

# Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

MAY 2014

## Putting Play Back in Playground



Photo courtesy of Erin Davis

Kids play at The Land, a playground in North Wales, U.K. where they get all the tools they want to create whatever they want. By American standards, the play space is rampant with hazards, but some child experts advocate

that children need to encounter risks to overcome fears and build confidence. The green shipping container at back is known as The Office where kids first stop after entering The Land to pick up items of their choice.

By Madeline Schroeder

A fence covered in graffiti borders a muddy plot of land. Inside, a pile of tires and large wooden crates clutter the area. Like an Eye Spy puzzle, more and more unusual items are spotted—a couch without cushions, pieces of tubing from playground slides, torn-up cardboard, muddied Barbie dolls, dress-up clothes, hammers and saws a little rusty from rain.

Everything is discolored from a faint cloud of dirt and sweat. What is this place? “Chaotic junkyard” might be one way to describe the scene.

This is an adventure playground in North Wales called “The Land.” Adventure playgrounds give kids whatever tools they want to create whatever they want. Kids light fires, saw cardboard, build forts and more.

“Children love gypsies, cowboys, clowns, circus people.

(continued on page 34)



Panorama photo by Steve Larson, Stapleton Front Porch

The signature architecture of the new Union Station Transit Center is the huge indoor/outdoor canopy that gives passengers a view of the city skyline. Tracks are below grade so that passengers

can enter and exit from trains at ground level and accommodate disabilities. Photo was taken from a walkway that takes passengers over the tracks.

## Bigger, Bolder Transit

RTD's Union Station Transit Center in LoDo opens in May. The public is invited to a grand opening celebration and street party for the multi-modal transit hub on May 9 from 11am until 6pm on 17th between Chestnut and Wewatta streets.

The tracks at the far left of the photo are the East Rail to DIA that (continued on p.10)

**How much WCMD and TIF revenue has been (and will be) collected to build Stapleton? See page 8.**

**Stapleton residents, cast your vote on May 6 in the WCMD board election. See page 33.**

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





Todd Sebo, who lives in the Eastbridge neighborhood of Stapleton, tries out the new path along 26th Ave. east of Westerly Creek. With him are his two dogs Ivy and Stella. Sebo says he's happy to finally see signs of improvement in the proposed park area after the eight years he's lived there.



Events listed below are FREE and open to the public or support nonprofits. (Additional events are listed on pages 25-29)

## MAY

### Thursday, May 1

Registration opens for the Stapleton Beer Festival and Friday Night Flight wine tastings. Starts at noon online at [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com) or through the MCA office\*

### Fri, Sat, Sun, May 2, 3 and 4

Park Hill Art Club Semi Annual Show and Sale. Park Hill United Methodist Church 5209 Montview Blvd [www.parkhillartclub.org](http://www.parkhillartclub.org). See p. 25.

### Saturday May 3

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

### Saturday, May 3

Denver Art Museum --SCFD Free Day 720-865-5000, [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

### Monday, May 5

Outdoor Yoga Classes Begin at the Pools. Mon./Wed. at 10:30am at Jet Stream,\* Tues. at 6pm at Aviator\*, Thurs. at 6pm at F15\*. For info go to [facebook.com/loveyogacolorado](http://facebook.com/loveyogacolorado). First class is free.

### Tuesday, May 6

Children's Museum, Target Tuesdays 1st Tuesday nights free, 4-8pm, [cmdenver.org](http://cmdenver.org)

### Thursday, May 8

Active Minds Seminar "Inventions that Changed the World" 6:45pm Sam Gary Library\*. More info at [www.activeminds.com](http://www.activeminds.com)

### Saturday, May 10

NE Walk Fest, free community walking event. 9am-1pm, Kick-off at 33rd & Holly St. Pre-register online at [www.newwalkfest.com](http://www.newwalkfest.com). See p. 25.

### Sat, May 17 & Sun, May 18

Stapleton Garage Sale. All day, [buildingstapleton.com](http://buildingstapleton.com) See p. 26

### Sat, May 17 & Sun, May 18

Park Hill Arts Festival. 10am-5pm, 4819 E. Montview Blvd (grounds of Park Hill Masonic lodge) Free and open to the public. Paintings, jewelry, sculpture, pottery, glass, photography and more. [www.parkhillartfestival.com](http://www.parkhillartfestival.com)

### Monday, May 19

Stapleton United Neighbors annual community forum, 6:30pm at Central Park Rec Center. See p. 32.

### Tuesday, May 20

Denver Parks and Rec--Community Meeting on Plans for Westerly Creek North Park and the Uplands, 5:30-7:30pm. Commons of Stapleton DSST, 2000 Valentin St. See page 31.

## MAY

### Thursday, May 22

Active Minds Seminar "North Korea" 6:45pm Sam Gary Library\*. More info at [www.activeminds.com](http://www.activeminds.com)

### Saturday, May 24

All Stapleton pools\* open at noon. More info at [pools@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:pools@stapletoncommunity.com)

### Monday, May 26

DJs at the Pools\* More info at [pools@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:pools@stapletoncommunity.com)

### Saturday, May 31

Sweet William Market. 9am-2pm on The Green\*. More info at [sweetwilliammarket.com](http://sweetwilliammarket.com)

### Saturday, May 31

Lowry Yard Sale. 8am 2pm [www.lowry.org](http://www.lowry.org)

## JUNE

### Monday, June 2

SCFD Free Day, Denver Museum of Nature & Science. 303-370-6000, [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)

### Saturday, June 14

Stapleton Pride 2014. 7-10pm. Aviator Pool\*. [www.stapletonpride.com](http://www.stapletonpride.com). See p. 29.

### Saturday, June 14

5th Annual Denver Century Ride Start/finish line on Main St. in the Shops at Northfield Bring kids at 9am to decorate bikes and be in kids parade. Street party from 12-4pm. See p. 29.

### Saturday, June 14

Park Hill Garden Walk. 10am-4pm. Tickets can be purchased at the event or select King Soopers starting May 15. Buy tickets at <http://parkhillgardenwalk.blogspot.com>.

\* More information at [Events@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:Events@stapletoncommunity.com)  
Stapleton MCA office: 2823 Roslyn St.  
Jet Stream pool: 3574 Alton St.  
Aviator pool: 8054 E. 28th Ave.  
F15 pool: 2831 Hanover St.  
Sam Gary Library: 2961 Roslyn St.  
The Green: 29th Ave and Roslyn St.

The Front Porch welcomes submissions of upcoming local events and story ideas (see info on p.29). Deadline is the 15th for the next issue.

## Events & Announcements at Stapleton



### Community DNA

This month, we would like to encourage the community to walk or ride their bikes to the pools! Walking and biking are great alternatives to driving; both methods have a positive effect on the environment and are also healthy choices to incorporate in a day-to-day lifestyle. Each pool offers bike parking at the entrance to each facility. For more walking and biking tips, visit [stapletonmca.com](http://stapletonmca.com)!

### Registration for the Stapleton Beer Festival and Friday Night Flights opens at noon on May 1

Registration is available online at [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com) or through the MCA office (2823 Roslyn St.).

VIP tickets for the Beer Festival are \$60 each; general admission tickets are \$30 (prices increase on June 1). VIP includes a 1-hour exclusive tasting of limited-release craft beers, followed by a 3-hour craft beer tasting with general admission participants, food truck vouchers, an SBF T-shirt, specialty tasting glass, and an SBF tulip glass. General admission includes a 3-hour craft beer tasting, food truck vouchers and a plastic tasting cup.

Friday Night Flight tickets are \$15 each for the June-August tastings and \$25 for the September pairing. Are you planning to attend all of the tastings? Purchase a FNF ticket pack for \$50 (a \$20 savings). FNF ticket packs include one ticket to each tasting (4 events, June-Sept.). For more information, visit [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com).

### Outdoor Yoga

Come salute the sun this summer while standing in the grass by the pools. Stapleton residents Dee Watts and Lora McKelvey, both registered/experienced yoga teachers, will be leading all-level classes at the pools.

Your first class is free! Participants will need to purchase an Activity Punch Pass to participate in additional classes. Please stop by the MCA office or pool to pick up an Activity Punch Pass (residents: 5 classes for \$25; nonresidents: 5 classes for \$30). Childcare may be available during the evening classes beginning the week of May 5.

Class schedule: Mon./Wed. at 10:30am at Jet Stream, Tues. at 6pm at Aviator, Thurs. at 6pm at F15. If you have any questions, please contact Dee and Lora through the Anahata Yoga Facebook page: [facebook.com/loveyogacolorado](http://facebook.com/loveyogacolorado).

### Active Minds

*Inventions that Changed the World* - Thurs., May 8, 6:45pm, Sam Gary Library  
*North Korea* - Thurs., May 22, 6:45pm, Sam Gary Library. More info at [activeminds.com](http://activeminds.com).

### Community Garden in Conservatory Green

The garden is anticipated to open Sun.,

June 1. Residents interested in applying for a community garden plot in Conservatory Green must complete the Community Garden application online at [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com) and submit it to the MCA by May 19. There are 22 spaces available for the community garden. Applicants will be chosen at random at the May 21 Executive Board meeting and assigned a selection number. If you are chosen for one of the plots, the MCA will contact you directly for payment. The MCA will host a plot selection meeting on Thurs., May 29 at 6:30pm. If you want to select your plot location, you must attend this meeting; otherwise, your plot will be assigned randomly. For additional questions, call the MCA office.

### Pools Open for the Season

All four Stapleton pools are scheduled to open on Sat., May 24 at noon! DJs will be featured at each pool from noon until 4pm on Memorial Day.

Two additional pools may open during the summer season in Conservatory Green. Visit [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com) for more information.

Please make sure you locate your Resident Membership Card before the pools open. Residents are required to scan their RMC at the front desk prior to entry or pay the daily entrance fee. If you have any questions regarding your account, please email [signup@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:signup@stapletoncommunity.com).

### Sweet William Market

The summer market season opens on Sat., May 31 with the first Sweet William Market of the year. These markets are held on the last Saturday of each month through September. The markets will be held from 9am-2pm on The Green (29th Ave & Roslyn St.). For more information, visit [sweetwilliammarket.com](http://sweetwilliammarket.com).

### Save the Date! Upcoming Theatre Events in Stapleton

The Aurora Fox is excited to bring you a weekend full of theatrical performances and fun! Theatre on The Green will be held on June 5, 6 and 7 at 7pm on The Green (29th Ave. & Roslyn St.). We will be featuring, *Drowsy Chaperone*, a musical comedy of the 1920s. All Theatre on The Green performances are free to attend and open to the public.

### SUN Block Party

The MCA would like to inform all residents and block captains about the park rentals for the block parties. The MCA has reserved all MCA-managed parks for the annual party. Reservations for the block party are free, but you must notify the MCA if you plan on installing bouncy castles, canopies or other objects that penetrate the ground with the use of stakes.

Registration for the Kids Triathlon opens at noon on July 1

If you have any questions about the information above, please contact the MCA at 303.388.0724 or email [dmead@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:dmead@stapletoncommunity.com).

Dani Mead

Communications Coordinator

Get the latest on

Master Community Association



Sponsored by Stapleton MCA

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# Front Porch

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A directory with links to these businesses can be found at [www.FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://www.FrontPorchStapleton.com) > Business Directory

# Forest City/King Soopers Move Toward Eastbridge Grocery Agreement



Forest City released this “Concept Plan” for the 6.7-acre Eastbridge town center with a statement that it is “just a concept to provide a direction for final site planning and design.” According to Forest City, “the concept is to locate the grocer to the east end of the site and a town center organized around a plaza to the west. A gas station would be located east of Havana adjacent to the existing car wash. This plan suggests a town center of 22,000sf with shops and services located in two buildings.”

By Carol Roberts

When the current 58,000 square foot King Soopers opened in Stapleton in the summer of 2003, NE residents turned out to celebrate. The closest grocery store was at 13th and Krameria in Mayfair.

But, as most Stapleton residents now know, the store arrived with a condition. King Soopers would have first right of refusal to build future stores anywhere in Stapleton.

A recent Forest City statement explained that King Soopers proposed a 35,000 square foot Fresh Fare store in 2009 but it was not approved by their investment committee.

Then the recession hit. And now King Soopers says that type of store has not performed well for them and they will no longer build that model.

Most residents in and near the east side of

Stapleton have been longing for a nearby grocery store just as anxiously as the NE Denver residents did in 2003. But the surroundings are different from Quebec, with more homes in close proximity, so many expected the smaller style boutique store and are disappointed that a 58,000 square foot

store leaves less space for other neighborhood retail.

Forest City President John Lehigh, at the April Stapleton Development Corporation meeting, spoke about the difficulty of bringing a small grocer to Stapleton. “There are certainly those who don't like the idea of

having a big store. I can tell you we've talked to every small grocer in the world and there is nobody who wants to be there. They (King Soopers) came to us about a year ago and said, ‘Our store here is oversubscribed. We need more capacity,’ and they started the dialogue.

“It's literally been over (continued on p. 30)



Northeast Denver residents cheered the opening of the Stapleton King Soopers in June 2003.

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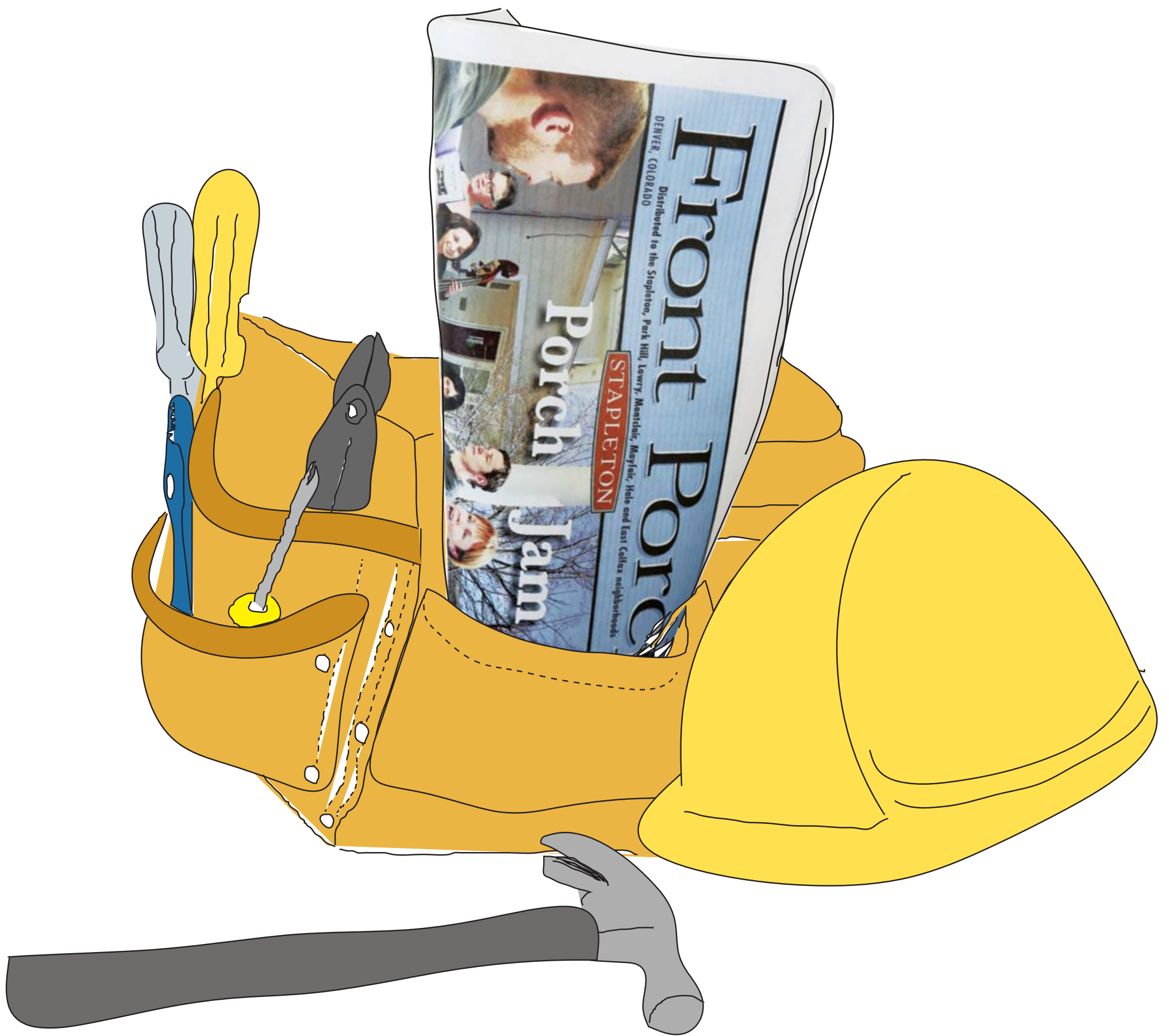
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# Map out your plan



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# Youth Jazz Band Ready for Festival

By Laurie Dunklee

High school musicians in Denver's Five Points Heritage Band admire their jazz heroes, from Duke Ellington to Miles Davis, but they also hope to make their own jazz history.

"I love music because it allows such a wide range of expression," said 16-year-old pianist Julian Carey, a student at East High School. "Musicians do magnificent things; they play what happens in the world."

Carey is part of the 2014 Five Points Heritage Band, a 10-piece ensemble of horns and a rhythm section that will perform at the Five Points Jazz Festival on Sat., May 17. He joined fellow students in the rhythm section—brothers Joey and Steve Pearlman—and teacher Hugh Ragin for a rehearsal at East High School.

The Five Points Heritage Band, Denver's city-wide honor jazz band, is comprised of auditioned players from Denver high schools. The band receives a \$3,500 stipend each year from the Denver Arts and Venues Arts & Education Fund and performs on the Youth Stage at the Five Points Jazz Festival. Other bands performing on the Youth Stage are the Denver School of the Arts Jazz Sextet and the Claim Jumpers from the University of Colorado at Denver.

Five Points Jazz Festival celebrates the important role of the Five Points neighborhood in the history of jazz. This year's free festival will feature 23 bands on seven stages. Favorites on the main stage include the Nelson Rangell Quartet, the Brad Leali Orchestra, The Hot Tomatoes and Conjunto Colores. Fifty food and art vendors will sell their wares. Organizers expect 17,500 people to attend this year.



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

The Heritage Band will celebrate the greats and also offer something new. "We'll do swing and be-bop by the likes of Duke Ellington and Charlie Parker, along with some of the students' original compositions," said bandleader Hugh Ragin, director of instrumental music at South High School for nine years.

Ragin is a well-respected trumpeter and bandleader with an extensive discography produced between 1981 and 2012. He got his bachelor's degree in music education at the University of Houston and his master's in trumpet performance at Colorado State University. Ragin said he began



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Above: In a music room at East High School, posters of jazz greats Charlie “Bird” Parker, Chet Baker and Miles Davis look down on a rehearsal of Denver Five Points Heritage Band. 16-year-old Julian Carey plays piano. At back, Joey and Steve Pearlman, both 17, play bass and drums; Hugh Ragin, band leader and director of instrumental music at South High School, plays the trumpet. The band will play at the Five Points Jazz Festival on May 17.

Left: Hugh Ragin gives a pointer on syncopation to Joey Pearlman.

playing in 8th grade, when he and the neighborhood guys got some trumpets and started a band.

Joey and Steve Pearlman, both 17 and students at East, got their musical start playing video games.

“We were playing the ‘Rock Band’ video game and we decided we wanted the real thing,” said drummer Steve Pearlman.

“We decided to play jazz because it’s fun,” said Joey Pearlman, an acoustic bass player.

The Pearlmans performed at the Five Points Jazz Festival for the first time last year. “The group is really fun and the songs are great,” said Steve.

Ragin said he likes teaching music to young people and seeing them grow. “I like their creativity and receptivity, their enthusiasm. I like watching their continuum of growth.”

He emphasized the importance of learning the

fundamentals of music. “They learn scales, chords, time and articulation. Once they are rooted in the fundamentals, they can go in any direction at any time.”

Ragin said students learn jazz history and traditions so they can take it in their own direction. “They learn the history of jazz so they can play themselves.”

Pianist Carey said the future of jazz depends on future world events. “Jazz started with people singing in the cotton fields, which became the blues and then jazz. Jazz expresses what people feel as history changes. Nobody can guess what will happen in the future but musicians will be there to play the music of their time.”

For the full lineup and other information, visit [www.artsandvenuesdenver.com/events-programs/five-points-jazz-festival](http://www.artsandvenuesdenver.com/events-programs/five-points-jazz-festival).

# SHINE



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## Get to Know Dr. Jennifer Holmes

Jennifer attended medical school at the University of Utah and trained at University of Colorado. Most recently, she was in private practice in Salt Lake City. She enjoys all aspects of obstetrical care, working closely with her patients throughout their pregnancy journey. A resident of Centennial, Jennifer enjoys spending her free time with her husband and two children.



# How much tax has been (and will be) collected to build Stapleton?

## REVENUE FROM TIF

The TIF (Tax Increment Financing) chart (top right) shows the amount of property and sales tax increment collected. Stapleton residents pay the same amount of property and sales tax as other Denver residents, but under the TIF plan, for 25 years, tax revenue generated by new development is used to pay for regional infrastructure in Stapleton. Tax revenue generated by the base value (before the new development started) continues to go to the original taxing entities and is not shown on the chart.

The development plan for Stapleton (the Green Book) projected that infrastructure expenses would break down approximately as follows:

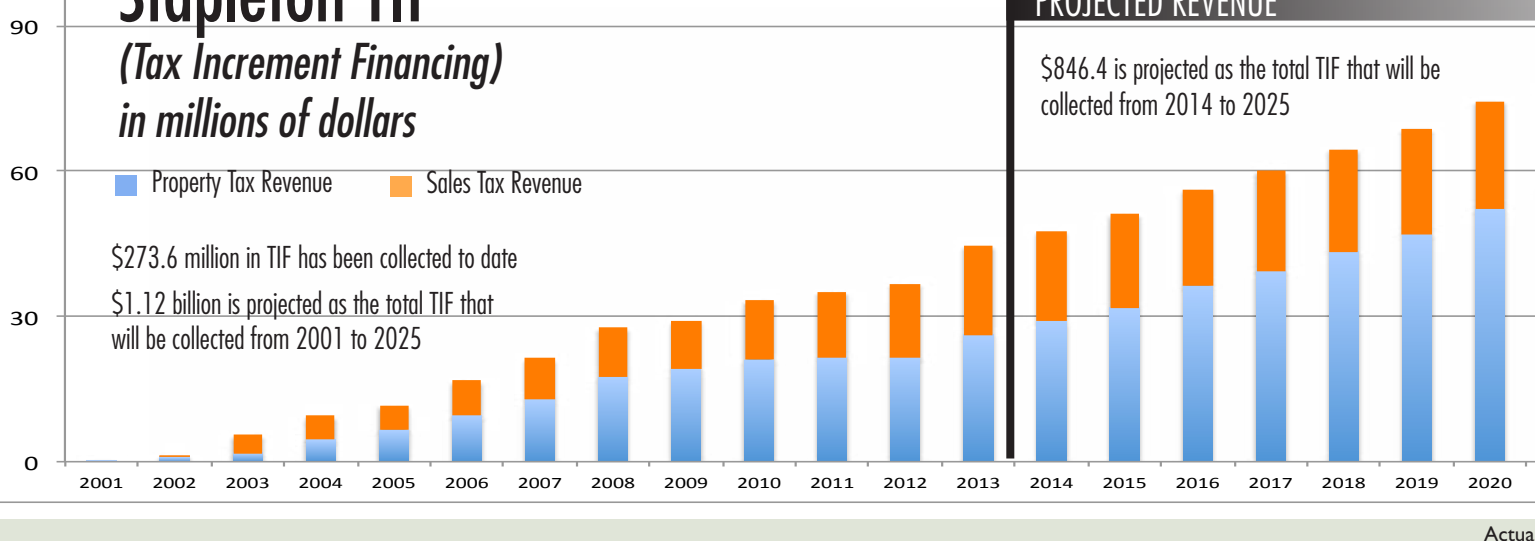
- Roads—38%
- Sewer & Drainage—12%
- Open Space & Recreation—23%
- Community Facilities (including schools—28%)

Projected funds for the remaining life of the TIF will be spent in a similar way, except the five schools called for in the TIF plan have already been funded, so the only remaining community facility is a fire station north of I-70. (The high school is being built with bond proceeds, not TIF revenue.)

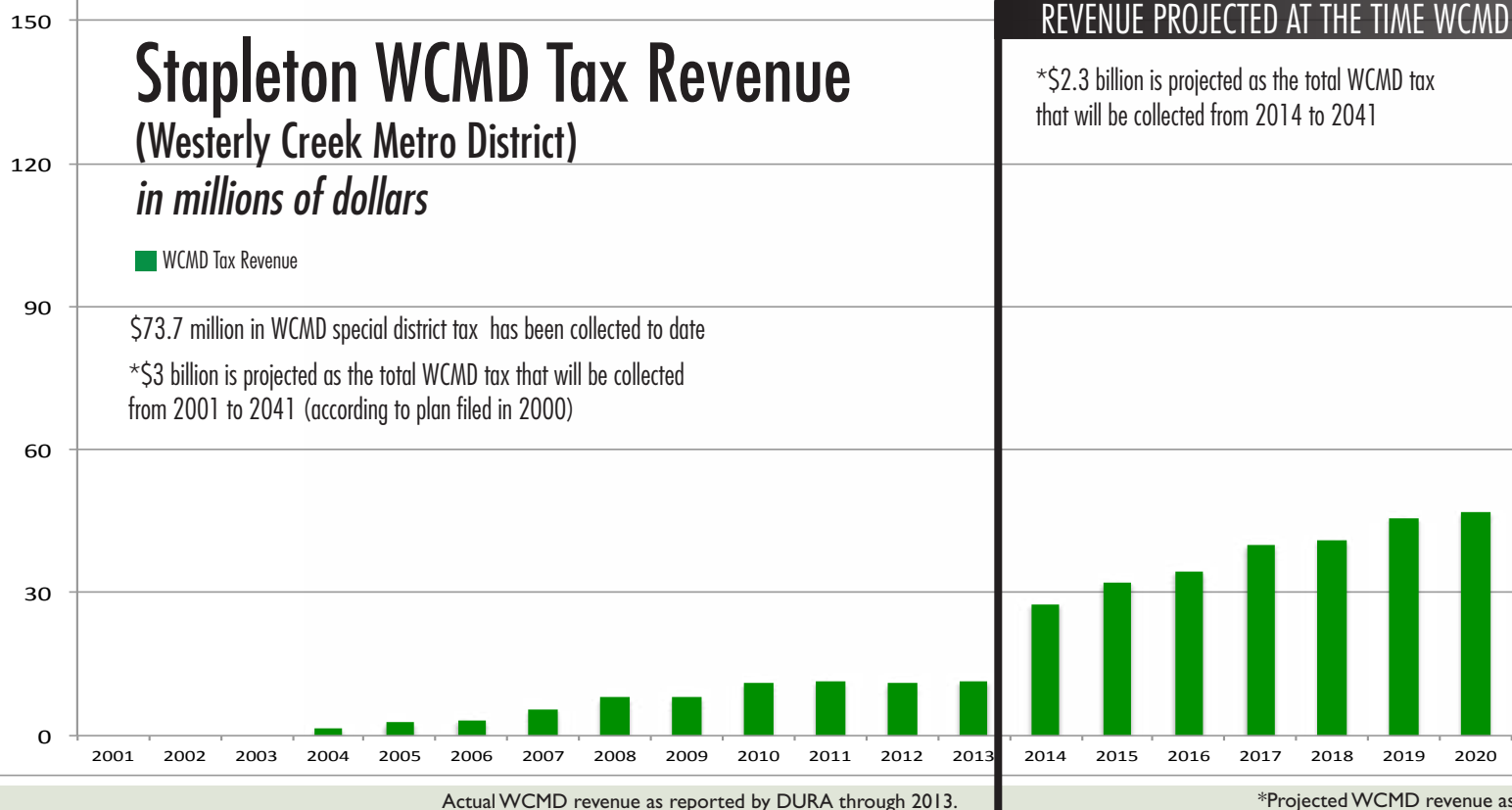
TIF revenue is collected by Denver Urban Renewal Authority (DURA). The projected TIF revenues are derived from a 2012 market report authored by an independent consultant. The projections took into account current market conditions, past performance, and expected development as indicated by Forest City. DURA customarily undertakes market reports in connection with future debt issuances.

For a more detailed explanation of TIF read the article on page 19 of the February Front Porch, or visit [FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://FrontPorchStapleton.com) >News>Stapleton.

## Stapleton TIF (Tax Increment Financing) in millions of dollars



## Stapleton WCMD Tax Revenue (Westerly Creek Metro District) in millions of dollars



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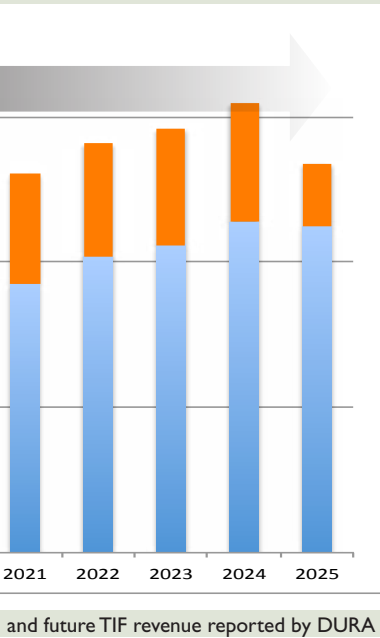
HOW HAS THE TIF REVENUE BEEN SPENT?

**In-progress/completed infrastructure:**  
\$182,000,000 Regional infrastructure (primarily roads, open space, drainage)  
\$ 32,000,000 Westerly Creek Elementary and Bill Roberts Elementary/Middle School  
\$ 18,000,000 Community facilities (fire station & improvements to Police Academy, & Quebec St..)  
\$ 18,000,000 Swigert McAuliffe School  
\$ 4,000,000 Regional infrastructure in Conservatory Green  
\$ 56,000,000 Isabella Bird Elementary and Northfield school for K-8  
\$312,000,000 Total Regional Infrastructure to date

**Other expenses paid with TIF revenue:**  
Bond issuance and debt service—Just as a mortgage incurs upfront expenses and requires payments to principal and interest, TIF funds are used to issue bonds and pay interest on them, and pay interest on loans from Forest City and other sources.

City retained tax—Currently 22% of TIF revenue is paid to the City of Denver to provide city services for Stapleton including police, fire, libraries, and parks and rec. From 2015-2019, 30% of TIF will be paid to the city; and from 2020-2024, 47% will be paid to the city. In June, 2025, TIF revenue for Stapleton development ends.

**Other revenue for Stapleton infrastructure**—Forest City has paid \$26 million in System Development Fees, as stipulated in their contract, to build parks and open space. In addition, Forest City and DPS have made loans to move infrastructure projects forward when TIF funds weren't available. Also, Forest City has made contributions.



REVENUE FROM WCMD

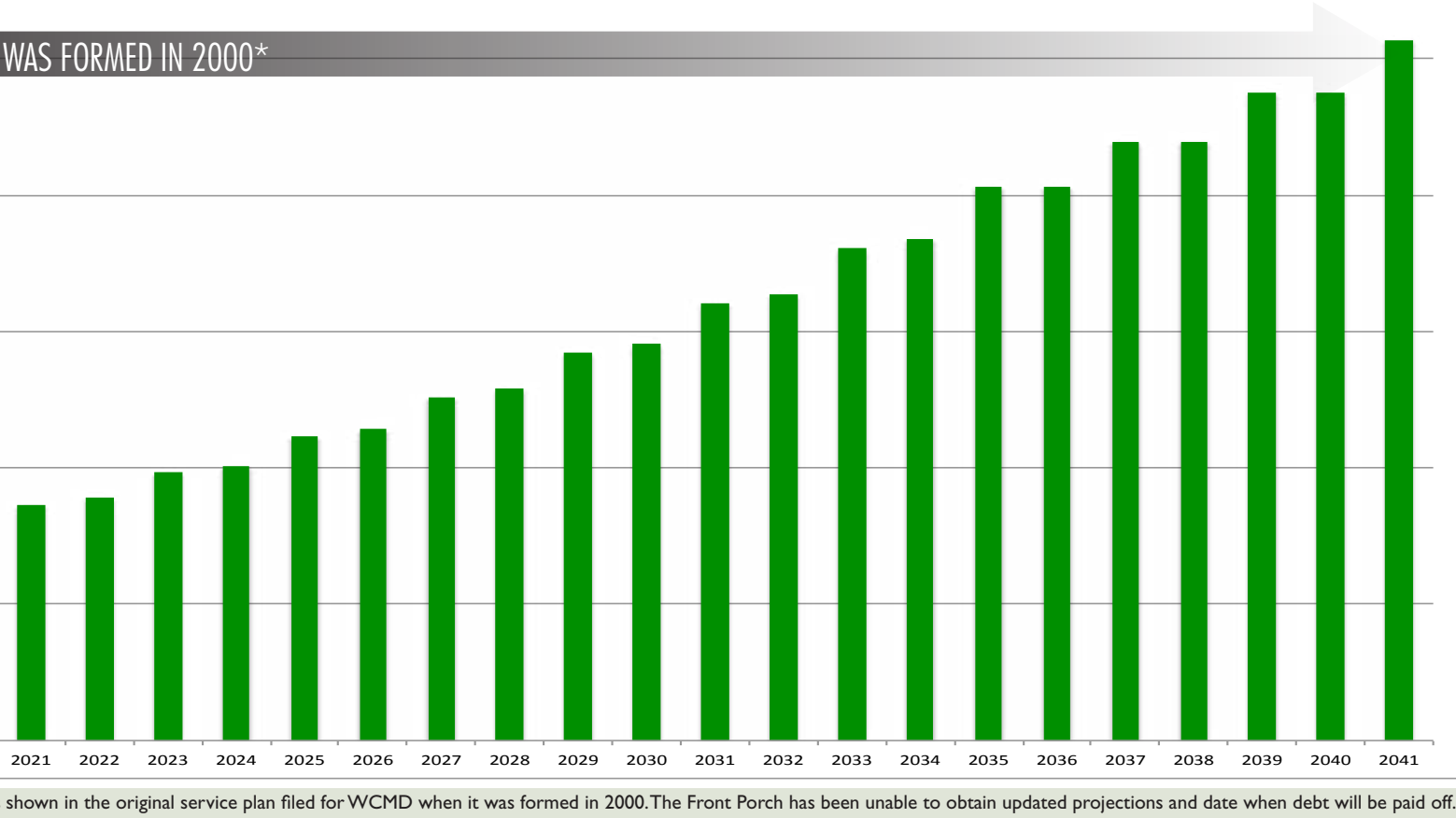
Westerly Creek Metro District has a five-member elected board. Stapleton residents can vote on May 6 for three of the board members (see page 33 for election information). The powers of the WCMD board are limited in that WCMD is required to pass on all its revenue to Park Creek Metro District, which makes the decisions on construction of infrastructure. However it offers residents the opportunity to watch over the process.

Stapleton residents live in the Westerly Creek Metropolitan District (WCMD), a special taxing district formed in 2000 to fund the construction of local infrastructure that is used primarily by Stapleton residents. Local infrastructure includes streets within residential, commercial and industrial areas, drainage, pocket parks and pools.

WCMD levies an extra tax, over and beyond the usual taxes paid by Denver residents who do not live in a special district. At the time WCMD was formed, a Service Plan was written as required by Colorado state law for special districts. The plan specified the tax rate, the functions of WCMD and the projected revenue, which is shown at left. There is no sunset date for the WCMD tax—after debt is repaid, it will continue at a lower level to maintain property owned in perpetuity by PCMD.

According to Paul Cockrel, legal counsel for WCMD, the latest maturity date for outstanding bond debt at this time is 2041 and the latest maturity date for obligations to Forest City or related parties is 2053, though they could be prepaid or replaced by bonds with shorter maturities. He says that since the cost to complete the infrastructure for full development can't be determined at this time, financial forecasts for repayment of future debt are not available.

*Editor's note:* The Front Porch has requested current projections but, to date, we have not received them. We asked Forest City if they had comments on this WCMD information but they were unable to reply in time for our deadline. We will print updated information as it becomes available.



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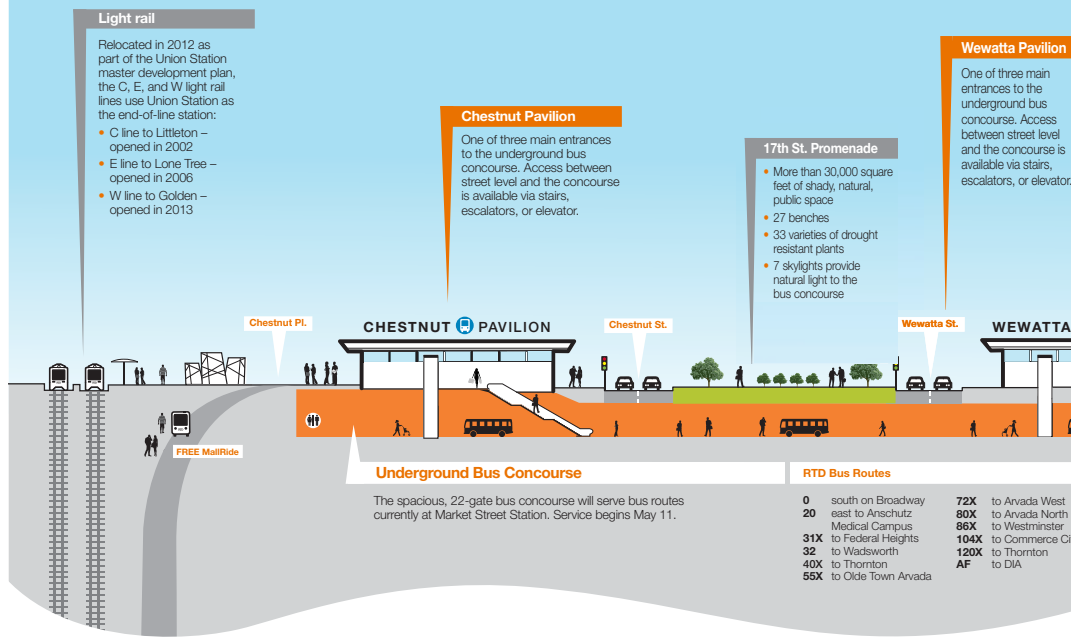
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## Bigger, Bolder Transit



(continued from page 1) has a stop at Stapleton's Central Park station.  
The Union Station Transit Center was a \$500-million project to renovate the historic Union Station building, rail lines into Union Station and the 14 blocks surrounding the location. The commuter rail to DIA (as well as to Arvada/Wheat Ridge and Westminster) will open in 2016. By 2030, the transit center is projected to serve 200,000 passengers a day.  
At 2am on Sunday, May 11, the Market Street Station will permanently close and bus service, with 22 bus bays and 1,113 buses



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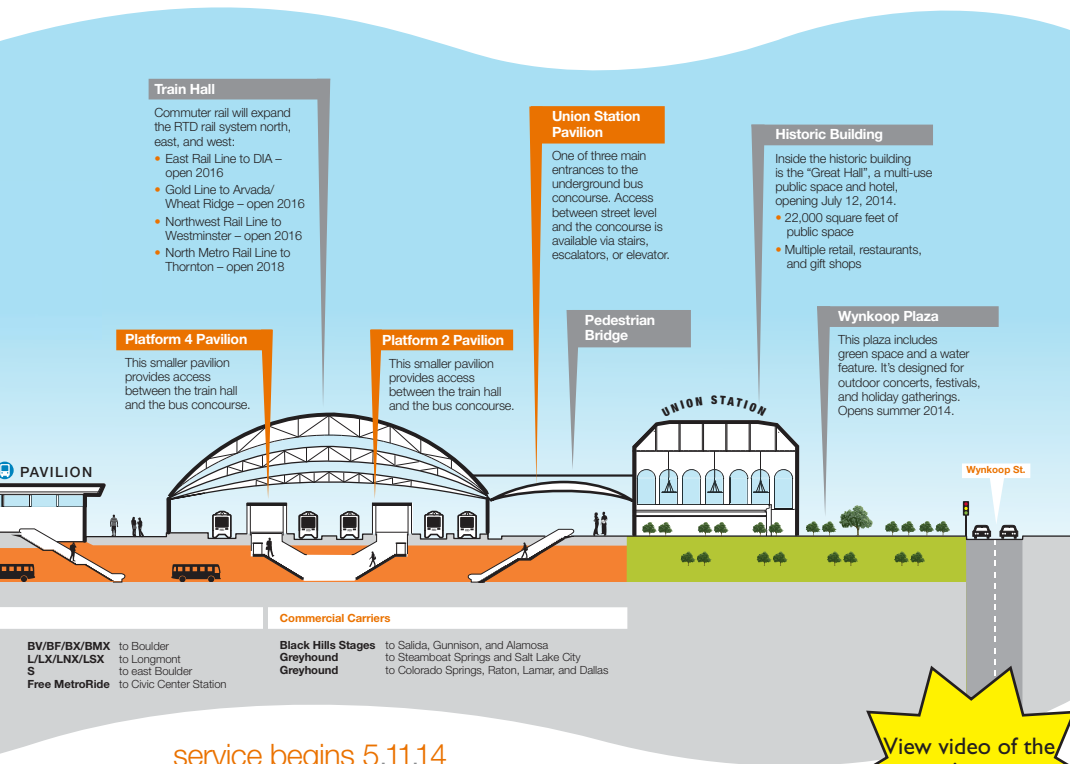
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a day on weekdays, will begin at Union Station. May 12 marks the beginning of MetroRide, a new free service along 18th and 19th Streets during rush hours. The free MallRide on 16th Street will continue. More than 100,000 square feet of new retail, including restaurants, boutiques and a new King Soopers, 750,000 square feet of office space, 2,000 new apartments, and 400 new hotel rooms are

being constructed with-in or around the station by various partners, including the Crawford Hotel in Union station that will open in July. Fifteen acres of plazas, parks and public spaces are also being built. For more information call 303.299.6000 or visit rtd-denver.com. Information provided by RTD.



Upper left: An entrance to the bus concourse from the Wewatta Pavilion. Left: An escalator takes bus passengers to the underground bus concourse. Jerry Nery explains that the concourse has a light and airy feel as a result of the numerous skylights. Above: The East Rail comes in at this platform under the giant canopy.



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Cristino Griego, General Manager and Executive Chef of The Bistro located at 2955 Ulster Street.



Griego is trying to create a meeting place for the neighborhood with a community table and patio tables where patrons can linger over light fare.

# New at Stapleton:

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

A little bit of Europe is coming to the neighborhood with the opening of The Bistro at Stapleton. General Manager and Executive Chef Cristino Griego, who lived and trained in Spain and Italy, wants people to be able to walk into his restaurant and have a European dining experience. “But, if you haven’t been to Europe, we want people to say ‘Wow, if this is what it’s like, I want to go,’” Griego says.

Originally planned to be more of a wine bar and bakery, Griego, a Park Hill resident, father and personal chef, helped reimagine the concept to be open from 7am to 10pm with a simple food menu, coffee, fresh-squeezed juices and a variety of wines, beers and spirits. A small mercantile area of The Bistro will have baguettes, specialty food items and tins of olive oil for people to refill their own containers.

The Bistro has been in the works for about one year since Wine Cellars of Stapleton moved next door to allow space for The Bistro. While some of the same people are involved, the two are separate entities, but with heavy crossover in knowledge and a passion for wine.

The Bistro will not have a full kitchen, but that’s not a concern to Griego. “With creativity and a little panache, I can come up with some beautiful things, but at the same time, the things we’re bringing in from all over the world are already so gorgeous, I’ll just let it present itself to the people!” he says.

The morning menu will offer bakery and breakfast items with coffee and juice. Sandwiches, salads and soup will be available at lunch. While daytime meals will have a fast-casual feel with walk-up ordering before sitting at a table, dinner

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Griego shares some wine and a laugh with friends on the Bistro's patio.

## European-style Dining

will be more formal with full table service in the dining room and on the patio. Diners can order from the breakfast and lunch menus at dinner or order from a variety of small-plate offerings such as imported meats and cheeses, cured and smoked fish, bruschetta, house-marinated olives, pickles, and country pork rillettes, a meat pâté. All sauces, chutney, condiments and salad dressings will be made in-house. Griego also plans offerings based on what's available seasonally and locally.

Down the road, Griego has plans for multi-course tasting meals, but the majority of the food will be served in smaller portions for the purpose of sampling and sharing. Prices will range from \$3-\$13; going higher for special event offerings.

While the small-plate format may harken to tapas, which are Spanish, Griego is quick to say the concept goes beyond one country. "We're running the gamut of Spain-meets-France-meets-Italy. It's very Mediterranean cuisine," he says, which will work in tandem with the approximate-

ly 20 wines from all over the world, one white wine on tap, 11 craft beers on tap and Prohibition-style mixed drinks. Wine will be available in a taster size, by the glass or by the bottle. A sommelier will be on staff to guide people through the menu to suggest good food and beverage pairings.

That coordination of food and beverage is critical to Griego, who works closely with his beverage manager to make sure beverages pair with certain aspects of the food being

served, whether it's a vegetable featured in a salad or a spice in a sausage. "We're paying attention to a lot of the details," says Griego. "The food will speak to the beverage program and vice versa."

There won't be a separate children's menu, or a crayon to be found, but in the spirit of European dining, where, Griego says, "your children are always with you, even at a fine restaurant," kids will be welcome.

Griego imagines all the ways The Bistro at Stapleton will be utilized by neighbors: a



Along with wine, The Bistro offers small plates like meats, cheeses and bruschetta.

date night destination; a place to lounge on the patio; a gathering place for intellectual dialogue around the communal table (like book clubs); a spot to pick up food for dinner at home or for a picnic at the park (Griego suggests picking up a baguette from the mercantile area and a bottle of wine from the shop next door).

"We're very idealistic people," Griego says about everyone involved in the creation of The Bistro. "With the passionate artists'

backgrounds of everyone involved, we think we can change the world with this little 1,800-sq.-ft. building and we hope in some ways we do. We're a neighborhood place, rooted in the neighborhood and take it to heart that we want people to keep returning to us."

The Bistro at Stapleton is located at 2955 Ulster St. <https://www.facebook.com/StapletonBistro>



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By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Live Basil Pizza has nothing to hide. It's all there in the open kitchen. A plethora of ingredients sit in bins ready to be placed on the dough, bordered by troughs of

Live Basil Pizza opened March 25 at 7305 E. 35th Ave., a neighbor of one of its cousin-restaurants, Smashburger. By the end of May, Live Basil Pizza will have opened five locations in Colorado. To Consumer Concept Partners, who owns the

# Pizza: Fresh, Fast and Customized

living basil plants, grown hydroponically. Not merely there for decoration or name inspiration, the basil leaves are regularly plucked for use on various pizzas as they come out of the flaming hot oven.

chain as well as Smashburger, Tom's Urban 24 and, breaking from the restaurant chain of ventures, the USA Pro Challenge bike race, the expansion comes as naturally as the basil plants growing in the restaurant. "It's a very organic road for us," says Park Hill resident Jason Dowd, corporate executive chef for Tom's Urban and Live Basil Pizza. "We're not pushing the envelope; we're just opening it at our own pace."

Whenever possible, ingredients are organic and locally sourced, varying with availability. Some pay homage to the location's region such as bison meat and Hatch green chili. The staff behind the counter guide customers through options in sauce, type of cheese and topping, suggesting a limit of three toppings to avoid weighted-down crust and to enable each ingredient to be tasted. The pizza is then slid into the wide-mouthed gas oven with temperatures ranging from 585–650 degrees in different sections. Up to nine pizzas can be baked at one time, being manually rotated to balance baking the crust and melting the cheeses in just over two minutes. From the time an order is placed at one end of the counter, it's about 5 minutes before it's served at the other end.

Scott Schaden, general manager of the Stapleton location and cousin of Jason Dowd, feels the experience of seeing the pizza being prepared and baked creates interaction and a relationship between the customer and the staff. "Being able to customize as you're walking down the line, seeing it go into the oven, you know that's your pizza," says Schaden. "We think it's just a really good way to eat!"

With extensive backgrounds in fine dining and casual dining restaurants, Schaden and Dowd enjoy being able to work for, and with, Schaden's older brother, Rick, founder and chairman of Consumer Concept Partners. "It's amazing working with family," says Scott. "We do our best to keep our relationships (while at work) business-forward and professional. I love getting to go to work every day and seeing my family and being able to create something and work toward a common goal with them. We are truly very lucky."

Live Basil is riding the thin-crust, high-heat, high-speed pizza baking trend in Colorado that has roots in Naples, Italy, from before the time of Columbus. "We're taking things



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rooted in Italian tradition but putting it to an American palette,” says Dowd. For example, the two explain, true Neapolitan pizza is eaten with a fork and knife because it’s a “wet” dough that’s hard to pick up. “Americans want to be able to pick up their pizza so we make the crust thinner and crispier,” explains Schaden. They prefer the traditional, slightly acidic San Marzano tomatoes for their sauce and Italian-style cheeses but offer various toppings and combinations creating what they call both “traditional and neo-Neapolitan” offerings.

The majority of Live Basil’s customers choose to dine in where they can also have wine and beer with their pizza and salad. But carryout is also available, timed just right to make sure the pizza doesn’t sit out too long. There is also a children’s menu.

Although Schaden has moved around



Customers move along an order line selecting sauce and ingredients, including hydroponically grown basil picked on the spot. Pizzas are cooked for about five minutes for fast fresh dining.

with the company, opening locations, he will be staying put a while with the Stapleton location. “I’m definitely looking forward to working with a single group of people and being able to settle into a neighborhood again where I can get to know our regulars,” he says, noting how welcoming people have been, even before the restaurant opened. “We want to be the neighborhood pizza place doing our own thing,” says Schaden. “We want to be part of the neighborhood, not just juxtaposed into it.”



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# Helping Kids to Splash Safely

By Nancy Burkhart  
Summer is just around the corner and NE residents have a new option for kids' swimming lessons. SafeSplash Swim School at 4151 E. Colfax offers children 6 months and older a place to learn in classes with a maximum of four students, or in private or semi-private lessons. Owner-operator Sharol Preisser also operates a SafeSplash program at the 24-Hour Fitness in Lowry.

"We group children primarily by skill level," says Preisser. "We try to keep the age range in each class within two to three years. If we have a child that is a little older, but still a beginner, we put them in classes for older kids that are just learning to swim so it's not awkward for them to be with younger kids."



Owner-operator, Sharol Preisser sits in the pool room at SafeSplash Swim School, 4151 E. Colfax. The school offers a new option for parents looking for swimming lessons before summer.



Park Hill resident and SafeSplash instructor, Andrew Le Vasseur works with youngsters in the pool.

couple of weeks to assess their abilities," Preisser says. "If they have been placed in a class that's inappropriate to their skill level, we'll move them.

If a child is more successful in a class than the rest of the students, we may move the child to a class of students who are at a higher level, but many times


the parents don't want to move them because the teacher and the child get along so well.

"Sometimes all the children in a class progress at the same level and we just make the class a higher level for

all of them. We like to keep the instructor as consistent as possible. The same instructor teaches the same class week after week."

Parents keep up on their children's swimming progress with a monthly Show and Tell period at the end of a class. The teacher works with the child to show the parents what has been learned, what they are working on and what will come next, and parents can ask questions of the instructor.

"Some people are looking to get their kids water-safe and proficient enough that if they fell in a pool or lake they would be able to get themselves out of the water," Preisser says. "And, we have some who want their kids to be on a swim team for fun or fitness



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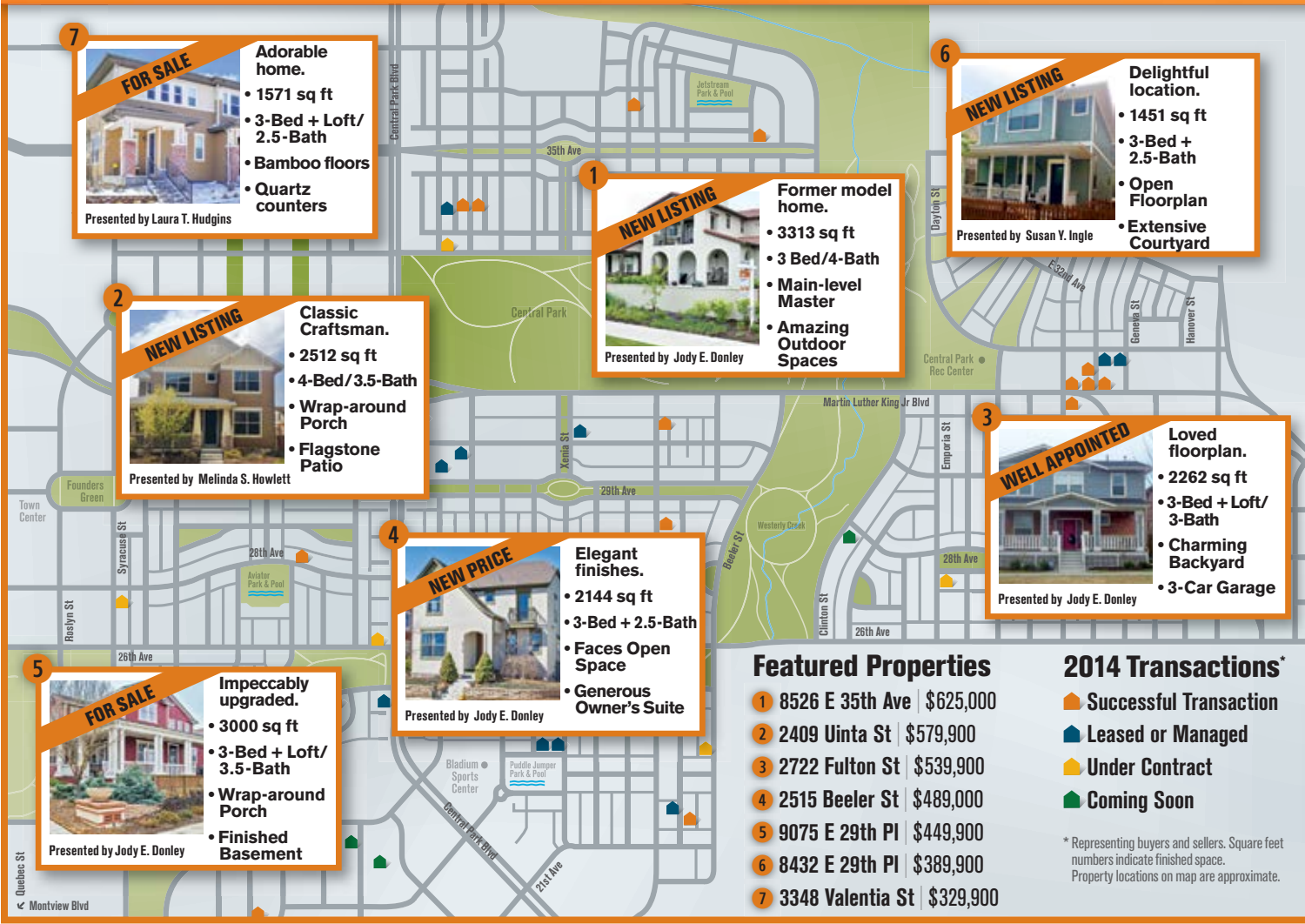
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or for more competition.

“At junior levels, everybody needs to learn the same thing—floating, breathing and arm movement. The kids will be in upper level classes to learn to be competitive. We have instructors who are more coach-oriented, and we have instructors who are more focused on recreational swimming. We group those kids together.”

SafeSplash has 20 instructors who have had several years of swim instruction experience.

At six months old, children start in parent-tot classes. At age three they move into private or semi-private classes.

Adults can also find classes at SafeSplash. “We have four adults in a class,” Preisser says. “Some have no swim background and some swim but want to compete in a triathlon.”

SafeSplash has classes from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, and Thursday, from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Tuesday and Wednesday, from 10 a.m. to noon on Friday and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

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# Support for Stay-at-home Moms

By Madeline Schroeder

When Sarah Cox gave up her job as a social worker to be a stay-at-home mom, she was struck by the daily loneliness. “It’s a wonderful experience, but it’s also very hard,” she says.

While she says being a stay-at-home mom is a blessing, at times she misses the face-to-face interaction of her job.

To help support other stay-at-home moms, Cox is starting a MOMS Club Stapleton chapter this May.

MOMS (Moms Offering Moms Support) Club is a nonprofit organization with chapters worldwide, including 26 in Colorado.

For a membership fee, each chapter offers daily activities for mothers to have face-to-face interaction with other mothers and kids. All activities are open to children. Cox says every chapter has its own flavor, and activities range from playgroups in people’s homes, to meeting at the park, to a day at the Butterfly Pavilion. Some chapters also have dinner exchanges where mothers and kids meet for a playdate, and each mother brings a dish. They combine all the dishes for a complete meal so moms don’t have to cook that night.

Cox first experienced the organization when she moved to Virginia for her husband’s job. She had her 1-year-old daughter and a week before moving learned she was pregnant with her second daughter.

She joined the MOMS Club Midlothian, Va., Chapter. The club members threw her a baby shower. “They provided wonderful support,” she says. “Motherhood is difficult, but somehow you figure it out,” she says and laughs.

Each month the Stapleton Chapter will meet to discuss the month’s activities. Based on requests, Cox plans to also have speakers. She is currently seeking input on the types of events moms want.

The first meeting is 10am to noon May 20 at the Sam Gary Branch Library. Membership will cost \$25 a year. To connect with Sarah, email [Sarah.Lauren.Cox@gmail.com](mailto:Sarah.Lauren.Cox@gmail.com). For more information about MOMS Club, visit [momsclub.com](http://momsclub.com).

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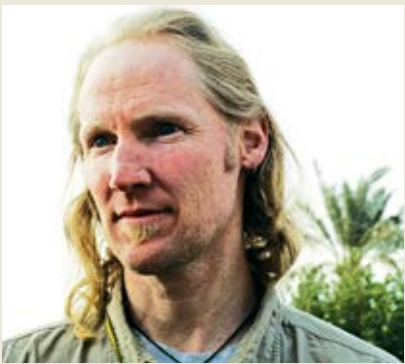
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# Just the Facts

## Our water—is it tapped?

by James Hagadorn



What's the story behind the water that comes out of our taps? Ever worry about how safe or expensive it is, or whether it'll run out?

To address these issues, we need to know where our water comes from. Unless you're drinking nonrenewable groundwater like citizens of Douglas County, the bulk of our water melts from Rocky Mountain snow. But most of this runoff flows westward, rather than eastward toward the Front Range where most Coloradans live. So we finagle it eastward by sucking it through a byzantine maze of tunnels, pipelines, reservoirs and canals. This diverted water joins up with the water collected from the eastern slope of the Rockies, often flowing downhill in existing streams and rivers. Municipalities from Fort Loveley (Fort Collins-Loveland-Greeley) to Pueblo capture, test, and clean this water, and then store it in manmade tanks where it awaits the tug of your faucet. Even in mountain burgs like Leadville, the story is the same.

So what's there to be concerned about? Colorado is growing. A lot. Which means more

baths, more grass, and more crops that need water. Yet the runoff-capturing system of the Rockies is nearly all spoken for. In some years, there is a bit of water left untapped in the system, but in many drought years there is not enough because less rain and snow falls.

Sometimes heavy floods, like those of last September, help the system catch up, by filling reservoirs that buffer demand. But multiple dry years or less-than-average snowpack years, coupled with steady population growth, means that the system is at its tipping point.

The days of prospecting for more Rocky Mountain water are essentially over. Thus viable solutions include conservation or "buy and dry"—a strategy employed by cities like Aurora where water is taken from farmland and used to slake suburbs.

In terms of conservation, there are some efficiencies to be gained within our water distribution system, including reducing water losses due to evaporation from canals and reservoirs and from fixing leaking pipelines and tunnels. But these losses, generally 5–10 percent of the distributed water, are not sizeable enough to satisfy future demand.

Fortunately there are many opportunities to improve our individual water usage efficiency. This is illustrated by the great variation in the amount of water used by like-kind individuals in the Front Range. For example, over the course of a year, Denverites use about 85 gals/day on average whereas those in the Springs use almost 100 and Fort Loveley

residents use about 140. Yet in the same cities, many folks who have similar homes and needs use much less water. See <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/consumer/09952.html> for some ideas about upping your water game.

In the quest for more water, is safety being compromised? Back in the day, Colorado settlers would drop a silver dollar into a water barrel to keep it pure. We've come a long way since then, but we still leverage the antibacterial properties of silver and other materials to purify water. This is important because mountain meltwater passes

money. How much, though? To put things into perspective, our family uses between 5,000 gallons (gals) per month in the winter and 10,000 gals/month in the summer. Like many mountain communities we pay as little as \$2.58 per 1,000 gals. In contrast, other Front Range communities pay a lot more—\$4 to \$5 per 1,000 gals. It could be worse, though. Los Angeles residents, who divert mountain and agricultural water just like we do, pay more than double our cost—\$6.31 per 1,000 gals. And their water tastes like a swimming pool.

So as we look to the future, perhaps we ought



In the late 1800s, ditches that brought water to citizens were often contaminated by livestock feces and disease. Containment in wooden pipelines like this one, together with chlorination, helped address such problems.

through squirrel scat, mine dumps, and all sorts of soils en route to drinking water reservoirs. Water agencies test and clean the heck out of these waters, and despite the myriad pathways by which water is diverted to our towns and cities, they uniformly deliver safe water. At the same time they boost the water's natural fluoride levels by a tiny amount, to reach recommended levels. Some have even begun monitoring for pharmaceutical derivatives in the water. Although they're not yet at high-enough concentrations to be of concern, such substances are increasingly found in drinking and irrigation water.

Pumping, cleaning, and maintaining our water consumes a huge amount of energy. And this costs

to think about water in the context of energy and public health. And, with an eye toward balancing economic and population growth with needs for water for farming, forests, wildlife, recreation, and tourism. The water coming out of your tap impacts all these arenas.

In the meantime, I'm looking forward to turning on our outside spigots so our kiddos can frolic on our Slip'N Slide. To offset this fun and frivolous use of water, maybe I should skip a few showers this summer.

James W. Hagadorn, Ph.D., is a scientist at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Suggestions and comments are welcome at [jwhagadorn@dmns.org](mailto:jwhagadorn@dmns.org).

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# Orthodontist's Roots in Park Hill & Stapleton Span Three Generations

By Nancy Burkhardt

Dr. Brian Trommeter, who in April opened Trommeter Orthodontics in Stapleton, completed both dental school and an orthodontics residency at the Anschutz Medical Campus. “For six and a half years I commuted through Stapleton every single day,” he says. “Just driving through the area, I saw that it was growing and vibrant and had young families. It was a no-brainer to be there.”

“I have lots of local ties to the area,” Trommeter says. “I grew up in the Park Hill neighborhood. My parents still live there. My grandparents bought a house at 26th and Forest in 1960, and they had seven children. My dad bought the house next door. He has lived in that same block for 60-plus years.” He had seven cousins living in a two-block radius in Park Hill for a five-year period. And his grandfather was a mechanic at Stapleton airport.

Becoming an orthodontist was an easy decision for Trommeter. His own orthodontic experience made it the only way he wanted to go.

“One of the things that I’m trying to focus on besides straightening teeth and making pretty smiles is giving people confidence,” he said. “My orthodontic treatment gave me lots of confidence. The week I got my braces off was the first time that I had the confidence to ask a girl for a date. I was a junior in high school, and the date that I went on was with my current wife.”

Trommeter’s wife, Kelly, was a state golf champion from Mul-len High School. They live near City Park and are eager to spend time at Stapleton during the summer.

Many of Trommeter’s patients are children and young adults.

“I get to spend a considerable amount of time with people in their formative years,” he said. “One of the things I pride myself on is to focus on a lot of the positive things that are specific to that child, even if their mouth has lots of difficulties. I want people to feel that same rush of confidence and self-pride when the braces come off.

“The first three people I saw in my office all are over 30 years old,” he added. “I think that speaks to the advances in orthodon-tics. It’s socially acceptable for adults to have braces too. There are lots of really good advances that have made it easier to have braces. Some braces can’t even be seen. The treatment times can be shorter, and treatment options are more comfortable.

During his time as a resident in orthodontics at the Universi-ty of Colorado, Trommeter also worked in dental urgent care for two and a half years at Dental 911 in Mayfair.

Trommeter says he was the only orthodontic resident ac-cepted from the University of Colorado Dental School during a three-year period. Only 15 residents are accepted each year.

Trommeter’s office at 2979 Iola St. is open 8:30am–6pm

Dr. Brian Tromme-ter has opened a new orthodontic practice in the Eastbridge Town Center area of Stapleton in the Family Dentistry building. He is a native of Park Hill and looks forward to practicing in the neighborhood.



Tues., 7am–4:30pm Thurs., and 8am–1pm Sat. He said that more hours and days in the office will be added as the practice grows.

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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.

### *The German Doctor* (2013)

*The German Doctor* tells the story of Josef Mengele, the notorious Nazi doctor who experimented on prisoners of Auschwitz, while he was on the run in Argentina circa 1960. The fictional account is based in some fact: Mengele spent time in Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil before dying in 1979. The story's events take place during a short stay in Patagonia, where there was a large former-Nazi contingent



Scene from *The German Doctor*

It is *how* Puenzo goes about that criticism that makes the film so fascinating. The beginning of the film finds Mengele making his way to the town of Bariloche, across the beautiful and majestic expanse of Patagonia. When he stops at a store for supplies, he meets an Argentine family and follows them into the town. He befriends them (except for the skeptical father), and ends up staying in their newly opened hotel. He immediately takes (a very creepy) interest in the family's 12-year-old, a smallish girl who has a genetic deficiency that has slowed down her growth process. Of course, Mengele uses it as an opportunity to experiment. And here is Puenzo's point: by looking the other way, the government put the Argentine people in jeopardy.

*The German Doctor* marks Puenzo's third film and best yet. Her first two films were met with critical acclaim, and this third effort premiered at Cannes. Her style is becoming apparent: close character studies, a simple yet elegant cinematography, and magnificent acting that is the real force of the film. Florencia Bado as young Lilith is particularly good, exuding an innocence and sexuality that is both inviting and disturbing as the creepy doctor spends too much time with her. The film also gives us moments of "What would I do?" The first step: see the film. Starts Friday, May 9 at the Chez

Artiste.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *The Hunt*, *The Secret in Their Eyes*, and/or *The Official Story*.

### *Mud* (2013)

It is quite rare to find a "coming-of-age" story that is populated by interesting characters not directly out of central casting and who live in the same world as the rest of us. *Mud*, directed by Jeff Nichols (*Take Shelter*), gives us those characters and more. It tells the story of two young boys who encounter a fugitive hiding out on a small island in the middle of the Arkansas River. The

boys befriend the man (Mud, played by Matthew McConaughey), and agree to help him while he waits for his girlfriend.

As the police and a group of hired guns look for Mud, the boys' situation becomes increasingly tense, mine-filled, and ends in spectacular fashion.

I reviewed Nichols' *Take Shelter* last year and found it to be one of the



Scene from *Mud*

best films of the past several years. *Mud* is a worthy follow-up to that first feature from Nichols, and it shows a steady hand with actors, strong story, quirky characters who don't do what we think they'll do, and surprising twists that leave us guessing. We also get one of the most poignant moments of realization I've ever seen: the moment a boy turns into a man happens in the most unlikely of places, and all without a word. That boy, Ellis, played by newcomer Tye Sheridan, grows before our eyes and changes into a man.

Sheridan is not the only stunning performance: McConaughey delivers another brilliant turn, Jacob Lofland as Ellis' friend Neckbone glows in his screen debut, Reese Witherspoon finds her meatiest role since *Election*, and Sarah Paulson, Ray McKinnon, and Sam Shepard are all fantastic as secondary, but not flat, characters.

It is a treat to watch a film that is so well-written, well-directed, well-acted, and well-photographed that we become lost in the world of that film. Nichols not only has a bright future, he has a bright past and present, however brief. It will be fascinating to see his future films.

Now available on Netflix.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *Take Shelter*, *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, and/or *Stand By Me*.

This film, along with all other films I've reviewed, may be found at the Sam Gary Library. Look for the Indie Prof display at the end of the DVD racks.

Vincent Piturro, Ph.D., teaches Cinema Studies at Metropolitan State University of Denver. He can be reached at [vpiturro@msudenver.edu](mailto:vpiturro@msudenver.edu).



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# Fighting the Fear of Medical Costs

By Madeline Schroeder

Coloradans fear the cost of medical care more than they fear getting sick or injured, a study by Colorado HealthOP reported in April.

The report surveyed 625 Coloradans about their health-care experiences and beliefs. Fifty-four percent have not gone to the doctor because of cost, and 45 percent have not purchased a medicine prescribed by a doctor.

“Teaching people how to use their health insurance and how it can save them money will help ease that fear of medical cost,” says Laura Morsch-Babu, Colorado HealthOP director of public and community affairs.

Colorado HealthOP is a nonprofit health insurance cooperative and one of the providers offered through the Colorado health exchange (where open enrollment ended April 15). More than 15,000 people signed up for the co-op. When a person buys a plan through the co-op, he or she becomes a member and votes for the board of directors that decides rates, benefits and more.

Following Kaiser Permanente, Colorado HealthOP had the lowest rates offered on the exchange. Morsch-Babu suspects the lower rates attracted the younger population—47 percent of co-op members are 35 and younger. She also suspects many may have signed up without understanding the co-op

concept. She emphasizes that a co-op is a community with both benefits and responsibilities.

Connect for Health Colorado—the state health exchange website—will continue education and outreach as well. “Our goal has always been to connect as many Coloradans as possible with health coverage that meets their needs, and tax credits to reduce costs,” Patty Fontneau, CEO of Connect for Health Colorado, said in an April press release.

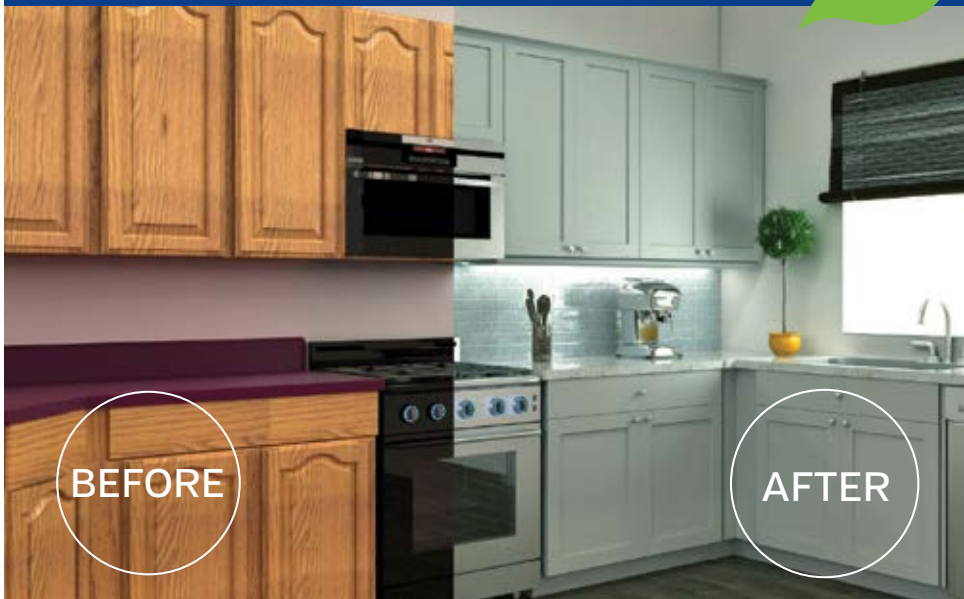
The exchange offered 150 health plans for families and individuals from 10 providers, and 92 plans for small businesses through six providers.

Connect for Health Colorado announced more than 124,000 Coloradans signed up through the exchange, exceeding the goal of 92,000. Enrollment started slow but spiked before the January and March deadlines with 30,000 visitors on Dec. 23 and 54,000 visitors on March 31.

“Turns out people are very deadline-driven when it comes to buying health insurance,” Laura Morsch-Babu said. Charles Holum, one of the co-op’s founders, described October to December as a “scary and annoying time.” By January he said they were pleased. “We’re very excited. There’s more buzz of being a co-op and we got more sign-ups than we expected.”

Connect for Health Colorado is still available to answer health care questions. Those who have had a life-changing event like a birth or death that may affect insurance eligibility should call 1.855.752.6749. The next open enrollment period begins Nov. 15, 2014, for coverage in 2015.

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# Tech Camps at Four NE Schools This Summer

By Laurie Dunklee

Northeast Denver students in grades 3 to 8 won't need to leave the neighborhood to learn advanced computer skills this summer.

OpenWorld Learning (OWL), a nonprofit that teaches advanced computer technology to Denver students, will offer six one-week camps at Swigert-McAuliffe, Smith, Hallett and Park Hill schools.

"Statistics show that technology is the fastest-growing job field, yet many schools don't offer enough technology-based learning," said Piep van Heuven, the program's new chief executive officer and a Park Hill resident. "This program helps kids get good at math, science and literacy."

The camp will use Denver's Youth One Book One Denver summer reading selection as the basis for themes in each weeklong camp. Students will use software programs such as Frames, Image Blender, MicroWorlds and more to create projects inspired by the book. Projects during the different camp sessions will include animation, robotics, web design, computer programming and digital photography.

Students can attend multiple weeks and will



Leaders of the Open World Learning program gather for a portrait at Park Hill Elementary.

Left to right: Meredith Malec, business manager; Brett Wilhelm, board member; Piep van Heuven, CEO; Alexie Tune, board member; and Lea Ann Reitzig, managing director.

be able to move forward at their own pace. "Each week has its own curriculum and its own theme, so students can come to any session and complete a project in one week," said Tara Stroup, director of program operations and outcome. OWL has arranged to use existing school computers for their camps.

Projects include creating book covers, trading cards, animation or movies based on some aspect of the books. "Students read for 30 minutes a day, then reflect, discuss and plan their project," said Stroup. "They work both as individuals and in teams."

Students talk about the book's themes, characters, and real-world problems. "They might create a robot to solve the problem, or tell their own ending for the book," Stroup said.

The OpenWorld Learning curriculum emphasizes

es the power of digital technology to develop basic skills and leadership. "It's all about energizing students to invest in their future—it's all about learning," said van Heuven.

OWL, an after-school program that has offered summer camps for the past 10 years, has served more than 5,000 students since its inception in 2000. With four locations offering 30 seats a week for three to six one-week sessions, NE Denver students will have a close-to-home opportunity to increase their knowledge of computer technology.

The OWL curriculum has won awards for teaching digital literacy and for excellence in education. "Studies show that students in the OWL program learn 30 percent more essential technology skills during the average school year," said Stroup.

Stroup said the program improves reading, math and critical-thinking skills.

"They read books every day, plus they read the instructions to keep moving along in their projects. To create their project they need math. How many steps will the animated character take to get across the screen? To create their shapes, they need geometry. When creating images in space, they learn about size and dimension."

"The process ignites a love of learning because they get to explore topics that interest them," said van Heuven, who calls OWL camp a "360-degree experience."

"OWL is different because of the range of technologies taught within each age group, and the many skill sets that are embedded—not only math and reading, but also character development. And they get outside too, going on a field trip each week and also to the swimming pool."

Part of the OWL teaching model is peer

teaching, in which student leaders become resources for other students. "Students who excel help others, which helps the teacher and empowers the students," said Stroup.

Peer learning teaches important life skills, said van Heuven: "Peers learn how to interact in small groups. They learn about group dynamics and leadership."

"Kids' creativity also comes to the forefront with their peers," she said.

Stroup marveled at the interaction between two elementary-age children in a creative project. "One student taught another to create a computer game in which a frog catches a fly."

"It's amazing to see what kids can do when they have access to advanced technology like this," said van Heuven.

Some students' projects extend to helping the community. "Students create public service announcements for community projects in their neighborhood, like graffiti removal and trash cleanup," said Stroup.

van Heuven said OWL's program will help more students succeed in the future. "Technology will be embedded in just about every job opportunity by the time they hit the job market. Kids with tech skills will do better."

van Heuven formerly led BikeDenver, Denver's bicycle advocacy organization, and headed fundraising and marketing efforts for Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado.

Tuition proceeds from OWL summer camps beyond camp costs will be used to support OWL's after-school programs.

OWL Tech Camps may qualify for Flexible Spending Account reimbursement or a tax credit. IRS information is posted at the end of the OWL article on the *Front Porch* website, [www.frontporchstapleton.com](http://www.frontporchstapleton.com).

For more information about OWL summer camps, visit [www.openworldlearning.org](http://www.openworldlearning.org).

## OWL Camps at NE Denver Schools

Swigert/McAuliffe, 3480 Syracuse St.  
Park Hill, 5050 E. 19th Ave.  
June 9–July 18 (6 one-week camps)  
M-F, 8:30am–4:30pm  
\$250 per student per week  
Register online at [www.openworldlearning.org](http://www.openworldlearning.org).  
Scholarships available.

Smith, 3590 Jasmine St.  
Hallett, 2950 Jasmine St.  
June 9–27 (3 one-week camps)  
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Free to students who attend these schools.

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# Meet the Kids

Oddball, endearing and quirky answers to life's questions

By Madeline Schroeder

Unbeknownst to many, unusual laws exist everywhere. In Colorado, it is illegal to throw missiles at cars. In Denver, it is illegal to lend a vacuum cleaner to a next-door neighbor. In Boulder, it is illegal to permit a llama to graze on city property. This month, first-graders at Isabella Bird Elementary invented their own laws, which they explain are rules you have to follow or bad things happen.

**Kublai Alla**

I would say to keep the animals safe from poachers you would go to jail for three days a year if you kill them. But, you can hunt and eat them, but no killing just to kill.

Also, if the president is keeping a secret you have to put security cameras and he gets a ticket.

**Nicholas Paul**

Babies can only wear diapers if they agree with them. 'Baby, you want to wear your new diapers?' 'Hey mama, mommy' (Slowly for theatrical effect, Nicholas twists his face as if eating something sour and makes a shrill sound). That means he doesn't want his diapers.

And, on the weekends you have to find an albino animal and protect them before getting killed. They're in forests, usually wide-open forests with oak plants and stuff. If you don't find one you'll go to jail and the albino animals will have to find another way to survive.



## First Graders Invent Laws

First graders at Isabella Bird Community School, left to right: Nicholas Paul, Palmer Johnson, Kublai Alla, Mira Agur and Mateo Morris.

**Mateo Morris**

If the toilet is clogged immediately panic and say you need a plunger and plunge as fast as you can, then flush as hard as you can. If you don't, a company from the presidential orders and an army company that looks like an ice-cream truck come over and take all your toilets away.

Another law is you cannot take money that goes to charity. So if anyone takes money that is going to charity like cancer, then people are sent to jail. You set up video camera surveillance, and it's sent to the TV so everyone can see who stole.

—Excuse me, are we going to be famous?—Palmer asks. (This is always a big question during Meet the Kids interviews)

**Mira Agur**

I would put a security camera around you if you wanted

**Palmer Johnson**

If a lake is frozen and there are fish in it, no ice fishing on a really really hot day. The ice might crack and you fall in. First someone saves them and then you pay a ticket and go to jail for two days.

—It should have to be 50 degrees and up to be illegal—Mateo says.

—Or 500—Nicholas adds.

—Nicholas, if it were 500 degrees right now we would be dying—Mateo replies, and notes to wear sunscreen every day to protect it.

Principals who want to participate in "Meet the Kids" email Madeline@frontporchstapleton.com.

to be a bully to kids, little kids. If you do something bad like steal something from a little kid, I will come rushing and say, 'Can I please have that back, please?' It's something nice to do for the little kids instead of being bullied.

—Yesterday I got bullied on the bus—Mateo says.

Did he give you a wedgie? Wedgies aren't in the law.

—Wedgies are my nightmare—Nicholas says.

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# 2014 Front Porch Guide to NE Denver Biking & Beyond

Equipped with a trailer for groceries and library books, Stapleton resident Sarah McGregor bikes anywhere possible. She has been biking for 45 years. Her favorite ride is the High Line Canal, which is family friendly. “The beauty of it is that you can go any distance. The canal is 60 miles long. We usually go 10 miles in and 10 miles back. And there’s not much bike traffic.”

McGregor encourages bikers of all levels to pick up a Denver Bicycle Touring Club map of the best routes in the Denver metro area. “Having biked in several other cities, I can tell you it is probably the best city bike map in the country,” she says. There is almost always a less busy and more pleasant route a few blocks parallel to major streets, she says. The map is available at most bike shops.

The Stapleton Area Transportation Management Association (TMA) promotes walking, biking, carpooling and public transit. To help get started with biking in NE Denver, TMA Association Outreach Coordinator Eric Herbst has compiled a list of suggestions for where to begin (and end for that matter).

By Eric Herbst, Stapleton TMA

### Family Rides:

#### Greenway/Trail Ride

Distance (approx. round-trip): 5–10 miles  
Difficulty: Easy  
Description: Westerly Creek Greenway

Trail splits Stapleton right down the middle making it convenient for almost anyone in the area. From Park Hill, head west on 26th or 23rd Ave. to Stapleton’s Greenway Park just east of Syracuse St. After exploring Westerly Creek to the south, head north toward Central Park—one of Denver’s largest parks at approximately 80 acres. After Central Park, continue north to the Sand Creek Regional Greenway and head northwest into Northfield/Conservatory Green. Easily head back to Westerly Creek on 26th Ave. or back the way you came.

#### Retail Ride

Distance (approx. round-trip): 5–10 miles  
Difficulty: Easy  
Description: Explore NE Denver retail areas starting at the Stapleton E. 29th Town Center where you can stop at restaurants, a bike and skate shop, and The Hub to grab free bike maps. Carefully cross Quebec, and head west on 29th Ave. Ride about 1 mile to Fairfax St. and turn left. This block offers restaurants, a cross-fit gym, and ice cream and coffee shops. If your bike needs repair, stop at Bike Depot, a nonprofit with a free bike repair station. At the end of the block, turn right and go west on 28th Ave. to Dexter. Turn left and go to 23rd Ave., which has Spinelli’s Market, a book store, restaurant and local coffee shop. Head east on 22nd Ave. for almost 1 mile until Kearney St., home



Sarah McGregor

to Cake Crumbs, the Art Garage, a bike store, outdoors shop, pet store, and gymnastics and yoga studios. Go east on 23rd Ave. to Oneida St., which has a veterinary clinic, laundromat and restaurants. Cross Quebec St. at 23rd Ave. and turn left on Syracuse St. to return to the E. 29th Ave. Town Center.

#### Explore City Park

Distance (approx. round-trip): 5–10 miles  
Difficulty: Easy  
Description: City Park is accessible by bike from almost anywhere in NE Denver via 17th Ave. up to 26th Ave. One of our favorite routes is between 19th and 22nd avenues on Montview Blvd., which has a great bike lane and is lined with beautiful homes. Once reaching City Park, visit the Museum of Nature and Science, Denver Zoo, City Park Golf Course, or enjoy the abundant grassy space with a book or Frisbee. Jazz in the Park every Sunday in

the summer is one of our favorite bike ride activities.

#### Public Facilities Tour

Distance (approx. round-trip): 15–20 miles  
Difficulty: Easy  
Description: NE Denver has a variety of public libraries and recreational centers. This ride is a way to visit all of them. Begin at the Park Hill Library off Montview Blvd. and Dexter St. Go east to Holly St.

and head north to Holly Square at 33rd Ave., which has the Pauline Robinson Library, Hiawatha Davis Jr. Rec Center, a post office, and the Boys and Girls Club. Go east on 35th Ave. until Newport St. Turn left and visit Martin Luther King Jr. Rec Center. Go south on Pontiac St. (just east of MLK Jr. Park). Turn left on MLK Jr. Blvd. (Currently, the bike lane ends at Quebec St., but they are extending it to Central Park Blvd. in May. Ride through Stapleton to 25th Ave. and Havana St. and stop at Moorhead Rec Center. Continue to 26th Ave. At Syracuse, turn right and end at the Sam Gary Public Library.

#### Direct to Downtown

Distance (approx. round-trip): 15–20 miles  
Difficulty: Moderate (more traffic interaction)  
Description: Biking can be a great option for spending time downtown. 23rd or 26th Ave. or MLK Jr. Blvd. are some of the most direct routes from NE Denver.

All of these routes have bike lanes or bike sharrows for most of the ride. Because of downtown’s diagonal grid, these routes can be a little confusing. 23rd Ave. runs into Park Ave.—not the best route if you want to go directly into downtown. 26th Ave. turns into 27th Ave. after crossing Welton St. (remember to look both ways for the Light Rail) but just continue on to Champa St., which heads downtown and provides another bike lane. MLK Blvd. is also a good route with a bike lane. After Downing St., turn onto Champa St. Confluence Park, where the South Platte River and the Cherry Creek come together, is one of our favorite downtown visits.

#### More Serious Rides: Creek/River/Creek/Canal Loop

Distance (approx. round-trip): 40–45 miles  
Difficulty: Moderate  
Description: Ride a giant

loop around Denver by way of trails and minimal roads. Start on the Sand Creek Regional Greenway. Begin northwest to the South Platte River Greenway. Go southwest to the Cherry Creek Bike Path, southeast to the High Line Canal trail and northeast back to Sand Creek. This route includes paved, intermittent pavement, packed gravel and dirt. The trail goes through urban high-rises, industrial parks, neighborhoods and green open space. Specific attractions include: Confluence Park, Star K Ranch, The Urban Farm, and the Bluff Lake Nature Center.

#### Cherry Creek Reservoir Ride

Distance (approx. round-trip): 30–35 miles  
Difficulty: Moderate  
Description: Cherry Creek Reservoir is the closest large reservoir to NE Denver, which makes it a full-day destination. Begin on Syracuse St. and head south to 16th Ave. Turn left and go to Florence St. where you will head south. Continue on to Del Mar Pkwy to the High Line Canal trail. Go east to the Colorado Front Range Trail, which goes all the way to Cherry Creek Reservoir State Park. Plan extra time to enjoy the state park and a quick ride around the reservoir.

#### NE Denver to Golden

Golden offers many bike shops and restaurants along its main street (Washington). We suggest two routes—one more road-oriented and the other trail-oriented.

#### Road Route

Distance (approx. round-trip): 40–45 miles  
Difficulty: Hard  
Description: Begin west on MLK Jr. Blvd. to Champa St. At 15th Ave., head northwest across I-25 where 15th Ave. turns into 29th Ave. From 29th Ave., continue to 32nd Ave., which goes all the way to Golden, where you will arrive right behind the Coors Brewery.

#### Trail Route

Distance (approx. round-trip): 45–50 miles  
Difficulty: Moderate  
Description: The trail route to Golden is a little longer but avoids stoplights, stop signs and general car traffic. Begin at Sand Creek Regional Greenway Trail and head northwest, where it joins up with the South Platte River Greenway. Head north until you reach Clear Creek Bike Path. Ride approximately 22 miles west. You will arrive on 12th Ave. that goes straight into the heart of downtown Golden.

To submit information for the Front Porch guide to biking, or any of our online resource guides, email [FrontPorch@FrontPorchStapleton.com](mailto:FrontPorch@FrontPorchStapleton.com).



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# Front Porch Resource Guides Keep Expanding

Submissions after the print deadline are added to our online resource guides at [www.FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://www.FrontPorchStapleton.com) > News > Resource Guides. To submit to resource guides, email [FrontPorch@FrontPorchStapleton.com](mailto:FrontPorch@FrontPorchStapleton.com).

### Guide to Summer Camps:

**Mathletes are Everywhere:** Discovering Math in Our Everyday World. For kids going into 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades. Hands-on lessons indoors and outdoors and rooted in Common Core Standards. Dates either week of 7/14 or 7/21 in morning (topics repeat so only sign up for 1 week). Cost: \$200 (\$175 + \$25 materials fee). Camps at Montclair Rec Center, 8th and Uinta. [www.mathletesandbookworms.com](http://www.mathletesandbookworms.com), [mathletesandbookworms@gmail.com](mailto:mathletesandbookworms@gmail.com), 303.522.1996

**OpenWorld Learning (OWL)** offers computer summer camps for 3rd–8th-graders in Denver. Check [www.openworldlearning.org](http://www.openworldlearning.org) for details and registration. OWL's mission: to support children's school success by tapping the power of digital technology and peer teaching to develop leadership and ignite a love of learning.

**CHIMP Theater Summer Kids Improv Workshop.** 10-week workshop Sat. mornings 10am-noon at Crossroads Theater, 2590 W Washington St. Improv classes for kids 10 to 16. 6/7-8/16. Registration: \$100/kid. For more, visit [DenverCrossroads.com](http://DenverCrossroads.com), call 303.960.5018 or email Dave at [DaveBrandl@yahoo.com](mailto:DaveBrandl@yahoo.com).

### Guide to Music and Art Teachers:

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## CHECK OUT THESE EVENTS

### May 2, 3 and 4—Park Hill Art Club Spring Show and Sale

The show and sale will be at Park Hill United Methodist Church, 5209 Montview Blvd. Enter on NE side of the church to see 1,200 pieces of original art: framed paintings and bins of unframed work. Opening reception: Fri., May 2, 4:30–8pm. Hours: Sat. 10am–6pm; Sun. 9:30am–4pm. [www.Parkhillartclub.org](http://www.Parkhillartclub.org).

### May 10—NE Walk Fest

The second annual NE Walk Fest offers more than 30 themed walking trips and numerous activities and community booths in Holly Square at 33rd and Holly. The goal of the NE Walk Fest is to increase neighborhood walking behavior, promote pedestrian

safety, and educate participants on neighborhood walkability throughout NE Denver, including Park Hill, Stapleton, East Montclair and NW Aurora neighborhoods. Check in at 8:30. The kick-off is at 9am in front of Pauline Robinson Library. Register for the event at [NEwalkfest.com](http://NEwalkfest.com) and lock in a spot on specific walks, which begin at different times and locations.

Themed walks include: A walk with City Councilman Albus Brooks, walks at Bluff Lake, Sand Creek and Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Sunshine Food Project walk, Stapleton public art walk, North Park Hill alley art, small business walkshop, urban planning walk, Denver's literary past, Holly Square open house tour, Tai Chi walking, career planning walkshop, Sole to Soul in Celebration of Mothers, and Westerly Creek Watershed walk.

(continued on p. 26)

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## NOT ALL THE EVENTS FIT IN THE PRINTED PAPER.

Upload or search for more events at the redesigned [FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://FrontPorchStapleton.com) > "Events"

## CHECK OUT THESE EVENTS

(continued from p. 25)

### May 17—Free Women's Self-Defense Class

On Sat., May 17, from 9am–1pm, Denver Police District 5 will present a free 4-hour women's self-defense/survival class for ages 15 and older. The class will provide basic safety and self-defense tactics and educate about violence prevention. Location: Multipurpose Room at Central Park Rec Center, 9651 E. Martin Luther King Blvd. Space is limited. Call 720.913.1400.

### May 17 and 18—Stapleton Community Garage Sale

In its ninth year, the Stapleton Community Garage Sale will be held on Sat., May 17 and Sun., May 18. Register at [www.BuildingStapleton.com/garagesale](http://www.BuildingStapleton.com/garagesale) by 9am on Fri., May 16 to participate on either or both days. A final list of participating homes will be posted at that website around noon on May 16. The sale is sponsored by Diana and Michael Kearns, of RE/MAX of Cherry Creek, at no cost to participants. [GarageSale@KearnsTeam.com](mailto:GarageSale@KearnsTeam.com).

### May 17 & 18—Free Park Hill Art Festival

The Park Hill Art Festival, held at the Park Hill Masonic Lodge grounds (4819 Montview Blvd.), a juried fine art/craft show, will showcase 65 artists from Colorado and beyond exhibiting paintings in all media, glass sculptures, ceramics, jewelry, fabrics and photography. All artists will be available on-site. Members of

the Colorado Veterans Creative Arts Rehabilitation Group will also be exhibiting their artworks. Tickets will be sold to win a \$1,000 and \$500 shopping spree at Park Hill Art Festival artists' booths. No purchase necessary to enter, but winners must be present during the drawings to win (\$1,000 on 5/17, 2pm; \$500 on 5/18, 2pm). Music provided by Skanson & Hanson. Hours: 10am–5pm both days. [www.parkhillartfestival.com](http://www.parkhillartfestival.com)

### May 30—Children's Museum Birthday Bash

Inspired by Louis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, the Children's Museum of Denver 41st Birthday Bash will be held on Fri., May 30, 6–10:30pm. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks served to music of Funkiphino. Silent auction and live auction at 8pm. All proceeds directly benefit educational programs, exhibits and outreach initiatives. Tickets: \$150–\$200. Must be 21 to attend. [MyChildsMuseum.org](http://MyChildsMuseum.org)

### June 5–8—World Football Film Festival at Sie Film Center

To celebrate and build anticipation for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, a multi-day, multifaceted festival of film and special event programs around "World Football" (Soccer) in film will be shown at the Sie Film Center, 2510 E. Colfax from Thurs.–Sun., June 5–8. The event features a mix of 8–10 soccer-oriented films, ranging from classics and family-friendly to vintage and impactful documentaries. Beyond the traditional mini-festival model, a youth "soccer and movies" combination camp will occur "on the pitch" at Denver City Park and in the theater at Sie Film Center from June 16–20. [denverfilm.org](http://denverfilm.org).

(continued on p. 29)

## ARTWALKS

**First Friday, Golden Triangle Museum.** 5–9pm. [www.goldentrianglegleofdenver.com](http://www.goldentrianglegleofdenver.com)

**First Friday, Navajo Street Art District.** 5–9pm, and weekly gallery openings. [www.navajostreetartdistrict.com](http://www.navajostreetartdistrict.com)

**First Friday, North Denver's Tennyson Art Walk.** Tennyson St. and 44th Ave. 6–10pm. [www.denverartwalk.squarespace.com](http://www.denverartwalk.squarespace.com)

**First Friday, River North (RiNo) Art District.** 6–9pm. RiNo starts at Broadway and Walnut St. [www.RiverNorthart.com](http://www.RiverNorthart.com)

**Third Friday, Santa Fe Arts District.** Santa Fe Dr. between 10th and 6th. 5–8pm. [www.artdistrictonSantaFe.com](http://www.artdistrictonSantaFe.com)

## DENVER METRO EVENTS

**Denver 2 for 1 Tix.** Weekly 2 for 1 ticket and admission discounts for metro Denver arts and entertainment. [www.denver2for1tix.com](http://www.denver2for1tix.com)

**5/1 to 5/31—Learn to Compost.** Saturdays and Select Wednesdays in May: [www.dug.org](http://www.dug.org) to register and for additional summer dates

**5/3 Saturday—Four Mile Historic Park Hay Bales and Tall Tales.** 12–1pm. 715 S. Forest St. 720.865.0800. Free with park admission. [www.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)

**5/3 to 5/4—Cinco de Mayo Festival and Parade.** Civic Center Park, FREE. Largest Cinco de Mayo Hispanic culture celebration in America at Civic Center Park. Latino music, food, low- rider parade, culture and some of Mexico's top recording stars. [www.cincomedemayo-denver.com](http://www.cincomedemayo-denver.com)

**5/9 Friday—"Are We There Yet?" Road Trippin' with the Denver Brass.** 7:30pm. Newman Center for the Performing Arts, DU Campus. Tickets: [www.denverbrass.org](http://www.denverbrass.org)

**5/9 to 5/10—Botanic Gardens Plant Sale.** 8am–5pm. Horticulture experts help choose plants. FREE. Denver Botanic Gardens, 1007 York St. [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**5/9 to 5/10—Colorado Chocolate Festival.** Denver Merchandise Mart, I-25 and 58th Ave. Music, kids activities, wine tastings, cooking demos, more. Tickets \$5; under 5 free. [www.chocolate-festival.org](http://www.chocolate-festival.org)

**5/10 Saturday—Victorian Tea.** Four Mile Historic Park, I-3pm. Members \$25, nonmembers \$30. 715 S. Forest St. 720.865.0800. [www.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)

**5/10 to 5/11—Mother's Day Tea.** At Molly Brown House. Adults \$24, children \$18. Sittings: 11am, 1pm and 3pm Sat., 1pm and 3pm Sun. [jwilms@mollybrown.org](mailto:jwilms@mollybrown.org) or 303.832.4092x17. [www.mollybrown.org](http://www.mollybrown.org)

**5/10 Saturday—Wash Park Home Tour and Street Fair.** 10am–4pm. Benefits Steele Elementary. Tickets \$20/advance, \$25 day of. Street fair on E. Dakota between S. Williams and S. High. [www.washparkhometour.org](http://www.washparkhometour.org)

**5/14 to 5/17—Fair Trade Oriental Rug Event.** Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E. Alameda Ave. Over 300 heirloom-quality hand-knotted rugs, all sizes. Created by fairly paid adults in Pakistan. 303.316.8773. [rugs.tenthousandvillages.com](http://rugs.tenthousandvillages.com)

**5/17 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day.** Free with admission. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am–2pm. [www.wingsmuseum.org](http://www.wingsmuseum.org)

**5/17 Saturday—Denver Dumb Friends League Equine Center Open House.** 10am–3pm. Harmony Equine Center, 5540 E. Highway 86, just west of Franktown. Guided tours, food truck vendors, activities for kids, meet horses available for adoption. [www.ddfl.org](http://www.ddfl.org)

**5/17 Saturday—Five Points Jazz Festival.** 11am–8pm. FREE. 27th and Welton. [www.artsandvenuesdenver.com/events](http://www.artsandvenuesdenver.com/events)

**5/22 Thursday—Colorado Corks and Cuisine.** Enjoy selections from Colorado's top wineries, distilleries, breweries and culinary artists. All tastings, wine glass and tote bag included in admission. 5:30–8:30pm. Adults: \$40; FMHP Members: \$30; free parking. Four Mile Historic Park, 715 S. Forest St., Denver. [coloradocorkscuisine.eventbrite.com](http://coloradocorkscuisine.eventbrite.com)

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**5/23 to 5/24—Denver Day of Rock.** Free concerts benefit kids in our community. 5 stages, 25 bands, 16th Street Mall. 2:30-9:30pm Sat.; check website for Fri. night start times. [www.denverdayof-rock.com](http://www.denverdayof-rock.com)

**5/23 to 5/25—Downtown Denver Arts Festival.** Denver Performing Arts Complex. FREE. [www.downtowndenverartsfestival.com](http://www.downtowndenverartsfestival.com)

**5/24 Saturday—Denver Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony.** 9am-1:30pm, Downtown Denver near Civic Center Park. FREE.

**5/25 Sunday—Colorado Symphony Presents Jack Hanna's into the Wild Live!** Zookeeper Jack Hanna's zoo animals. Accompanied by music inspired by the wild kingdom. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. 7:30pm. Tickets: [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org)

**5/25 to 5/26—35th Annual Old South Gaylord Memorial Day Festival.** FREE. [www.oldsouthgaylordstreet.com](http://www.oldsouthgaylordstreet.com)

**5/27 Tuesday—50th Annual Commerce City Memorial Day Parade.** 1,150+ entries. Largest Memorial Day Parade in Colorado; one of largest in U.S. 64th and Olive, Commerce City. [www.c3gov.com/parade](http://www.c3gov.com/parade)

**5/31 to 6/1—Denver Chalk Art Festival.** Larimer Square. FREE. [www.denverchalkart.org](http://www.denverchalkart.org)

**6/5 to 6/8—World Football Film Festival.** 8-10 soccer films ranging from classics to documentaries along with a soccer and movie camp at Denver's City Park. [www.denverfilm.org](http://www.denverfilm.org)

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

**Mother's Day 5K.** City Park, 9am, Sun., May 11. \$30/individual, \$90/family. [www.mothersday5K.com](http://www.mothersday5K.com)

**5/1 to 5/27—Free Yoga Classes.** Im U'unique presents Illustrating Yoga Union Tours. FREE yoga classes Tuesdays in April and May. 7-8pm (arrive 6:30pm). Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Ages 8 and up, all skill levels. Mats provided if needed. [www.imuniqueunited.com](http://www.imuniqueunited.com)

**5/1 to 5/31—Friday Night Yoga Club.** Friday Night Yoga Club. Fridays weekly. Various Denver yoga studios. [www.fridaynightyogaclub.com](http://www.fridaynightyogaclub.com)

**5/3 Saturday—Dumb Friends League Furry Scurry.** 2-mile walk at Denver's Washington Park benefits Denver Dumb Friends League. \$50/person. 9am. [www.ddfl.org](http://www.ddfl.org)

**5/3 Saturday—Walk MS.** Benefits Multiple Sclerosis Society. City Park, 9:30am, Sat., May 3. [www.walkms.org](http://www.walkms.org)

**5/4 Sunday—Denver Promise Walk for Preeclampsia.** Helping to fund research, and help spread awareness of Preeclampsia, a condition that affects pregnant women and their unborn children. 8:30am. \$20 for adults, \$10 for children under 13. Denver City Park. [www.promisewalk.org/denver](http://www.promisewalk.org/denver)

**5/10 Saturday—Girls on the Run 5K.** Now registering. City Park, 9am. [www.girlsontherunrockies.org](http://www.girlsontherunrockies.org)

**5/17 to 5/18—Denver Colfax Marathon Weekend.** 5K Sat.; urban 10-mile race, 1/2 marathon and marathon on Sun. [www.runcolfax.org](http://www.runcolfax.org)

**5/26 Monday—Bolder Boulder.** 10K road race. [www.bolderboulder.com](http://www.bolderboulder.com)

**6/7 Saturday—Jody's Race for Awareness.** Registration now open. Benefits Colorado Ovarian Cancer Alliance. [www.colo-ovariancancer.org](http://www.colo-ovariancancer.org)

**6/7 Saturday—Lucky Mutt Strut.** 5K Fun Walk or Run. 7:30am. Cheesman Park. Picnic following. [www.maxfund.org](http://www.maxfund.org)

KIDS AND FAMILIES

**5/1 to 5/31—Tuesdays in May—Four Mile Historic Park Small Settlers.** Ages 2-5 accompanied by parent/caregiver. 9-10am. \$5/child, adults free. Members free. 715 S. Forest St. Advance register:

720.865.0814 or [education@fourmilepark.org](mailto:education@fourmilepark.org). [www.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)

**5/1 to 6/30—Pinocchio.** Denver Puppet Theatre, 3156 W 38th Ave. Tickets: \$7 ages 3 and up. 303.458.6446. [www.denverpuppettheater.com](http://www.denverpuppettheater.com)

**5/2 Friday—Bluff Lake Buds.** 10-11am. For kids ages 2-5 accompanied by adult. \$5/child if advance registered; adults free. [www.blufflarenaturecenter.org](http://www.blufflarenaturecenter.org)

**5/3 to 5/5—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](http://www.forneymuseum.org)

**5/4 Sunday—Star Wars at the Hanger.** 13 and up \$20 children 4-12 \$10. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 9-3. [www.wingsmuseum.org](http://www.wingsmuseum.org)

**5/10 to 5/24—Lowe's Build and Grow Kids Clinics.** Bring kids to Lowe's store to build FREE wood project: Monthly, 2nd and 4th Saturdays. free apron, goggles, project-themed patch, merit certificate on completion. 10am. [www.lowes-buildandgrow.com](http://www.lowes-buildandgrow.com)

**5/11 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](http://www.auroragov.org/nature)

**5/23 Friday—Denver Botanic Gardens Family Fun Night.** 4th Fri. each month explore nature at night in Mordecai Children's Garden. Monthly themes, snacks by campfire, other fun activities. [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**5/24 Saturday—Denver Hospice Next-Gen Mask Making Day.** Mordecai Children's Garden, Denver Botanic Gardens. 2-5pm. Family memory-making activities, mask decorating, treats and garden tours. Adults \$35; Ages 2-18 \$15. Benefits Footprints Children's Grief Center. [nextgen@carefordenver.org](mailto:nextgen@carefordenver.org) or 303.398.6236

LECTURES AND CLASSES

**5/6 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—Putin's Russia.** 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S D10pmahlia St. 303.316.6359, [www.ActiveMinds.com](http://www.ActiveMinds.com)

**5/7 Wednesday—Active Minds (Free)—South Africa: Nelson Mandela and the Journey from Apartheid.** 6:30-7:30pm. Schlessman Library, 100 Poplar St. 720.865.0000. [www.ActiveMinds.com](http://www.ActiveMinds.com)

**5/8 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)—Inventions that Changed the World.** 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325. [www.ActiveMinds.com](http://www.ActiveMinds.com)

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# Recycle Your Old Electronics Before They Take Over!

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## ELECTRONICS RECYCLING COLLECTION EVENT

Saturday, June 7, 2014  
9 am to 1 pm

Join other Denver residents in recycling electronic items and as a bonus each event participant will receive a **free super efficient LED light bulb** complements of the City's Denver Energy Challenge program. Sign up for an appointment at [Denver-ecycle.eventbrite.com](http://Denver-ecycle.eventbrite.com)



For more information visit [DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles](http://DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles) or call 311 (720-913-1311).

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(continued from page 31)

**5/13 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)- Eleanor Roosevelt.** 12:30-1:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727. [www.ActiveMinds.com](http://www.ActiveMinds.com)

### NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS

**Friday and Saturday Wine Tastings.** Weekly. Wine Cellars, the Bottle Shop of Stapleton. 4-7pm. FREE. [www.facebook.com/WineCellarsatStapleton](http://www.facebook.com/WineCellarsatStapleton)

**5/1 to 5/30—May Events—Unity on the Avenue.** 4670 E. 17th Ave. 303.322.3901. [www.unityontheavenue.org](http://www.unityontheavenue.org)

**5/3 Saturday—Montview Community Preschool and Kindergarten Carnival.** Games, train rides, bouncy castles, horse-drawn wagon rides, more. 11am-3pm. 1980 Dahlia St. Tickets \$7/advance; \$9 at door; 2 and under free.

**5/10 to 5/30 Comeback to Golf.** For golfers who have been injured, had surgery, accident or illness. Common Ground Golf Course. Info @ [com-mongroundgc.com](mailto:com-mongroundgc.com) or 303.340.1520.

**5/15 Thursday—Bill Roberts Carnival.** Games, bounce houses, slides, obstacle course, carnival treats and lots more! \$15 adult/child unlimited admission if purchased by 5/14, or \$20 day of. Meal bundle \$5, purchase in advance. Kids 2 and under free. [www.billrobertspta.com](http://www.billrobertspta.com)

**5/15 Thursday—Bluff Lake Science Speaker Series.** "History of Floods on Front Range." 6:30-8:00pm. \$5/person. Bluff Lake Nature Center, 3400 Havana Way. [keith@blufflake.org](mailto:keith@blufflake.org). [www.blufflakenaturecenter.org](http://www.blufflakenaturecenter.org)

**5/16 Friday—Walk for Whittier & Family Fun Night.** 5-7:30pm. Community walk led by Montbello Drumline followed by carnival with nonprofit fair, silent auction. Funds raised keep music at school. Whittier School, 25th & Downing. [whittier.dpsk12.org/walk](http://whittier.dpsk12.org/walk)

**5/17 Saturday—23rd Annual \$10,000 Trout Tournament.** 5:30am-3pm. Youth and adult divisions. Aurora Reservoir, 5800 S. Powhaston Rd. Registration \$30; must be registered before event. [auroragov.org/reservoirs](http://auroragov.org/reservoirs)

**5/17 Saturday—Aurora Warms the Night 2nd Annual Wine Tasting Event.** 6:30-9pm. \$25 tax-deductible donation. Benefits Aurora Warms the Night, providing shelter/services for homeless. Tickets: [info@aurorawarmsthenight.org](mailto:info@aurorawarmsthenight.org). [www.aurorawarmsthenight.org](http://www.aurorawarmsthenight.org)

**5/29 Thursday—Bluff Lake Fireside Chat.** "Talon Talk." 6:30-8pm. All ages welcome. \$1 suggested donation. Bluff Lake Nature Center, 3400 Havana Way. [www.blufflakenaturecenter.org](http://www.blufflakenaturecenter.org)

**5/30 Friday—City Park Ice Cream Social.** 6-9pm. Face painting, entertainers, concert by Denver Municipal Band. [www.cityparkalliance.org](http://www.cityparkalliance.org)

**5/31 Saturday—The Un-Job Fair.** Daylong Exploration of Options/Opportunities for Successful Self-Employment. 8:30am-4:45pm. Strategies to run/launch small business. Colorado Free Univ., 7653 E. 1st Pl., 303.399.0093 ext. 0. \$86 or \$74/CFU members. [www.freeu.com](http://www.freeu.com)

**5/31 Saturday—Venture Prep Panther 5K.** Smiley Campus, 2540 Holly St. See website for details. [www.ventureprep.org](http://www.ventureprep.org)

[ventureprep.org](http://ventureprep.org)

### NORTHFIELD EVENTS

**5/22 to 6/1—3rd Annual Family Festival.** Rides, festival food, midway games and more. [www.northfieldstapleton.com](http://www.northfieldstapleton.com)

### ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

**Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.** Reservations required for events unless noted. Hours: Mon.-Sun., 6am-6pm. Visitor Center: Wed.-Sun., 9am-4pm. Refuge closed federal holidays. 303.289.0930. Directions/events: [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky\\_mountain\\_arsenal/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/)

**5/3 Saturday—Bird Olympics.** 10-11am. Ages 6-10. [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky\\_mountain\\_arsenal/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/)

**5/10 Saturday—Migratory Bird Day Wildlife Viewing Tour.** 9-11:30am. [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky\\_mountain\\_arsenal/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/)

**5/17 Saturday—Kids Fishing Clinic.** 9am-12pm. Learn the basics of fishing. [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky\\_mountain\\_arsenal/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/)

**5/17 to 5/18—Mysteries of Migration.** 9am-12pm. Ages 10+. Slideshow and birding at the Refuge. [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky\\_mountain\\_arsenal/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/)

**5/24 Saturday—Bike the Refuge.** 10-11am. Naturalist guided 6-8 mile bike ride. Puncture-proof tires recommended, helmet required. [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky\\_mountain\\_arsenal/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/)

### THEATRE

**2/13 to 5/23—Lyle the Crocodile.**

Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. [www.arvadacenter.org](http://www.arvadacenter.org)

**3/28 to 5/4—Song for Coretta.**

Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St, Aurora Cultural Arts District. [www.vintagetheatre.org](http://www.vintagetheatre.org)

**4/5 to 5/3—Deathtrap.**

Spotlight Theatre Company at John Hand Theater. 7653 E. 1st Place. [www.johnhandtheatre.com](http://www.johnhandtheatre.com)

**4/18 to 5/11—RFK.**

Avenue Theater, 417 E. 17th Ave. [www.avenuetheater.com](http://www.avenuetheater.com)

**4/18 to 5/25—Grey Gardens.** Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St, Aurora Cultural Arts District. [www.vintagetheatre.org](http://www.vintagetheatre.org)

**4/25 to 5/25—The Great Gatsby.** Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. [www.arvadacenter.org](http://www.arvadacenter.org)

**5/9 to 6/1—The Music of Change.** Aurora Fox Arts



Egg hunters cheer at the annual Egg Scramble in the Stapleton Town Green when MCA's Diane Deeter announces

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Sunday 9:00 & 10:45 AM. Tuesday 6:30 PM.





Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave, Aurora. [www.aurorafoxartscenter.org](http://www.aurorafoxartscenter.org)

KIDS CAMPS AND CLASSES

**Art Students League of Denver.** Programs for kids/teens. 303.778.6990, [www.ASLD.org](http://www.ASLD.org)

**Aurora Fox Theater.** Drama classes ages 4 and up. Lisa Mumpton: 303.739.1573, [www.aurorafox.org](http://www.aurorafox.org)

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

**Jewish Community Center.** Variety of programs for kids grades K-5. [www.jcc.org](http://www.jcc.org)

**Kim Robards School of Dance.** Classes for dancers all ages/skill levels: modern, ballet, jazz, tap, repertory, hip hop. 9900 E. Colfax Ave, Aurora. Schedule/performance info: [www.kimrobardsdance.org](http://www.kimrobardsdance.org)

**Music Lingua Musical Spanish Classes.** Ages newborn-6 years. Learn Spanish in interactive parent/tot classes. [samanthabensoncox@hotmail.com](mailto:samanthabensoncox@hotmail.com), [www.musiclingua.com](http://www.musiclingua.com)

**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](http://www.neighborhoodmusicstapleton.com)

**Sew Creative Stapleton.** Variety of sewing classes for kids ages 6 and older, including adults. [www.sewcreativestapleton.com](http://www.sewcreativestapleton.com)

**Sol Vida Dance Studio and Dance Camps.** Kid/adult classes, workshops, camps, etc. [www.solvidadance.com](http://www.solvidadance.com)

**Spark It Studios.** Art classes in Stapleton. [www.sparkitdenver.com](http://www.sparkitdenver.com)

**Stapleton All Sports.** Spring and summer program registration now open: tennis, golf, cheer and dance; baseball: skills and league. [www.stapletonall-sports.com](http://www.stapletonall-sports.com)

**Start Art.** Art classes. [Startartkids.com](http://Startartkids.com)

**The Art Garage.** Classes ages 4 and up. Adult evening classes also. 6100 E 23rd Ave. Park Hill. [www.artgaragedenver.com](http://www.artgaragedenver.com)

**The Urban Farm.** Embracing Horses. [info@theurbanfarm.org](mailto:info@theurbanfarm.org), [www.theurbanfarm.org](http://www.theurbanfarm.org)

**YMCA of Metro Denver.** Weekly themed day camps, sports camps and leadership camps for kids ages 4 and up. over 20 metro locations. [www.denverymca/summer](http://www.denverymca/summer)

**4/1 to 5/13—Jewish Explorers School.** After school enrichment program that teaches kids ages 3-9 about Jewish values, culture and traditions. Tuesdays, Central Park Rec Center, 4-5:15pm. Cindy Coons at [ccoons@caje-co.org](mailto:ccoons@caje-co.org) or 303-951-8497, [www.caje-co.org/interfaith-engagement/](http://www.caje-co.org/interfaith-engagement/)

**5/1 Registration Open—Summer Scholars Experiential Learning Camps.** Space: the Summer Frontier 6/23-7/3 and Lets Build Stuff 7/7-7/18. Camps held at Swigert, 8:30-11:30. \$25/session [info@summerscholars.org](mailto:info@summerscholars.org)

**6/9 to 7/18—OWL Summer Tech Camp.** Technology-focused summer camps at 4 locations. Summer reading, engaging field trips, advanced technology projects. Sign up for 1 week or multiple weeks. 303.832.0066. Registration ends 5/18. [www.OpenWorldLearning.org/summer-camps](http://www.OpenWorldLearning.org/summer-camps)

MEETINGS

BUSINESS GROUPS

**Greater Stapleton Business Assoc.** 3rd Tuesday, 8am. MCA, 7350 E. 29th Ave. 2nd Floor. 303-393-7700, [www.stapletonbusiness.com](http://www.stapletonbusiness.com)

**Stapleton and Beyond Networking Group.** First Tuesday, 8:30-10am, 303-955-0861, [Aaron.Ktafoya@farmersagency.com](mailto:Aaron.Ktafoya@farmersagency.com)

**Work From Home Group.** 1st Wednesday, 12-1pm. Smartspace, 2373 Central Park Blvd #100. Brown bag or group order for lunch. [www.stapletonhomebusiness.com](http://www.stapletonhomebusiness.com)

CIVIC GROUPS

**Bluff Lake Site Stewards.** Every Wednesday, 8-11am. Bluff Lake Nature Center: 303-945-6717 [www.blufflake.org](http://www.blufflake.org)

**NPET.** First Saturday Clean Up Activities. 9 AM-12 Noon. Contact Caroline Fry, Sand Creek Regional Greenway [CFry@Sandcreekgreenway.org](mailto:CFry@Sandcreekgreenway.org) or Lucia Correll [Lcorrell@dotnet.net](mailto:Lcorrell@dotnet.net) for place each month.

**P.E.O. International Chapter Meeting.** Supporting women

**Stapleton Rotary Club.** Every Tuesday, 7:30am. Stapleton Community Room, 2823 Roslyn St. [www.denverstapletonrotary.org](http://www.denverstapletonrotary.org)

INTEREST GROUPS

**Bluff Lake Birders.** 1st Saturday, 8am. Nature Center: [www.blufflake.org](http://www.blufflake.org)

**Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs.** 3rd Thursday. Grace, 303-455-

0839

**Colorado Symphony Guild.** Every 3rd Thursday at St. Luke  
**Cycleton Bike Repair Clinic.** 2nd Tuesday, 6pm. 7480 E. 29th Ave. 303.329.0069. [www.cycleton.com](http://www.cycleton.com)

**Daughters of the American Revolution.** 3rd Saturday. Adagio Bed and Breakfast, 1430 Race St. Prospective members welcome- rsvp to Helen Strader, 303-997-6788

**Denver County Republicans.** HD7 Meeting. For monthly meeting info. See website or call Captain Rebekah Keller at 720-219-8911 [www.denverdistrict7gop.org](http://www.denverdistrict7gop.org)

**Lowry Peak Speakers Toastmaster Club.** 2nd and 3rd Wednesday, noon- 1pm. Pinnacol Assurance, 7501 E. Lowry Blvd, Denver 80203. [lpstoastmasters@gmail.com](mailto:lpstoastmasters@gmail.com) [lowrypeak.freetoasthost.org](http://lowrypeak.freetoasthost.org)

**Stapleton Wine Appreciation Group.** Periodically. [stapletonswag@gmail.com](mailto:stapletonswag@gmail.com)

STAPLETON GROUPS

**Parks Advisory Group.** 2nd Tuesday, 8:30am. 7350 E 29th Ave, 3rd Fl. [Lcorrell@dotnet.net](mailto:Lcorrell@dotnet.net)

**Stapleton Development Corporation Meeting.** 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. [stapetonunitedneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:stapetonunitedneighbors@gmail.com)

**Sun Transportation Committee.** 2nd Wed. (odd-numbered mos.) 6:30pm. MCA 2823 Roslyn St. [stapletonneighbors@msn.com](mailto:stapletonneighbors@msn.com)

SUPPORT GROUPS

**1st, 3rd and 5th Fridays of month—Mom Time at Montview.** Mothers learn/support each other. Sessions on parenting, life balance, self-care. Breakfast/childcare provided. Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia. Rm. 305. 9:15-11:15am. [leahcnoliver@yahoo.com](mailto:leahcnoliver@yahoo.com); Anna.A. Clark [Clark@gmail.com](mailto:Clark@gmail.com) [www.montviewmomtime.wordpress.com](http://www.montviewmomtime.wordpress.com);

**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

**Adoptees in Search Support Group.** 2nd Wednesday, 7-8:30pm. Montview Presby. Church, Robinson Rm. AISCTC.org 303-232-6302

**Breast Cancer Support Group.** 1st Tuesday, 5-6:30pm. AF Williams Family Medicine Clinic Conf Rm. (West entrance) 3055 Roslyn (at MLK). 720-848-9000

**NE Denver/Park Hill MS Self Help and Support Group.** 2nd Saturday, 10:15-11:45am. Dist. 2 Police Station, 3821 Holly St. 303-329-0619

**OA Open Discussion Meeting.** Every Monday 7:00 pm, @ Hangar 61 8700 E 21st Ave Denver CO 80238 Mary 720-291-9065 or Mike 303-325-6650

**Parkinson Support Group in Northeast Denver.** 4th Saturday, 9:30am. Hiawatha Davis Recreation Center, 3334 Holly St. [www.parkinsonrockies.org](http://www.parkinsonrockies.org) Regina Jones 720-298-5760



they get to find more than the 10 eggs allotted to the previous groups because they are the last group.

To submit Front Porch “Local Event” Listings

Starting May 1, we ask that event submissions be uploaded directly at

Email information in the following format by the 15th of the month to [FrontPorchEvents@gmail.com](mailto: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 [FrontPorch@FrontPorchStapleton.com](mailto:FrontPorch@FrontPorchStapleton.com).

CHECK OUT THESE EVENTS

(continued from p. 26)

June 14—Denver Century Ride

The fifth annual Coldwell Banker Denver Century Ride presented by Stapleton will take place on Sat., June 14. The single-point start/finish line and Post Ride Street Party on Main Street at The Shops at Northfield Stapleton with music by The Nacho Men, kids’ activities and food from local restaurants. Bring kids at 9am to decorate bikes and register for the Kids Bicycle Parade. The Ride benefits bicycle advocacy in the Denver-metro area through BikeDenver and Bike Jeffco. Participants of all skill levels can choose from four rides: the Full Century, the ¾ Century, ½ Century and the ¼ Century. The street party, from 12–4pm, is open to the public. Information: [DenverCenturyRide.com](http://DenverCenturyRide.com).

June 14—Stapleton Pride

Stapleton Pride celebrates diversity by bringing together singles, families of all heritage, traditional families, LGBT and anyone who celebrates diversity in our community and world. Join us poolside for an evening of fun, food, drink, games for kids, a photo booth, live DJ, sponsor raffles and giveaways. 7-10pm Lifeguards and pool staff provided for the evening. Space is limited. RSVP at [www.StapletonPride.com](http://www.StapletonPride.com), pay for tickets at the event, cash only. \$12 /21+; \$8/5-20; under 5 free.

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Check our up-to-date beer list online at  
[www.StapletonTapHouse.com/tap-list](http://www.StapletonTapHouse.com/tap-list)



(continued from page 31) a year. They move at a slow pace. Every piece of every deal they do gets approved at their headquarters in Cincinnati. There is no moving them at our pace, but we're reasonably confident that this will get approved by their committee sometime this summer and we'll then be able to announce we have a contract and a schedule for the store. They literally came to us and said, 'We're tapped out across the street.'

“Over the last number years, I can’t tell you the number of times we’ve talked, and talked several times, to all the other markets. If you look at Eastbridge and you look at the map, you have to remember that everything in the north half of the quadrant is industrial or nothing and those demographics don’t work for a lot of stores.” Forest City says signing a grocery anchor will make possible the development and leasing of the 22,000 square feet of retail west of the grocery store.

New construction at Stapleton requires review and approval of the site plan, the architecture, and

the lighting and landscaping plans by the Stapleton Design Review Committee. This committee, composed primarily of architecture professionals, operates under a non-profit corporation called Stapleton Design, Inc. which, by agreement with the City of Denver, reviews and gives final approval for all new vertical construction plans in Stapleton, both commercial and residential. New businesses can't get a building permit from Denver without a letter of approval from this committee.

At a Stapleton Design Review Committee meeting (L to R) Troy Gardner and Jim Chrisman, Forest City; Greg Savage, City of Denver; Mark Johnson, landscape architect; and Mark Broyles, architect, review information on a proposed project.

that since real estate development is generally not public at the point companies are gathering information about development options to determine whether to proceed, these meetings are not technically public. Further, sales contracts are confidential, so legally Forest City can't divulge identities until developers (or potential developers) are ready to share the information publicly.

However, at the Design Review Committee meeting in April, King Soopers indicated they were at a stage where they were ready to talk and

hear the committee's suggestions with members of the press in attendance.

Joel Starbuck, assistant director of real estate, King Soopers and City Market, addressed their earlier idea of a smaller, more boutique-style with a higher end selection of fresh foods. Not only has King Soopers not had success with that model, he said, "When we really started looking at it we realized that's really not going to serve this community well. There is affordable housing around here. We didn't think the boutique store served what we're trying to do with this end of the community."

Starbuck said the new store they are planning will be the same size and quality as the existing store. But, he added, "It's not going to be 'the same' as the existing store. It's going to be laid out a little differently. They'll look similar on the inside, but you're going to definitely see differences. Our stores continue to progress. The stores we're building now do not look like the stores we built two years ago. We're always changing. But we didn't want to leave anything out at this end of the neighborhood. We're not sure the smaller size boutique was going to do that."

Although they did not present design plans at this stage, Starbuck said the store will not have a drop ceiling, the ceiling will go all the way to the roof, with skylights so they can cut back lighting during the day and make use of sunlight. The floor will be tinted concrete. He added that King Soopers typically designs to meet Energy Star and they are working now to put LED lighting throughout the parking lot at another building.

At this stage, a big reason King Soopers met with the Design Review Committee was not so much to present information, but to get information on what the committee sees as important for this site.

The committee looked closely at the intersections and the parking and how they impact pedestrian access. They questioned whether Geneva will just provide vehicle access or whether it will be used by pedestrians; and they looked at pedestrian access from the grocery store to the shops at the west end of Eastbridge, saying, “We would like to make this easily walkable.”

The committee indicated they would like to see a store that feels contemporary in design, that puts an emphasis on a positive pedestrian experience along the entire west façade, and that they will be concerned about the quality of the architecture on all four sides. They talked about making the front of the building a “lovely” pedestrian experience by using building materials that aren’t industrial but would “feel good if you brushed up against them.”

The discussion is expected to focus on the community's values for the area and the design team's response to current hydrologic requirements, public use needs, and strategies for stabilizing and managing remnants of on-site concrete and other materials. The meeting will be held from 5:30-7:30, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in the Commons of Stapleton Denver School of Science and Technology building located at 2000 Valentia St, Denver 80238. The meeting is hosted by: Denver Parks and Recreation, in association with Forest City, Stapleton Development Corp., and design consultant Matrix Design Group.

The swarms of flying insects that have been a source of concern in the neighborhood are midges, says Diane Deeter of the Stapleton Master Community Association (MCA). Mosquitoes typically don't come in swarms. Deeter says midges are part of an environment that's typically arid and then had moisture. Midges do not carry disease, they do not bite and they pose no threat to people (though they are annoying). They have very short lives and they go away, but then other

And they discussed how the King Soopers on Quebec is set far back from the street, but, “There are some relationships to the neighborhood that need to come out through the architecture here.”

The Stapleton design guidelines also reflect the importance the committee places on glazing (windows), pointing out that “glazing makes the store more appealing from the street... There’s a desire on our part for glazing, but we’ve been successful finding a happy medium. We have proven examples where we’ve successfully managed to figure out how to get less glazing than perfectly desired but a better piece of architecture. We’d rather have better architecture than every square foot of glass.”

Share your comments on articles at [FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://FrontPorchStapleton.com)

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# Stapleton Update

swarms may arrive.

The MCA has posted a mosquito control fact at StapletonCommunity.com describing their mitigation (not eradication) efforts. The MCA monitors and treats larvae in wet areas to prevent them from becoming adults. They also have testing done on larvae for West Nile virus. But they state clearly that no adult mosquito control is currently conducted anywhere in Stapleton.

The MCA fact sheet is also linked to the Stapleton Update articles at FrontPorchStapleton.com.

## Stapleton Control Tower

**For Lease**—You may have noticed in the past few months that the fence around the tower is down. Forest City has posted an announcement on their website that the three-story building with 15,416 square feet is for lease.

Possible uses:  
retail, office,  
restaurant,  
fitness



The tower announcement is posted at <http://www.stapletondenver.com/business-ready/dev-updates>

## Conservatory Green Commercial Center

Jon Hauser, managing partner at Drake Real Estate Services, hopes to build a single story, multi-unit commercial center along Northfield Blvd., across from Macy's (on the northeast corner of Valentia, next to the Conservatory Green amphitheatre). He is in the "due diligence" stage and has presented his proposal to the Zoning and Planning Committee for public input and to Stapleton Design Review to see what they would require for approval of the project (see the page 4 article on the grocery store in Eastbridge for an explanation of the Design Review process).

The front of the building staircases to follow the curve in the road, which defines sections of the building. Drake indicates he is confident that he will have a restaurant at each end, with patios wrapping around outside. He says these will be places people can get coffee in the morning or dinner at night. His vision is that the restaurants will become gathering places for the community. In the middle section of the building will be retail such as a dry cleaner and pilates studio—amenities for the community rather than for regional shoppers.

The design is contemporary, with metal panels and masonry materials and lots of glass. The building is designed to accommodate a rooftop deck, either initially or in the future, to take advantage of the view of the mountains.

Keven Burnett, executive director of Stapleton MCA says he is talking to Hauser about leasing 3,000 to 6,000 square feet in the middle of the building for a gathering space that could accommodate a fairly large group of peo-

ple. The MCA would still keep their offices on the south, but would then have a presence on both the north and south sides of the highway.

## Whispers...

**Stanley Aviation**—The word is out that Flightline, a restaurant/beer garden featured in the November 2013 Front Porch, that wanted to locate in the Eastbridge Town Center, is now pursuing financing to purchase the Stanley Aviation site in NW Aurora and may close within a month. The building, located at 2501 Dallas St. is valued at \$2,097,360 by the Adams County Assessor's Office. It is 102,506 square feet and was built in 1954. The property extends to Westerly Creek on the west. We've heard the plan is to create a destination similar to The Source in Denver's River North District. The Source is "a collective of food artisans and retailers."



Stanley Aviation

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# The SUN Spot

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**SUN Meetings** are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm (Block Captain meeting) and 7:30pm (Board meeting) at the Central Park Recreation Center, 9651 MLK Jr. Blvd. For information about SUN, visit [www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com](http://www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com). To contact SUN or confirm meeting time, email [stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com)



## Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) Neighborhood Forum—Monday, May 19

The May 19 SUN Neighborhood Forum will be held at 6:30pm at the Central Park Rec Center. The agenda includes the following: 1) SUN elections; 2) Overview of groups involved in Stapleton - CAB, SDC, MCA, WCMD, PCMD, SUN; CAB overview; 3) CAB Subcommittee report – ZAP; 4) Forest City development update; 5) SDC Financial report; 6) MCA Update.

Doors will open at 6pm, historically the multipurpose room seats have filled, so arrive before 6:30 to ensure a seat.

The first item on the agenda at the upcoming forum is for the community to vote on a slate of SUN board members. A term on the board is 2 years, elections for half of the seats are held annually. Each election, a board members can opt to request an additional term. When a seat is vacant, new applicants may submit a biosketch, and meet with the board prior to the annual meeting. This year's slate of candidates consists of all incumbents. Following are biographies of the board members on the current slate:

**Amanda Allshouse:** I relocated to Denver (Eastbridge/Stapleton) from Chapel Hill, NC May of 2007 with my husband Ben and our dog Flounder; our sons are Colorado natives, born in 2009 and 2012. My career is in research, I am a Senior Instructor of Biostatistics in the Colorado School of Public Health nearby on the Anschutz Medical Campus. I became a SUN block captain to better know our neighbors and in time to coordinate our first block party in 2008. A year later I joined the SUN board and became involved with the Outreach, Sustainability and Education Committees. Currently I chair the SUN Outreach committee, which involves being a resource for the block captain network and facilitating the monthly block captain/outreach meetings. I appreciate the experience of being on The Board, it has reshaped my definition of community, and what members of a community can accomplish.

**Jennifer Arzberger:** I moved to Stapleton two years ago from LoDo to enjoy the family-friendly community. My daughter, Gigi, and I especially enjoy summertime in Stapleton: movies on the Green, playtime at the park, and swimming in the sunshine! I serve the SUN Board as a champion for educating our youngest citizens. I have worked in the field of education for fourteen years in a variety of capacities; including Consultant, Executive Director, School Designer, Adjunct Professor, Instructional Coach, Gifted and Talented Facilitator, Board Member, and ECE-6 Teacher. I currently work for the Colorado Department of Higher Education supporting the development of educator preparation programs across our

beautiful state! I love and enjoy my Stapleton community and look forward to serving and supporting my community in this role!

**Jeff Barron:** My family has lived in Stapleton since 2004, and we have two daughters who attended Westerly Creek and are now students at Bill Roberts. I am currently an Analyst with the Government Accountability Office (GAO), where I help the federal government improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government programs. I was also a writer and editor in the newsletter industry, and worked for a non-profit organization helping local communities set up farmers markets. In the 1990s I lived in Latin America and England, where I worked as a journalist and completed a Masters degree in Social Policy and Planning at LSE. I am also a trained legal, social, and family mediator.

**Jessica Crow:** My husband and I moved to Stapleton in the summer of 2006. We found the mission and vision of Stapleton to be very appealing, and purchased a townhome across from Central Park. In 2011, we welcomed our first child and in 2013, decided to expand into a single family home in the Conservatory Green neighborhood. We had looked at neighborhoods across the Denver-Metro area and found Stapleton to offer the best mix of character, amenities and innovation. We are committed to being long-term residents of Stapleton and active participants in our community in a meaningful way, which includes SUN. My involvement with SUN thus far has included the Transportation Committee, PR and marketing activities on behalf of SUN or for those interested in utilizing SUN's channels. I've worked for DaVita Healthcare Partners since 2010. I have an MBA from Regis University; an undergraduate degree in Journalism and Mass Communication from the University of Colorado; and am certified in Change Management through Colorado State University (Prosci).

**Michael E. Goodman:** With my wife Jessica I moved to Stapleton in 2005. We researched various neighborhoods and decided on Stapleton based on a number of factors passionate to us. Things like proximity to downtown Denver, city parks, the abundance of open space, green belts, running paths, the summer activities in the green, the restaurants, and most importantly, the community feeling we got from meeting other residents. I am compelled to become actively involved in ensuring these aspects of Stapleton are preserved for others to enjoy in years to come.

I serve the SUN Board on the business development side

and working on attracting new businesses/services to our amazing neighborhood. I have worked in the medical device field for 12 years in a variety of roles; including finance, clinical, sales, management, and director roles both domestic and internationally. I currently work as a consultant in the aesthetic industry. I earned a B.A. and a B.S. from Regis University with a double minor in marketing/sales and interpersonal communications.

**Damon Knop:** My family and I have lived in Stapleton since 2006 in the Eastbridge neighborhood. Our children have attended Westerly Creek, Bill Roberts and DSST and are awesome. My wife, Katie and I own our family Real Estate business, Distinctive Properties and are both Denver natives, so we sell all over town but are very vested in helping all of us have a great neighborhood to live in here in Stapleton. I have been on the SUN board since 2007 and have served in many roles. Secretary, Vice-President on the Board and inclusivity committee and with the Citizen's Advisory Board, Housing and Diversity Committee, Communications. I am very interested in helping Stapleton have a wide range of homes and residents. I also represent SUN with the Greater Stapleton Business Association in helping our local business communicate and thrive in this community. I have enjoyed my time with SUN and will continue to do my best to help moving this neighborhood in a great direction.

**Mark Mehringer:** I moved to the South End of Stapleton with my wife in 2005 and we now have two children, Leah and Maddox. I am a Denver native and run my own public opinion research firm. I serve as SUN President and on the Education Committee.

**Bryan Penny:** Having been a resident of Stapleton since 2003, I have to say I have no regrets making the move. I got involved in SUN at a meeting in a pocket park in late 2003 and have enjoyed my time in the organization. I am the Treasurer of the SUN Board. I am also currently the webmaster for the SUN website and think it continues to be a work in process. In addition to the SUN Board, I am also serving as one of the residents' representatives on the Stapleton Public Art Committee. Professionally, I am a Vice President for Nordstrom's Credit Division. I have an undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois in Economics and Accounting and an MBA from Webster University in St. Louis. I have lived in Denver since 2000. I live with my husband, Matt and our two cats. I also have a son, Dion, who lives in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

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# Stapleton Update

## Cast Your Vote for WCMD on May 6

Three of five seats on the Westerly Creek Metro District (WCMD) board are up for election on Tuesday, May 6. Stapleton residents can cast their vote between 7am and 7pm at 7350 E 29th Ave, Room 200. Westerly Creek Metropolitan District (WCMD) collects the tax that funds the construction of Stapleton's infrastructure not covered by TIF.

To vote, you must be registered to vote in Colorado and either a resident, property owner (natural persons only), or the spouse or civil union partner of a property owner. Each elector will be required to sign a Voter Self Affirmation reflecting on how he or she is eligible to vote. Park in the lot behind the Berkshire, enter from the back of the building, and take the elevator or stairs to the second floor.

Longer bios of the candidates are available at [FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://FrontPorchStapleton.com) > search for WCMD Board Election May 6.

**Vote for not more than two of the following:**



**Amy Brimah**

As a local real estate attorney, I have substantial experience working on development projects and understand the importance of transparent governance and statutory limitations imposed on special districts. I will work with our stakeholders to ensure that the development contemplated by the Green Book is completed and the bond obligations are satisfied.



**Tom Downey**

Having lived and been active here since 2005, I believe I have a good sense of the needs and sentiments of our community. I have been a regulatory/licensing attorney for my whole career, except for the years I spent running the Children's Museum of Denver. As such, my work on public finance and special district issues gives me a solid background for the WCMD Board.



**John Lehigh**

John Lehigh is the President and Chief Operating Officer for Forest City Stapleton, Inc. He brings more than

30 years of major real estate development experience to his role in overseeing the redevelopment of Stapleton. "I believe my grasp of the many complexities related to the redevelopment of Stapleton will ensure the District is a wise steward of the tax revenues it has been entrusted to levy."



**Tim Thornton**

As a consultant to the infrastructure industry, I have direct experience creating strategies to help pay for infrastructure, including estimating the revenue-generating potential of special tax districts such as the WCMD. As such, I am uniquely qualified to provide the oversight and due diligence necessary to facilitate sound and informed decision making as a member of the Board of Directors.

**Vote for one of the following:**



**Kevin Burnett**

I have spent the past eight years serving as the Executive Director of the Stapleton Master Community Association (MCA), one of the entities charged with maintaining infrastructure funded by WCMD. In my role, I've developed an awareness and understanding of the "matrix" in which development happens within the community. I am positive I can provide the WCMD with expertise and leadership to ensure the infrastructure needed in Stapleton is sufficiently funded.



**David Ungemah**

I intend to put my professional knowledge and reputation for innovation in public policy to use for the betterment of all Stapleton area residents. As a custodian of our property tax mill levy, I intend to not only provide diligence and oversight over our tax contributions, but also to offer viable ideas towards helping solve issues concerning Stapleton's build-out.

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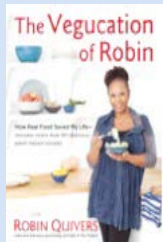
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# The Book Worm

The *Front Porch* prints book reviews by librarians in Northeast Denver, rotating to a different library each month. This month, reviews are by Leslie Williams from the Pauline Robinson Library.



## Adult Nonfiction

*The Vegucation of Robin: How Real Food Saved My Life* by Robin Quivers

Robin Quivers is best known as a radio personality on the Howard Stern Show. In her first book, she recounts her road trip to getting healthy. The book is written in three parts: Part 1 covers the benefits of eating well, Part 2 covers how to get started and Part 3 contains a host of recipes that are not only good for you but easy on your grocery bill.

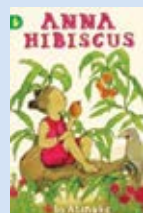
to know boys in her class. Sophia or FiFi fantasizes about boys all the time. She sketches their pictures in her sketchbook and even dates cute boy Dylan for a few months. Her mother is withdrawn from what's going on in Sophia's life until the Halloween Dance. Sophia wants to wear a little black dress and her mother wants her to wear a dress with enormous pink roses on it. Events following the dance change Sophia and her relationship with her mother forever.



## Adult Fiction

*The Wildwater Walking Club* by Claire Cook

If the movie *Must Love Dogs* rings a bell, then you will like this title. *The Wildwater Walking Club* is a story of Nora, a sales executive at a small shoe company who unfortunately gets laid off. As Nora is deciding the next chapter of her life, she realizes she has an abundance of free time. She forms a walking club with her neighbors Tess and Rosemarie. Although each woman is in a different stage of her life, all of them learn something from each other that strengthens their bond and their community.



## Juvenile Fiction

*Anna Hibiscus* by Atinuke

This chapter book tells all about Anna's adventures with her parents, twin brothers and extended family members in a beautiful country of Africa. Each chapter weaves together the journey the family is preparing to take to Canada, where Anna will see snow for the first time.



## Juvenile Picture Book

*Maple* by Lori Nichols

A fun picture book about a girl named Maple, and the friendship she has with the maple tree in her backyard. Just as Maple is about to tell her mother about something surprising that's happening in her backyard, her mother has some surprising news to tell Maple too.

Librarians who wish to contribute reviews should contact Madeline Schroeder at [madeline@frontporchstapleton.com](mailto:madeline@frontporchstapleton.com).



## Young Adult Fiction

*What My Mother Doesn't Know* by Sonya Sones

Sophia is a freshman in high school. Like most girls, she likes going to the movies, hanging out with her best friends, Rachel and Grace, and getting



# The Land

(continued from page 1)

They love free spirits and children are free spirits. They are innately adventurous," says Erin Davis, Vermont-based filmmaker whose documentary on *The Land* comes out this fall.

Davis says kids will play anywhere with anything—*The Land* indulges that interest with infinite challenges for kids to master. Kids, rather than adults, direct the play any way they wish, unless there is hazard. By mastering challenges children overcome fear and learn to manage risk—skills kids with "play deprivation" can lack, according to some child experts.

Adventure playgrounds began in Denmark during World War II. A Danish landscape architect noticed children preferred to play everywhere except the playgrounds he built. They played with rubble and junk so he built a "junk playground" with tools and moveable structures. "Junk playgrounds" became known as adventure playgrounds.

Currently, about 1,000 exist in Europe, but adventure playgrounds have not taken off in the U.S., with one in Berkeley, Calif. and another in Ithaca, New York. However Davis says she gets daily emails from strangers who are interested in them. "I think people are ready for this but don't really know how to make it happen, or don't realize how easy it is to start supporting play."

By American standards, the playground seems crazy—a toxic trap ready to break, burn and bleed. But Davis says *The Land* is actually very safe. Children take risks at their own pace, beginning small and working up to challenges like sawing wood.

If there is hazard, "play workers" or trained adults step in, but do so thoughtfully. Rather than telling a child what to do, they collaborate on a problem. "Is it hard to saw cardboard while sitting on the arm of a couch?" a play worker might ask.

At times the kids swear or do strange things adults may be

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As first look, The Land appears a chaotic junkyard, but thought and design goes into each element. Children will play anywhere with anything—The Land indulges that interest, according to filmmaker Erin Davis, whose documentary on The Land comes out this fall. For more information about the movie visit [TheLandDocumentary.com](http://TheLandDocumentary.com).



Photos courtesy of Erin Davis



A young boy saws a piece of cardboard (above) and a girl pokes a fire (left). Unlike traditional playgrounds, adventure playgrounds are designed for children to take incremental risks. They start small and gradually take bigger risks when they're ready. There's no potential for them to jump beyond their ability and be seriously injured, according to Erin Davis.

View a teaser of Erin Davis' movie at: <https://vimeo.com/89009302>

inclined to correct, but at The Land the child's adventure is more important than an adult feeling uncomfortable.

"A child has the human right to play," Davis says. "If you watch a child and see what they do at their own initiative, and compare that to what we give them, it's a huge discrepancy."

She compares traditional fixed playgrounds to giving a child a red crayon and a piece of paper. But give a whole box of crayons and a piece of paper, and suddenly a child can create much more.

Davis, 33, was brought up the way many say no longer exists. She grew up in a middle class home in Cincinnati, Ohio. After school she and friends came back to her house, dropped off their backpacks, raided the fridge, and went outside until the streetlights came on. The next day they did the same thing.

While she had a playful childhood, she knows it was more restricted than her parents' childhood, which was more restricted than their parents'. Davis is concerned about the narrowing of childhood experiences.

She argues if we care about play, we need to step up our game and make play more appealing, especially when it's competing with video games and iPhones. This also begins in the school system.

Kaitlin Schmidt, a kindergarten teacher at Paddington Station Elementary believes Paddington is one of only a few schools in North-east Denver that operates by the philosophy, "Learn through play."

"We have to defend ourselves often because

people say it's not learning," Schmidt says. "But children need different avenues to learn."

Once a day her class has choice time twice a day time outside—sand, a stone castle, big field and hill. During play, there are restrictions but kids explore on their own. They learn to compromise and make their own decisions. If a child chooses not to wear a jacket in winter and gets cold, the class shouts "Too bad so sad!"

"We so often remove the opportunity for children to learn because we don't want them to be cold or hungry, but then they don't learn how to self-monitor or prepare," Schmidt says.

Dr. Mindy Solomon, child psychologist at Children's Hospital Colorado, encourages working on independence when kids are young and make little mistakes rather than potentially fatal mistakes when they're older.

Oftentimes, loving, well-intentioned parents struggle with letting kids' situations play out naturally, she says. Observe a playground situation and notice how often parents talk, whether it's encouraging something good or discouraging something risky.

While The Land only reports skinned knees and bruises, parental fear is inevitable. Looking at photos of The Land, the first words that came to parents' minds were "heart attack," "danger" and "injury."

Letting kids take risks is also a risk for parents, but Solomon says it's important to let kids fail. "Knowing no matter what life throws at you, you have the skills and abilities to pick yourself back up is the most empow-

ering confidence builder you can have as a child or adult."

At times, even Davis has had to remind herself The Land is safe. She says people understand and like the concept, but there has been little support to bring these playgrounds to the U.S.

Before visiting The Land, she once took a group of kids to a lake. Each child wore a life jacket and knew how to swim; yet the 15 feet of water beneath their paddleboat stirred terrifying images of a child drowning.

After months at The Land and never seeing a serious injury, she now looks back at being on the paddleboat and wonders why she was so scared. "Our fears are incremental down to the very smallest moments, like drawing outside the lines. But really, what is at stake here?"

As they say at The Land, it's better to have a broken bone than a broken spirit.

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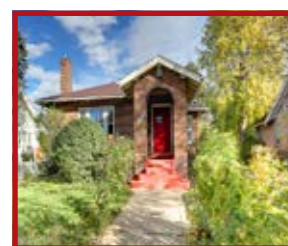
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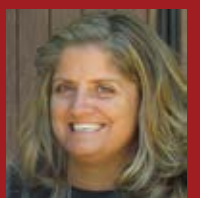
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