who was the heart and brainpower of the movement, taught the ideal to "love all Jews." Lubavitchers embrace Jews of all affiliations and levels of observance to the Torah.

"We believe labels belong in department stores on suits and shoes and other types of garments, not on people," Mendel says. They like to say they're "Just Jewish."

Judaism has been a part of both of their lives for as long as they can remember. The son of a rabbi, Mendel grew up going to a syna-

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Left: Mendel and Estee sit in their Stapleton home, which they open to the community to celebrate Judaism. Above: Mendel holds his two sons, Yehuda and Aizik.

gogue in Denver. Estee grew up in a large Jewish community in New York, and her religion quickly became a part of her identity.

At 14, Mendel began a long series of travels. From Los Angeles to New York to Paris, and many places in between, he studied and taught Judaism. By his later teens, Judaism was no longer just something about himself, but something he “could share with other people.” He went to rabbinical school in Australia.

Meanwhile, Estee ran programs for youth and adults in Jewish communities in Guatemala, Puerto Rico, Ukraine, Philadelphia, and a whole list of other places.

Estee laughs when she says they are finally done with traveling. She sits on the couch in their Stapleton home. Yehuda, their 2-year-old son with shoulder-length curls that won't be cut until he is three—a Jewish tradition—climbs all over her.

She wears modest clothing. It's impossible to tell her curled auburn hair with side-swept bangs is actually a wig. Observant Jewish women often cut or pin their hair and wear a wig to keep their natural hair only for their husband.

Mendel sits in a chair and holds their 3-month-old baby boy, Aizik. Mendel wears the traditional kippah head covering and his beard long.

The two talk openly and genuinely about their Judaism. They emphasize many times they welcome every Jew and also non-Jewish person. They pause to offer sweets and iced coffee. Then they continue to explain that Judaism is a part of their daily lives but how they practice their religion doesn't dictate how others do.

They believe the Jewish Life Center can thrive in Stapleton and say they have received strong support so far. They have some ideas for the future but will base what they do on the community's needs.

“We are here to service the community. As we assess the community, that's where we want to help. If there's a need for a synagogue, we can certainly do that, but we didn't come to build a synagogue.”

They plan to start a Hebrew school, beginning with ages 6 to 12. Estee hopes to start a Jewish Women's Circle to give mothers in the neighborhood a night out. Mendel is excited about the possibilities with the Anschutz Medical Campus. He'd like to help medical professionals understand a Jewish perspective for treating Jewish patients. He is also set to meet with the dean of the university to discuss possibly teaching an elective course about Judaism and medicine.

To learn more about the Jewish Life Center and upcoming events, call 720.515.4337 or email info@JewishStapleton.com.

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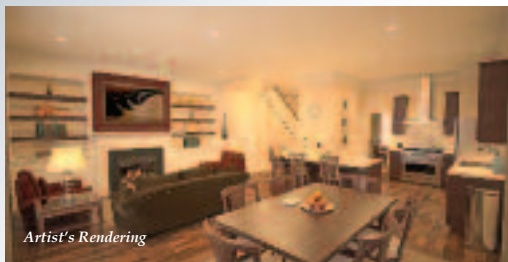
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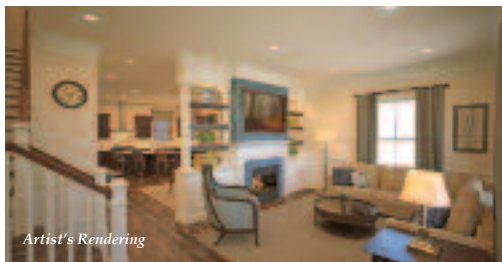
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Quebec Alternatives

By Carol Roberts

If you've ever driven Quebec, you know it's often congested between Stapleton and Lowry, even during off-peak hours. "We've converted an airport and an Air Force Base and we've had growth of jobs and people—and the north-south movement through this area has not changed," says Janice Finch, Co-Project Manager for the Quebec Alternatives project. "People want less congestion. We're asking citizens to help us come up with the best solution."

The City held a well-attended community meeting on August 7 in Lowry where three alternatives that cost \$20 million or less and that can be built in 5-10 years or less were displayed on three long maps. Widening Quebec has been ruled out since it would require extensive property acquisition, making it a longer term project that would be cost prohibitive.

The goal of the Quebec Alternatives project is to increase north-south capacity on Quebec from 6th to 26th avenues in a way that improves multi-modal access, safety and mobility; respects neighborhood livability and the environment; and can be implemented in the near term in a phased way—balancing infrastructure needs of the corridor with solutions that can be livable to the surrounding com-

munity. Prior studies of the area have indicated that smaller changes that can be implemented sooner can have an impact.

Area stakeholders are being asked to answer these questions: Does this improve travel for all modes? How does it improve vehicle capacity? Can it meet the goal of near term implementation? Is it livable to the community?

In choosing an alternative, another consideration is, "Is this alternative better than taking no action?"

In all the alternatives, the City would continually make operational improvements by modifying the signal timing at intersections to improve traffic flow.

Reconfigure Quebec: Optimize the Quebec corridor as it is today, adding turn lanes to help traffic move, and increase sidewalk connectivity. Right of way (ROW) width would remain the same, except at intersections where additional land for transit stops, intersection capacity, and/or the construction of sidewalk and curb ramp improvements would be needed.

One-Way Couplet: Quebec would be a one-way street going



Attendees at a community meeting examine one of the three large maps that illustrated the three alternatives.

southbound and Syracuse, which is four blocks to the east, would be one way going north. The project team is considering 11th Ave. as the south end of the couplet and 26th Ave. is the furthest north the couplet would extend (the exact east-west street at the north end has not been determined). The two one-way streets would keep the existing right of way and the existing pavement, with the exception of intersections, which would require some property acquisition for turns and/or other improvements. The east-west streets that connect the entry and exit points of the one-way stretch may need to be reconfigured. Bike lanes and bus routes would be shifted to the one-way operation, and parking on Syracuse would be impacted.

Directional Priority: Both streets would remain two-way streets, but enhancements would increase capacity to favor southbound travel on Quebec and northbound travel on Syracuse. Right of way width would remain the same, except at intersections where additional transit stop, intersection capacity, and sidewalk and curb ramp improvements would be constructed.

Who will make a final decision? The project team will create a document with a recommendation based on community input and technical analysis. "Ultimately it will come down to a technical selection of what we might be able to implement and what funding we can actually go get," says Janet Finch. "We don't have money in our pocket yet, except to do the study. If we can gather consensus from these neighborhoods it makes it easier for us to go after money." The process has been set up in a way that allows the city to go after federal dollars; they will also look for state and city resources.

Traffic volumes on Quebec and Syracuse, peak traffic hours, a fact sheet on the Quebec Alternatives project, a map of the impacted area, a description of the three alternatives and a comment form are posted at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com and at www.QuebecAlternatives.com. The project team encourages community members to submit comments now so they can be considered in the analysis being done this fall.



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Neighborhood Author's First Book a Bestseller

By Madeline Schroeder

Stapleton resident Nicholas Hutchinson took a crack at writing a children's book; the result "far exceeded expectations." His book, *Barry's Wild Ride*, was published this past May and jumped straight to Amazon's bestseller list.

Hutchinson has always been a writer but never really considered children's writing. He studied English at Kenyon College and got his master's degree in journalism from the University of Colorado-Boulder. He has done freelance writing for magazines and publications in Denver and Boulder.

As well as journalism, he enjoys creative writing, poetry and writing songs.

He isn't exactly sure how or why he came up with the idea for the children's book *Barry's Wild Ride*.

It first began as a scribbled note in 2003 when he became inspired by

spending time with his three young stepchildren. They read children's books and went for walks through City Park where they watched foxes and geese. He became immersed in a world of childhood imagination filled with animals and silly characters. "I'm basically an overgrown kid," he says. He has always loved reading and remembers as a child reading *Go Dog Go* and Dr. Seuss books.

The idea for his book remained mostly dormant until 2009 when he became exhausted from writing a memoir of travels with his family. He needed a break; his escape

was writing *Barry's Wild Ride*, the story of a curious bear that lives in a cave near the beach.

Barry munches berries and does yoga. Hutchinson describes him as "whimsical, friendly, playful and adventurous." He says, "Barry's a soulful bear. He strums his guitar in the moonlight." After surfing, Barry and his animal friends have a jam session around a bonfire on the beach.

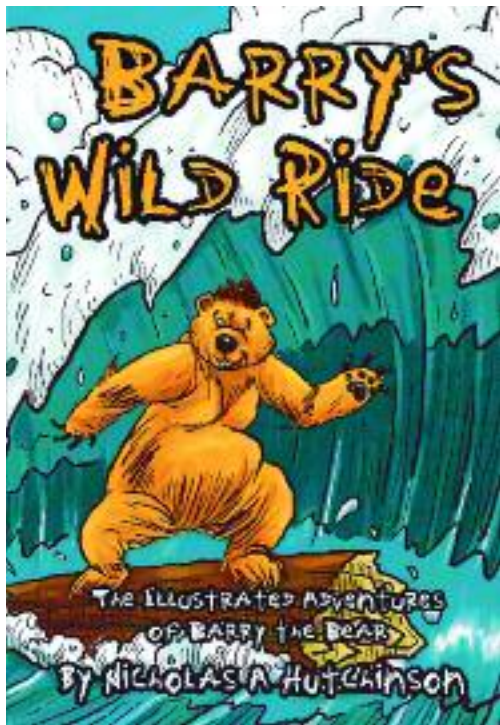
Hutchinson showed a copy of the story to his family, who loved it and encouraged him to pursue the idea. "I probably wouldn't have even published it if there weren't people telling me to do it," he says.

He started a Kickstarter campaign and raised \$5,000, enough to publish the book. Hutchinson then found a professional illustrator with an "edgy style" who captured Barry's

character.

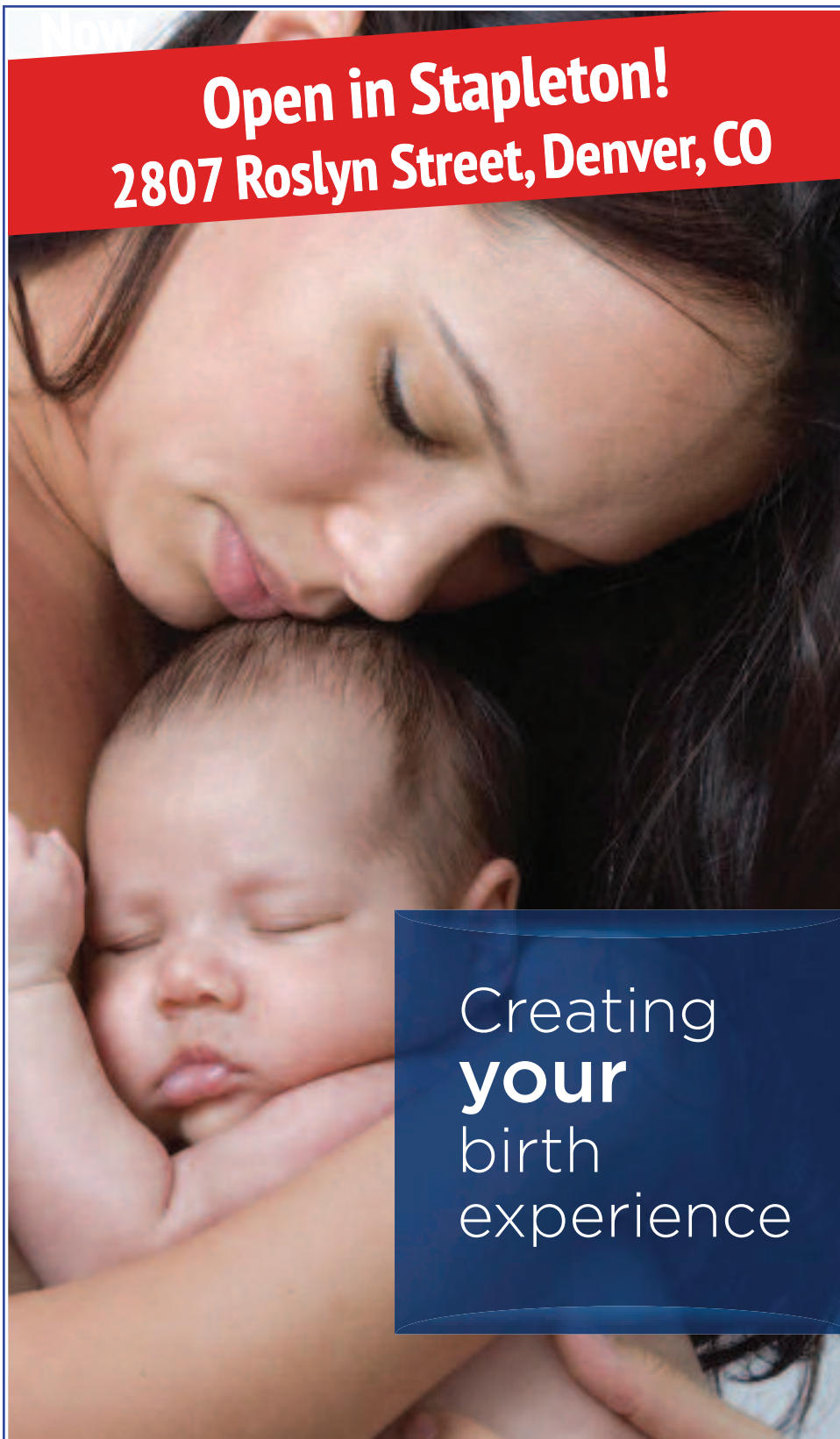
For two weeks after *Barry's Wild Ride* was published, it consistently stayed at number one on Amazon's bestseller list. The book is also available at Denver Public Libraries, and Hutchinson may do a story reading at the Sam Gary Branch this fall. *Barry's Wild Ride* (and custom jigsaw puzzle) is available through www.barryswildride.com.

Hutchinson says he already has an idea for a second children's book that is basically written, but he plans to wait a little while before publishing it.



Cover of *Barry's Wild Ride*

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Jen Dunlea's treatment plan with her doctor at Children's Hospital, Frank Accurso, MD, has turned her health around.

New Life, New Health for 11-Year-Old with Cystic Fibrosis

By Madeline Schroeder

One year ago, 11-year-old Jen Dunlea had lungs so riddled with infections doctors discussed a lung transplant. She and her mom, Laurel, lived in Southern California and spent 90 percent of their time in hospitals. “She was sick, and we had no life,” Laurel says.

One year later, the best-friend, mother-daughter duo lives in Stapleton, and Jen's health continues to improve with care at Children's Hospital Colorado. “Our luck finally changed once we moved here,” Laurel says.

Jen has cystic fibrosis (CF), an inherited life-threatening disease that causes buildup of mucus in the body that can damage and infect organs, most often the lungs. Jen is one of 30,000 people in the U.S. living with severe CF. The disease is the most common genetic problem in the U.S., though it's widely unheard of. Laurel certainly didn't know about the disease before Jen's diagnosis.

When Jen was a baby, Laurel knew something was wrong with her. She felt crazy when doctors dismissed Jen's sickness as a bad cough—one of the symptoms of CF. Jen was finally diagnosed at two years old, which is late to catch the disease. “It was like mourning the death of my child,” Laurel says. For a long time, Laurel couldn't speak about it without weeping.

Forty years ago, the life expectancy with CF was 16 years old. Today it is 38 years old.

Everybody with CF is different and requires an individualized treatment plan, according to Dr. Frank Accurso, Jen's primary CF doctor at Children's Hospital Colorado and a professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. He says the disease is best treated with a team approach, which can include a doctor, nutritionist, psychologist and more. There are 110 CF clinics in the U.S. They all have to follow certain guidelines, but treatment can vary widely within those guidelines based on the individual care team, Dr. Accurso says.

Jen and Laurel were not happy with the CF team in Southern California. “I watched her lung function get worse and worse,” Laurel says. She remembers the series of failed treatments, which at one point included more than a dozen medications.

Soon, more memories of Southern California start flooding back.

“Remember that one feeding tube,” Jen says.

“Oh that feeding tube,” Laurel says.

“It went through a vein.”

“And into the heart.”

“That was disgusting!”

“Yeah it was. I couldn't even be in the room to watch.”

“So gross.”

“Ah, memories.” They laugh. Jen, an animated speaker, extends a lanky arm, dramatically turns her head the other way, and closes her eyes in disgust (she wants to be an actress).

With treatment at Children's Hospital Colorado, Jen now takes less medication than most people with CF. She follows a strict medication regimen that has kept her CF under control. She hasn't been hospitalized in more than a year, and she only missed one month of school this past year. Laurel believes the success is because the care team truly listens to Jen's symptoms, and Dr. Accurso is dedicated to each patient.

“He is the sweetest,” Laurel starts.

“Most understanding,” Jen adds while munching on Pringles.

(People with CF eat what most people avoid—salty, fatty foods to help gain weight, a common struggle with CF.)

“Brilliant,” Laurel continues.

“Open!”

“And most humble man, we've ever met.”

Dr. Accurso says the team tries to foster trust and says there's often a close bond between a family with CF and caregivers. “Our whole goal is to help individuals with CF live a normal life as possible.”

Laurel was anxious to leave their California home and didn't even expect they would stay in Colorado for a year.

Jen now has close friends from Westerly Creek Elementary. Although people with CF cannot be together because they can spread dangerous bacteria among one another, Jen finds support in friends.

So a year has passed, and the two haven't returned to California. When asked about their plans for the future, they look at each other. “We're going to stay,” Laurel says. “She really loves it here.”

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Blind Children Experience Resonant Field Journeys

By Laurie Dunklee

Surrounded by his Chinese gongs, singing bowls, bells and chimes, Paul Conly brings a new playground of sounds to blind children.

Conly is a musician, composer and gong master whose Gong Synergy presentations invite listeners to a "resonant field journey" of moving sound waves. Recently, he brought an interactive version of his presentation to the Anchor Center for Blind Children in Stapleton.

"The children live in world of sound," Conly said. "I want to expand that world for them. Sounds like the gong are unusual. They haven't heard them before. It expands their awareness and they're drawn to it, especially when they are given the opportunity to make the sounds themselves."

Conly's contribution is part of the Anchor Center's Days at the Museum summer series for preschoolers, designed to expose the children to different sensory learning experiences. Besides the music and sound program, the Tuesday morning series includes interactive presentations on subjects including the cosmos, rocks and birds, aided by the educational staff of the Museum of Nature and Science.

"We bring in experiences and opportunities for them to develop," said J.C. Greeley, co-founder of the Anchor Center. "We look for special sensory opportunities to help them grow."

The Anchor Center for Blind Children provides educational and therapeutic services to visually impaired children from birth to age five. Many have multiple impairments, including cerebral palsy or genetic disorders. Founded in 1982, Anchor Center serves more than 400 children each year.

Paul Conly holds a tuning fork for a young student to feel the vibrations during an interactive presentation at the Anchor Center for the Blind.

The music and sound program, dubbed a "Musiceum," explored the sensory aspects of sound and vibration, including contra dancing and sound-making using glasses filled with various amounts of water.

Fifteen preschoolers, along with their parents and siblings, visited each station in groups of four.

"I expose them to the process of creating music and sound,"

Conly said. "One game is using mallets and drumsticks to strike different items in the room, to put things into vibration. All kids love a rhythm band."

Children learned how to strike the gongs and express themselves through sound. "The purpose of the games is to join our hearts and minds," Conly said. "Humans are wired to express our emotions through sound."

Conly has spent 40 years studying music, physics, psychology and oriental philosophy. Pioneering the use of synthesizers in rock music as keyboardist for the Denver-based band Lothar and the Hand People, he got interested in the interaction between sound waves and the human body. His Gong Synergy presentations for adults combine his knowledge and skills for therapeutic relaxation.

"The experience is more physical than simply audible," Conly said. "I attempt to connect the listener to the sound current, which induces calming, clarity of thought and a heightened awareness."

He learned about child education while writing music for short films presented on the television program Sesame Street.

"Their child education experts and child psychologists were available to give me advice on teaching," Conly said. "This proved useful later on when I was actually working as an artist-in-residence in elementary and middle schools."

He said working with preschoolers (continued on page 14)



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“You’re Not Alone”—Therapist to Lead Free Seminars

Sept. 18—Preparing Your Relationship for Children will be the first seminar in the upcoming series “Modern Conversations.”

By Madeline Schroeder

In the past year, Hilary Silver became inspired to help people know they are not alone in their problems. Silver, a licensed clinical social worker in the City Park neighborhood, has realized people have similar problems yet they feel alone and ashamed.

That’s why she’s starting “Modern Conversations,” a 6-month series about life and family for adults and couples. The free MCA-sponsored program in Stapleton begins this September. Each month, Silver, along with another expert will present information, answer questions and lead discussion about each topic.

She believes there are so many conversations people should be having but aren’t. “What do you do when your 5-year-old acts out and you feel like a bad mom, or how do you date when you have children and you’re divorced? You know, no one tells you how to do these things,” she says.

Silver says she hasn’t experienced every problem her clients go through, but she can empathize and deeply cares about each client. She doesn’t want them to feel alone.

She was always that friend who just “got it.”



Hilary Silver

She could empathize with any problem, offer good advice, and listen for as long as a friend needed to talk. She remembers thinking, “Can I get a job as a friend?”

She now specializes in issues affecting adults and couples. “I want to bring issues out into the open and for people to know they are not alone with the things they are struggling with,” she says.

At “Modern Conversations,” she hopes people will interact and ask questions, though it’s never required.

The first topic will be “Preparing Your Relationship for Children.” She and her colleague will talk about fears and anxieties of how a relationship will change, the roles and expectations and how to talk about them, identity changes for parents, how to stay emotionally connected, and establishing boundaries with grandparents and extended family. And, at the end of each session each person will get a worksheet to check his or her progress. “We want to leave everybody with tools, something positive to take away,” she says.

The topics slated for future months include: Tackling tricky behavior from toddler to teen, dealing with stress and anxiety, dealing with divorce when kids are in the picture, and dating with children and blended families. Those topics could possibly change.

The first “Modern Conversations” is 7-8:30 pm September 18 in the MCA Community room at 2823 Roslyn St. www.SilverTherapyGroup.com

Blind Children

(continued from page 13) presents interesting advantages. “Toddlers are too young to understand many concepts and relationships so they experience sounds directly. The physical connection to the sounds happens sooner.

“I try to open their imagination to let them know the world is open to playing with sound.”

J.C. Greeley of the Anchor Center says blind children have a special relationship with sound: “Children with vision impairments use sound in many aspects of their lives beyond what is normally expected of preschoolers. They need to experience what sound and vibration can do for understanding of time, space, rhythm, body awareness, and most importantly, joy and connection.”

The Center’s music therapy program addresses children’s functioning through active music-making experiences. Greeley says music helps language development and motor skills.

She says dancing to music helps with walking and developing independence. “Dancing with a partner is practicing sound location—the orientation to where they are in space. It’s very practical, helping them function in the everyday world, like getting to their classroom. Also it’s a fun, joyful connection to the earth. When you feel music in your whole body, you know you’re part of the world.”

See more about Paul Conly on his Gong Synergy Facebook page. For information about the Anchor Center for Blind Children, visit www.anchorcenter.org.

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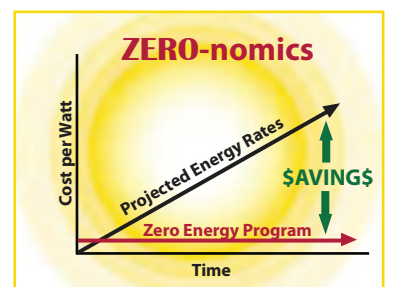


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Each month, the Indie Prof reviews a current film in the theater and a second film that is available on DVD or an instant-streaming service. Follow "Indie Prof" on Facebook for updates about film events and more reviews.

Terraferma

A fishing boat finds a bulging refugee raft at sea. The fishermen call the Coast Guard, but the refugees start to jump off the raft and swim to the boat before the Guard arrives. Some begin to drown. The fishermen, an old man and his grandson, save the jumpers and bring them to land.

The fishermen live on the small Italian island of Linosa, equidistant from Tunisia and Sicily. The African refugees take their chances at sea, hoping to find the tiny island. The Italian Coast Guard is very strict with the immigrants: the Italian boats must not pick them up or suffer severe consequences. The fishermen follow the rule of the sea, however: never let someone drown. What happens, then, when the fishermen find a refugee boat and pick up some of the drowning souls?

Terraferma, directed by Emanuele Crialese (*Respiro*, *The Golden Door*), was released in Italy in 2011 and has only now made it to American screens. It tells the story of the fishermen, their family, and their struggles with the dying fishing business. The family and the islanders also face a burgeoning tourist business and the African refugees who wash up on their shores. The parallels to our

own immigration issues are obvious, and seeing the issue through another lens may help to illuminate our own societal insensitivities and borderline indifference.

While the narrative can be a bit disjunctive, the film has a beautiful lyrical quality that matches the natural lyricism of the setting. The cinematography is stunning, capturing both the beauty and the isolation of the island. The acting is sharp, and it recalls the great



Scene from *Terraferma*

Italian Neorealist films of the post-WWII era. There is a gritty realism to the characters that immerses you in their world. The humanism amid the moral dilemma is palpable, and the consequences are urgent. The family is not cut from the Hollywood mold: they have real problems and make hard choices. And as the most poignant films often leave us, the choices become our own: what would we do?

Starts at the Chez Artiste on Sept. 6.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *Life is Beautiful*, *A Better Life* or *Bread and Tulips*.

Upstream Color

This is the second feature film by writer-producer-director-actor Shane Carruth. His first film, *Primer*, was a small (\$7,000!), indie Sci-film film from 2004. That first effort was a smart, interesting and somewhat opaque film that was both confounding and attractive. Both films were critical successes if not box-office hits. For his latest film, the same description can be used: smart, interesting, opaque, confounding and attractive. But we can also add beautiful, sensual, mesmerizing and mature.

The narrative—if we can call it that—starts with a woman, Kris (Amy Seimitz), who is abducted by a thief and given a psychotropic drug transmitted through a small worm in her bloodstream. The thief mentally manipulates her, steals all her money and leaves her broken, jobless and confused. Later, she connects with another man (Jeff, played by Shane Carruth), who may have shared the same experience. They develop a relationship that leads them to find out more about that experience.

To describe the narrative in this fashion, however, is akin to describing *Moby Dick* as a story about a man and a whale. The structure is elliptical and somewhat confusing; the images, cinematography, editing and sound all add up to a film that is best *felt* rather than understood. This is not a film that answers all its questions or ties up everything neatly. Human nature pushes us toward telling stories, listening to stories, and trying to make some sense of them. If we can't make sense, it may be either frustrating or liberating.

The film is thus best understood allegorically, and there is no

one simple answer. The great Italian director Federico Fellini once said that his job was to bring viewers to the train station. Once there, it was up to the viewer to board the train of their choosing. *Upstream Color* gives us many trains to board. The beauty is not



Scene from *Upstream Color*

only boarding one of them, but thinking through the abstractions of each journey.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *The Tree of Life*, *Primer*, and/or anything by Bresson, Godard or Truffaut.

Available on Netflix Instant Queue, Amazon VOD and DVD. Please see the Indie Prof section of the Sam Gary Library (in the "Staff Recommends Area") for this film and other films reviewed here.

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



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Just the Facts

Dying Trees in the Neighborhood

by James Hagadorn



For years my family wondered about our poor backyard tree, whose leaves are forever yellow. It looms outside our house in a constant state of autumn, despite our efforts to save it from dying. Many of our park trees are in the same boat—dying en masse without fanfare or glaring reason. Often their deaths aren't right after planting, but come after years to a decade of growing familiar. What causes their decline, and how can we help?

In our high elevation climate, trees can die from events beyond our control, like drought or late-winter freezes. Or they croak because of us, from overwatering or planting too deep. Or they die for a combination of factors or reasons unknown. Because urban tree demise is hard to sleuth, below we'll address some common tree afflictions and solutions.

Like most problems, it helps to start at the root, and here

that means in our infamous dirt. Clay dominates many Colorado soils. Thus they drain poorly. In lawns this spells trouble for conifers like pines and spruces, because grasses need more water than such trees can handle. Soggy ground and compacted earth are a double-whammy for most trees, because such conditions asphyxiate their roots.

Clay soils also have high pH, meaning they are basic or the opposite of acidic. High pH causes a classic Colorado problem—"iron chlorosis." Its hallmark is bright yellow leaves with dark green veins, found all summer long, not just in fall. Overwatering in spring exacerbates this yellowing. Soil or tree treatments have limited success in solving this affliction. Oaks and maples (the tree in our backyard) are particularly susceptible to chlorosis—some trees can survive it but most linger and fail.

Even if there's a good match between tree species and soils, a tree's problems often begin with how it's planted. A common misconception is that tree roots grow straight down, deep into the ground. Au contraire, many roots spread horizontally just beneath the surface. Thus trees planted



Left: Green ash bark with exit holes from the larvae of clearwing moths. Attracted to tree wounds, these caterpillar-like creatures eat innards of trees, slowly chewing away all the nutrient-carrying pipes just below the bark's surface. They spread particularly easily when the trees are weakened or arranged in rows. Right: Healthy (green) and sick (yellow) leaves of the northern red oak tree, illustrating leaves yellowed and dwarfed by lack of iron in its diet. This condition, "iron chlorosis," is common in Colorado's clay soils, where tree roots cannot uptake available iron.



Photos courtesy of James Hagadorn



Dead trees in Stapleton

in narrow, deep holes, especially in clay soil, may end up strangled by their own roots. Years after planting, the roots try to spread but encounter dense clay soils around their planting-hole. As roots try to spread they are rebuffed, instead turning again and again, burrowing through the looser soil in the hole. Repeatedly they circle the tree's root ball, "girdling" the tree trunk like a strangulating boa.

Insects are opportunistic urban tree killers. A common one in Colorado snuffs street trees by the dozens—especially ashes. A friend showed me the clue—tiny sawdusty holes in bark at knee-to-chest height. Inside these holes were the larvae of clearwing moths. These caterpillar-like larvae were having a feast, boring through the tree's innards and cutting off its vascular systems. But why some trees and not others? Clearwings love trees whose bark has been nicked by weed-whackers and mowers.

But why do insects infest such trees in the first place? Many are exploiting trees that are weak. Trees might be weakened from natural causes like extreme weather or poor soil poor drainage. Or weary from battling man-made issues like lawn-moweritis, compacted soil, overwatering, or overdeep planting. With weakened systems trees slowly succumb to insect attacks, microscopic pests, hard freezes and droughts.

What can you do to help your own trees, or those in your community? In yards or parkways, don't plant trees in grassy lawn areas—instead plant them in beds or with a mulch ring. Dig a wide shallow hole, not a deep narrow one. Don't plant them deeply—make sure you can see their trunk bases flare out so they can be planted flush with the soil line. Pick ones that'll thrive in your site's conditions. Handy guides are at www.coloradotrees.org/find.php or www.cmg.colostate.edu/garden-notes.shtml. For park and street trees, ask your HOA or parks department to plant trees adapted to local conditions (e.g., water-tolerant species in sopping areas) or to change the environment's characteristics (e.g., install beds or mulch, re-grade to promote drainage). Avoid replacing trees with the same species, unless site issues have been resolved.

For most ailing urban trees, there is no silver bullet. Sprays or magic powders won't solve most problems. Rather every tree needs a steward, who invests beforehand and with later-in-life care. Trees need someone to keep an eye on them, in case trouble arises. Tap your inner Lorax and see if your trees are in need.

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

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Sun., Sept. 22—Park Hill Home Tour



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1790 Forest Pkwy

More Events

September 28 & 29 from 11am to 5pm—Stapleton Open Studios Tour

The inaugural Stapleton Open Studios Tour will be held Sept. 28 and 29. Meet 17 Stapleton artists and see their work including various mediums, oils and acrylics, mixed media, sculpture, photographic art, pastel, glass, watercolors and more. Art will be displayed and for sale. A kick-off reception will take place 6-8pm on Sept. 27 at Art & Framing at Stapleton in the Town Center. Tour maps and printed guides will be available at the kick-off and at the Stapleton Visitors Center. For more info visit www.StapletonOpenStudios.com.

September 21 from 10am to 3pm—Denver Urban Homesteading's 4th Annual Denver Chicken Coop Tour

On Saturday, Sept. 21, for \$5 tour a variety of chicken coops in the neighborhood including, coops made entirely from recycled materials found in alleys, simple and inexpensive store-bought coops, and coops con-



Stapleton Open Studios Tour

structed by finish carpenters. Get ideas for a personal chicken coop and see a variety of homesteading skills. Tickets are available at the Denver Urban Homesteading local farmers market or online, www.DenverUrban-Homesteading.com.

September 21 from 3 to 9pm—Third Annual Farmfest & Barn Dance

Join the family-friendly event hosted by The Urban Farm on Sept. 21 that will feature local bands, barbecue, line dancing instruction and kid activities (petting zoo, horse rides, a bouncy castle and more). The barn dance from 6-9pm will feature dinner, line dancing instruction and a silent auction. Barn dance tickets are sold in advance and should be purchased by Sept. 16. All proceeds benefit the animals at The Urban Farm. To purchase tickets contact Wendy at 303-250-5890 or Wendy.Dressel@verizon.com.

The 35th Annual Park Hill Home Tour and Street Fair will be held Sunday, September 22. The tour, held from 11am to 5pm, will include six architecturally diverse homes. The street fair, held from 10am to 5pm on Forest St. between Montview Blvd. and 17th Ave., will feature more than 70 booths, a silent auction, live music, international food and a wine and beer garden. Adult tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 the day of the event, \$10 Seniors (65+) and \$5 children. All funds from the home tour and street fair help support the Greater Park Hill Community Inc. Tickets locations are listed at www.greaterparkhill.org.

Burnham Hoyt, who designed the Park Hill Library, the Red Rocks Amphitheatre and the North wing of the central Denver library, designed the English Tudor Revival home at 1750 Forest Parkway. The house at 1790 Forest Pkwy was a modest Tudor before it was redesigned by an award-winning architect to resemble a castle. A hydraulic lift is required to change a light bulb in the soaring turret.


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

FALL FESTIVALS-

9/2 to mid-November- Miller Farms Fall Harvest Festival. Corn maze, petting zoo, fire truck, tractor rides, harvest vegetables included in admission (see website). 9040 Hwy 66, Platteville. 9am-6pm daily. www.millerfarms.net

9/5 Thursday to 9/8 Sunday- Longs Peak Scottish-Irish Festival. Pipe bands, Irish and folk dancing, parade, much more. Estes Park. www.scot-fest.com

9/7 Saturday- San Rafapalooza. Live music, food, kids' activities. 2-8pm. 23rd and Emerson. www.sanrafapalooza.com

9/7 Saturday- Sunnyside Music Festival. Chaffee Park, Northwest Denver. www.sunnysidemusicfest.org

9/7 Saturday and 9/8 Sunday- Belmar Festival Italiano. Italian food, wine and artisan vendors, 10am-7pm. www.belmarcolorado.com

9/8 Sunday- End of Summer DAYS Festival. 26th and Holly. Presented by Denver Area Youth Services (DAYS). FREE community festival will include 4 live bands (The Symbols, Project3, Sammy Dee Morgan and Sugar Hi-5), a kids' zone, local artists, food vendors, brewers and community organizations. <http://www.denveryouth.org/events/end-of-summer-days-festival>

9/13 Friday to 9/15 Sunday- Fall Fest Boulder. Music, microbrews, kids' carnival/activities,

artisan booths. Pearl St Mall. www.boulderdowntown.com

9/13 Friday to 10/27 Sunday- Botanic Gardens Corn Maze. Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield, 8500 W. Deer Creek Canyon Rd. www.botanicgardens.org

9/21 Saturday to 11/2- Anderson Farms Fall Fest. Pumpkin patch, corn maze, barrel train and more. 6728 County Rd 3 1/4, Erie. www.andersonfarms.com

9/21 Saturday to 10/31- Cottonwood Farms. Straw bale maze, 1 1/2 acre corn maze, pumpkin patch, farm animals, wagon rides (\$3), admission free. 75th and Arapahoe, Boulder. www.cottonwoodfarms.com

9/22 Sunday- Sukkot Family Fun Day on the Green. Eat in the Stapleton community Sukkah! Barbeque, jumping castle, face painting, raffle, shake the Lulav and Etrog, make your own edible sukkah. 4-6pm. \$8/person or \$25/family. To advance register: <http://www.jewishstapleton.com>.

9/27 Friday to 9/29 Sunday- Denver Oktoberfest. Repeats 10/4 -10/6. Ball Park Neighborhood. www.thedenveroktoberfest.com

10/4 Friday to 10/12 Saturday- Denver Beer Fest. Citywide celebration with variety of beer-related events coincides with Great American Beer Festival. www.denver.org/denverbeerfest

10/5 Saturday and 10/6 Sunday- Pumpkin Harvest Festival at Four Mile Historic Park. 10am-4pm. FREE admission, Charge for some activities. www.fourmilepark.org

10/6 Sunday- 11th Annual Balistreri Vineyards Harvest Festival. Balistreri Vineyards, 1946 E 66th Ave. 12-6pm. Children's grape stomping 2pm. Tickets \$58. www.balistrerivineyards.com

Rocky Mountain Pumpkin Ranch Fall Festival. Saturdays and Sundays Sept. through Oct. Hay bale

maze, corn maze, petting zoo, pony rides. 9057 Ute Hwy/CO 66, Longmont. www.Rockymtnpumpkin-ranch.com

RECURRING ARTWALKS

First Fridays

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

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

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

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

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

Third Friday

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

DENVER METRO EVENTS

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

9/7 Saturday- Urban Market on the 16th Street Mall. 11am-7pm. FREE. Repeats 9/14. www.coloradoevents.net

9/7 Saturday- Neil Bridge 7+ with Karen Lee. Open-air jazz concert, Augustana Lutheran Church south lawn, 6:30pm. 5000 E Alameda. Tickets: www.augustanaarts.org or 303.388.4962

9/7 Saturday- 24th Annual Friendship Powwow and American Indian Cultural Celebration. Indian dancers, drum groups, artists, vendors, more. Denver Art Museum, Acoma Plaza, 13th and Bannock. FREE admission. 10am-5pm. www.denverartmuseum.org

9/13 Friday- Brew at the Zoo. Pair Colorado-brewed beer samples with great food from well-known restaurants; dance under the stars. 7-10pm. \$70 general adm., \$30 designated-driver ticket; \$100 preview ticket. No one under age 21 admitted. www.denverzoo.org or 303.376.6741

9/13 Friday to 9/15 Sunday- 46th Annual Denver Gem and Mineral Show. Denver Merchandise Mart, 451 E 58th Ave, I-25, exit 215. Tickets: \$4-\$6, under 13 free. Cash/check only. www.denver-mineralshow.com

9/14 Saturday- Cockpit Demo Day. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-2pm. www.wingsmuseum.org

9/14 Saturday- Molly's Millinery Marvels

Fall Hat Workshop. Create millinery masterpiece with historic fashions experts. Hat, materials and refreshments provided. 10am-1pm. Reservations required. \$55/person. Molly Brown House Museum, 1340 Pennsylvania St. 303.832.4092 x16 or mollybrown.org

9/16 Monday- League of Women Voters Denver Kickoff Meeting. 5:30pm. Sen. Michael Johnston speaks on Initiative 22. Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia. www.LWVDenver.org, 303.321.75571 or info@LWVDenver.org

9/19 Thursday to 9/22 Sunday- Just Between Friends Kids' Gear/Clothing Sale. Denver's largest kids' gear/clothing resale event. National Western Complex, I-70 & Brighton Blvd. www.jbfsale.com/denver for hours and admission. \$2 off with copy of Front Porch listing. tracey@jbfsale.com or 303 884 9198

9/20 Friday and 9/21 Saturday- Botanic Gardens Fall Plant and Bulb Sale. 9am-6pm Fri. and 9am-2pm Sat. Over 10,000 bulbs, pansies, shrubs, trees for sale. Denver Botanic Gardens. www.botanicgardens.org

9/21 Saturday- Unsinkable Molly Full Tea. Have tea with Molly as she tells of her Titanic experience. 1pm and 3pm. Reservations required. \$25/person. Molly Brown House Museum, 1340 Pennsylvania St. 303.832.4092 x16 or www.mollybrown.org

9/21 Saturday- Dumb Friends League Wag N Trail. 1.6 mile hike with your dog to help homeless pets at Buddy Center. 8am-12pm. Glendale Farm Open Space, Castle Rock. www.ddfl.org or 303.751.5772 x1378

9/23 Monday- Colorado Hebrew Chorale Annual Sing Along in the Sukkah. Free. Info and RSVP: 303.35.0232 www.coloradohebrewchorale.org

Saturdays in September- FREE Learn to Compost classes. Offered by Denver Recycles. Registration required: 303.292.9900 or www.dug.org/compost

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

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

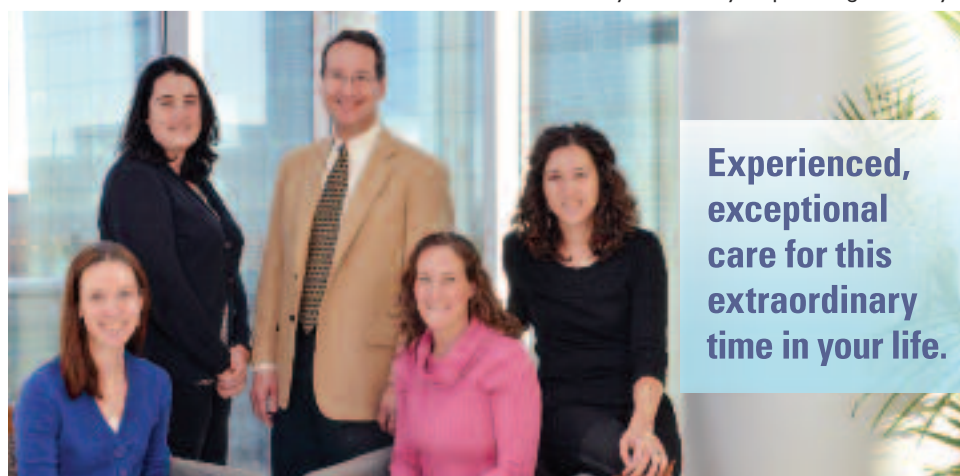
Denver Urban Homesteading Farmers Market. Indoor, year-round farmers market and homesteading school with local/organic foods. Thurs/Fri 3-7pm, Sat 9am-3pm. 200 Santa Fe Dr. FREE. www.denverurbanhomesteading.com for classes/seminars

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

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

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

9/7 Saturday- be Flavorful. Flavorful healthy food tastings. 10am-1pm. 1585 Kingston St., Aurora. www.be-flavorful.com



Standing L to R, Dr Christine Conageski, Dr Stephen Rotholz; Seated L to R, Dr Sarah Appleton, Dr Jaime Arruda, Dr Maryam Guiahi

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- » University Internal Medicine & Specialty Care, Lowry

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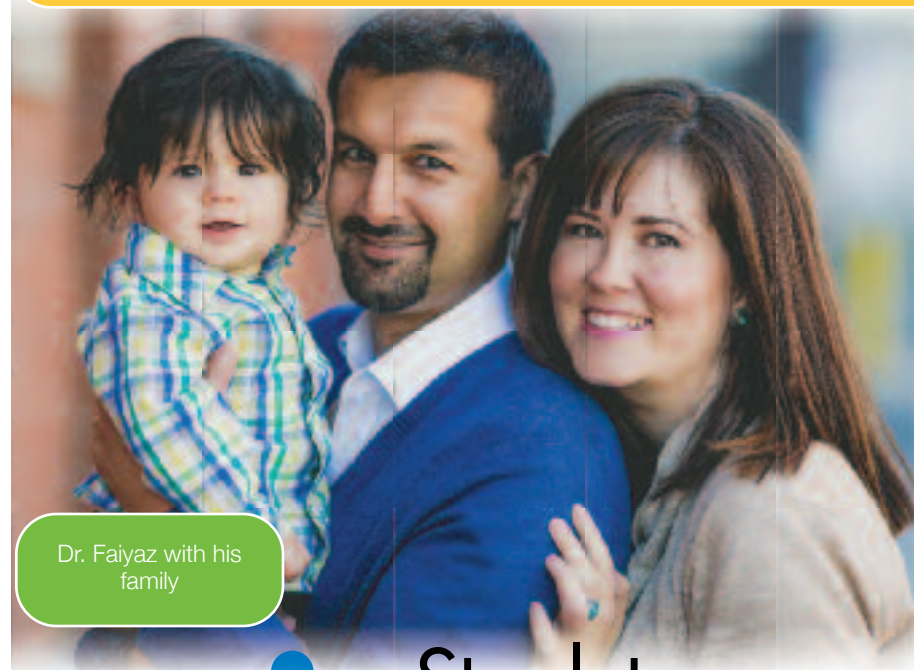
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WellConnect.org/

9/7 Saturday- Hope Center’s Annual 1K/5K Walk and Run-a-thon. Stapleton Central Park, www.hopecenterinc.org, www.runningguru.com/event/roadrunner.

9/7 Saturday- Broncos Back to Football 5K and 10K Walk/Run. Benefits National Sports Center for Disabled. nflrunseries.com/broncos

9/8 and 9/22 Sundays- Yoga Rocks the Park. 9:30am-12pm. Various parks. \$12 advance; \$15 at park. www.yogarocksthepark.com/denver

9/8 Sunday- Denver Trail ½ Marathon and 10K. 8am. Cherry Creek Reservoir. www.denverhalf.com

9/15 Sunday- Colorado Pulmonary Hypertension 5K Fun for PHun. 9am. City Park. www.firstgiving.com/phassociation/colorado

9/19 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

9/21 Saturday- Walk to End Alzheimer’s. Denver’s City Park. coloradoalzwalk.org 800.272.3900

9/21 Saturday- be Active Fitness Festival. With Radio Disney AM 1690. Kids/families win prizes by doing fitness challenges. Fred Thomas Park, Quebec & 23rd. 10am-1pm. 303.468.3220, <http://www.bewellconnect.org/>

9/22 Sunday- 5th Annual Hop, Skip and a Jump Start. Stroller and family-friendly 5K and Expo. Starts 9am. Benefits Children’s Museum of Denver. Register: www.mychildsmuseum.org

9/28 Saturday- 1-mile Fun Run & 5K to Support AIDS Care in Africa. Stapleton Central Park. 9am 5K, 10am fun run. \$15/person, \$50 max for family. Register: www.denverpres.org/kids4kits

9/29 Sunday- Race for the Cure. Registration now open. www.komendenver.org

9/29 Sunday- Machebeuf 5K Family Fun Run and Walk. 11am. Bishop Machebeuf High School. www.lowry.org for info.

10/5 Saturday- be Healthy. Free health screenings and other opportunities. Nancy P. Anschutz Boys and Girls Club, 33rd and Holly. 10am-1pm. 303.468.3220, <http://www.bewellconnect.org/>

10/6 Sunday- Free to Breathe Denver 5K Walk/Run. To raise lung cancer awareness. 8am. Washington Park www.freetobreathe.org

10/6 Sunday- The Retro Run. Untimed 5K at City Park. 9am. theretrorun5k.com.

10/20 Sunday- Denver Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon, ½ Marathon and Relay. Register: www.runrocknroll.competitor.com/denver

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

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

LECTURES AND CLASSES

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

Active Minds – Info on all sessions: www.ActiveMinds.com. FREE.

9/10 Tuesday- North Korea. 12.30-1:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax. 303.322.7727

9/12 Thursday- The Challenges of Mexico. 7pm. Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 2823 Roslyn St. 303.388.0724

9/24 Tuesday- The Nobel Prize. 5:30-6:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax. 303.322.7727

9/26 Thursday- Mt. Everest. 7pm. Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 2823 Roslyn St. 303.388.0724

10/1 Tuesday- The Kurds. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. 303.316.6359

LIBRARIES

Visit www.denverlibrary.org for children’s story hours, book club info, crafts sessions and complete program list. All branches closed 9/2 Labor Day.

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

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

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

Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325.

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

NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS

High Holy Days- Celebrate with Temple Micah. For calendar listings/times: www.micahdenver.org, 303.388.4239 x.1

Beginning 9/6 Friday- Mom Time at Montview. 1st, 3rd and 5th Fridays. Mothers of young children learn and support each other. Each session topic on parenting, life balance, self-care. Breakfast and childcare provided. Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia. Rm. 305. 9:15-11:15am. Info: www.montviewmomtime.wordpress.com; Leah at leahcnoliver@yahoo.com; Anna at Anna.A.Clark@gmail.com.

9/7 Saturday- be Flavorful. Flavorful healthy food tastings from restaurants/organizations in the be well Zone. In partnership with Colfax Community Network, 1585 Kingston St., Aurora. 10am-1pm. 303.468.3220, <http://www.bewellconnect.org/>

Tuesdays through September- Lowry Farmers Market. 4pm-dusk at Hangar 2, 7581 E. Academy Blvd. *(continued on p. 20)*

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Doug Wysockey-Johnson, Executive Director of Lumunos,
will be in Denver for the **2013 Montview Lectureship on October 4 & 5**
at Montview Church, 1980 Dahlia Street, Denver.

FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION GO TO WWW.MONTVIEW.ORG

(continued from page 19) **Fridays and Saturdays- Wine Tastings.** Wine Cellars, the Bottle Shop of Stapleton. 4-7pm. FREE. www.facebook.com/WineCellarsatStapleton
Central Park Recreation Center. Info: www.denvergov.org/recreation, 750.865.0750 or Facebook Central Park Recreation Center. Registering for programs.

9/21 Saturday- Bikes For Life Bicycle Skills Course for Children. Bicycle course teaches skills for kids 3 to 12, all ability levels. Separate course for 1st time without training wheels. 9am-12pm. FREE. Central Park Rec Center (9651 E. MLK Blvd). Contact: 720.777.4166

9/26 Thursday- Colfax Community Network: A Home Away from Homelessness Cheers for Children Fundraiser. 6-9pm. Wynkoop Brewery, downtown Denver. Tickets \$60 or 2 for \$100, includes appetizers, drink ticket, silent/live auction, cork sale. Jenna: 303.842.5542 or www.colfax-communitynetwork.org

9/27 Friday- GAS! (Green Art Sale). Free community-based market at Art Garage in Park Hill. 5:30-8:30pm last Friday of month through Oct. GAS! artists, craftspeople, musicians and specialty food vendors exhibit, perform and sell. 6100 E. 23d Ave. www.artgaragedenver.com.

9/28 Saturday and 9/29 Sunday- Stapleton Open Studios Tour. 11am-5pm. Inaugural Stapleton Open Studios tour. Experience inner workings of 17 Stapleton artists' studios and their craft on free self-guided tour. Event kickoff reception 9/27 6-8pm at Art & Framing at Stapleton. www.stapletonopenstudios.com

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

10/1 Tuesday to 10/7 Monday- 3rd Annual Stapleton Community Food Drive. Look for bag to be delivered to your door to place items in with directions for donating. Sponsored by New Perspective Real Estate. www.facebook.com/NPREco

10/3 Thursday- Simwatachela Sustainable Agricultural and Arts Program (SSAAP.com). Learn how Stanley British Primary School 350 Quebec Ct., 5-8pm. Open to those interested in the to learn how students from the school are turning their efforts toward cleaner water in Simwatachela, Zambia. For sale: student hand-made art and baked goods; live/silent auction for African art and other items.

BLUFF LAKE NATURE CENTER
3400 Havana Way, Denver. www.blufflake-naturecenter.org

9/6 Friday- Bluff Lake Buds. Preschooler and parent program: 10-11am. Crawly Critters! Ages 2 to 5 accompanied by parent. Circle time, interactive stations and short hike. \$5/child if register in advance at amillman@blufflake.org; adults free. Repeats 9/20.

9/18 Wednesday- Science Speaker Series: "Colorado's Hidden Treasures: Gold, Diamonds and Marble." 6-7:30pm. New Bluff Lake series for stimulating scientific presentation/discussion geared to adults. Speaker: James Hagadorn, Tim & Kathryn Ryan Curator of Geology, Dept. of Earth Sciences, Denver Museum of Nature & Science. \$5/person. amillman@blufflake.org

DENVER ART MUSEUM
100 West 14th Ave Parkway, www.denver-artmuseum.org
Through 9/8- Rocky Mountain Majesty: Paintings of Charles Partridge Adams
Through 9/22- Spun: Adventures in Textiles
Final Friday at Denver Art Museum. 6-10pm. *Untitled* is DAM's Final Friday series, Jan.-Oct. Music, cash bar, munchies, offbeat art encounters, unique de tours of DAM collection. General admission applies; members free. www.denverartmuseum.org

DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE
Montview and Colorado Blvd. www.dmns.org, 303.370.6000
9/19 Thursday- Science Lounge. Cocktails/entertainment every 3rd Thurs. monthly. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/nonmembers

Planetarium- Passport to the Universe; Realm of Light, Black Holes, One World, One Sky, Cosmic Journey: A Solar System Adventure. www.dmns.org/planetarium/current-show

IMAX Movies- Titans of the Ice Age 3D, Flight of the Butterflies 3D, Galapagos 3D, Hubble 3D Deep Sea 3D. Great White Shark 3D. Rocky Mountain Express 2D. Various times. Tickets: \$8/3-18; \$10/adult

NORTHFIELD EVENTS
The Shops at Northfield Stapleton:
Bass Pro Events- 720.385.3600, www.BassPro.com

Hunting, fishing and marine seminars offered throughout month.

Harkins Theatres 18- 720.374.3118

New Releases

9/6 – Drinking Buddies, Riddick

9/13 – The Family, Insidious Chapter 2

9/20 – A Single Shot, Thanks for Sharing, Battle of the Year
9/27 – Baggage Claim, Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2, Don Jon

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

Prices vary based on comedian and show time.

Toby Keith's I Love This Bar & Grill-
303.728.9468, www.countrybarco.com Local and regional live music nightly.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

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

9/13 Friday- Disappearing Treasures: National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repository Tour.* 10am-noon.

9/28 Saturday- Create a Wreath. 1-3pm. \$15. Register by 9/21.

9/28 Saturday- Birding for Beginners.* 8:30-11:30am.

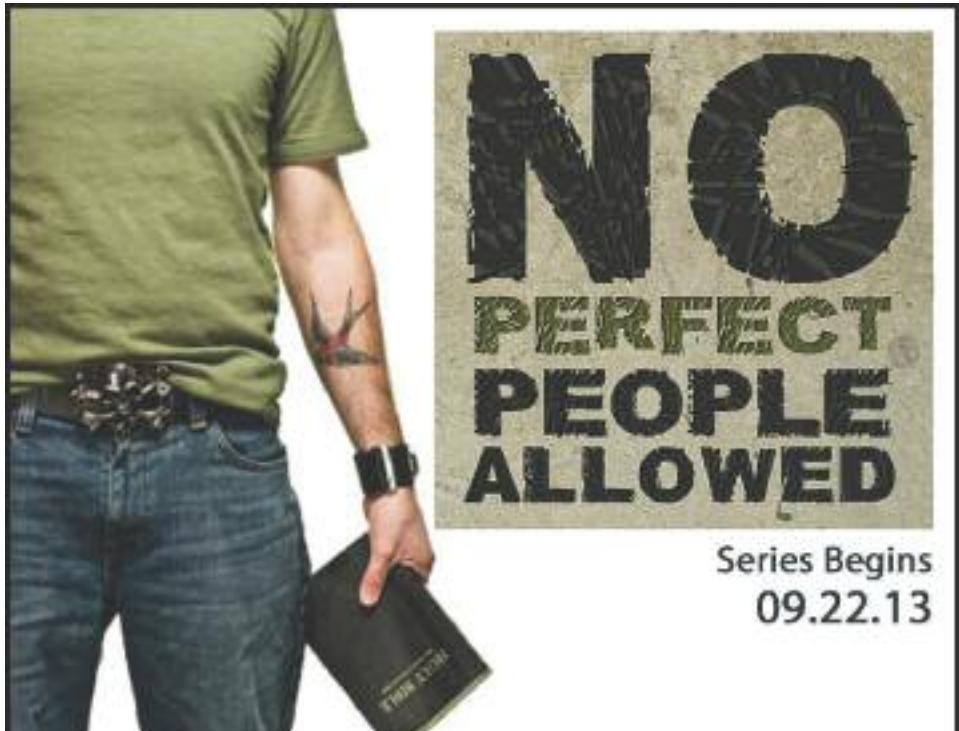
Self-guided Wildlife Drive Auto Tour Route. Daily 6am-6pm.

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

3rd Annual Refuge Amateur Photo Contest. Due 9/29.

THEATRE

Through 9/15- The Kid. Featuring Joey McIntyre of New Kids on the Block. Galleria Theatre, 14th and Curtis. Denver Center for Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org



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Details at
www.StapletonChurch.com

RECURRING MEETINGS

Business Groups

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

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

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

Civic Groups

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

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

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

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

Interest Groups

BLUFF LAKE BIRDERS. 1st Saturday, 8am. Nature Center. BluffLakeNatureCenter.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stapleton Groups

PARKS ADVISORY GROUP. 2nd Tuesday, 8:30am. 7350 E 29th Ave, 3rd fl. Lcorrell@dotnet.net

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

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

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

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

Support Groups

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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9/20 to 10/26 - The Complete World of Sports. Avenue Theater, 417 E. 17th Ave. www.avenuetheater.com

Through 9/22- Metamorphoses. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E Colfax Ave. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

Through 9/28- Next Fall. Firehouse Theater Company at John Hand Theater. www.johnhandtheater.com

9/6 to 9/29- Camelot. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. www.arvadacenter.org

9/13 to 10/6- Veronica's Room. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. 303.856.7830, www.vintage theatre.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

Girl Scouts- With thousands of girls on waiting lists, Girl Scouts of Colorado is in critical need of adult volunteers. Contact: girlscoutsofcolorado.org, inquiry@gscolorado.org or 1.877.404.5708.

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

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

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

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

Reading Volunteers Needed. At Odyssey School or Venture Prep Middle School for 2013-14 school year to share one-on-one reading. Email Julie at Julie@PartnersinLiteracy.org

Summer Scholars. Year-round volunteers needed to read with students/assist in office. www.summerscholars.org, 303.381.3738

Sickle Cell Assoc/Bonfils Blood Drive. 9:30am-1:30pm on 9/14 at Park Hill United Methodist Church gymnasium. Contact Wanda Smith at 303-941-3611 to make an appt. Walk-ins accepted.

KIDS AND FAMILIES

9/7 Saturday and 9/8 Sunday- Exhibit/Sale of Miniatures, Dollhouses and Dolls. Free kids' workshops, low-cost adult make-it/take-it projects. Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 11am-4pm. Adults \$7; kids \$4. Doubletree by Hilton DTC Hotel, 7801 E Orchard Road, Greenwood Village. Deanna Thomas, 303.651.6856 or Comments@DMMDT.org. Sponsor: Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys.

9/7 Saturday and 9/8 Sunday- Forney Transportation Museum Moffat Modelers Toy Train Layout. Scale toy train layout open first weekend every month. Free with museum admission. 4303 Brighton Blvd. www.forneymuseum.org

9/8 Sunday- Junior Rangers. 1:30-3:30pm. Ages 6-12. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd, Aurora. Reservations required. 303.739.9428, www.auroragov.org/nature

9/11 Wednesday- Create Playdates at Denver Art Museum. Kids 3-5 roar, bang, stomp 2nd Wed/month. 10am. Art, story times, scavenger hunts. Included in museum adm; 5 and under free. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy. www.denverartmuseum.org or 720.865.5000

9/12 Thursday- Wands and Wishes Character Story Time at The Bookies Bookstore. 2nd Thurs each month, characters read interactive stories, sing a song, pose for photos; different character each month. 10:30am. FREE. 4315 E. Mississippi Ave. [wandsandwishesoccasions.com](http://www.wandsandwishesoccasions.com), 303.883.6778

9/12 Thursday to 12/1- Rumpelstiltskin. Denver Puppet Theatre, 3156 W 38th Ave. Tickets: \$7 ages 3 and up. 303.458.6446, www.denverpuppettheater.com

9/14 Saturday and 9/15 Sunday- Day Out with Thomas the Tank. 25-minute ride with Thomas, Sir Topham Hatt, storytelling, live music. Colorado Railroad Museum.org. Tickets: \$18 ages 2 and up at: www.ticketweb.com/dowt or 866.468.7630. Repeats 9/21-22, 9/28-29.

9/21 Saturday- Breakfast with Belle. Fairytale feast for little princes and princesses at Denver School of the Arts. Two seatings: 8:30am or 10:30am. Storybook setting for a culinary cabaret. Meet favorite characters like Beast and Belle and enjoy a delectable breakfast. All proceeds benefit academic programs of Denver School of the Arts. Info: <http://dsapresents.org/sd/parent-group/breakfast-with-belle/>

9/25 Wednesday to 9/29 Sunday- Beauty and the Beast. Performed by students from Denver School of the Arts. For play schedule and ticket info: www.dsa.dpsk12.org

Thursdays in September- Star K Kids. Puppets, stories, activities, outdoor explore, ages 5 and under. 9:30 & 11am. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd, Aurora. 303.739.2428, www.auroragov.org/nature

9/27 Friday- Denver Botanic Gardens Family Fun Night. 4th Friday each month explore nature at night in Mordecai Children's Garden. Monthly themes with actors in Sagebrush Stage, snacks by campfire, etc. \$20 member/family of 4, \$3 each extra. \$25 nonmember/family of 4, \$4 each additional. Kids 2 and under free. www.botanicgardens.org

KIDS CAMPS AND CLASSES

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

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

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

Start Art- Art classes. Startartkids.com

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

9/3 Tuesday to 9/30- Mondays through Saturdays - The

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9/7 Saturday- Home Depot Kids Workshop. 9am-12pm. FREE how-to clinics first Sat. monthly, ages 5-12. Get Home Depot apron, wooden project and project pin. Metro-area Home Depot stores. www.homedepot.com

9/7 to 10/26 Saturdays- Broncos Flag Football. Noncontact, rec league for kids 5-12 with focus on fun and safe play. Congress Park. \$120. www.BroncosFlagFootball.com

9/14 and 9/28 Saturdays- Lowe's Build and Grow Kids Clinics. Bring kids to Lowe's store to build FREE wood project: free apron, goggles, project-themed 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 Gaylord St. www.dmmdt.org for current workshops

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

Neighborhood Music Stapleton- Private and group instruction, piano, voice, guitar, ukulele, mandolin, violin and drums. Ages 3 and up. Skye Barker Maa. 720.353.6622, www.neighborhoodmusicstapleton.com

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

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

Stapleton All Sports- Registering for various sports. www.stapletonall-sports.com

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

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A Parent’s Guide: Finding the Right Music Teacher

By Laurie Dunklee

Experience, training, patience and cheerfulness: these are qualities to look for in a music teacher for your child or for yourself.

“The best teachers understand that people learn in different ways and can gear their teaching methods to each student,” said Vince Madison, president of the Denver Area Music Teachers Association.

Madison teaches more than 50 piano and guitar students in Stapleton and Park Hill. The professional composer, performer and recording artist believes everyone can benefit from studying music.

“Studying music develops the essential qualities of discipline, concentration, hand-eye coordination and pattern recognition,” he said. “Developing these abilities makes music students better learners in whatever subjects they pursue. Anyone who has mastered an instrument knows what it means to work hard and have the discipline to keep working. Music is a multidisciplinary thing—to look at the paper and interpret it with your hands with exact timing uses a lot of brain. Music makes you think.”

Madison recommends finding a teacher with a solid music background. “A music education degree is good but not necessary,” he said. “Performing experience is good too, but keep in mind that not everyone who can play, can teach. Ask for references. And if you’re starting your kids at an early age, look for someone who specializes in teaching young children.”

A child’s success in learning music depends on parental support, Madison said. “Practicing is most important and parents must be willing to enforce a practice schedule every day. For a 6-year-old, 10 minutes a day is sufficient; add more time as the child grows older. Practicing at the same time every day is beneficial.”

Another factor to maximize success is knowing when to start your child’s music lessons. “As children grow up, their motivations change. Under 5, music learning situations should just be fun. Six is a good age to start piano because they need the ability to concentrate. For guitar lessons, wait until they are 7 or 8 when their hands are stronger. And get a small guitar.”

How do you know if your child is especially gifted musically?

“They’ll let you know,” said Madison. “Most kids are not Mozart. But if your kid was born for Carnegie Hall, he’ll demonstrate an interest at an early age. Every child has to experience making music to see what it’s like. Take them to an early-age program like Music Together and if they take to it, go from there. But if they don’t start music lessons until later, they can still develop their talent.”

He encourages adults to start music lessons. “Adults learn 10 times faster than kids. If you’re attracted to it, give it a shot. You might not be awesome at it, but there are 100 other reasons to play. If you have the desire, do it until you die or as long as it’s fun. What have you got to lose?”

The Denver Area Music Teachers Association promotes ex-



Vince Madison is the president of the Denver Area Music Teachers Association.

cellence in music teaching by providing teachers with continuing education. Topics of presentations include the psychology of music, how to teach instrumental technique and how to reach students with different learning styles.

Madison graduated from the University of Denver with a degree in music composition and studied with a Juilliard instructor in New York. He worked as a studio musician in New York for several major record labels before forming his own Firefly Records to record his original compositions.

“I decided to write music I like, rather than music to please record company executives,” he said.

Madison’s philosophy of music education? “Studying music develops our sense of what is beautiful. It lifts us up beyond logic, beyond words.”

2013 Music & Art

Are you or your kids interested in learning an instrument or taking art classes? The Front Porch had an overwhelming response to our call for music/arts teachers—culminating in this inaugural guide listing 55 NE Denver teachers. A longer version with additional information is posted at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com. We will continue to add later submissions to our online guide.

By Madeline Schroeder, Chris Hegstrom and Carol Roberts

ARTS

Art Garage

Non-profit organization that provides educational opportunities for kids, teens and adults. Art classes and art-based community activities offered. We support cultural, social and educational diversity. Email ArtGarageDenver@gmail.com. Visit www.ArtGarageDenver.com.

Maven Studios – Donna Ellison

Lessons in writing, watercolor, crafts, beginning piano, flute, drum, voice and composition. We believe everyone is gifted and use a nurturing teaching structure. Groups and families get discounts. Call 303-394-6027 or email jellison60@yahoo.com. Visit www.SparkOfMagic.blogspot.com.

Spark It Studios – Pam Peters and Ansley Young

Light your creative fire and find your inner artist in one of our art

classes, camps or workshops. Explore various media. Art experiences for everyone to get messy and explore various media. Toddler through adult. Call 303-349-0961 or 720-299-1806. Visit www.SparkItDenver.com.

Art & Piano

Stapleton Learning Center – Johanna Smith

Piano lessons using Piano Adventures series, also called the Faber Method. Highly instructional art classes with room to get creative. Students learn to draw and paint using pencil, ink, pastel, charcoal, watercolor paint and acrylic paint on canvas. Ages 4-14. Call 720-253-8837 or visit www.StapletonLearningCenter.com.

Dance

Kim Robards Dance

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Teachers Guide

adults. Comprehensive educational outreach workshops. Call 303-825-4847 or email info@KimRobardsDance.org. Visit KimRobardsDance.org.

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Phyllis Eifler

Sew for yourself, your home and your family. Six-week sessions at 1111 Grape Street. Call 303-333-6893 or email LarryEifler@comcast.net.

Maison de Rose – Baily Rose

Rose instructs how to “Make Your Own Couture” with a focus on positive body image and repurposing old clothes and textiles into new one-of-a-kind fits for body fashions. Options for private instruction are also available. Open to all ages. 1574 York Street. Email baily@illiteratemagazine.com. Visit BailyRose.BlogSpot.com.

DRUMS

Brian Mixon

Jazz performer and drumset teacher in Stapleton. Creativity and fun are most important. Whether you are interested in pop/rock, Latin, or jazz, you can reach achieve your musical goal here. Open to all ages. Call 303-847-2211 or email bmixon1966@gmail.com.

East Side Drums – Anthony A. Pantellis

Focuses on solid musical foundation. Pantellis has 55 years of playing experience and 25 years teaching experience. Lessons in home studio in Stapleton. Call 303-320-0514.

Music Works Denver – Alan Martin

Learn from a teacher with more than a decade of teaching experi-

ence. Lessons in percussion/drums for beginner to advanced musicians. Classes also offered for beginner winds and brass students. 303-322-4560 or Info@musicworksdenver.com. Visit www.MusicWorksDenver.com.

Profundo Music Studio – Michael Spencer

Stapleton studio specializing in Latin music. Group or individual classes ages 5 to 100 in hand percussion, drum kit and general percussion. Also accepts ensemble groups. Can meet at place most convenient for you. Focuses on music education, sound recognition and why you enjoy playing music. Call 617-792-3943 or email Mike@ProfundoMusic.com or Elgin73@gmail.com. Visit www.ProfundoMusic.com.

Scott Higgins

Professional percussion player around the Denver metro area and percussion teacher for 25 years. Prefers ages 10 and older. Focus on a solid background in technique and learning drum and mallet instruments. 720-841-3231.

FLUTE

Cathy Peterson

Peterson is the Second/Assistant Principal Flutist with Colorado Symphony Orchestra. Open to children and adults. Lessons taught in the Park Hill neighborhood. Visit www.CatherinePeterson.com.

GUITAR

City Strings Guitar

Ongoing group guitar classes for youth in after-school enrichment

programs in schools throughout Denver. Will soon offer adult classes. Fun and affordable is the philosophy here. For every lesson purchased in the adults class, a lesson will be provided to a youth in financial need at no cost. Visit www.CityStringsGuitar.com.

Jeremy Zampert

Zampert has more than seven years teaching experience and more than 18 years playing experience. Lessons are customized to individual student's needs and aspirations. Open to ages 6 and older. Call 303-521-0050 or email JZampert@yahoo.com.

Mark Hufnagel

Acoustic, electric and bass guitar lessons for all ages. Teaches chord theory, mysteries of the fretboard and songs that fit your voice. Philosophy: No matter the skill level, there are options for every guitar player to become a more accomplished musician. Call 303-377-9004 or HuffMobile@comcast.net.

Naturally Loved – Melissa Monforti

Guitar for kids and adults using Forte Music Education. Small group lessons teach the core beginner through advanced skills. Kids lessons include silliness and teamwork while drilling skills and learning songs. Adult les-

sons designed for busy people who deserve a break to freshen our minds and enrich our lives. Contact: www.ForteMusicEducation.com, Melissa@ForteMusicEducation.com or 303-455-4896.

Nick Hutchinson

Beginning guitar lessons (six string: electric and acoustic). Philosophy: You can do it! Taught by Stapleton resident, band member, songwriter and recording artist with three decades of experience. Email nichut@msn.com.

Paul Murin

Lessons taught at your home with a professional musician and teacher who is familiar with a wide variety of musical styles. Open to all ages, and lessons can be customized to student's needs and tastes. Teaching style is song-based, using familiar songs as a basis. Philosophy: Above all, playing the guitar should be fun and creative. paul@HighCountryGuitar.com.

Guitar, Bass & Drums

Olson & Smith Guitar Studio (Stapleton Guitar Studio) – Natasha Olson-Smith & Steve Smith

Become inspired to play the guitar with encouraging, energetic and engaging teaching tailored to each student or group in a safe and positive environ-

ment. Performance opportunities and lesson feedback included. Private, semi-private and group lessons in all styles. Ages 5 and older. For questions call 303-318-9542 or 720-318-7854 or email NatashaOlson@yahoo.com. Visit www.StapletonGuitar.com.

(see also piano & guitar)

MULTIPLE INSTRUMENTS

Lyza George

Elementary music teacher, drummer, composer, and vocalist. Offers classes in keyboard, music theory, composition, percussion, drum set, and vocal lessons. George believes music must be fun so classes encourage exploring all genres. Group lessons available at her home studio on Saturdays. Also offers private lessons in many instruments. 720-365-5897 or MusicOnAMission@gmail.com.

Neighborhood Music Stapleton

13 teachers, two are certified music therapists. Group and private lessons in a private home for ages 3 to adult. Piano, voice, guitar, ukulele, violin, mandolin, banjo, fiddle, and drums. Free trial group or

private lesson. 303-588-5288 or Skye @NeighborhoodMusicStapleton.com. Visit www.NeighborhoodMusicStapleton.com.

Park Hill Music – Roger L. Harmon

Harmon is a Park Hill music director who received his Master's from the University of Denver School of Music. He teaches guitar, piano, electric bass, ukulele. Lessons for children and adults. Private and group lessons available. Call 720-979-591. Visit <http://RogerLouis.com>

Richard Sims Herrick

Herrick has 35 years of teaching experience. Lessons provided at the Montview Blvd Presbyterian Church. Lessons in piano, all band instruments, guitar and beginner violin with a focus on fundamentals. Flexible schedule to accommodate busy lives. Group lessons also available and can arrange for lessons at your home. Call 951-662-7144 or email RHerr201@hotmail.com.

MUSIC FOR KIDS

Children's Music Academy

Largest music school for young children. Lessons offered in a fun, positive and creative environment. Ages 3 to 9. Use age-appropriate activities and games to teach many aspects of music. Call 303-771-3333 or email info@ChildrensMusicAcademy.org. Visit www.ChildrensMusicAcademy.org or go to a free class at the local Park Hill Studio at 1508 Locust Street.

Twinkle Together, LLC featuring Music Together, LLC

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(continued on page 24)



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Natasha Olson-Smith

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Music/Arts Guide

(continued from page 23)



Right: Natalie Burningham



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care for the individual. Children and adults work through diagnosis with music. Ages: 2 1/2 to 5 for Music time; other classes for all ages. 303-887-1070, HealthBeatMusicTherapy@gmail.com or visit HealthBeatMusicTherapy.com.

(music therapists also listed under Multiple Instruments)

MUSIC THERAPY

Health Beat Music Therapy – Natalie Burningham
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PIANO

Ann Markey
Stapleton teacher who strives to develop a student's lifelong love and appreciation of music by focusing on technical skills and discovering one's musical potential. Highly experienced teacher and musician. Many students have gone on to study music and become professional teachers or performers. Students have two recitals

and other events each year. 303-349-1440 or email PianoAnni@mac.com.

David Ross Piano Studio, LLC – David Ross

Learn piano at your own pace. Students create lessons and practice according to their desires, schedules and abilities. Lessons encourage the desire to learn and help improve skills. Lessons for ages 5 1/2 and older. Ross has degrees in music composition & songwriting; 25 years general teaching, over 15 years private lessons. 303-507-0906 or PianoManRoss@yahoo.com. Visit www.DenverPianoStudio.com.

Derry O'Leary

"Denver's Most Versatile Pianist." Modern piano lessons in the comfort of your own home. Jazz, pop, funk, soul, blues and the classics. Lessons are fun and relaxed. Lessons for beginners through professionals. Learn to read music, play by ear, improvise, compose, and train vocals. Call 303-427-6207 or email DerryOleary@aol.com.

Judith Metcalfe

"The study of piano should be full of joy and motivation to express creativity and beauty." Program includes different styles, theory/beginning composition, technique, and music history. Students find their own expression of music. My studio includes a grand piano, digital piano, computer programs, and a large listening/reading library. Private and group lessons for children and adults. Email JudithMetcalfe47@comcast.net.

Kay Ambrose

Classes in the Mayfair neighborhood for children and adults with personalized instruction to make music an enriching and enhancing experience. Reasonable rates. Call 303-355-0349 or email KayAmb88@yahoo.com.

Nancy Hyde

Piano lessons for students of all ages and levels using a creative approach but stressing fundamentals. Nurturing teacher for 30 years in Park Hill and mother of three musically talented adults. Call 303-321-6039 (home) or 720-937-6039 (cell) or email rh.nancy@gmail.com

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Rebecca Gale

Denver area singer-songwriter licensed to teach Simply Music, the world's largest playing-based music education institution. We believe that everyone is musical and strive to develop a student's lifelong relationship with music. Curriculum includes pop, blues, jazz and classical pieces. Ages 7 and older. One free trial class. Call 303-884-3323 or email rebecca@rebeccagale.com. Visit www.InnerSongStudio.com.

Rhapsody Music Studio – Molly Moran

Teaching based on the philosophy that no two students are the same or learn in exactly the same manner. Lessons offered either at Molly's home studio or in the student's home. Call 303-596-9627 or email RhapsodyMusicStudio@gmail.com. Visit www.RhapsodyMusicStudioDenver.com.

Ruth Burnham

Philosophy: Music is a wonderful means of self-expression, a powerful way to improve the mind and spirit, and a source of beauty in a culture where beauty is not always valued. Students attain these values and pursue personal musical goals. Focuses on classical repertoire. Specializes in adult students of any age and level. Call 303-322-4020.

Shareen Murra

Piano lessons in your home. My roots are classical but I also have a jazz focus. I obtained a degree in music while professionally writing, recording and performing live with my band. All skills levels and ages welcome. Call 303-530-5608. Visit www.ShareenPianoStudio.com.

Songinflight Studio – Leslie Dawe

Piano instruction for all ages and abilities. Located a few blocks from Stapleton Town Center. Combines classical approach and theory with creativity to inspire beautiful piano playing. Taught by state-certified

music educator with 10 years of teaching. For more information, call 720-445-5542 or email lessons@SongInFlight.com. Visit www.SongInFlight.com.

Stephanie Rigg

Philosophy: "I am a believer of the benefits of music, regardless of age or ability." Lessons provide beginner to intermediate students with a well-rounded music education through music theory, ear training, music history, sightreading skills, memorization and performance skills. Taught by former elementary school teacher with 20 years of piano experience. Email steph.rigg@hotmail.com.

—Piano & Flute—

Miles Music Studio – Kari Miles

Family-friendly piano and flute studio that specializes in teaching children and teens the skills to

become well-rounded musicians. Conservatory-trained instructor with more than 20 years experience teaching and performing. Sticks to the philosophy that learning an instrument brings joy, self-expression and appreciation of the arts. Call Kari at 303-322-8447 or email at KariMiles@yahoo.com.



Kristin Cypher

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Melissa Monforti

—Piano & Guitar—

Vince Madison

Students enjoy playing and develop essential qualities: discipline, concentration, hand-eye coordination, pattern recognition, an aesthetic sense, concepts of form and structure. Madison is a 15-year teacher and recording artist/composer of seven albums of original piano music. Classes for children and adults. Call 303-731-7933 or email mail@VinceMadison.com. Visit www.VinceMadison.com.

—Piano & Violin—

Denver World Music Studio – Loribeth Gregory

Tap into the community, culture, and your creative side through learning music. Lesson plans and musical repertoire tailored for each student and the role of music in the student's life. Focuses on fundamentals, musicality and developing a musical ear. Gregory is a 14-year instructor with deep understanding of the multiple facets of music education, performance, and music theory. Call 303-997-0311x801 or email Lori-Beth@DenverWorldMusic.com

PIANO & VOICE

Beth Blaskovich Piano Studio – Beth Blaskovich

Explore your musical expression in a supportive environment. Students learn everything from theory to sight-reading. Movement, singing and percussion incorporated into lessons so students absorb the whole creative process. Blaskovich has taught since 2003. Classes open to all ages and levels. Call 720-934-8007 or email PianoStudio@BethBlaskovich.com. Visit www.BethBlaskovich.com.

Jamie Halladay

Beginning to intermediate voice and beginning piano lessons. Students discover musical talents in an enlightening and fun environment. Halladay is a specialist in voice performance and soloist and choir member from age 9. Classes open to ages 8 and older. Call 720-238-3497 or go to Singing WithJamie.com.

Megan Kelley, Inc. – Megan Kelley

Mayfair/Park Hill lessons for children and adults. Have fun and learn in a structured, energetic, positive and individually catered class. Uses traditional method classical piano and voice, and incorporates pop, rock, jazz and blues style music. Focuses on music theory and fundamentals. Composition classes, band coaching, song-writing and home recording also

available. Call 303-910-9367 or email teacher@MeganKelley.net. Visit www.MeganKelley.net.

MHM Music, LLC – Marlena Hooker Moore & Daniel Mullens

Provides busy families with the convenience of in-home lessons and develops independent musicians who love to make and share music. Voice students also learn basic piano skills. Piano students learn to play with musicality, accuracy and a comfortable technique. Instructors with Master's in vocal performance and conducting. Lessons for ages 5 and older. Adults welcome. Call Marlena at 303-668-6481 or email mhmooremusic@gmail.com.

Micaëla Larsen Brown

Professional singer and classically trained musician offering voice and piano lessons in Park Hill home. Have fun, learn how to read music and improvise, and choose your own repertoire after reaching a certain level. Teacher with 20 years of experience. Lessons can be tailored to meet individual goals. Piano lessons offered to ages 4 and older; voice lessons for ages 8 and older. Call 303-355-2028 or Micaelajo17@gmail.com.

Rebecca Palco

Longtime choir and theater teacher offering beginning and intermediate piano and voice lessons in Stapleton. Lessons use traditional piano methods, not Suzuki. Can teach at your home. Call 203-530-7271 or email RPalco@yahoo.com.

"when to push a student and when to back off." Reque performs frequently with Quartetto Denver, Musica Sacra Chamber Orchestra and the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado. Lessons open to all ages and levels. Call 303-355-8289 or email KarlReque@yahoo.com.



Josie Quick

VIOLIN

Erik Peterson

Park Hill lessons taught by violinist with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, Artistic Director of Chintimini Chamber Music Festival, and the Front Range Chamber Players. Visit www.ErikViolin.com.

Jessica Berg

Violin lessons in the Suzuki Method for children ages 4 and older. Students begin by listening to recordings to hear pitches in tune and then develop fine bow and violin position. Berg firmly believes young children can learn to play beautiful music at a young age. Involves weekly private lessons and group lessons, as well as active parent involvement in home practice and at lessons. Lessons in Mayfair and Congress Park. Contact jberg7@hotmail.com.

STRINGS

Colorado School of Strings – Kelly Benson

Beginning violin classes and beginning cello classes in Stapleton studio for ages 6 to 11. Private lessons available for children 12 and older, or for those with previous experience with a string instrument. Students are encouraged to high levels of achievement while still enjoying a fun and positive classroom environment. Call 720-420-5000 or email Kelly@ColoradoSchoolOfStrings.com. Visit www.ColoradoSchoolOfStrings.com.

Karl Reque

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Josie Quick

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Stapleton Update

By Carol Roberts

Conservatory Green Elementary/Middle School

At a community meeting on July 30, RB&B Architects presented their plans for the new elementary/middle school in Northfield. The middle school will use the east side of the building and the elementary and ECE will be on the west. The two sections of the building are joined by a door in the middle of the building that, as needed, will be closed off to prevent access between the two programs. ECE has a separate parking lot for parents who walk in with their kids. The middle school has a large drop off area at the east end of the building where waiting cars won't affect traffic flow. Two separate entries will be identified on the front of the building and elementary and middle school students will enter separate areas. The gymnasium and cafeteria will be shared by both programs.

The school's main entrance is on Stoll Place to the south, and is bordered by Willow St. to the east, 50th Dr to the north, and Verbena St to the west. Additional renderings are posted at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com.

Conservatory Green Elementary/Middle School



Middle School Transportation

The district-wide policy for middle school is to provide transportation if students live further than 2.5 miles from their local middle school. This year, that policy does *not* apply to students in the Smiley boundary since current Smiley-area students do not now have a neighborhood school. This year, DPS is providing transportation for those students from Smiley to the following schools: DSST: Cole, DSST: Stapleton, McAuliffe International School, Morey Middle School and William Roberts ECE-8.

For next year, DPS says, "The DPS Transportation department is working hard to plan for a bus service that will connect schools, students and opportunities within the Greater Park Hill/Stapleton middle school shared boundary. As soon as the details of that system are finalized, Transportation will share them with families so they are able to plan for the 2014-15 school year." (The five shared boundary schools are Bill Roberts, the new McAuliffe middle school, the McAuliffe IB program that moved to Smiley, DSST:Stapleton and the new DSST program at Conservatory Green.)

Northfield HS Principal Search

DPS did a three-month local search for a leader who meets the criteria set out for the principal of the new Northfield High School: strong experience and expertise, a forward-thinking approach, understanding of the community and a desire to partner with parents, and the ability to lead a strong team of educators. They did not find a strong candidate locally and have now launched a national search. When they narrow the pool to the finalists, DPS plans to host a public forum where community members can question candidates and offer input to inform the final decision.

DPS says this fall community members will be invited to small "living room" meetings to discuss school design and in the new year parents will be able to participate on a Program Advisory Committee and additional design teams.

At this time there is no planning for a "seed school" to start in the fall of 2014 in a temporary location. What has been approved by the board is to start in 2015-16 "when the school's program design and facility will be complete and there will be enough 9th-grade students to support a robust high school program with a full complement of academic and extracurricular programs." For additional information, please contact Nikole Bruns-Carey at nikole_brunscarey@dpsk12.org.

Vet Clinic at Montview and Willow

Michele Smith of the 29th Ave. Animal Hospital is planning to build a clinic at Willow and Montview, just east of Digstown. The building will be located along Montview with the parking lot behind the building. It will not be a kennel, except for animals recovering from surgery. Smith's hope is to break ground in February and open at the end of September, but timing will depend on getting city permits.

Community Arts Center Update

A year and a half ago when Master Community Association (MCA) Director Keven Burnett looked at the future of the organization he runs, he knew his staff would have to get larger to provide services for the growing population of Stapleton. It seemed that his need for more office space, the community's desire for the tower to have a meaningful use, and community interest in an arts center could coalesce to accomplish all three in a way that would be beneficial to Stapleton. Burnett says the work they did to research bringing a community arts center to Stapleton has been and will continue to be valuable for the MCA's future planning.

The projected cost for converting the tower building into an arts center was about \$10 million, including some new construction and renovation of the existing building. However, the cost of building a completely new facility at Eastbridge (\$19 million) came in too high to be feasible at this time. Burnett also concluded that the timing for a community arts center would be better when Stapleton is more balanced between north and south, citing "Centerfield" (south of I-70 at Central Park Blvd.) as a possible central location to consider in the future.

Asked whether the tower is still a possibility, Burnett said it

could be a viable option but not until Forest City has a firm plan for the land surrounding the tower. To plan a community arts center, particularly parking and access, the MCA would need to know

how the surrounding parcel will be developed.

However, the MCA's need for more office and community room space hasn't changed—it's growing more urgent. They now have the opportunity to move into space in the 29th Ave. Town Center that will allow their staff to grow to meet the demands of adding two new pools and an event amphitheatre in Conservatory Green.



Keven Burnett at an April 2013 meeting of the community arts center committee.

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Elementary School Boundaries

The current system of a single boundary for all Stapleton schools was decided on when Stapleton was sparsely populated. Some think that policy isn't workable now, with many new homeowners finding that the closest school is full. Stapleton United Neighbors has established a committee with two voting delegates from each neighborhood in Stapleton who will solicit the views of local residents on how that policy should be changed. The committee will hold public meetings on September 26 and October 10 and will then vote on a recommendation to DPS. A list of the neighborhood delegates is posted at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com > Article Supplements. Residents who want to voice their opinion on this subject should contact their representative. The proposals that will be discussed and voted on will be posted with the list in early September.

Forest City Updates

Growth at Stapleton:
"Northfield continues to be up double digits year over year, month over month. Almost every month is 10-12% year over year."
"The projection for the total of sales and property taxes generated at Stapleton in 2013 is \$44 million, which is approximately a 20% increase over last year." *John Lehigh, President and Chief Operating Officer, Forest City Stapleton*
These funds are being used for repayment to DPS for Westerly Creek Elementary; debt issued by Denver Urban Renewal Authority (DURA); repayments to DPS and Forest City for advances made to build schools; and 22% goes to the City of Denver General Fund to cover city services at Stapleton. *Tom Gleason, Vice President - Public Relations, Forest City Stapleton*
Conservatory Green consists of 800 lots. Now Forest City has purchased the land north of Conservatory Green for a new residential neighborhood that will have approximately 770 units. "We anticipate construction to begin there (Filing 45) in October of 2013, with first lots delivering in the summer of 2014." *Tom Gleason*

MLK Extension to Peoria:
"CDOT has funds for RAMP (Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships) grants. The 'short list' is expected to be announced in October. Our request is one of many projects and the likelihood is rare because it's not a state highway but it does connect to a very important interchange so we think we have a chance. We're going in with the city of Denver. If we are selected, the district has to come up with matching funds—\$4 million for a \$12 million project." *Charlie Nicola, Senior Vice President, Forest City Stapleton*
(continued on p. 29)



Letters to the Editor

Boasberg's Policies: Inequity and Mediocrity

In the November Denver Public Schools Board of Education election, voters have a clear choice between candidates who favor the authoritarian policies of Superintendent Tom Boasberg and those who favor innovative democratic reform beginning with teachers, parents and students and who believe Boasberg's policies to be inequitable and mediocre.

In 2005, Michael Bennet became superintendent. In 2006, the Harvard Civil Rights Study Project, "Denver Public Schools: Resegregation, Latino Style," concluded that DPS has, since 1995 when court ordered busing ended, contributed to resegregating DPS, especially Latino and poor students. Bennet became a U.S. Senator without acknowledging that report and without acknowledging the growing inequity and mediocrity for those same students because they lack opportunities available to the privileged and the lucky. Boasberg has yet to acknowledge the study.

Nor has he acknowledged his own failures, such as the "re-design" of North High. Following a period of slow, steady progress, the principal was replaced, and teachers were forced to reapply. This reform immediately resulted in declining student achievement, more dropouts and a declining population.

Another Boasberg policy, co-location, places two or more schools on the same campus, meaning two administrative teams per campus—additional administrative expenses by the same administration that promised reduced costs. A STRIVE charter school will be co-located at North.

These policies, not unique to DPS, are part of a nationwide trend funded by billionaires including Bill and Melinda Gates, the Koch brothers, Michael Bloomberg, etc., who donate money to Stand for Children (SFC), Democrats for Educational Reform (DEFER) and to candidates who adhere to corporate reform.

In November, money should flow to certain candidates. Former Lt. Gov. Barbara O'Brien running at large against Michael Kiley will benefit from deep corporate coffers. So will Landri Taylor against Roger Kilgore in northeast Denver, Rosemary Rodriguez against incumbent Andrea Merida in southwest Denver and Michael Johnson, former DPS bond attorney, against Meg Schomp running for Jeanne Kaplan's seat who's term limited and has endorsed Schomp. Johnson favors a 7-0 majority, a convenience for Boasberg?

Voters should ask Boasberg, "Who owns East High and why is it no longer owned by DPS?" "If academic success has been achieved, why do increasing numbers of DPS students each year need remediation before entering college?" "And, if corporate reform is good enough for DPS students, why not move his children from Boulder to Denver?" Isn't the choice clear inequity and mediocrity or equity and excellence?

Ed Augden, retired DPS teacher and community activist

DPS: Pioneers in Creating High Quality Schools

Like other parents in Denver Public Schools (DPS), our family has been busy buying school supplies and picking first day of school outfits. But the start of school is not just about my kids, it's about the more than 86,000 students in Denver Public Schools.

Since DPS's strategic plan began there have been tremendous changes in schools and opportunities for students. DPS is now the fastest growing urban school district in the nation. Nowhere is that tremendous growth more evident than in Stapleton.

We have been pioneers in creating new high quality schools. We have a range of strong district schools, innovation schools and charters. Because of the commitment from our teachers, principals, parents and community, these schools are all full and thriving. Stapleton has one of the lowest rates in the district of families opting out of neighborhood schools.

The original shared elementary school boundary was something parents wanted to ensure the success of both Westerly Creek and Bill Roberts. In addition, the Stapleton DSST was the first DPS charter school with a neighborhood preference, something that is continuing because of the high demand for seats by Stapleton residents.

The decision to move McAuliffe Middle School was not made without the voices of the Greater Park Hill and Stapleton communities. The process that lead up to the decision included five large community meetings, multiple smaller venue living room meetings, and four meetings all in Spanish.

As a person who worked with parents from both Park Hill and Stapleton for more than a year, this is what they wanted: a high-quality and socio-economically diverse school serving both neighborhoods. For Park Hill, it meant a thriving Smiley. For Stapleton, it meant a school close to home, but with sports fields, more classrooms and an auditorium.

It may not have been what every Stapleton and Park Hill resident thought was best, but for the most impacted children it was overwhelmingly supported and led by the community. I say this not only as a Stapleton resident and DPS school board member but as a mother of a McAuliffe 7th grader.

Similarly, the changes in far northeast Denver were an attempt to give lower-income students the same options and opportunities we have in Stapleton. Schools are performing better than before, and more families are choosing to stay in schools in their neighborhood.

There are new challenges ahead for both communities. We need people to participate as we look at issues like the Stapleton elementary school boundaries. My hope is not only do we approach our challenges as supporters of our neighborhoods, but also as believers in the gifts and capabilities of all our 86,000 DPS students.

Mary Seawell, DPS board president and Stapleton parent

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Getting Connected

By David Vogel

Stapleton's Development Plan, The Green Book, states that its history as a former airport, "has created a significant barrier to east/west and north/south continuity in the area's roadway system." As a result, one of the most important transportation objectives set forth in The Green Book is to "reconnect the site with neighborhood and regional systems." Unfortunately, as Stapleton has been slowly built over the last decade, the implementation of that goal has fallen well short of expectations.

The network of streets laid out in a traditional grid is ubiquitous in neighborhoods surrounding Stapleton. The purpose of a grid is to maximize the number of different routes that drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians can use to navigate within and between neighborhoods. One of the most important features of a grid is that it disperses vehicular traffic across the entire street network rather than concentrating it on just a few major streets. Unlike conventional suburban design, with its limited points of ingress and egress, grids create seamless connections to adjacent neighborhoods. This connectivity minimizes the perception of a "border crossing" when traversing from Park Hill into Montclair or from Cherry Creek into Congress Park.

With so few connections to adjacent neighborhoods, Stapleton has not fit seamlessly into the existing street grids of Denver and Aurora. That condition is most pronounced in East Stapleton, where 17 north/south streets abruptly end at the strip of vacant land south of 26th Ave. The result is a 1.25-mile gap between Westerly Creek and Moline St. within which there are no points of ingress and egress. A major step toward remedying this physical and perceptual separation will occur when connections be-

tween Stapleton and North Aurora are created at Fulton, Iola and Kingston streets. While three roads still fall short of the connectivity that exists elsewhere, it is progress.

North Aurora, bounded by Yosemite St., Montview Blvd., Peoria St. and Colfax Ave., is a culturally diverse area full of locally owned restaurants and bakeries, with an emphasis on Thai, Mexican and African cuisine. Street connections will make the trip to this area shorter by up to 80 percent for some in East Stapleton. Bike access to the Anschutz Medical Campus will become safer for commuters seeking an alternative to Moline St. An East Stapleton resident will now have more direct access to parts of the metro area to the south, avoiding 15 minutes of detour on Moline or Central Park Blvd. when driving to the shopping districts to the south of Stapleton (e.g., Sprouts/Costco on Mississippi).

Some have greeted news of the new connections with trepidation because of fears of increased traffic. Although some traffic patterns may shift, connections are expected to disperse the existing traffic onto more streets rather than creating new traffic. As part of the connections, Havana and Iola streets in Stapleton will be narrowed from two lanes to one lane.

On Sunday, Sept. 29, noon-3pm, the joining of East Stapleton and North Aurora will be celebrated on Iola Street between 25th and 26th avenues. Event details are to come, but attendees are encouraged to wear Bronco orange (game day vs. Philadelphia Eagles) in a spirit of unity as the neighborhoods are connected.

David Vogel is the SUN transportation chairperson, an attorney, and has studied landscape architecture and urban design.

Editor's note: Also see the article on page 1 for more information about the new street connections.

10th Annual Stapleton Kickball Tournament—September 21, 10am-2pm

By Bryan Penny

Time is running out to get a team registered for the 10th Annual Stapleton Kickball Tournament, presented by SUN and the MCA. The tournament will be held in Central Park near Beeler St. on Saturday, Sept. 21, 10am-2pm. Players of all abilities are encouraged to sign up; it is all about having fun!

The bracket is half-full; space remains for 10 more teams. Teams can have up to 20 people: 9-14 on the field at a time; minimum of four males and four females playing at all times. Registration for a team is \$175 (including 10 T-shirts and lunch for all participants, \$10 for each additional T-shirt). Because SUN is a 501(c)(3), this is a tax-deductible donation.

This year all proceeds of the tournament will be used to support the Friends of Denver Fire, specifically at the request of Fire Station 26 in Stapleton, working to provide improved landscaping at the Stapleton Firehouse. SUN will be working with Station 26 firemen to provide funds and sweat equity in the spring to spruce up the landscaping at the firehouse.

The Stapleton Kickball Tournament is one of Stapleton's oldest traditions. In its first year, the tournament began with funding from the Stapleton Foundation intended to help motivate people to be active. Over the years, the tournament has taken shape as both motivation to get people moving and to raise funds for a different charity in or around Stapleton.

Be active, support firemen, have fun, sign up for kickball today to ensure your spot: (official rules and registration online); www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com/SUNKickball.

Bryan Penny is SUN treasurer, and Kickball Tournament chairperson.



2012 Kickball Tournament

Photos courtesy of Amanda Althouse

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Stapleton Update

Hawk Family Creates High School Construction Delay

By Madeline Schroeder

Construction of Northfield High School is temporarily suspended because a mom, dad and three baby Swainson's Hawks were discovered on the site. If construction gets too close to the nest, the parents could abandon the babies, according to Chris Story, Bluff Lake site manager.

The Swainson's Hawk, with dark broad wings and a lighter speckled chest, is a "concerned species," or at risk of becoming endangered. The birds live mostly in the western region of the U.S. In Colorado, they live along the Front Range and plains.

Swainson's Hawks migrate to Argentina, one of the longest migrations of any American raptor, according to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

The birds rely heavily on grasshoppers for food, and in the 1990s, pesticides sprayed to control a grasshopper infestation in Argentina wiped out one-third of the population. Since then, the hawks have been considered a concerned species. The birds are now federally protected, and unless the nest is a clear and present danger to human safety, the birds must fledge before construction continues, according to Michael Tincher, rehabilitation coordinator at the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program.

"It's a pretty small delay to the construction," Tincher said. "All migratory birds have a time schedule they need to adhere to."

Unlike other hawks, Swainson's Hawks completely rely on the parents for the first year. Broods



Swainson's Hawk
Photo courtesy of the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program

have a 90 percent mortality rate, so it is not likely all three will survive.

The young birds on the Northfield campus are just beginning to fledge and learning to hunt. The Colorado Division of Wildlife decided for now construction cannot proceed within a quarter mile of the nest, which stalls the drainage work that needs to be completed for the land to be released to Denver Public Schools.

By mid-September the hawk family will migrate to Argentina, and construction can resume.

Andrew Amador, DPS project manager for the Northfield campus, said they will have a more aggressive schedule than originally planned to be able to complete the construction. "It could impact the start of the school, but we're still targeting August 2015."

Denver News

Marijuana:

Denver City Council and the mayor have approved putting a measure on the November ballot to tax marijuana sales to cover the cost of regulation. The tax will start at 3.5%, but city council could raise it as high as 15% without putting it on the ballot again if needed to cover costs, according to Stapleton's City Councilman Chris Herndon. By October 1, all Denver ordinances on the adult use of marijuana must be approved. Council has agreed on those regulations and will have a public hearing on them in September.

Bag Fees:

Herndon says Denver City Council's Health and Safety committee has passed a bill to have a 5¢ fee on disposable bags in grocery and convenience stores in Denver. There will be a public hearing on the bill before the full council on September 30. If it passes as written, it will take effect in April 2014.

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The Gateway to the Rockies parade along Colfax in the late 1950s showed that, unlike today, this section of Colfax at Elmira Street was the thriving area of NW Aurora in the '50s.

Road Connections

(continued from page 1) The roads are more than just a quick and smooth commute; they will connect two communities historically separated by many differences. Stapleton's Master Development Plan, known as The Green Book, strives for a seamless community that is not gated from neighboring communities. But limited street connections have prevented a "seamless community." Stapleton resident Donny Roush says, "We're really all one community, not two different communities that happen to stare at each

other through a chain link fence," referring to construction that began on a fence last fall. Roush believes that Aurora and Stapleton should be connected, and the roads are long overdue. He works with youth at Fletcher Community School in Aurora. Fletcher is the closest public school to Stapleton, but no Stapleton students attend. The school is almost 90 percent Hispanic; a large number of those students are first-generation Americans. Roush has enjoyed getting to know the Aurora families and professionals. "I feel like my life is richer for understanding their community a little more."

When he moved to Stapleton in 2006, he knew he was buying into certain ideals about Stapleton. "I think if we can get to know our neighbors it will help us to understand the world is not all like Stapleton." At NW Aurora's beginning, it was similar to Stapleton. When Aurora resident and former city councilwoman Nadine Caldwell moved there 55 years ago, she says it was a very stable, mostly white neighborhood of about 60,000 people. Many airline pilots and stewardesses lived in the area. Flower shops, dress stores and restaurants thrived.

In the '70s, the police stations, courts and population growth shifted south. NW Aurora was left behind while other areas developed. Crime increased, businesses struggled, and the city maintenance decreased. Today, 335,000 people live in Aurora, making it the third largest city in Colorado. The NW area is extremely diverse; many refugees flock there for the affordable housing. There are authentic restaurants and businesses, some of which are struggling to stay afloat. Caldwell says the area has many shopping options that aren't necessarily available in Stapleton, as well as the Aurora Fox Arts Center.

Stapleton resident Damon Knop is looking forward to having a quicker connection to his favorite Colfax restaurants. The roads will also allow doctors and medical people who live in Stapleton easy access to the Anschutz Medical Campus. Katy Hodge, who lives at 23rd and Iola, is happy to have a quick route to Stapleton amenities, like the King Soopers, The 29th Ave. Town Center and The Shops at Northfield. The easier access to the highway will also help cut down her daily commute to Golden. The new roads should also reduce traffic on Moline St. Hodge goes for walks at Westerly Creek. Currently, her walks take at least an hour because she has to go all the way around the creek, but with the new roads she will have options for shorter loops.

Hodge says the NW Aurora neighborhood is excited for the roads. The only concern is increased traffic on Fulton and Iola. "Some neighbors are concerned because there are tons of kids with Moorhead Park and Fletcher School, but it's just a speculation."

A few years ago, some Stapleton residents tried to prevent the connecting roads, fearing crime and vandalism spreading from Aurora. "Some said, 'Why are we even connecting these roads? We like the big field between us. They already come over and steal out of our garages,'" Damon Knop says.

So Knop helped start an Inclusivity Committee to address the fears among Stapleton residents. "We try to tackle the diversity issue and try to make us not be a Stapleton that doesn't allow other people in." Knop has tried to rally excitement among the community. He believes Stapleton will help Aurora develop, and as it develops, the fears will diminish.

Aurora City Councilwoman Sally Mounier calls NW Aurora a "pre-gentrification" area. Much like Lodo, Highlands and Five Points that transformed into popular trendy areas, she sees Aurora developing quickly. She thinks the road connections could be the adrenaline shot for development because

they will connect young professionals to the Anschutz campus. On her block of Iola, six of the 24 homes are already undergoing some renovation.

"With all the movement happening, plus the roads, it's going to sparkle!" Mounier says.

In the next 10 years, she pictures an arts district, piano bars, a campus bar, a microbrewery, a comedy club, and a couple of top-notch restaurants. "Well, heck yes, surrounding that will be hot property, and people will be willing to pay the price," she says.

"I think this will bring an enhanced quality of life for the people in the ward, and that is bottom line what excites me, thrills me, makes me extremely happy, and makes me extremely proud of the city and what they're doing."

Editor's note: See also "Getting Connected" on page 28 for more information about the new street connections.



Aurora city councilwoman Sally Mounier is "thrilled to pieces" about the new road connections.

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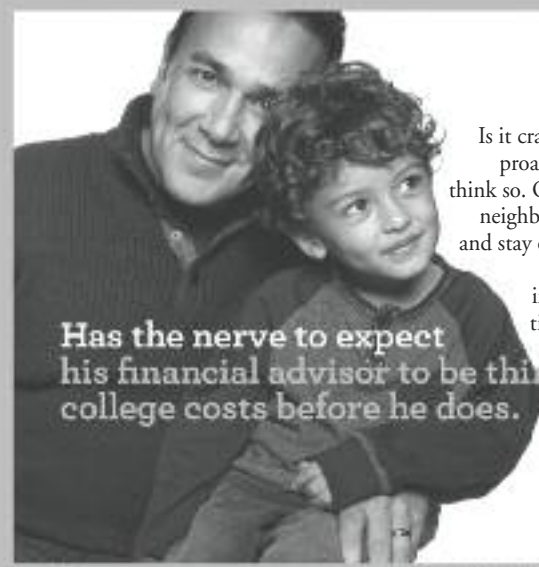
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People Who Make a Difference

The Home Grown Pro

Dillon Roy grew up in East Denver, went to East High, then to University of Denver, and is now a professional athlete in Denver giving back to the community he grew up in. He is actively involved with City Lax, a non-profit organization that, through lacrosse, offers inner-city youth meaningful athletic and educational experiences. City Lax has elementary and middle school teams for both girls and boys.

Dillon also co-owns Boomtown Lacrosse, a company that runs lacrosse camps both here and in other cities. He also plays pro lacrosse for the Denver Outlaws as a longstick midfielder and defenseman and he sometimes takes the face-off. The Outlaws won every season game but recently lost in the national semi-finals.

Jon Meredith: Talk about playing in Major League Lacrosse.
Dillon Roy: Unlike other pro sports, lacrosse is far from being a full-time job. Outlaws players live all over the country and we try to meet in the city we are playing in on the evening prior to a game for a walk through. Sometimes that does not work out, and players get to the stadium just in time to suit up and go out and play. The very top players make about \$15,000 a year and most make less. The league is primarily supported by sponsors. The lacrosse is terrific as the teams are made up of the best ex-college players.



JM: What is the current state of youth lacrosse in Colorado?
DR: Lacrosse is everywhere in the state now. High schools now have two divisions in both girls and boys and it is sanctioned by the Colorado High School Activities Association. Players are coming out of schools everywhere and going to top college programs. A few years ago only Kent, Colorado Academy and East had those kinds of programs. A Rock Creek player is going to Johns Hopkins next year, which has probably the most storied lacrosse program in the country. So it has been a ripple effect where players who grew up in East Denver have started programs all over the state. We run Boomtown Lacrosse camps in Portland, Oregon and that ripple effect is just starting there.
JM: Lacrosse is seen by many as an elite white person's sport, however, learning the basics is no harder than getting a stick and a ball and going

to a park. Why don't more kids get involved?
DR: The barrier to entry is still significant. At City Lax we don't require a registration fee. If they pay a little, that is up to the individual family. All of our equipment is free but is returned at the end of the season. Still, outfitting a player in complete lacrosse gear is expensive considering all the pads, a helmet, stick and cleats. It is also a cultural issue. Most dads in northeast Denver didn't play lacrosse as kids, they played hoops or football and they want their kids to follow in their footsteps. It is hard to get your child involved in a game you know nothing about.
JM: How many kids are involved in City Lax?
DR: Last spring, we had 200 including girls and boys. We teach them about the game and make practices fun. These can be difficult kids, so it is not always easy to keep the focus on learning about the game. The success rate is good as many go on the play in high school and one of our alumni received a Division 1 scholarship this year. That kind of success is not necessarily the focus of the program. The

focus and goal of City Lax is to get more kids out to participate in a team sport to have them enjoy the experience rather than do other things which may be detrimental to their future. There is an educational component as well because kids that participate in sports generally do better in school. Playing a sport in college is an incredible commitment and it takes a certain kind of personality to play at a high level and do well academically.
JM: Can you make a living long term working in lacrosse?
DR: Yes, I think so. This is my passion and through City Lax and Boomtown we can provide a lot of meaningful experiences for kids, and that is really rewarding for me and a great way to make a living. I want to get more involved in the youth side of things, such as introduction to lacrosse programs. Our goal is to make the experience for the kids better and better. I do think there is a career there.
JM: Despite lacrosse's success in Colorado, there are many kids who don't even know what the stick looks like.
DR: That is right and that is where the opportunity lies. More and more high schools are fielding teams, and many colleges are doing the same. CU will have a Division 1 women's program next year. There are so many opportunities to play lacrosse, whereas with other sports you have to be an elite player in middle school in order to just get a chance to play.



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