

Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

AUGUST 2014



Stanley Marketplace:

Its scope and scale are mindboggling

Mark Shaker (left) and Lorin Ting show renderings and photos of their ideas for turning the huge Stanley Aviation building into a marketplace.

By Carol Roberts

What happens when you combine business acumen with a passion for creating community—in a space that accommodates both in a very big way? Mark Shaker, Lorin Ting and Megan Von Wald are planning a marketplace with more than 130,000 square feet of combined leasable and community space in the old Stanley Aviation building in NW Aurora. And that's not

(continued on page 34)in-

Shakespeare on the Green

By Laurie Dunklee

There's something for everyone in *The Tempest*, this year's Shakespeare on The Green production presented by the Colorado Shakespeare Festival on August 14-16.

"*The Tempest* is the 'kitchen sink' of Shakespeare plays," said Director Geoffrey Kent, who directed last year's Stapleton production of *A Midsummer Night's*

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Photo by Zachary Andrews/Colorado Shakespeare Festival

Vanessa Morosco stars as Ariel in the Colorado Shakespeare Festival's production of *The Tempest* coming to The Green August 14-16.



Three New Stapleton Schools Open



Isabella Bird Community School (top) and the Conservatory Green building (bottom) that houses High Tech Elementary and DSST: Conservatory Green will open this fall. Preview each of the buildings on pages 6 – 9.



State Sen. Michael Johnston, a supporter of Common Core

Not a political football Local Educators Serious About Common Core

By Maegan Parker Brooks

The first countrywide assessment of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) will take place during the 2014-15 school year. The once popular standards have now come under fierce attack. Critics on the left are concerned about protecting public education from corporate interests, as private companies stand to profit from the CCSS materials and

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Newspaper for updates
on local news and events.



Gretchen Bramson and her daughter Rae get Palisade peaches at the Stapleton Farmers Market, which is held from 8:30am to 12:30pm every Sunday morning through October 12.



Most of the events listed below are FREE or support nonprofits. All are open to the public (additional events are listed on pages 24-27).

AUGUST

Every Sunday

Farmers Market 8:30am-12:30pm; Sundays through Oct. 12, The Green*

Saturday, August 2

Concert on The Green—"The Jeff Brinkman Band" 7-9pm, The Green*

August 2-10

2nd Annual Denver Days August 2-10. Creating stronger neighborhoods through community service projects and neighborhood gatherings. www.denvergov.org/denverdays. See p. 24

Sunday, August 3

City Park Jazz Summer Concert Series. 6-8pm, rain or shine. *Chris Daniels & The Kings with Freddie Gowdy*

Friday, August 8

Mayor Hancock hosts Denver Days celebration, 6:30pm on The Green. Bring school supply donations from the list below to get a free ice cream coupon for this event. See below for details.**

Movie on the Green, *The Butler*, 8pm

Saturday, August 9

Family Bike Parade from Stapleton to Smiley with Councilman Chris Herndon, I am. Meet at The Green with decorated bikes, ride the new 26th Ave bike lane, and join in the celebration at Smiley. Bring a picnic lunch. 720.337.7711

Thursday, August 14

Active Minds Seminar "Century of Women's Progress" 6:45pm, Sam Gary Library*

Thurs, Fri & Sat, Aug 14, 15 & 16

Shakespeare on The Green, *The Tempest*, 7pm, The Green*

Saturday, August 16

Isabella Bird Community School Open House, 2701 N. Lima in the Bluff Lake neighborhood. Children's activities, food trucks, school tours. 10am-1pm. <http://isabellabird.dpsk12.org/>

Aug. 8 Denver Days Celebration

**School supply donations go to Ashley Elementary and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado. Donate any of the following to get a coupon for free Coaches ice cream:

Backpacks	Loose-leaf lined notebook
#2 pencils	Paper
Pencil case	Spiral notebooks
Colored pencils	Composition books
Box of assorted markers	10-pack of pens (red & blue)
2-pack of glue sticks	1-inch binders
Crayons	8-pack of dividers
Scissors	12-inch rulers
Pink erasers	Staples and stapler
3-pack highlighters	Scientific calculators
Pocket folders	

Denver Days celebration sponsored by Stapleton United Neighbors, the Stapleton Master Community Association, Stapleton Foundation and Forest City.

AUGUST

Sunday, August 17

Stapleton Kid's Triathlon. 8am, Jet Stream* Fee and preregistration required

Friday, August 22

High Tech Elementary Ribbon Cutting & Back-to-school Night. 4-5pm, ribbon cutting; 5-6:30pm Back-to-school night; 6-7pm ice cream social. hightechelementary.dpsk12.org

Friday, August 22

Cinema in The Park, *Saving Faces & Open Hearts* Starts at dark, The Green*

Saturday, August 23

Concert on The Green, "Dotsero" 7-9pm, The Green*

Sunday, August 24

Active Minds Summer Seminar "Egypt in Turmoil" 6:45pm, Sam Gary Library*

Friday, August 29

Movie on The Green, *Frozen* Starts at dark, The Green*

Saturday, August 30

Sweet William Market 9am-2pm, The Green*

Saturday, August 30

Dance Night 6-9pm, The Green*

SEPTEMBER

Monday, September 1

DJ's at the Pools for the final day of summer celebration, noon-4pm, all pools*

Saturday, September 6

Stapleton Rocks...a concert for a cause Noon - 10pm, Northfield

* More information at Events@stapletoncommunity.com
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.25). Deadline is the 15th for the next issue.

Events & Announcements at Stapleton



Community DNA

Merriam Webster's dictionary defines community as "a group of people who live in the same area (such as a city, town, or neighborhood)." While this definition is accurate, we at Stapleton MCA believe that real community is so much more. Community is one of the most vital aspects of a person's life. It is the network of vital life-giving relationships that give a person value. Therefore, our goal is to give you consistent opportunities to live in an area where the word "community" means more than just location.

Friday Night Flight

The third wine tasting will be held from 7-9pm on Fri., Aug. 22 at the West Crescent! Tickets are \$15/person if pre-ordered online and \$20 at the door. Tickets include wine samples and a complimentary Govino stemless glass. Tickets can be picked up prior to the event (Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm) at the MCA office or at the will call station at 6:30pm on Aug. 2 at the West Crescent. A valid ID and ticket will be required for entry.

Concerts & Movies at The Green

The next Concert on The Green will be held at 7pm on Sat., Aug. 2 at The Green and will feature the Jeff Brinkman Band. On Sat., Aug. 23, the band Dotsero will play at 7pm on The Green. This month, we will also have movies on the Green. *The Butler* will be featured on Fri., Aug. 8 and *Frozen* will be played on Fri., Aug. 29. All concerts and movies are free and open to the public.

Cinema in the Park

Take an intellectual adventure into the world of film Aug. 22 at 7:45 pm. The movies *Saving Face* and *Open Hearts* will be showing. This event is free and encouraged for those interested in the educational side of entertainment.

Active Minds

Don't miss the August Active Minds. A *Century of Women's Progress* will be held Thurs., Aug. 14 at 6:45pm and *Egypt in Turmoil* on Thurs., Aug. 28 at 6:45

pm. Both presentations will occur in the Sam Gary Library.

Shakespeare on The Green

The Colorado Shakespeare Festival and the MCA are proud to host *The Tempest* from Thurs., Aug. 14 through Sat., Aug. 16. This event will begin at 7pm on The Green and is free! Join us for an enchanting evening of romance under the stars and an introduction to Shakespeare for all ages.

Dance Night

The Stapleton Foundation is hosting a dance night on The Green Sat., Aug. 30 from 6-9pm. For more information, visit bewellconnect.net.

Stapleton Kids Triathlon

The Stapleton Kids Triathlon will be held on Sun., Aug. 17. The race will begin at 8am at the Jet Stream Pool and have all the components of an official triathlon, including timing chips, finisher medals, race T-shirts and a kids' swag bag! Race distances: 6-8-year-olds, 25-meter swim, 1-mile bike ride, 1/2-mile run; 9-13-year-olds, 50-meter swim, 2-mile bike ride, 1-mile run.

Registration is \$40 per athlete and each age group will be capped for safety reasons. All athletes must be able to complete the swim portion of the race unassisted. Register today at www.stapletoncommunity.com.

Yoga on The Green

Release stress while increasing strength, balance and flexibility in a peaceful, outdoor setting. Join us Tues., Aug. 5 from 7-8pm for this free basic yoga class. Bring a Pilates/yoga mat or a beach towel and water.

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

Madison Haverty
Stapleton MCA Event Intern
events@stapletoncommunity.com

Get the latest on

Master Community Association



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A directory with links to these businesses can be found at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com > Business Directory

With Love, From Summer Camp

By Madeline Schroeder

As teenagers, Lauren and David Ross unknowingly worked at the same camp for two summers outside of Los Angeles. Ten years later at a camp reunion, the couple—now Stapleton residents—met and spent the weekend with a group of friends at a big cabin. They say it was during their time at camps that they met some of their best friends and experienced some of their fondest memories.

“Camp life is what brought us together,” Lauren says.

David spent 25 summers at camp and was referred to as a “staff rat,” or the kid of a staff person—his dad was the camp therapist. He later worked as the music director of a camp. Lauren got into camp life not as a camper but as a counselor, including working at camps in Mississippi, Texas and California.

“They always say that one day in camp is like a year outside of camp because you’re so enmeshed in each other’s lives. It’s just this whole

married at their camp in LA—their “best camp memory.” They invited family and friends for a weekend of camp activities including basketball and softball games, bike rides, a talent show, movies, and a hike.

What is it about the camp experience that fosters lifelong memories and an almost tribal group of friends? What is the value of going to camp? What are some of the best memories?

Ninety percent of Lauren and David’s friends today they know from camp. On the last day of camp, people clung to each other crying. “They’d say, ‘Oh, my god, I’m going to miss you and you’re my best friend,’” Lauren says and laughs. Looking back on camp memories, they laugh at the practical jokes. Lauren recalls the most powerful and cruel joke from her time as a counselor. A few of the older campers received the sixth Harry Potter book before everyone else who anxiously awaited their copy in the mail.

The first camper who read the book wrote in toilet paper, “Snape Killed Dumbledore” and hung it above the dining hall for all to see. “Everyone started bawling,” Lauren says.

This summer, Lauren and David dropped off their 8-year-old daughter for her first 3-week long camp in Austin. During a week-long session last summer, counselors sent Lauren and David photos of her looking bewildered and teary getting off the bus, but by the end of the trip she raved about camp and insisted she had to go for the longer session.

Stapleton resident and child psychologist at Children’s Hospital Colorado

Mindy Solomon says camp helps build independence, resiliency and confidence among kids. Although outgoing kids may naturally thrive



Photo courtesy of Rosa Pearlman

Rosa (center) and a group of friends at camp dress up as a motorcycle gang. “We were always doing weird things at camp, including cross-dressing pretty frequently,” she says.

culture. When you have the same experiences, it’s like growing up together,” David says.

The couple loved camp so much they got

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Stapleton residents David and Lauren Ross met at a camp reunion and married at their camp in Los Angeles. The weekend included a packed itinerary of camp activities—basketball and softball games, bike rides, a talent show, movies, and a hike.

quicker, she thinks many different personalities can do well at camp. Ultimately, a child's adaptability matters more than personality, she says. "If a kid is used to being rescued or having a bad feeling that's instantly solved for them, they may not do as well at camp." She encourages parents to research and find a camp that's a good fit. "It's also important to remember that it's not going to damage your child if they spend a week being unhappy. If it's not a good experience, they can come home, learn from it, and don't have to do it again."

When she thinks about her time at camp, she gets a nostalgia she doesn't get from anything else. She went to camp outside of LA for nine summers. "You're so far removed from everything else that is normal," she says. "You kind of create this little summer family." She particularly remembers the funny traditions of camp like singing while waiting in line at the dining hall. Scott Fuhrman, the camper with the most mail in camp history, would undoubtedly receive a letter every mail call and everyone would chant, "Scott Fuhrman!"

Stapleton resident Miriam Ritter, 15, says one of the really special things about camp is no social media. "You don't have your phone, or anything and

don't care what's going on outside." She says her 8 years at camp has made her more open-minded and confident. She's learned to accept her quirks and totally be herself. One of her favorite times at camp was a 10-day backpacking trip at camp when they pet wolves at Mission: Wolf, a nonprofit educational wolf sanctuary.

Rosa Pearlman, 23, went to camp for 13 years, including four summers as a counselor.



Photos courtesy of Miriam Ritter

She says anything you can imagine that's fun happens at camp. Arts and crafts, ninja acrobats, mountain biking and rock climbing are some she lists. "I kind of want to go to camp forever," she says. "When I was a little kid, I used to say that I was going to be the director of a camp so I never had to leave."



Photos courtesy of Lauren and David Ross

Weird things were always happening at her camp. Each year they had a relay race with challenges like chugging a can of soda and burping the alphabet, covering your body in whipped cream and doing 10 pushups, and planting your face in maple syrup followed by powdered sugar.

She has fond memories of counselors breaking the rules to make her feel special and cool, like sneaking into the kitchen to steal cookie dough. As a counselor, she distinctly remembers the first night of camp. They typically didn't get sleep because they were comforting crying campers, some of whom wrote home begging to return. Pearlman says homesickness usually passes, and kids will even fake being



homesick for attention, which she calls a very annoying habit. "Being a

Scenes from Stapleton resident Miriam Ritter's life at camp.



almost in a spiritual way. The tribe allowed the campers to say something if they wanted. "One of my 15-year-old boys said a prayer, beautiful words of thanks and peace for the world. It was so touching. I was so proud," she says.

Siblings and Stapleton residents Agnes, 12, and Clifford Brown, 10, went to camp for the first time this year—Agnes in West Virginia and Clifford in Minnesota. Neither of them got homesick. Both were slightly nervous beforehand, but they had so much fun the feeling dissolved quickly.

For two weeks, Agnes rode horses and did arts and crafts; Clifford went paddle boarding, climbing, and did archery. "I like that you got to choose the activities, and you got to do them, and they were all unique," Clifford says. He says he became more respectful because of camp. "I would tell a nervous camper that it's really fun, and they should go just to try it out. You have too much fun to be homesick," Agnes says.

On the last day of Agnes's camp, they held a candle ceremony at night. Every camper had a candle with their name, which they put in the river and watched it float away. Both Agnes and Clifford plan to return to camp next year and be counselors someday.

Send your favorite camp photos to Madeline@FrontPorchStapleton.com and we'll share online.

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Three New Schools



By Courtney Drake-McDonough

High Tech Elementary and DSST: Conservatory Green share the “Conservatory Green” building in its namesake neighborhood north of I-70. While the two schools share several common areas, High Tech Elementary Principal Amy Giles is particularly excited about the library. The high-ceilinged room, with touches of beetle kill pine (a material that is repeated throughout the building), can handle multiple activities from small-group reading to research to checking out books. Twenty to thirty percent of the library’s titles will be e-books the students can download and read at home. “We’re trying to move into a more 21st Century approach to the library,” explains Giles. Encouraging literacy

as well as research skills in the library backs the school’s focus on project-based-learning, which will expand with the school’s growth. This year, High Tech Elementary will serve approximately 200 students in Early Childhood Education (ECE) through 2nd grade. The school will add one grade per year, expanding to 5th grade and up to 600 students. High Tech Elementary and DSST: Conservatory Green will share a music room that will have two pianos donated by the University of Colorado at Denver, lockers to store instruments, and practice rooms. Acoustic tiles in the ceiling prevent any musical distraction to the science classrooms directly above. Giles says, in addition to the aesthetic value of windows on both interior



DSST: Conservatory Green

The Denver School of Science and Technology’s side of the Conservatory Green building opens to a multi-story open area that serves as a shared cafeteria, assembly space, and performance venue, with a large, raised stage that gives performers the limelight. This area will enable DSST: Conservatory Green Middle School to establish its performing and musical arts offerings in addition to the school’s digital arts specialization. “All DSST campuses, with the mill levy passing, have been able to add on a much richer arts component to our schools,” says

Principal John Clark. “But we’re realizing how important computer science and the digital arts are in preparing kids for college and work in the 21st century.” Clark is especially excited to have two adjacent science classrooms that have chemical hoods to provide safety and ventilation when certain chemicals are used. He points out such as ceilings shaped to refract natural light to provide better lighting to the classroom. The Dean of Students’ office was purposely placed amongst the classrooms. “We’re really lucky because there is a main administrative office down

Open in Stapleton

High Tech Elementary

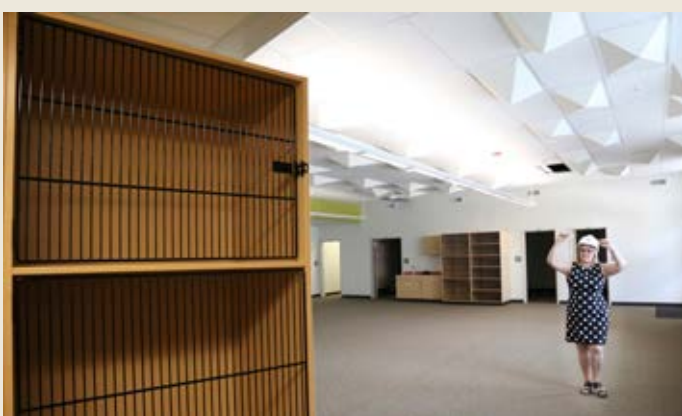


Left: With the school still under construction, High Tech Elementary School Principal Amy Gile stands in front of the beetle-kill-pine wall in the office of her school's library. The building will be ready in time for the first day of school on August 25.

Above: Gile gets a head start having fun with students on the school's new playground. An image of Stapleton's former runways adorns the wall as a reminder of the neighborhood's former life.

and exterior walls, the windows emphasize the idea that the classroom is not a closed environment—people can see in and see out.

Outside, a nature-themed playground includes flower and vegetable garden areas that will be used as an outdoor classroom. Three separate parking areas will help eliminate congestion during drop-off and pick-up: one for ECE parking to facilitate parents coming in to sign-in children; a “kiss-and-go” drop off area, and an area for bus-only traffic.



In the music room of High Tech Elementary, Gile explains that the pyramid-shaped panels in the ceiling provide sound-proofing so the music won't disturb science classes in session directly above.

Left: John Clark, Principal, DSST: Conservatory Green, stands overlooking the cafeteria of the new school that is still under construction. The multi-purpose space will also be used for performances on the stage and for assemblies.

one wing. But the Dean of Students will be closer to the kids. It's a really great way to set it up. It makes it easier for him, so the kids can see him as often as possible,” says Clark.

The school will start with 150 6th graders and add one class each year through grade 8.

In addition to sharing some school spaces, Clark and High

Tech Elementary Principal, Amy Giles are also sharing resources, ideas and even a PE teacher. However, the schools operate on separate budgets. “I believe that, while operating two separate schools, we know the value of working with each other,” says Clark.

The two schools will look for mentoring opportunities to bring the schools together as the school year progresses. “For our sixth graders, this year in particular, the idea of being role models is important to us—that you are the big kids on this campus, respecting and guiding all the kids on campus.”

(continued on page 8)



The halls of DSST: Conservatory Green will soon be filled with 125 sixth graders when the school opens in August.



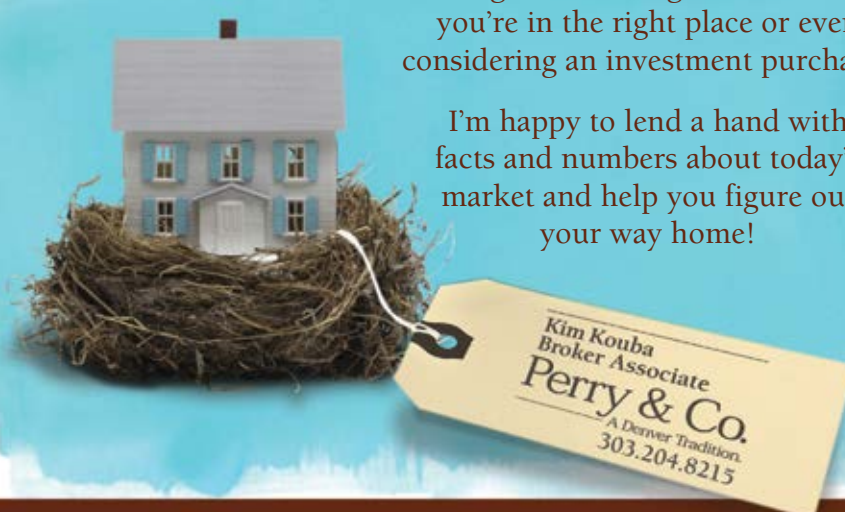
Clark explains how fumes will be drawn up into one of two chemical hoods, allowing for a greater range of experiments in the school's science labs.

Find yourself in an unexpected place?



New job, new baby on the way, kids heading off for college? Wondering if you're in the right place or even considering an investment purchase?

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



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Isabella Bird School

New Stapleton Schools (continued from page 7)

Principal and Lead Administrator Sonny Zinn is excited to welcome students and families to the expansive new Isabella Bird Community School, after holding their first year in temporary quarters at the Samsonite building north of I-70. The school is named after Isabella Bird, who explored the Rocky Mountains on horseback in the 1870s. The new building will house 311 students in ECE through 5th grade this year. In two years, at full

capacity, there will be three classes for each grade with up to 550 students. Zinn says she hopes the school will evolve into an ECE-8th grade school. While an addition would have to be built, some aspects needed for middle school grades are already in place, such as the regulation-sized gymnasium.

The architecture of the building encourages the connection between the inside and nature. One wall of the cafeteria has a floor-to-ceiling window and a glass garage door that opens so that kids can eat inside or out. When the divider is up between



To create an open feeling in the school, Zinn chose to have brightly colored exposed beams rather than hiding the supports in internal walls. The photo shows one of the "pods" where same-grade classrooms gather.

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Community



Upper left: Principal and Lead Administrator Sonny Zinn points to wooden acoustical panels in the cafeteria that also contain lights. The cafeteria has a stage for student performances and a garage-style door that opens to the outdoors. The music room is located next to the cafeteria, behind a movable wall, so the combined area can be used for performances or assemblies. **Left:** An outdoor stage allows children to put on impromptu plays for their peers during recess. **Upper right:** Zinn points out the guiding principles of Isabella Bird School, written into images of reeds that represent the plants found at nearby Bluff Lake.

the cafeteria and the music room next to it, the combined area becomes a community room for assemblies and performances.

Zinn believes the outdoor stage that extends off the music room nurtures kids' imaginations. "Children love to put on impromptu plays," she says. "Now they'll be able to when they are out here for recess." The stage opens to three playgrounds, each with a different developmental and physical need in mind: a wavy sidewalk where pre-schoolers can ride their strider bikes; over-

head equipment to pull and swing on for the primary grades; and core body development for the older kids.

"I've certainly never worked with a school that has thought of that level of detail over every little thing," says Zinn. "They (the architects) would bring ideas in and we'd bring ideas in and it would just be this synergy. It was what we want to have happen in our school. It really was this lovely bringing people together who are different stakeholders in the process, agreeing on something. It worked beautifully!"



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Common Core

(continued from page 1) assessments. Opponents on the right fear the federal government usurping local control of the schools. And skeptics across the political spectrum worry about the effects of “testing fatigue” on children, the fairness of tying teacher evaluations to student test scores, and the risk of quashing creativity through an overemphasis on standardized modes of thinking.

For this *Front Porch* article, we wanted to go beyond the politically charged national controversy and glean a deeper understanding of the CCSS and their impact on our neighborhood



Liz Tencate,
principal, Swigert

schools. So we turned to area experts. We spoke with State Sen. Mike Johnston (D-Denver) and convened a discussion group consisting of Denver School Board member Landri Taylor (District 4), principals Marcia Fulton (Odyssey), Liz Tencate (Swigert), Jill Corcoran (Westerly Creek); and fifth-grade math, science, and social studies teacher Marie Gruber (Westerly Creek). Our conversations revealed not only the complexity of and the controversy surrounding the CCSS, but also the promise this educational revolution holds for students.

What are the CCSS?

The CCSS represent a major shift in our nation’s educational policy. Public school standards and assessments have historically been developed and administered at the district and state level. By contrast, the CCSS are an effort to create what Sen. Johnston refers to as 21st

century thinking skills through rigorous shared standards. Instead of each state setting its own standards and “speaking 50 different languages,” explains Johnston, a shared set of standards will enable educators across the country to share materials, lesson plans and best practices.

What’s more, a shared set of national standards seeks to repair what Johnston refers to as “broken parts of the standards movement.” He says that since past federal programs like No Child Left Behind sought to preserve local control of education by enabling states to set their own standards, there was no safeguard against a so-called “race to the bottom”—wherein states set their standards low enough to ensure a majority of students met or exceeded them. While this strategy engenders impressive statistics, it fails children in the long run. A lack of accountability has left many American youth unprepared for college and less competitive in the increasingly global marketplace.

To remedy these pressing problems, the developers of the CCSS state they have drawn on “the



Jill Corcoran,
principal,
Westerly Creek

School Officers and the National Governors Association—created a set of learning objectives they tout as:

1. Research and evidence based
2. Clear, understandable, and consistent
3. Aligned with college and career expectations
4. Based on rigorous content and the application of knowledge through higher-order thinking skills
5. Built upon the strengths and lessons of current state standards
6. Informed by other top-performing countries to prepare all students for success in our global economy and society

The standards are objectives, not a specified curriculum, for the subject areas of math and English language arts/literacy. They emphasize higher order, critical thinking and active engagement with learning. For example, a set of literacy standards intended to instill the “integration of knowledge and ideas” builds from kindergarten through second grade in the following manner:



Kindergarten: “With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the text in which they appear (e.g., what person, place, thing, or idea in the text an illustration depicts).”

First Grade: “Use the illustrations and details in a text to describe its key ideas.”

Second Grade: “Explain how specific images (e.g., a diagram showing how a machine works) contribute to and clarify a text.” (www.corestandards.org).

How are the standards influencing our

most important international models as well as research and input from numerous sources, including state departments of education, scholars, assessment developers, professional organizations, educators from kindergarten through college, and parents, students, and other members of the public.” Based upon this research, the CCSS initiative—spearheaded by the Council of Chief State



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neighborhood schools?

Colorado joined the CCSS Initiative in 2010. The State Board of Education then gave districts a deadline of the 2014-15 school year to fully adopt the standards. Schools in our area have been using this time to realign their curricula, which has been no easy task. Tencate explains that while she found the CCSS general enough to complement the International Baccalaureate program Swigert features, there was still a significant jump; “the new standards are higher” than past grade-level objectives at the school she leads.

Gruber concurs, noting that the “biggest gap was in math.” Gruber estimates that there is a “one-year gap” between the previous state standards and the new CCSS. Fulton describes the weekly teacher trainings, the revamping of expeditions, and the complete reorientation of how kids are expected to think and



Marcia Fulton, principal, Odyssey

to explain their thinking that the integration of CCSS required at Odyssey. “It’s good learning; it’s big work!” Fulton said, eliciting vigorous nods of agreement from the educators in the room like Gruber, who describes waking up at 4am daily to prepare for class in a manner

that best supports her students’ acquisition of the skills necessary to succeed on the new assessments. Corcoran recognizes what the implementation of these new standards is asking of the staff she leads. “It requires a lot of time,” she says as she explains her process of coordinating release days with teachers prior to new units so they can compare the new standards to the existing DPS curriculum and create fresh lesson plans and strategies for educating their students. Despite the learning curve, the hard work, and the long hours, the educators we spoke with believed the standards are good, that they will prepare students for college, career and life and that students will rise to the occasion. Fulton shares how gratifying



Landri Taylor, school board member, DPS

it is to see “kids’ light bulbs go off” when they began to grasp the higher order thinking. With similar enthusiasm, Gruber acknowledges that in the absence of a canned curriculum, “teachers are being given greater trust and flexibility,” which she finds exciting. Parents too, suggests Corcoran, are ready for their kids to be challenged by the higher standards.

How will the standards be measured?

Since 2010, the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), a consortium of 14 states—of which Colorado is one—has been developing and testing the CCSS assessment. Starting next spring, the PARCC assessment will be administered annually across the nation. Test scores will provide a comparison of student performance and will measure individual student growth. Eventually, the assessment scores will also be considered as part of teacher and school evaluations.

Johnston champions the quick turnaround time of student data promised by PARCC, which seeks to provide “usable data” for educators to evaluate student growth. (Tests will be taken on computers.) Although Fulton agrees that usable data delivered

in a timely manner is a potential benefit of the PARCC assessment, she has concerns about testing fatigue among children with the addition of PARCC evaluations to existing district and statewide measures. Corcoran listed a formidable series of exams students at Westerly Creek take each year and Gruber surmised that as much as 30 percent of instruction time is spent preparing for and administering assessments each year.

Johnston admits that the “over-testing” critique is the strongest argument against the CCSS. The Colorado Legislature has recently formed a commission to study the testing requirements, instruction time spent on test administration, the uses of testing data, and ways the district, state and national tests can work together.

Looking at the bigger picture, Taylor wonders if a test is even the best way to measure the outcomes we seek. A proponent of CCSS, Taylor favors consistent objectives across state lines, but is concerned that the standards may not be aligned with the testing. In what Gruber refers to as an increasingly “pay for performance” district, there are serious consequences for using potentially misaligned data to evaluate teachers.

Why the Common Core Matters

While none of the educators in our group opposed the learning objectives promoted by the CCSS Initiative, the forthcoming assessment of those standards is causing anxiety. This “nervousness is understandable,” says Fulton, as the national standards bring with them a “layer of change . . . a



Marie Gruber, teacher, Westerly Creek

nationally normed level of accountability,” the likes of which our country has never before seen.

Even as Fulton understands the anxiety, she celebrates the assessment’s potential. She refers to the CCSS initiative as a “beautiful opportunity to level the playing field.” The assessments, Fulton says, will show us where we must improve, providing a benefit in the short and long term if all kids are served. Johnston agrees, referring to the achievement gap as *the* animating reason to implement the standards. He contends: “We have to tell hard truths.”

Taylor is cautious, maintaining that it’s too early to speculate about the long-term benefits of this major shift in educational policy. The school board member nevertheless lauds the Common Core’s immediate benefit: “We’re all talking about education,” he says with a smile.

Visit FrontPorchStapleton.com to find links with examples of questions Colorado has used in the past and to try out sample PARCC test questions.

We welcome comments at FrontPorchStapleton.com

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Med Students Celebrate Their “First Patients”

By Madeline Schroeder

Whitney Sumner distinctly remembers the initial shock of looking at the dead body for the first time. Until now she hadn't really considered what it meant to spend four hours a day, five days a week with a dead body.

The donor had died at 94 of general failure, the only information Sumner and the three other students in her lab group had received.

Students in human anatomy courses at the University of Colorado School of Medicine at the Anschutz Campus spend a semester working on cadavers. Students begin the course with a range of emotions—some uncomfortable, others invasive, a few too distraught to stay in the course. But eventually, quicker for some than others, excitement about the opportunity outweighs uneasiness.

According to the State Anatomical Board, body donation provides an indispensable learning tool for students. They learn the complexity and intricacy of the human body by dissecting every major nerve and muscle, including the brain.

“There's absolutely no substitute for working on a cadaver,” says Sumner, vice president of the class of 2017. She is grateful for the gift from the 94-year-old woman her group nicknamed Lucy.

Some days students worked so hard they forgot it's a human body; other days they were overwhelmingly aware they were real people.

Discovering anatomical differences among the cadavers made the students wonder more about them as people: Is the roughness of his hand because he had a blue-collar job? How did she get this scar? Does Lucy's family know she's missing her second toes? For Sumner, she had begun to feel connected to Lucy despite knowing



nothing about her. Dissecting the hands was the most difficult. “I held her hand like I would hold a friend's who I was walking with. I didn't even notice that I was doing that,” she says.

“It's this full-circle experience because you want to make the patient better, but obviously it culminates in this life cycle reality of death,” she says. “I think it's important to have that gravity to be a medical professional.” Sumner wants to go into radiation oncology, where she knows she will often deliver tough news to patients and their families. Like many students in the anatomy course, she considers Lucy her first patient.

“On some level you almost feel guilty thinking that you know the person because why should I think I had anything to do with this person's life? That's not really something that I'm even allowed to feel.”

At times, Sumner was thankful she didn't have much information about Lucy, and other times she desperately wanted to know what she was like, although admitting it would make the experience more emotional. But most of all she wishes she could know why Lucy became a donor.

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Whitney Sumner and Jason Santiago stand in the lab at the University of Colorado School of Medicine where they worked on cadavers as part of their semester-long anatomy class.

People become whole body donors for a variety of reasons.

Mary Oba’s husband, Calvin, was a donor this past year. She says it was his way of continuing his dedication to medicine. “He told me he was married to his profession, and I would always be second. I didn’t believe that, but of course it was true,” she says and laughs.

Cal, a first-generation Japanese American, graduated from the Colorado School of Medicine in 1957. His commitment to delivering exceptional care surpassed most. He received multiple humanitarian awards throughout his career as first a general practitioner and then orthopedic surgeon. He once delivered

a baby in the back of his car. Another time he saved a man’s life by clamping a blood vessel with his hemostat to stop the bleeding. His children always said he is the kind of man you would want to be your doctor.

But with his work ethic came intense expectations. He loved his family, but demanded perfection. “He was a bit obsessive,” Mary says. Whenever he had an idle moment, he was either asleep—he could sleep anywhere, including over his microscope—or searching for something tedious to do. After he died, Mary found rows of jars in the garage filled with rusty nails organized by size.

She wasn’t surprised he decided to be a whole body donor, which she has also decided to do. “The opportunity to be of service to new students coming in was perfect for Cal. He wanted to do what he could until the very last.”

Jason Santiago, class of 2017 and a Stapleton resident, says it takes a special person to become a body donor. “It’s very revealing. Most people aren’t comfortable with that sort of idea.”

To honor body donors, students host a ceremony at the end of the semester

for family members. Students give speeches about their experience throughout the semester, giving closure to some families who had not grieved yet, including Mary who cried on a doctor’s shoulder after the ceremony, which she laughs might have been “nutty but necessary.”

“It’s a hard situation,” Santiago says. “Some of us students were apprehensive, but it was really well received.” On the last day of lab, he and his group had a moment of silence for their donor and “member of the team.”

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Just the Facts

Mosquito Mania

by James Hagadorn



Colorado is gloriously sunny, high and dry. That ought to mean living in mosquito-free bliss. So why are we slapping so many skeeters off our legs lately? And why are some neighborhoods up in arms about the recent mosquito boom and efforts to quell it? Perhaps it's because they make us itch like crazy and bring disease to us, our pets, and to livestock. Or... like other bloodsuckers such as fleas, ticks, bedbugs, and lice—maybe it's because they creep us out.

Luckily, our mosquitoes are as predictable as the *Creature from the Black Lagoon*—because their life cycle is tied to stagnant water. Our most common local mosquito lays its eggs atop standing water and its brethren lay eggs on wet soil that later floods. Adult males live about a week and exclusively feed on flower nectar and pollen. Females often live up to 6 weeks—but suck blood as well as nectar and pollen. Proteins in blood are needed for most of the eggs that they lay.

Like the amber-encased mosquito from *Jurassic Park*, today's mosquitoes get most of their blood from living dinosaurs—a.k.a. birds. As they suck on finches, sparrows and quail, they acquire diseases that they transmit to humans, horses, pets and other animals.

What are the primary types of mosquitoes here?

Among the dozens of species of mosquitoes inhabiting Colorado, two types stand out. The first includes members of the genus *Aedes*, commonly called floodwater or "nuisance" mosquitoes. These are the fast-breeding ones that carry heartworm larvae that infect your pets. They also bite the heck out of you shortly after your neighborhood is deluged, irrigated, or experiences a spring snowmelt. *Aedes* eggs, which comprise the vast majority of skeeters near my house, need as little as a half-inch of standing water and 5 days to mature into biting adults. The second group is dominated by members of the genus *Culex*, which whine in your ear and feed at night. These are the mosquitoes that carry viruses like West Nile, St. Louis encephalitis and Western equine encephalomyelitis. Typically, a tenth of a percent to 10 percent of them are infected.

What are the chances of getting sick from a mosquito bite?

There are a half-dozen mosquito monitoring sites in Stapleton. Among the mosquitoes trapped at these sites this year, about 6 percent are *Culex* mosquitoes, which can carry West Nile virus (WNV).

Among *Culex*, infection rates vary considerably—but in Denver the average historical rate of mosquitoes that carry WNV is about 7 percent. If a mosquito successfully transmits WNV to a person, it will remain in their body on the order of two days to two weeks after being bitten. Only 20–30 percent of people infected by WNV actually develop symptoms—the majority don't even know they have it.

West Nile virus symptoms can include a fever, headache, joint or muscle aches, rash and/or vomiting. Most people who develop such symptoms recover completely within days to months with no recurrent symptoms. Concern is merited, though, because in some cases WNV can be transmitted to a fetus during pregnancy or by breastfeeding. And, because less than a percent of WNV sufferers have their brains invaded by the virus to the extent that they have swelling of the brain and spinal cord syndromes that cause fever, headache, seizures, tremors, respiratory issues, paralysis and the like—including lasting neurological issues. Unfortunately, about a tenth of these people die.

Mosquito abundances aside, these data might equate to less than a one-in-a-thousand chance that you'll get WNV and develop symptoms, and less than one in a million that such an experience will be fatal.

To put these infection rates into perspective, last year Colorado had an epidemic year, with 322 cases of WNV reported, 12 of which were in Denver. This year there have been two cases of WNV reported in the whole state.

Why so many mosquitoes?

Both of these mosquito types owe their abundance to the ponded water around us. Some of this water comes from rainwater that accumulates in natural depressions, but much of it comes from our infrastructure and development.

For example, graded land, construction sites, and well sites are littered with puddles. Agricultural areas have abundant lingering water in furrowed fields, irrigation ditches and perforated canals. And let's not forget golf courses, where man-made "water hazards" provide a veritable mosquito bonanza.

To put these in perspective—one flower pot saucer of stagnant water can produce thousands of mosquitoes per summer. Thus all these sites combine



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to have profound effects.

Even our neighborhoods contribute to the problem. Manicured developments like mine are the perfect haven for mosquitoes during the day by providing cool, moist, shady plants for mosquitoes to hang out in. At night they provide refuges in humid, well-watered lawns.

So what should we do?

First, eliminate standing water to prevent mosquitoes from reproducing. Second, consider screening your front door, wearing long-sleeved, loose-fitting clothing and pants, and minimizing time outdoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are gorging. Third,

safe for people. Citronella and similar botanical repellents work, but are less effective. Their side effects in humans are also poorly known and many contain concentrated allergens. Achoo!

As a society, we can best solve our mosquito woes by using integrated pest management programs. These programs are employed by many cities and are successful at reducing both nuisance and hazardous mosquito populations. Such programs involve monitoring where and how mosquito populations change so problems are addressed before they get out of hand. Usually this approach involves eliminating, draining,

or introducing bug-eating fish to sites where skeeters reproduce, and bombarding larval populations with mosquito-toxic substances derived from soil bacteria. Where necessary, pyrethroid insecticides can be sprayed at night to kill adult populations. The latter can sometimes damage desirable insect communities, though.

Despite this stinging news, our state's overall mosquito situation is much improved. In historical times, malaria

and equine encephalitis were rampant in Colorado. Today's mosquitoes are mostly a nuisance and don't typically cause public health emergencies. Yet they can significantly impact our quality of life and our economy. In Colorado their abundance is mostly catalyzed by man-made activities and structures. Mother Nature just provides some of the water and the entomological potential.

Like immunization, dealing with mosqui-

toes benefits most from systemic prevention. This weekend I'd better check those cobwebbed flowerpot saucers behind our grill.

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

Editor's Note: The Stapleton Master Community Association (MCA) is continuing to apply a non-toxic larvicide at 24 sites in Stapleton, monitoring areas where they're getting complaints and adjusting their mosquito management accordingly. The City of Denver is applying larvicide to about 60

sites throughout the city and also has a half-dozen mosquito traps in addition to the ones in Stapleton. *Culex* mosquitoes from all the traps are sent to a state laboratory to analyze the rate of WNV.

Links to websites with additional information can be found with this article at FrontPorch-Stapleton.com including Stapleton mosquito counts, historic counts for Colorado and tips for prevention.

We welcome comments at FrontPorchStapleton.com



The Stapleton MCA is applying larvicide to stormwater areas of standing water in Stapleton. Westerly Creek retaining ponds are shown above.

consider your repellent options. Moderate concentrations of DEET, when used on skin and according to instructions, are safe for the vast majority of people—including kids and most other mammals. That said, until we know the outcomes of studies of how DEET impacts the endocrine and neurobehavioral systems of babies, toddlers and pregnant women, minimization of DEET among such populations is warranted. Other chemical repellents like IR3535 or Picaridin are less well tested, but are widely used in Europe and appear to be



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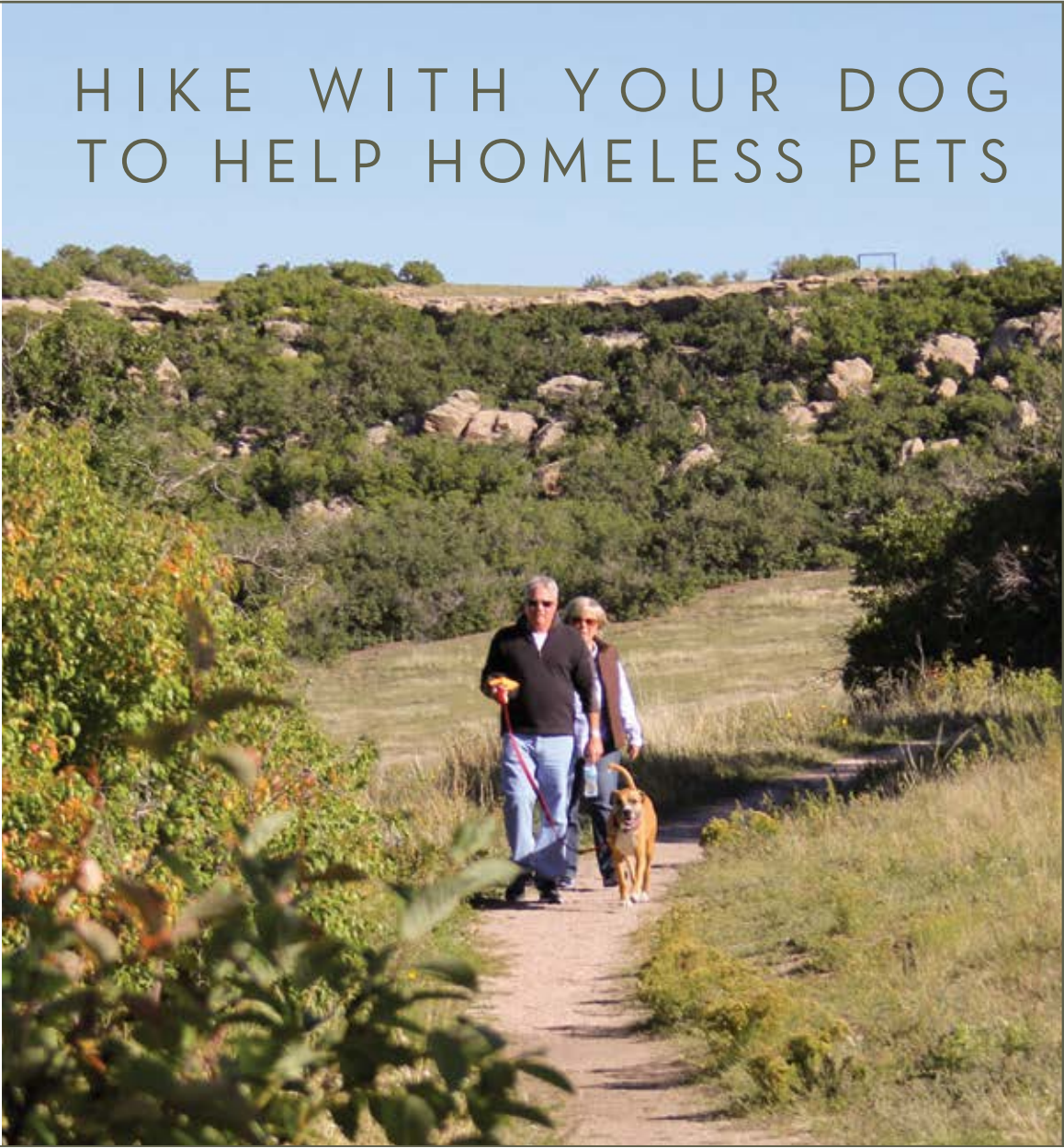
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By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Opening a door. That's how a friendship started 16 years ago that has now led to opening the door of a new restaurant. When Dipesh Amin was a student at CU Boulder, he ran an ad for a roommate. The first person to respond was Josef (Joe) Sykora, who had just driven from Illinois, with several months' worth of rent money, making him the logical choice. Besides bonding over their shared studies in molecular biology, Amin and Sykora also bonded over beer and how great it would be to have their own place that served beer someday. "We kicked the idea around for



Owners, left to right, Joe Sykora, Dipesh Amin, Sita Kedia and chef Brady Marcotte standing behind, recently opened Table Top, a restaurant at 2230 Oneida St. with a focus on New American cuisine and craft beer.

many years and, in college days, things aren't always realistic but we kept touch with the idea and now it's a reality," says Amin. Along with Amin's wife, Sita Kedia, who met both men 12 years ago, the three opened Table Top restaurant last month, in Park Hill.

While it's not that unusual for a couple or a group of friends to open a restaurant, it is un-

usual for the new restaurateurs to have other day jobs—major day jobs. Both Amin and Kedia are physicians. Amin works as a researcher at University Hospital and an internist at Kaiser. Kedia is a pediatric neurologist at Children's Hospital Denver. Sykora owns Sticks and Stones Woodworkers, a Boulder-based custom remodeling business that makes handcrafted furniture.

The three have been balancing their day jobs with creating Table Top from the ground up since they signed the lease a year ago in a space that has been a used furniture store, drive-through liquor store and dance studio. After looking at several locations, the 2230 Oneida Street spot enabled the owners to have a freestanding building, an overhang for a covered patio and a side yard for a beer garden.

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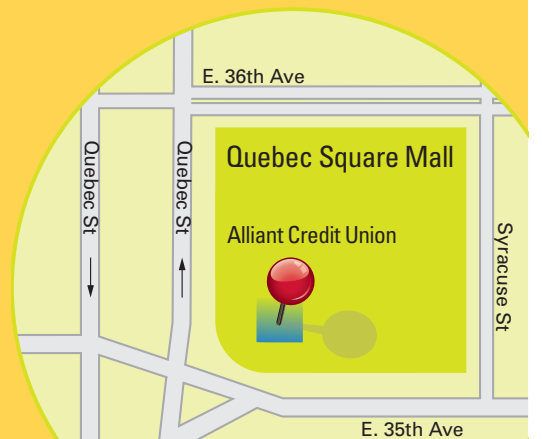
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Having the restaurant near Amin and Kedia's East Montclair home makes having two jobs a little easier than it is for Sykora, who commutes from Boulder but is seriously considering moving to Park Hill. Kedia says they are lucky the burden isn't on only one person. "It's the three of us and we work really well together."

Although they plan to be present every day, the owners say it has been very helpful to have a team they can count on, including Executive Chef Brady Marcotte who has worked at Leaf Vegetarian Restaurant, Oak at Fourteenth and Acorn restaurant. Marcotte brings culinary influences from his French grandparents and his upbringing in Kansas with barbeque.

Originally, the menu was going to consist of only small plates to accompany beer. But neighbors encouraged Amin, Kedia and Sykora to serve more substantial food. The owners listened and a seasonal menu was created with appetizers, small plates to share and entrees including smoked meats, seafood, vegetarian and gluten-free items. The cuisine is referred to



Joe Sykora made all of the tables, seating, bar and light fixtures, as well as unique decorative items like the one at left.

as "New American," which Amin defines as "letting the chef experiment with food styles that are historical in different parts of the world but putting an American spin on it." Menu items range from \$4-\$20. There is a kids' menu as well.

Although the owners have learned every aspect of the business, they have fallen into distinct roles. Kedia focuses on the administrative side, also greeting and serving diners; Amin is responsible for selecting the craft beers, wine and cocktails and working behind the bar; and Sykora oversees the food's smooth transition from kitchen to table. That's fitting since he literally made all of the tables in the restaurant as well as all seating, the bar and light fixtures.

It was Sykora who came up with the name of the restaurant. "The table top is the place for conversation where people come together and interact. To me, it's very comforting." The lack of televisions in the restaurant is purposeful. "We want people to have a conversation with the person they are sitting with and the people at other tables," says Kedia. "It's a gathering place for the neighborhood where people can walk to or bike to."

The three owners admit they are nervous about pursuing their dream. "It's not an inexpensive undertaking by any means. It has been a lot harder than we expected," says Sykora. "We went into it saying we're following our dream and expected some hardship. But if you ever want to test your friendship, open a restaurant." The group laughs, but Kedia quickly adds, "but we're still here, and we're still friends."

For hours and upcoming events, visit <http://tabletopdenver.com/>

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— Beverly Grant, Owner of Mo' Betta Green MarketPlace in Five Points

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Due to market forces, not everyone will be able to afford a home

By Jim Edwards

See below: The Green Book (GB) world does not exist anymore. It is an anachronism as is the “Housing and Diversity Committee.” (The name sounds like something out of an old USSR 5 year plan ala Dr. Zhivago.) The GB was written when the market was influenced by those who were of the opinion that everyone deserved a home—with no application of any standards of affordability. Lending requirements and the market changed when the housing bubble burst. You can lay blame where you want for that event, but the bottom line is that there were too many people who inhabited homes they could not afford. Unfortunately, ideas such as government driven diversity are slow to die—especially when there are votes to be purchased.

When one accounts for the current government lending requirements and market forces (yes, that dirty word called “profits”), not everyone is going to be able to afford a home or even a new rental. When you add in the performance of the economy over the past five plus years and the adverse effects of the socialistic policies pushed by our leader in the White House, the picture

looks even more bleak for any real change in the near future (his word). Service jobs do not permit people to purchase homes. My solutions:

1. H&D Committee: Become relevant or disband. A change of name would be a good start.
2. Stapleton not diverse enough, but you want to stay behind the nonexistent gates: Spend some of *your* own money—buy some homes or rental units and resell/lease them—or better yet, give them away. The builders of this community, who are not facing the same market that existed when the GB was written, should not have to bear the brunt of your leftist ideas on how you think the world should be which is simply building something with money that does not belong to you.
3. For those of you who are upset, dismayed or whatever because the area is not more “diverse” and as a result requires your children to go to school with just white kids (an interviewee’s term in the original article, not mine; Can you imagine substituting any other color without being publicly flogged?): Sell out and return to where you were more comfortable, but make sure you sell in a diversified manner. The effect would be positive and



Readers Speak Out on Diversity at Stapleton

two fold—fewer white people and more people of color. A “win-win” for the diversity team.

4. Keep the government out of the Stapleton market as much as possible. Keep Stapleton moving, growing and thriving. (See proposed solution 1.)

Remember, we are all part of the market—just make sure when you espouse change it entails the spending of your own money rather than someone else’s.

We must concentrate our efforts and build on what we have started

By Kevin Marchman, chairman, SDC board

First, some history on the decision to move Stapleton to DIA. If the region was going to grow, the confines of Stapleton were already obsolete. Many will remember that when Denver had inclement weather, heavy airline volume, inadequate airside facilities, well, good luck in having a pleasant trip home. Stapleton became the object of national scorn and, yes, jokes. After the airport moved, the Stapleton Development

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Corporation (SDC) was created in 1995, to primarily negotiate and work with the eventual master developer, Forest City, for the sale and lease of developable properties at the former airport site, Stapleton. To date, the results of the collaboration of the SDC, Forest City and others have been admirable. That said, our work is not finished and lingering issues persist.

One of those issues is the diversity or lack thereof, of the existing population. The term diversity, particularly housing diversity, means different things to different folk. I wish to highlight what some of those things may mean.

Building a new community from an old airport site is a tremendous undertaking. A community is not just houses, but also businesses, infrastructure, schools, parks, shopping, roadways, event spaces and the like. A community is a place to raise your kids, enjoy your neighbors, feel safe, a place in which you can acknowledge your presence and others, all others. This is what diversity means.

Diversity also means having a range of ages, folk with different social economic backgrounds, multi-ethnic origins, gender preferences and yes, the prickly issue of racial

composition. It is my observation that you cannot have much of this if the elements of a community lack home affordability.

During my SDC tenure, I've heard every story and concern possible; that Stapleton is a gated community, that some people don't like shopping with other people, Forest City is only going to build what is profitable (read: no affordable housing), Stapleton parents don't want their kids schooling with kids from other neighborhoods and worse. Enough of that.

What we will do, must do, is to concentrate our efforts in a meaningful, demonstrable, and positive direction and continue to build on what we have started. Some ideas: I have urged, and SDC board agrees, that we become even more engaged in every aspect of our growing community. Also SDC has begun working with SDC staff to more widely promote Stapleton to a broader population. This would include our aging parents and friends who are looking for more ranch-style homes (first-floor bedrooms). There are others. We need to listen and take advantage of every feature of Stapleton to further strengthen our community.

Our elected officials, Mayor Hancock, Denver Council President Herndon, DPS Board President Haynes, among others have worked tirelessly over a very long period to guide the old Stapleton site to the neighborhood it is and will become.

The SDC is committed to working with anyone or group interested in making Stapleton the best new community in the country.

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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.

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Mood Indigo (2014)

This latest feature from Michel Gondry (*Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*) has all the elements of his best film and reminds us why Gondry is one of



Scene from *Moon Indigo*

the most unique writer/directors working today. His whimsical and somewhat-divorced-from-reality style are wonderful if whimsy is your thing; the style can sometimes overwhelm the material, however, and this new film slides back and forth over that border. Most of the time, it sincerely delights and

delivers what the best films can: a transcendent experience.

The story follows wealthy bachelor Colin who meets and falls in love with Chloë. They have a whirlwind and somewhat unusual romance that runs through a Paris that perhaps only Luis Buñuel could put on screen. But Chloë soon turns ill with a rare disease—caused by a flower growing in her lung—and Colin sets out a find a cure. Exactly. Yet what sounds like farce is presented so honestly that the characters are real and tactile, not animated or caricatured.

It is a sweet and funny film that takes a decidedly dour turn in the third act. Perhaps it is simply allegory for terminal illness of any kind, or perhaps it is a meditation on the fleeting qualities of ebullient romance. Or both. It also a delight to watch and soak in. The directing is excellent, the acting is inspired, and we are immersed in a world so unlike our own, but yet, it looks exactly like our own world, that we are transported into it quite gently.

Gondry's style can be too much at times, but that "too much" also injects the film with energy and passion that so many films lack. I will take a film that strikes out from time to time as I watch it swing for the fences at every turn. In the end, this film delivers exactly what it promises.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*, and/or *Amelie* (before the third act).

Starts 8/1 at the Chez Artiste.

Frances Ha (2013)

This quirky, fun, and irreverent film is the latest from director/writer Noah Baumbach. Best known for *The Squid and the Whale* (2005), he has also written and/or co-written several other well-known films, such as *The Fantastic Mr. Fox* (2009). With *Frances Ha*, he shows himself to be not just a skilled writer, but also a highly competent director who seems to be most adept at

letting his actors run with the material. And it always helps when the material is fresh. The material is certainly fresh here, the black and white cinematography helps to elevate the film's themes, and we find ourselves becoming more and more immersed in the film as it moves along. This is one of those rare films that both surprises and delights by the time the credits run.

Greta Gerwig plays Frances, a woman determined to make it as a dancer in NY even though she is short on natural talent. When the film opens, she seems to have everything she wants—a best friend, a job, and comfortable place to live. But Frances wants more, and she decides to follow her dream to be a dancer.

What follows is not just an endearing story of a woman pursuing her dreams, but



Scene from *Frances Ha*

a fresh presentation on material we've seen before. Watching director Baumbach and skilled actors such as Gerwig is the attraction here. The film reminds of Woody Allen's better, earlier work, such as *Manhattan* or *Annie Hall*. It is an indie film that knows its roots and its (lack of) genre.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *Annie Hall*, *Her*, and/or *The Squid and the Whale*.

Now available on Netflix and the Redbox. 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.

We welcome comments at FrontPorchStapleton.com

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Shakespeare

(continued from page 1) *Dream.* “There’s magic, comedy, drama and romance.”

The second annual Shakespeare on The Green, brought by the Stapleton MCA, will expand from two performances to three. “We’re adding a night this year because there was such a big crowd last year,” said Kent. All performances are free and begin at 7pm.

The Colorado Shakespeare Festival, now in its 57th season at the University of Colorado at Boulder, chose *The Tempest* from among its summer repertory of five plays. “We chose it for Stapleton because it’s full of nice things for families,” said Kent. “The kids will love the 12-foot puppets and the mythical characters like the half-man, half-fish. We’ll bring magic to the space.”

The play concerns the sorcerer Prospero and his daughter, Miranda, marooned for 12 years on an island by Prospero’s brother. When a storm spills the brother and his company onto the island, Prospero gets his opportunity to exact revenge. But when Miranda falls in love with the son of one of his enemies, Prospero chooses to forgive them for his daughter’s sake.

“For me, it’s about a parent sacrificing what he wants for his daughter,” said Timothy Orr, producing artistic director of the Colorado Shakespeare Festival and the father of two young daughters—one of whom was

born on June 6, the opening night of *The Tempest* in Boulder. “It’s about letting our children grow up.”

According to the Festival’s website: “Shakespeare’s final, much-loved play defies expectations, erupting into a timeless, exotic tale of monsters and cavorting spirits, love and song, merriment and mercy.”

Both Kent and Orr consider Stapleton’s Green the perfect venue for the play.

“We really enjoy the space because it’s so open,” said Kent. “It allows us to expand into the audience, like making entrances that surprise them. Plus it’s similar to our space, so the show travels well.”

Orr said: “Part of the fun is that it’s like the good old-fashioned Shakespeare in the park we’ve all done. It’s great when the kids are involved, people are picnicking and dogs are running around. Plus it’s easy to interact because the cast and audience are on the same surface. Kids stand close, watching. The cast has fun with such an immediate audience.”

Shakespeare would have approved, said Kent: “Shakespeare belongs outside. In his time all plays were performed during the day, in an open-air theater. It’s great storytelling.

Hear from the directors at FrontPorchStapleton.com



From left, Eddy Jordan, Will Hunsaker, Michael Winters, Benjamin Bonenfant, Chris Kendall and Benaiah Anderson at a production of *The Tempest* in Boulder.

The script tells you what time of day or night it is. The cues are all there to update the audience. Of course we’ll have lighting as it gets dark.”

The play is set in the early 1800s British maritime era, with a cast of 18 players. “It’s the era of *Master and Commander*,” said Kent. “Seagoing people didn’t know where everything was yet. You could lose someone on an island. The castaways live in a shipwreck.”

Original music for Shakespeare’s songs was composed by Gary Grundei. “It’s possible to find the tunes from Shakespeare’s time, but

it’s more fun to write our own,” said Orr. “The music fits the time of the setting, including a sea shanty.”

Kent said his goal as director is to engage the audience in questions they can answer in their own way. “The question might be, ‘What would you do for your daughter?’ I hope they go home and hug their child a little closer.”

Orr said: “*The Tempest* is a great comedy and a touching story about forgiveness. Prospero could take revenge but he chooses not to. Our favorite line is, ‘The rarer action is in virtue than in vengeance.’ It’s why we chose this play.”

Photo by Zachary Andrews/Colorado Shakespeare Festival

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Northfield High School Building and Programming Moving Forward

By Carol Roberts

Northfield principal Avi Tropper recently briefed the Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC) on the programming for the new high school. The school will offer International Baccalaureate Diploma Program coursework for all students. Though classes won't be tracked, there is, within classes, the option to perform higher level work. He's a strong believer in community service, which is a component of the IB program.

In addition to the IB curriculum, students choose two focus areas for their electives and stay with those areas the entire four years. Tropper pointed out that when given nine "pathways," such as multiple areas in the arts, writing, politics and law, business, computer science, biomedical science, engineering, and economics, most students know what areas interest them. He also pointed out that colleges like to see students pursue an



Avi Tropper

area more deeply and stick with it rather than have a shallow exposure to more areas. Students will also be able to choose a no-prerequisite elective class each semester, allowing them to explore interests outside of core classes and elective pathways.

In addition to academics, Tropper puts a strong focus on the social-emotional culture of the school to create an inclusive

atmosphere where kids work together and all students will flourish. Advisors will stay with their students the entire four years and have reduced teaching loads to have time to work individually with their students. He will accomplish that type of staffing by having no vice-principal, relying instead on distributed leadership among the teachers.

Regarding sports teams, he says if there are enough students to form a team, they'll make that sport happen. All students will have a physical

activity period every day, either through their sports team or their choice of a physical education class.

Uniforms? Student government will make a recommendation.

Open campus? No.

Hours? 8:45am to 4:45pm.

School year? 185 days—two weeks longer than the minimum required.

Northfield High School is scheduled to open in August 2015 with 325 ninth-graders and will



Principal Avi Tropper speaks at the Northfield High School groundbreaking ceremony held on July 15.

expand by one grade each year. It sits on a 20-acre site on the southeast corner of 56th and Central Park Blvd. A brochure, site plans and renderings can be viewed at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com. Tropper can be reached at Avi_Tropper@dpsk12.org, visit Northfield.dpsk12.org, or call 303-842-1101.

Committee Searches for Funding for HS Commons Building

State Representative Angela Williams has convened a group of stakeholders for the purpose of seeking a possible resolution to the \$10M shortfall to complete the commons building at the new high school. The stakeholder group consists of representatives from the City & County of Denver, Park Creek & Westerly Creek Metropolitan Districts, Denver Urban Renewal Authority, parents, Stapleton

Development Corporation, Denver Public Schools and the Denver Public School Board. Options being considered to close the gap include the DPS 2012 Bond Reserve Fund, BEST Grant Program and Public/Private partnerships. The school will serve its boundary plus 35% choice-in enrollment—ensuring diversity as it serves students throughout the Northeast Denver region.

DPS Policy on "Choosing Out"

What happens after you choice out of your neighborhood boundary school?

Once a family chooses out, they release their guaranteed spot at that neighborhood boundary school. In other words, if a student is accepted at a school other than their neighborhood boundary school during the SchoolChoice Round 1 process, the new school becomes their school of record and the neighborhood boundary school seat is released. Should a family want to return to their neighborhood

boundary school, they will need to fill out a SchoolChoice form for the first year they want to return. It is very important to note that though they are not guaranteed to return to their neighborhood boundary school, they do receive a priority as a neighborhood student.

Once they reach the next new school entry point (middle or high school) they go back to having neighborhood priority.

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The Book Worm

Each month the Front Porch prints book reviews, rotating to a different Northeast Denver library or book store each month. This month, reviews are by members and volunteers at the Park Hill Community Bookstore.

Fiction

The Buddha in the Attic by Julie Otsuka
Review by Jackson Turnacliffe

In *The Buddha in the Attic*, Julie Otsuka uses unusual literary devices to tell the stories of “picture brides” sent to male Japanese immigrants in early twentieth century California. Through repetition, cadence, and rhythm, she collectively follows these young Japanese women from their various rural and urban origins over a 50-year period as they meet their new husbands, encounter a new culture (mostly indifferent to them; sometimes hostile), and raise their children, who become strangers to them as they assimilate into mainstream American culture. This is an enlightening and affecting account of the non-European immigrant experience. (Published in 2011 and winner of the PEN/Faulkner Award For Fiction.)

Adult Non-Fiction

Cod: A Biography of the Fish That Changed the World by Mark Kurlansky
Review by Sandra Niemi

This is a small book about the cod and its role in world history over the past 1,000 years. The Vikings ate dried cod on their long voyages. The Basque discovered the best cod fishing grounds off what is now Newfoundland, keeping the location secret for several centuries. By 1550, sixty percent of all fish eaten in Europe was cod. The lowly cod, salted and dried, provided food for long voyages of exploration, fed soldiers in numerous wars, and built great wealth for individuals and nations. Salt cod fed the Union Army during the Civil War. Sadly, it also helped perpetuate the slave trade. Cod fishing spurred the use of new technology such as steam-powered ships and frozen foods.

Middlemarch

by George Eliot

Review by Bettina Basanow

I was somewhat reluctant to read *Middlemarch* and find out anything about George Eliot. I was pushed into the book by my very intellectual fellow book club members. This book is very long (800 pages). Due to a long vacation and much time to read, I managed to finish in three weeks. *Middlemarch* deals with the residents of the town, and I found out that Eliot was very good at making me understand what went on 180 years ago in England. Much to my amazement, it is very contemporaneous, with the characters easy to empathize with. What I really loved about some of the women is that they already had an understanding of their plight as females. Dorothea (one of the main characters) was interested in the suffering of the tenants at her uncle's land. I highly recommend this book.

Young Adult Fiction

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

Review by Jade Farrar, 10, and grandmother Pam

Greg Heffley and his best buddy Rowley really really want to be popular in middle school. Greg has a big brother named Rodrick who loves to get him in trouble and his baby brother Manny is a brat. His family is messy and funny. Greg thinks being popular in school will solve all his problems. Greg thinks he is more popular than Rowley who likes dorky clothes and does weird things that get them into more trouble. They have all kinds of horrible situations they have to figure out, and they do, sort of, in crazy and very funny ways.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid was so great it was made into a movie. It is the first book in the *Wimpy Kid* series. If you like this book there are eight more! And more movies too.

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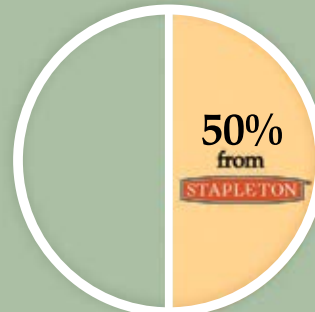
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Get to Know Dr. Jane Limmer

Jane Limmer completed her undergraduate work at Dartmouth College and her Ob/Gyn training at Harvard Medical School and Duke University. She is committed to providing patients with individualized care during pregnancy and is especially interested in prenatal and postpartum fitness. She lives in Stapleton and spends her free time hiking and cycling with her husband and family.

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

DENVER METRO EVENTS

7/14 to 9/7—Biennial of the Americas. Festival of ideas, arts and culture held every two years in Denver. www.biennialoftheamericas.org

8/1 to 8/2—Colorado Day Celebration at History Colorado Museum. 10am-5 pm, FREE admission both days in honor of Colorado Day. Performers, demos and crafts. www.historycolorado.org

8/1 to 8/3—Denver County Fair. National Western Complex. www.denvercountyfair.org

8/2 Saturday—Festival 38. Noon to 10pm. Leprino Foods, W. 38th and Quivas. Music, food, vendor booths and kids rides. Free admission. www.38avedenver.com

8/2 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

8/3 Sunday—11th Annual Mountain Melodies Music Festival at Buffalo Bill's Museum and Grave. Free. Enjoy spectacular view

Not all the events fit in the printed paper.
Upload or search for more events and view **Recurring events** at the redesigned FrontPorchStapleton.com > "Events"

of Front Range while listening to homegrown American music. Bring blankets or chairs and picnic or buy food at gift shop. Concert 12-4pm. 303.526.0744. Melodies Music Festival Highlights musical groups from communities along Colorado Front Range. Admission to museum \$5/adults, \$4/seniors, \$1 kids 6-15 (5 and under free). 303.526.0744 or www.buffalobill.org

8/5 Tuesday—National Night Out at Cook Park. Cook Park Neighborhoods National Night Out FREE celebration 6-8:30pm at Cook Park, 7100 Cherry Creek South Dr. The business "piazza" will have EEBA member booths, provide individual business info., giveaways, free food, refreshments and games for kids. <http://www.cookparkneighborhood.com/>

8/5 to 8/19—Governor's Mansion Tours. Tuesdays. Free tours of Boettcher Mansion. 1-3 pm, 400 E. 8th Ave. No reservations required. www.colorado.gov

8/6 to 8/20—Shady Grove Picnic Series. Wednesdays 6:30pm. Four Mile Historic Park, 715 S. Forest. Walk-up tickets only, \$10; \$7 members, seniors and bicyclists. Bring a picnic and enjoy live music at the park. www.fourmilepark.org

8/8 Friday—Global Kitchen Family Day. 10am-5pm. Make your own pasta with DiFranco's from 11am-3pm, Mexican folk dance classes 11:30 and 1:30, juicing and rapping demos throughout day. History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway. 12 and under and members FREE. www.historycolorado.org

8/9 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. Free with admission. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-2pm. www.wingsmuseum.org

8/9 Saturday—South Pearl St. Brews and Blues. Noon to 10pm. Admission \$5 at gate. Bands, food and drink vendors. Olde S. Pearl St. www.swallowhillmusic.org

8/9 to 8/10—Colorado Scottish Festival and Rocky Mountain Highland Games. Highland Celtic celebration with pipe bands, drumming, Scottish athletic competitions, Highland dancing and folk music. Heritage Park, Highlands Ranch. www.scottishgames.org

8/15 to 8/16—16th Street Fair. 11am-7pm. 16th St. Mall downtown Denver. www.coloradoevents.net

8/15 to 8/16—Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival. Fireworks Fri., Parade Sat. 9:30am. 38th Ave. from Ames to Upham. Zoppe Italian Circus, petting zoo, chili cook-off, midway rides and more. www.wheatridgearnationfestival.org

8/16 Saturday—Taste of Highlands. 5-8pm. Tastings from local restaurants, live music, beer and wine garden, 32nd and Osceola. Tickets \$30 in advance, \$40 at door. 10 and under free. Benefits Edison and Brown Elementary schools and Skinner Middle School. www.tasteofhighlands.org

8/16 to 8/17—Golden Fine Arts Festival. 11th St. and Arapahoe St., Golden. 10am-5pm. www.goldenfineartsfestival.org

8/22 to 8/23—Rocky Mountain Air Show. Greeley-Weld Airport. www.RMAirshow.com

8/24 Sunday—Temple Emanuel Open House. 10:30 am. 51 Grape St., Hilltop. Learn about the social, spiritual and educational programs the temple offers for all ages. www.EmmanuelDenver.org

8/29 to 9/1—A Taste of Colorado. Food, music, arts and crafts. Fireworks and carnival rides. Civic Center Park. www.atasteofcolorado.com

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

5/25 to 9/28—Yoga Rocks the Park. Sunken Gardens Park, 9am. \$15-\$20. www.yogarocksthepark.com

6/4 to 9/24—Denver Bike Night. Wednesdays through Sept. 24. Evening bike rides through downtown Denver. 7pm. Various start points. www.denvercruiserride.com


8/3 Sunday—Tri for the Cure. Women's sprint triathlon race benefits Susan G. Komen Foundation. Cherry Creek State Park. www.triforthe-cure-denver.com

8/4 Monday—Denver Botanic Gardens. SCFD Free Day, 720-865-3500 <http://www.botanicgardens.org>

8/9 Saturday—Suits 'N Sneakers 5K Fun Run & Mentors Walk. Focused less on speed and more on creating unique way to stay healthy. Run with coworkers, friends, family at 8am at Central Park in Stapleton. Where business and health meet, so share with your network! 3.1-mile course is memorable way to promote workplace wellness. Make it memorable with mentor at Mentors Walk! If you're an early-stage entrepreneur needing business wellness check, bring sneakers and get paired with mentor to discuss business challenges/ideas for future success and health. Contact: Kristyna Nedele, 303.620.8027, kristyna.nedele@denverchamber.org www.denverchamber.org/suits5k

8/16 Saturday—27th Annual AIDS Walk Colorado. Cheesman Park. www.aidswalkcolorado.org

8/21 Thursday—Free HIV testing at Rocky Mountain CARES non-profit for holistic HIV care. 1-5pm, 3rd Thurs. monthly and by appt. 4545 E 9th Ave, #120. Shannon Southall: 303.951.3694.



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August 2-10—2nd Annual Denver Days

The second annual Denver Days is August 2-10 and works to create stronger neighborhoods through community service projects and neighborhood gatherings from clean ups to potlucks to street parties. Visit www.denvergov.org/denver-days to register your Denver Days or call 720.865.9082 for more info.

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8/24 Sunday—GoElectric Run. 1K kids run, 5K, 10K, Ride and Drive
.http://www.runningguru.com/EventInformation.asp?eID=ged2014

8/27 Wednesday—Acupuncture and Fertility and Other Things You Always Wanted to Know but Were Afraid to Ask. Free CU Advanced Reproductive Medicine Open House.6 pm with acupuncturist Geina Horton, Center for Integrative Medicine. 3055 Roslyn St., #230, 303.724.8089. RSVP: UCDenverFertility@gmail.com. Learn how acupuncture can improve uterine blood flow for fertility and reduce stress. Meet fertility doctors and ask about fertility/reproductive issues. Small group breakout sessions. Snacks/ beverages provided. arm.coloradowomenshealth.com

KIDS AND FAMILIES

6/14 to 8/3—Colorado Renaissance Festival. Weekends, mid-June through early Aug. Larkspur. www.coloradorennaissance.com

7/1 to 8/26—Tuesdays in July and August– 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. www.fourmilepark.org

8/1 Friday—Bluff Lake Buds. 10-11am. For kids ages 2-5 accompanied by adult. \$5/child if advance registered; adults free. Bluff Lake Nature Center, 3400 Havana Way. keith@blufflake.org to register. www.blufflakenaturecenter.org

8/2 Saturday—Home Depot Kids Workshop. 9am-12pm. FREE how-to clinics first Sat. monthly, ages 5-12. Get Home Depot apron, wooden project and project pin. Metro-area Home Depot stores. www.homedepot.com

8/2 to 8/3—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

8/4 Monday—Monday Movie Madness. 8pm. Infinity Park, Glendale. 8/4, Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. Repeats 8/17, The Princess Bride. www.infinityparkatglendale.com

Local Event Submissions

Please submit events at http://frontporchstapleton.com/submit-event.
Send press releases for suggested stories to FrontPorch@FrontPorchStapleton.com.

8/8 to 8/22—Lowes Build and Grow Kids Clinics. Bring kids to Lowes stores to build FREE wood project: Monthly, 2nd and 4th Saturdays. Free apron, goggles, project-themed patch, merit certificate on completion. 10am. www.lowesbuildandgrow.com

8/9 Saturday—Star K History Hike. 8:30-10:30 am, Ages 8 and up. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd., Aurora. www.auroragov.org/nature

8/10 Sunday—Junior Rangers. 9:30-11:00am. Ages 6-12. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd., Aurora. Reservations required. 303.739.9428, www.auroragov.org/nature

8/10 Sunday—Living History Day. Pan for gold or take tour of Four Mile House Museum. Noon-3pm. Free with admission. www.fourmilepark.org

8/15 Friday—Nature at Night-Skunks. 7:45-8:45pm. Explore nature after sun goes down. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. www.auroragov.org/nature

8/22 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

8/22 to 9/1—Colorado State Fair. Pueblo Fairgrounds, Pueblo. www.coloradostatefair.com

(continued on p. 26)



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(continued from p. 25)

LECTURES AND CLASSES

8/5 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)- Ukraine at a Tipping Point. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. 303.316.6359. www.ActiveMinds.com

8/14 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)- A Century of Women's Progress. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325. www.ActiveMinds.com

8/28 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)- Egypt in Turmoil. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325. www.ActiveMinds.com

9/2 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)- Malaysia. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. 303.316.6359. www.ActiveMinds.com

LIBRARIES

6/2 to 8/2—Denver Public Libraries Summer of Reading. Free activities, suggestions for summer reading, incentives for Denver kids, divided into 3 age groups. FREE. www.denverlibrary.org

MUSEUMS—Free Days

8/2 Saturday—Denver Art Museum. SCFD Free Day, 720-865-5000 <http://www.denverartmuseum.org>

8/2 Saturday—Museum of Contemporary Art Denver. With new art-making space for children, The Bubble Garden, I MCADenver.org

8/16 Saturday—Forney Museum Guest Speaker Series—Historic 16th St. Mall. Forney Museum Summer Guest Speaker Series hosts the Historic 16th Street Mall presented by local historian Mark A. Barnhouse. 1pm. Forney Museum of Transportation, 4303 Brighton Blvd. Contact events@forneymuseum.org or 303.297.1113 to reserve seats or www.forneymuseum.org

August 9—Denver Days Job Fair

9am to noon on August 9 at the Hiawatha Davis Rec Center, 3334 Holly St, Denver Workforce Development will host a job fair. The first half hour is for veterans only. Other job-seekers are welcome at 9:30am. Lunch will be served afterward. Employers interested in participating contact Al O'Hara at 720.865.5596. Veterans register at www.denver-daysvets.eventbrite.com and general public register at www.denverdayspublic.eventbrite.com.

9/6 Saturday—Denver Art Museum. SCFD Free Day, 720-865-5000 <http://www.denverartmuseum.org>

9/6 Saturday—Museum of Contemporary Art Denver. With new art-making space for children, The Bubble Garden, I MCADenver.org

MUSEUMS—DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE

2/14 to 8/24—Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed. Special exhibit. Ticket required in addition to museum admission. www.dmns.org

6/1 to 8/21—Planetarium. Tales of the Mayan Sky, Perfect Little Planet, To Space and Back www.dmns.org/planetarium/current-show

6/6 to 10/9—IMAX Movies. D-Day Normandy 1944 3D, Pandas: The Journey Home 3D, Island of Lemurs: Madagascar 3D. Various times. Tickets: \$8/3-18; \$10/adult. www.dmns.org/imax/current-films

8/1 to 8/29—Fridays- Summer Nights at the Museum. 5-8pm. All-access ticket includes food events, Maya Hidden Worlds exhibit, Laserium, IMAX 3D films and more. Cash bar. \$12/members, \$15/non-members www.dmns.org

8/3 Sunday—Pandamonium! 9am. IMAX for families; activities and

crafts after movie. Members \$12/adult \$8/child. Nonmembers \$15/adult, \$10 child. www.dmns.org

8/21 Thursday—Science Lounge. Cocktails/entertainment every 3rd Thurs. of month. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/nonmembers. www.dmns.org

8/26 Tuesday—Digital Earth: Mesa Verde. Gates Planetarium. Members \$8, nonmembers \$10. www.dmns.org

NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS

5/28 to 8/18—Comeback to Golf. For golfers who've been injured, had surgery, accident or illness. Common Ground Golf Course. Call 303-340-1520, email Info@commongroundgc.com.

8/5 to 8/26—Lowry Farmers Market. 4pm-dusk. Hangar 2, 7581 E. Academy Blvd.

8/7 Thursday—Bluff Lake Fireside Chat. 6:30-8pm. Learn about bats with Morrison Nature Center. Marshmallow roast or popsicles follow. All ages welcome. \$1 suggested donation. Repeats 8/21; topic Urban Forager: learn about edible plants growing around Denver. Bluff Lake Nature Center, 3400 Havana Way. www.blufflakenaturecenter.org

8/17 Sunday—Bonnie and Clyde. Free movies at Vintage Theatre. 6:30pm. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintage theatre.org

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

8/1 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Get On Up; Guardians of the Galaxy; Happy Christmas www.harkinstheatres.com

8/2 Saturday—Horsefeathers Classic Car Show. 10am-3pm. Mustangs, T-Birds, Falcons and more. DJ on Main St., giveaways, silent auction, etc. www.northfieldstapleton.com

8/8 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. About Alex; The Hun-



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8/22 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Calvary; If I Stay; The Possession of Michael King; When the Game Stands Still www.harkinstheatres.com

8/29 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. As Above, So Below; Life of Crime; Love Is Strange www.harkinstheatres.com

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

8/2 Saturday—Bird Olympics. 10-11am, ages 6-10 http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

8/3 Sunday—Amazing Antlers-The Velvet Tour. 8:30am-noon. Learn about antler growth and then spend time in the field photographing. http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

8/10 Sunday—Wildlife Viewing Tour. 9:30-11:30am, 2-hour bus tour of refuge. Repeats 8/24. http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

THEATRE
6/7 to 8/10—Colorado Shakespeare Festival.

CU Boulder campus, various plays, times. www.coloradoshakes.org
7/18 to 9/7—A Streetcar Named Desire. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintage theatre.org
8/14 to 9/6—Sylvia. Avenue Theatre, 417 E. 17th Ave. www.avenue theater.com
9/4 to 9/28—M. Butterfly. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave., Aurora. www.aurorafox-artscenter.org

RECURRING MEETINGS

BUSINESS GROUPS

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

STAPLETON AND BEYOND NETWORKING GROUP- First Tuesday, 8:30-10am, 303-955-0861, 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

CIVIC GROUPS

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

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

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

STAPLETON ROTARY CLUB. Every Tuesday, 7:30am. Central Park Recreation Center, Multipurpose Room B, 9651 E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. www.denverstapletonrotary.org

INTEREST GROUPS

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

COLORADO FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS. 3rd Thursday.

Grace, 303-455-0839

COLORADO SYMPHONY GUILD. Every 3rd Thursday at St. Luke's Church, 13th & Quebec, 10am-12pm. All are welcome. macregar@gmail.com.

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

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

DENVER COUNTY REPUBLICANS - HD7 Meeting. Go to www.denverdistrict7gop.org for monthly meeting info. or call Captain Rebekah Keller at 720-219-8911

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

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

STAPLETON GROUPS

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

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

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

SUN BOARD MTG. 4th Monday, 7:30pm. Central Park Rec Center,

9651 MLK Jr. Blvd. stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

AA OPEN MEETING. Every Tuesday, 6pm. St Thomas Episcopal Church, 22nd and Dexter. Shirley 303.726.2998

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

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

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

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

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 Regina Jones 720-298-5760


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Stapleton Dad Cycles for His Son

By Madeline Schroeder

Crushing, that's the only way Chris Schneider can describe viewing an X-ray of his son Ronan's spinal cord with a tumor compressing against his brain stem. "Being a parent who doesn't have any medical training, I thought there was nothing they could do about it," he says. After a dozen or more visits to doctors, they finally had an answer to Ronan's persistent neck pain.

He and his wife, Kristy Bassuener, went into scramble mode, scouring the Internet for medical information about pilocytic astrocytoma tumors. Then, while speaking with doctors at Children's Hospital Colorado before Ronan's surgery, they found some reassurance, sensing the doctors had an underlying confidence they could remove the tumor without damaging other tissue.

On June 26, 2013, Ronan had a successful



Stapleton resident Chris Schneider rode the Courage Classic to benefit Children's Hospital Colorado.

spinal cord surgery. "Within two or three hours of being in the pediatric intensive care unit, we realized there were families going through way



After spinal cord surgery last year, Ronan is happy and healthy.

harder situations than ours," Schneider says. "It was a dark moment, but a moment we realized we are tremendously lucky."


Ronan has virtually no problems now, though doctors will continue to monitor the tumor site. Initially after surgery, he needed an MRI every 3 months. Then they moved to


every 6 months, and now yearly.

The family is grateful for Children's Hospital Colorado. On July 19-20, Schneider rode the Courage Classic, a bike ride through Breckenridge that donates all proceeds to improving care at the hospital. He rode 84 miles over two days; the first day from Vail to Copper and back, including a 15-mile stretch of steep incline. The second day he rode from Vail to Keystone and back, which he says was much more mellow than the previous day. The ride was very family friendly—many people rode with kids in chariots or on tandems—and he plans to bring Ronan next year.



Schneider raised \$1,860, exceeding his goal of \$1,500. Children's Hospital Colorado will be accepting donations until the end of August. "I want to do anything I can for Children's because they gave us tremendous treatment," Schneider says. To read other riders' stories and to donate, visit: <http://www.couragetours.com> > donate.

Photos courtesy of Chris Schneider





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Wacky, Loving Teacher Nationally Recognized as an All-Star

By Madeline Schroeder

Quiet and conservative Darby Jones, 8, returned home from school on the Friday of her first week in third grade at Bill Roberts Elementary. She told her mom, Stefanie Jones, that she loved her math and science teacher Ms. Beckwith.

“Oh, good. I’m really glad to hear that,” Jones said. “What do you like about her?” She expected Darby to say “Ms. Beckwith teaches cool things” or “She’s a lot of fun,” but what she said brought tears to her mom’s eyes. “Ms. Beckwith makes me feel more brave.”

“It’s almost intangible,” Jones says now. “Yes, Cheryl Beckwith is an extraordinary educator, but it’s much more than that.”

Cheryl Beckwith teaches third- and fourth-grade math and science at Bill Roberts. On July 15, she was recognized among 30 teachers nationwide as an All-Star Teacher for making a difference in the lives of students and their communities. The teachers walked on Target Field in Minnesota at the Major League Baseball All-Star Game.

Beckwith has been teaching for more than 40 years and has a knack for recognizing and bringing out each student’s talents. She saw a leader in Darby, and by the end of the year Darby was raising her hand and helping other students.

Beckwith is known for making the classroom a fun place to be. Every day Beckwith struts a kooky

wardrobe, including disco ball earrings, snake print pants, cowboy hat, spider web glasses, and anything sparkly. At back-to-school night, she tells parents she may look goofy but that’s the whole point. “She goes to such lengths to ensure that her students are engaged and having fun,” Jones says.

On the first day of school, Beckwith wears a particularly wacky outfit to express the year’s theme. One year she wore a full astronaut suit including a helmet to encourage kids to “shoot for the stars.” Another year she dressed as a present to show “it’s what’s on the inside that counts.”

“People know her as a free-awesome-kind-of-wacky,” says 10-year-old Sophia Worth who had Beckwith for third and fourth grades and still loves her “very, very much.” Worth felt she could really be herself in the classroom.

“I think she’s a really good teacher and she wears really cool clothes and glasses and she has grey curly hair and I really like her,” says 9-year-old Jack Dougherty who had Beckwith for third grade and will have her again this year in fourth grade.

Her classroom is dripping with fun—colorful posters cover every inch of wall, items hang from the ceiling, shelves store artifacts, stuffed ducks and bones. The room is home to hamsters, snakes, frogs, toads and goldfish.

“She gives us choices for learning rather than telling us what to do. The way we learn is fun,” Dougherty says. Students learn through games like Mad Minute, when students solve as many math problems as they can in one minute, and Challenge, when students pick other students to dual in a math problem.

While fun is a big part of the classroom, students are responsible for themselves. She talks to students like adults and uses a child-first philosophy.

“I can’t help but gush. She’s changed my kid in the most positive way possible. She’s just Cheryl, a category all of her own,” Jones says.



Cheryl Beckwith is known for her over-the-top wardrobe, including this outfit on the opening day of the class bank. Her fourth-graders study banking and elect classmates as president, teller, payroll clerk and accountant.

Author Eases Teen Stress With New Book

By Madeline Schroeder

Stress can have powerful effects. Depending on genetics, it can cause muscular skeletal problems, cardiovascular problems, insomnia, high blood pressure, heart disease, not to mention emotional effects like depression and anxiety.

Most would agree stress is a normal part of life, but

psychologist Sandra Thebaud says it can be a positive motivator when you listen to it rather than numb from it. “Stress management is the foundation of having a great life,” she says.

Thebaud is a Stapleton resident and owns a psychology practice in Cherry Creek that focuses on stress management. She began as a navy psychologist and became fascinated with stress. She discovered stress management is a lacking area in the medical world. “A lot of doctors will tell patients they need to manage stress but won’t go beyond that to really teach people.”

She has published three books about stress management and recently completed a book for teens.

“Teens are going through a lot more stress than I ever did when I was young,” she says, citing social media as a main culprit. The book is broken into four parts, the first focusing on feelings and the importance of listening to them. The second and third parts get into the details of stress and stress management. Part four discusses navigating life and dealing with relationships with parents and peers and considering the future. It also discusses making mistakes and not living with regret. All techniques and examples throughout the book are geared toward teens.

“If you give someone the right information about stress, you can turn a stress-is-debilitating mindset into an enhancing mindset.” She says basic stress management skills like diaphragmatic breathing, or abdominal breathing, help energize the body, give mental clarity and calmness, fix aches and pains, and fight against mental illnesses.

On Friday, Sept. 5 Thebaud will host an event called “Subconscious/Conscious Alignment: How to Align Your Subconscious with Your Conscious Goals” at The Garden, 3435 Albion St. A free meditation group will immediately follow. RSVP at www.StressIntel.com under “Events.” To purchase any of her books visit <http://www.amazon.com/Sandra-Th%C3%A9baud-PhD/e/B007N9SBP2>



Photo courtesy of Sandra Thebaud

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Eagle Scout Helps Denver Children's Home in Park Hill



Photo by Sarah Harvey

Eagle Scout Chandler Harvey sits on one of the tables he built for Denver's Children's Home.

By Madeline Schroeder

Stapleton resident Chandler Harvey, 17, completed his Eagle Scout Leadership Project July 11-13 benefiting the Denver Children's Home in Park Hill. Harvey recruited 50 people to help—a combination of family, friends, boy scouts and business associates.

The Denver Children's Home was the first nonprofit to be founded in Colorado. It helps children and families who struggle with poverty, abuse, neglect, exposure to violence or chronic mental health problems and learning disabilities. Harvey decided to do this project after donating clothing a few months ago and learning about the organization.

Altogether the group spent 700 hours on the project. They laid a 23x13.5-ft. concrete pad with a paver walkway, and built and stained 10 tables for the patio. In addition, they built, painted and mounted a chalkboard wall. The group reported it was a big undertaking, but exhausting in a good way.

Harvey goes to Colorado Academy and has been in scouts for 11 years. He hopes to complete his final certifications to become an Eagle Scout mid-August. "The opportunities you have in Scouts are great," he says, having just returned from a 2-week backpacking trip in Mexico. To learn more about Denver Children's home, visit denverchildrenshome.org.

Why Forest City Chose the Eastbridge Town Center Design

By Carol Roberts

Since the release of a conceptual site plan for a King Soopers in Eastbridge in late April, there have been numerous community meetings and voices expressing views that range from relief that a grocery store is finally coming to consternation that the site plan doesn't resemble the town center residents say was advertised when they purchased their homes.

Stapleton's Zoning and Planning Committee (ZAP) Chairman, David Netz, at the July ZAP meeting, said people have told him, "We anticipated something like

29th Ave Town Center." Since no official site plan has been presented to ZAP for the citizen review process, Netz used the July meeting time to talk "big picture" about what a town center really is. He says the Urban Land Institute (ULI) defines a town center as, "an enduring, walkable integrated open air multi-use development organized around a clearly identifiable and energized public realm where citizens can gather and strengthen their community bonds. It is anchored by retail, dining, and leisure uses, as well as by vertical or horizontal residential uses." Netz adds that town centers also have identifying features that say, "You're now entering a town center," which may include lighting, landscaping, public art and traffic calming devices.

He also pointed out ULI's ten principles for developing successful town centers, the second of which is "Respect market realities."

That seems to be where "the rubber hits the road" in Eastbridge.

Jim Chrisman, senior vice president of Forest City Stapleton says Forest City spent \$8-900,000 on plans for a town center with a smaller grocery store and a main street along Geneva Court that would have resembled the 29th Ave. Town Center and they had a commitment to building it, but it turned out to be "unexecutable." He says despite years of trying, no small grocer would commit.

"If this site were wider and not as long, you could have room for the Kings and you could do something along Geneva, more like 29th. But the dimensions of that parcel don't lend itself to that with this size grocery." Chrisman said they looked at several approaches and went with the current site plan because it consolidates all the retail space in one area so they could create an environment that, "Once you walked into it would be very peaceful, relaxing, accommodating outdoor public space. The other plans didn't do as good a job of that. They were just shops. A couple buildings with parking distributed around them, but they did not accomplish in my mind the best opportunity to create a sense of place...I think people have lost sight of that because we haven't had anything specific to show."

Eastbridge resident Todd Ahlenius came to the July Stapleton Development Corporation meeting representing a group of residents who are distributing a flyer and yard signs that say, "Imagine a Great Town Center in Eastbridge. Do what you promised Forest City."

In response to our observation, "What the com-



Todd Ahlenius

Call For Volunteers

A+ Angels Mentor Program

Ten years ago, East High School parents Jessica Pearson and Caren Press started the A+ Angels Program to help to bridge the school's achievement gap. Despite strong Advanced Placement classes and a nationally acclaimed Constitutional Scholars team, academic performance and graduation rates lagged for the school's 26 percent black and 26 percent Hispanic population.

The A+ Angels Mentor Program pairs struggling students with adult volunteers from the community. Many of the A+ Angel mentees have significant socioeconomic and academic challenges. Mentors generally meet with their assigned student once a week and also keep in contact throughout the week. Mentors review grades weekly, work on homework and organization, meet with teachers and counselors, and later help apply for jobs, internships and college.

The program now has nearly 100 mentor-student pairs, and the school's graduation rate has increased from approximately 75 percent in 2004 to 90.38 percent in 2014.

Currently, 30 East High freshmen need

a mentor for the upcoming 2014-2015 school year. Training for new mentors will be held from 8:30am to 1pm on Sat., August 16 at East High School. To learn more, contact Jessica Pearson, program director, at jpear2071@msn.com or call Claire Slattery Quintanilla at 1-719.849.3654.

Prairie Dog Management

Bluff Lake Nature Center (BLNC) is home to approximately 100 prairie dogs. In moderation, the prairie dog population provides an important link in the food chain. Overpopulation, however, threatens other wildlife. Prairie dogs eat high-value prairie plants, leaving behind only weeds and nothing for other wildlife to eat.

BLNC is working to create the right balance between prairie dogs and other wildlife by managing where the animals are located in the nature center. To do that, they are asking for volunteers who can work 60-90 minutes a week monitoring, staking and filling selected prairie dog holes. Contact Jeff Lamontagne, executive director, Bluff Lake Nature Center, at jlamontagne@blufflake.org or 303.517.6368.

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David Netz, chair of Stapleton CAB and the Zoning and Planning committee (ZAP), talks at a recent ZAP meeting about the principles that guide comprehensive planning of a town center.

munity can't get out of their heads is a big suburban- looking parking lot in the middle of a new urbanist neighborhood—they look at the plan and they just see concrete,” Chrisman said the parking lot

won't be visible from within the town center. The town center will have 22,000 square feet of retail, and the plaza will be segregated from the street traffic and the parking lot by the buildings. To put that in perspective, all the retail on one side of the 29th Ave Town Center from Quebec to the Crescent is about 26,000 square feet. And in the 29th Ave. Town Center people can't let their kids roam while they're sitting on the patio eating.

“If you're not in real estate and you saw the 29th Ave Town Center and you have one vision of what it is, when you see something that is different from that I guess you object to it. A town center means many different things to different people. I think what we will develop in Eastbridge will be every bit the town center that East 29th is in terms of what it brings in community gathering and outdoor eating space and public amenities and all those types of things. It's just going to be done in a different way,” said Chrisman.

He added, “People need to remember, you can reduce the parking and then you put yourself in a situation like Trader Joe's where it all bleeds out into the neighborhoods and you have traffic issues in your neighborhoods, and I don't think that's very appealing or appropriate.

“They are looking at creating a lot more space in front of the store than you typically see at any King Soopers store, with a public outdoor seating area and umbrellas outside the Starbucks and planter boxes and so on to kind of insulate the pedestrian area from the vehicular area.”

The town center and immediate area around King Soopers may be insulated from the parking lot, but what about the view from the street? Will there be landscaping to shield the big parking lot from the view of passers by and neighbors?

“We're not at that level yet but I imagine there will be landscape treatments along the perimeter to try to mitigate some of the visual impact,” says Chrisman, adding that in August or September King Soopers will present their latest plans publicly at the CAB or ZAP meeting and residents can ask that question. (The Front Porch will announce the meeting on our website and Facebook.) Although the contract hasn't been signed, Chrisman says, “I'm confident that they'll open a store either next fall or the following spring.

Asked about pedestrian access concerns, Chrisman said Denver has authority over the roads and he suggests that concerned residents get into the site planning process with the city and make their views known. “When Kings submits it I'll ask the same question,” he says.

Chrisman also said Peter Calthorpe, who was a pioneer in the concept of new urbanism and a consultant to Forest City in the design of Stapleton, saw the current Eastbridge plan and agreed it's the best that can be done given the constraints of the property.

We welcome comments at FrontPorchStapleton.com

Costco in Northfield?

The Denver Office of Economic Development (OED) confirmed they have had discussions with Costco regarding store expansion within the City and County Denver. Susan Liehe, spokesperson at OED says at this time, Costco has not indicated any specific store location additions. However, OED staff continues to work with Costco and other retailers to expand retail options within the city.

“One of the clear hindrances for a big box store in the City of Denver is the space, so Stapleton or Northfield are exactly the kinds of candidates that would be perfect for it. I don't know that there's a place that would meet their criteria,” said Liehe, but she acknowledged that there are some bigger lots available north of I-70 in Stapleton than in many other parts of the city.

Tom Gleason, vice president for public relations at Forest City said they have no additional information on a Costco coming to Northfield.

Good News for Stapleton's TIF

Brad Dodson from Denver's Department of Finance reported at the June Citizens Advisory Board that in 2013 Stapleton's sales tax receipts were 21% over what was anticipated and property tax receipts were 6% over the anticipated amount. This revenue funds the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) that is building Stapleton. If you don't understand Tax Increment Financing, visit FrontPorchStapleton.com and search for TIF to find articles that explain it.

The word is out... Stapleton has mosquitoes



Above: The manufacturers of Cutter Insect Repellent sent 2,000 cans of spray to the Stapleton MCA to distribute free during outdoor events this summer. MCA intern Lexie Deeter and her aunt, Diane Deeter, MCA Program Director, prepare to distribute repellent to the pools.



Left: Signs from pest control companies are dotting Stapleton streets (though signs in public spaces get removed).

The MCA, SUN, and Denver's Department of Environmental health are working together to answer the question of whether there should be spraying of adult nuisance mosquitoes without an identified public health hazard. (Also see Mosquito Mania on page 14.)

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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. To contact SUN or confirm meeting time, email stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com



Shared Spaces in Stapleton: Helpful Hints for Being a Great Neighbor

Summer is here, and many of us are spending more time outside. As the New Urbanism design of Stapleton includes features such as smaller lots, shared green spaces, front porches and back patios, we live in close quarters and many of us are no strangers to catching up with neighbors whenever we encounter each other. Please be respectful of those who may be dozing nearby, ensuring that your joyful embracement of summer (including: outdoor music, partying friends, and conversational canines) are less audible between 10pm and 7am, which are the designated times referenced in the Denver Disturbance of the Peace Noise Ordinance. When enjoying pocket parks, alleys, yards and porches, keep in mind that human and canine voices can travel and disrupt sleep during late hours of the night and wee hours of the morning. A good night's sleep makes good neighbors.

With all of the rain, plants are having a growth spurt this summer. Many houses in Stapleton have a sub-HOA for yard maintenance; however, for houses that do not, owners are responsible for maintaining space around the sidewalks and the tree lawn (strip between sidewalk and street, owned by the city, but maintained by the resident). Trees with branches over the sidewalk or street that hang lower than 8-ft. high should be pruned so that pedestrians and parked cars don't run into the branches. Waiting for growth to lift a low branch higher will not be successful (as a kind and patient neighbor taught the author of this article last winter). Pruning is best done after leaves have fallen, so mid-winter is the time to trim back.

Dog poop is fertilizer and should be left on grass and in green spaces... FALSE! One gram, about the weight of a dollar bill, contains bacteria—23 million fecal bacteria that our wastewater treatment facilities are not designed to filter, so pet wastes should be kept out of street gutters and storm drains. The environment can handle a few dogs in a square mile; however, in an urban environment, far more households have members who poop outside. Cat poop can contain parasites that are extremely toxic to pregnant women. The most effective way for pet

owners to limit their pet's contribution to source water contamination is simply to clean up and dispose of pet waste. One of the top complaints received on SUN Survey open-ended response opportunities is about neighbors not cleaning up pet waste. Also, a reminder from our friends at Bluff Lake to keep your domesticated animals out of the wildlife refuge. www.epa.gov/safewater/sourcewater/pubs/fs_swpp_petwaste.pdf

Know and respect who is near you. Denver Police reminds us to call for a patrol if something seems out of the ordinary ... but how do you define what is ordinary amongst those around you? While still respecting privacy of those around you, and retaining as much privacy as you would prefer, share with your neighbors so that they can help. Create a block directory so that you know how to contact the people near you for open garage doors, car lights left on, etc. Storing the directory in a Google cloud and giving the people on your block access to keep it updated takes the burden off of one person for keeping it current. On many blocks, the block captain will initiate this list. Email SUN to inquire whether your block has a current block captain (or let SUN know if you've been the contact in the past, but should be removed from the list). SUN Outreach@gmail.com

More information: www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com; www.denvergov.org/denver311/ Denver 311: 311@denvergov.org

Written by Amanda Allshouse, who is not a perfect neighbor, but appreciates reminders from her neighbors on areas where she could improve.

All adult Stapleton residents are encouraged to take the new SUN survey on mosquitoes, Eastbridge Town Center and other subjects at StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com

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Letters to

Cause of the achievement gap is families, not schools

It is with sadness that I read your article about the achievement gap at DPS. As an educator, and as a reading volunteer with DPS—having worked with “at risk” students, I can tell you that DPS will not be able to do anything about remedying the achievement gap. This is because the problem is not with the schools. The problem lies with the families that these children come from. Three things are necessary to close the “gap.” 1) All children need to be read to every night beginning at age 6 months. 2) Their parents need to instill in them, beginning at a very young age, the value of education. 3) The father needs to be present in the child's life, both financially and consistently “in person;” even if he is not living in the household with the family. Until these requirements are met, the “gap” will continue to grow wider—no matter what the school district does. A school is a school and cannot be expected, nor is equipped, to do the job of the parents.

Tony V. Uva

Limiting carbon pollution just makes sense

As a Stapleton resident and someone deeply concerned with the alarming pace of climate change, I believe it is incredibly important to bring salience to this issue within our community. We need to take action now.

Limiting the amount of carbon pollution that power plants spew into our air just makes sense. Many Americans believe these limits are already in place. But even though we already have safeguards in place to protect against pollutants like arsenic, mercury and lead, there's currently no limit on the amount of carbon pollution power plants can spew into our air.

This carbon pollution is worsening air quality, triggering more asthma attacks and aggravating respiratory diseases. And it's leading to more extreme weather. That's why the EPA's standards to finally limit carbon pollution from power plants are so important. It's a plan that can be shaped by the states, giving governors the flexibility they need. This is an opportunity for Governor Hickenlooper to keep playing a leading role in protecting public health and our planet for future generations.

Nicole Shook

Stapleton Housing & Diversity Committee's Mission

The Housing and Diversity sub-committee of The Citizens Advisory Board began with a very clear and defined role as the infrastructure of The Stapleton Development Corporation was created. There are contractual obligations that the City put on Forest City to perform as the community was developed in regards to housing—affordable, rental and for-sale. This sub-committee, as well as others in CAB, are to report annually to SDC with an update of how Forest City is performing to these standards. Over the years, in some regards, Forest City's grades on these requirements have varied by category, but for the most part the group has been critical of the progress or lack thereof.

Several years ago the group took on a broader mission. As the housing requirements were not being met and Stapleton was becoming a not very diverse community, we realized that there were other ways of looking at it besides housing. Diversity by our definition was very expansive: Age, familial status, sexual orientation, socioeconomic, race and ethnicity, were all in need of being addressed. Housing mix is a direct way of dealing with some of these elements. For instance, building more main floor master homes will potentially bring in a higher aged community, but there are other ways that might be more overarching.

The principles of the Stapleton Development Plan, (The Green Book) speaks to this desired diversity in several ways, and this group had incorporated these views into the committee discussions. With this mission we have looked at things such as working with surrounding communities, transportation and education. We have worked with various partners like Stapleton United Neighbors, The Stapleton Area Transportation Management Association, The Stapleton Foundation and The City of Denver to do a level of outreach and understanding of how to bring people of all types to Stapleton.

The combining of these missions and the outreach efforts and recommendations continue to be very important in trying to achieve these goals. We are far behind in the contractual obligations laid out in the affordable housing plan and we continue to work with Forest City on how to get that number up. We have had successes such as mixed-income homes and recent changes to the affordable for-sale program. The principles of diversity as laid out in the Green Book, which, as addressed in the article in the *Front Porch* and as shown in the most recent census, are also not being achieved to the level we would like. We have had successes in our group with school boundaries crossing Quebec, bus routes, and senior housing being built. These are examples of why our group continues to strive to do better and help Stapleton become the community that was envisioned and that the Housing and Diversity Committee is striving for.

Damon Knop, Chairman of the Housing and Diversity Board sub-committee of CAB

the Editor

Why I am a member of the Northeast Community Co-op Market

Some of you may already know about efforts to start a food co-op in our neighborhood. If not, take a moment to visit www.northeastco-op.org. This project is the result of frustration from not being able to recruit a natural grocer to the northeast metro area and optimism that our communities will embrace and support an alternative that can supply locally-sourced, fresh, and organic products. We hope this optimism will persist as we transition into the membership drive for the co-op.

I am becoming a member of the food co-op because I believe that my community wants and needs a better source for food products. I am joining because I believe in the cooperative principles of voluntary and open membership, democratic control, economic participation, autonomy and independence, education, cooperation, and concern for community. I am purchasing my member share because I believe in the co-op's vision to develop an inclusive and vibrant community hub that will enrich our neighborhoods through proactive community engagement and cooperative ownership.

I am joining the co-op because I believe in the Stapleton Green Book's vision to establish connections between the Stapleton development and the established neighboring communities. This goes beyond street connections. I dream of co-ops traveling future trails, walking or biking across the unfenced Aurora/Stapleton border to connect with neighbors from different walks of life over the shared concern for food access, healthy living, social and environmental responsibility, democracy, and community investment. I want to invest in building and reinforcing connections between all of our neighbors.

This is not pie in the sky. Our core team has spent countless hours over the past two years developing a business plan, making connections throughout the community, building interest in our project, and planning this membership drive. We have assembled a talented board of directors and steering committee. We have 1,200 followers on Facebook and a list of over 300 volunteers. We've hired a project manager and lawyer, and we're incorporated as a Colorado cooperative. We are also not alone. Across the country, Americans are seeking more ways to own and control their food sources. There are roughly 350 cooperative grocery stores in the United States, with at least another 200 under development. We've learned the best practices for building a successful co-op from peer food co-ops across the country. Now we are ready to put those practices into action.

Why should you become a member now? Without the support of the community, this project will never come to fruition. We need \$2 million to open our doors, roughly \$800,000 of which needs to come directly from our community. An individual member-owner share costs \$200. As an owner, you get to vote for your board of directors, you get to shape what your grocery store looks like, and you will get to reap the rewards of owning an equity share as our fledgling co-op grows into an established and profitable grocery store. Most importantly, you can say that you made this happen for your community! The time to act is now! We can be complacent with the status quo or we can work together and seize this opportunity to build the grocery store that our community wants. I choose the latter option.

Thomas Spahr, Chair, Northeast Community Co-op Market Board of Directors
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Stanley Marketplace

(continued from page 1) cluding the great outdoors. The building comes on a 22-acre lot—including two bridges over Westerly Creek and six acres of land west of the creek.

Larger commercial establishments will fill the spaces around the perimeter of the huge building. An event center run by the team's partnership, Flightline, is planned in an area that was formerly a hangar. The space has eight windowed sliding doors, 25 feet high and 12 feet wide, that open to a patio and a view of Westerly Creek.

Shaker, who is a social worker by training, has worked in non-profits for the past 15 years. One of his goals, also shared by his partners, is to create something that "gives back to the community." He has read the Green Book (the Stapleton Development Plan) and shares the vision for Stapleton, one piece of which is a seamless connection to surrounding neighborhoods. The Stanley property is in Aurora and borders Stapleton along 25th Ave.

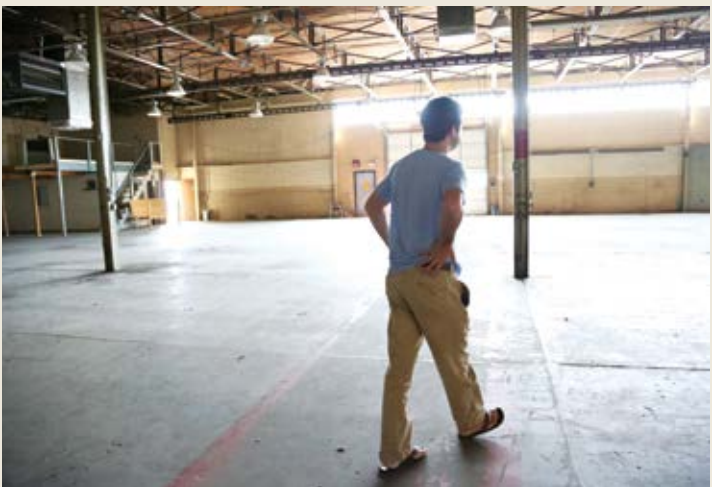
"This property is walkable and bikeable," says Shaker. "We're at the nexus of trails going north-south and east-west, and we like the idea of being a bridge between neighborhoods and doing something interesting that integrates folks. We like what's happening in Aurora. We like what's happening in Fitzsimons." Shaker says they are excited about the opportunity to bring those two communities and Stapleton together.

"We want to create an environment where people come time and time again," says Shaker. He envisions it as a destination people want to go to, then they figure out what to do once they get there.



Top right: The plan is to keep or re-use as much of the original building as possible. The peaked roof structure at right on the west side of the building is a large scale. It will remain on the property as an architectural feature and its shape may be replicated elsewhere.

Lower right: Mark Shaker walks in one of the large spaces that will likely be a restaurant. The garage door visible at rear opens to a view of Westerly Creek.



"It's an unbelievable site and it has incredible potential," says Ting. "You can just get lost in the scale. You don't realize how enormous it is... We want to build something that's cool that people can hang out at."

The Stanley Marketplace team has met with both the NW Aurora and Stapleton communities as they have refined their plans. Taking into consideration the demographics of both neighborhoods, they say there will be a variety of restaurant options that will be a good fit for both communities—with some restaurant and retail options that have price points that differ from what's in Stapleton.

The number of entrepreneurs and home businesses in the NE Denver/Aurora communities inspired the Stanley team to plan multiple spaces for small businesses to show and sell their products. These spaces, some

potentially as small as 300 square feet, will circle the core of the central marketplace space. Shaker and Ting explain that the original use for the windowed mezzanine level of the central core (shown in the background on page 1) was for supervisors to oversee the workers at Stanley Aviation. Stanley Marketplace may utilize up to 2,000 square feet of that area for a community room.

In November 2013 the *Front Porch* ran an article about Flightline's proposal for a beer garden/restaurant in Eastbridge—and in December we ran a follow-up article saying Forest City would not sell the space until they had finalized a deal with a grocer. Shaker says the Aurora staff saw the articles and contacted them, offering to show available properties in Aurora.

Aurora's retail specialist, Tim Gonerka,



Above: At left rear, behind Ting (left) and Shaker, eight windowed sliding doors form the west wall of a future event area.

says, "We are excited about the interest in Northwest Aurora and the opportunity triangle of Stapleton, Lowry and Fitzsimons. A viable and exciting project on this site has been an important part of Aurora's vision for this area of the City, and with good reason. Connections between the Stapleton, northwest Aurora and the Arts District are growing and making all of the neighborhoods stronger and more interesting for residents, both present and future. We believe The Stanley will be a catalytic project to help move the area to become a truly great place to live, shop, and experience."

"Aurora bought into the project from the beginning and we've been working in tandem. We have an open dialogue about what we're trying to do. We give them all the credit in the world. They took a chance on us," says Shaker.

Shaker has been working full time on this project for the past year. Ting, an electrical engineer, quit his job as a project manager in May and is now working full time on the Stanley Marketplace. After originally planning to close the sale in late July, they are now planning to close in August and they say they will release more specific information about their tenants at that time. They hope to open Stanley Marketplace in 12-15 months.

Stanley Aviation was founded by Robert

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Right: Lorin Ting closes the 12' x 25' sliding doors that open to a patio facing Westerly Creek.



Stanley, who invented military aircraft ejection seats and built a manufacturing plant to produce them in Aurora, next to Stapleton airport. Stanley has a long list of other accomplishments in the aerospace industry. Among them, he was a test pilot and engineer and, in 1942, was the first American to fly a jet aircraft. According to one story about him, he would take his private aircraft out of the hangar at the Stanley building late at night and taxi onto the Stapleton runways to go for a night flight— and would be

met by local authorities upon his return for unauthorized use of the runways (which apparently didn't stop him from doing it again). Robert Stanley died in a plane crash in 1977 when severe wind shear took down his plane. After Stanley's death, Stanley Aviation was acquired by another company—and subsequent to that by Eaton Corporation in 2005. Eaton closed the



Above: Ting sits on one of the two bridges on the property that crosses Westerly Creek.
Right: The Stanley property encompasses 22 acres, with six acres on the west side of Westerly Creek, including the large flat area visible beyond the creek.



Aurora plant in 2009 and a collection of Stanley ejection seats was donated to Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum in Lowry at that time. The building has been empty since then.

We welcome comments at FrontPorchStapleton.com

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Division of Geriatric Medicine COMIRB #06-0537 5/9/2014 PI: Kerrie Moreau, PhD

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CAUSE HE IS FREAKIN AWESOME!

VICTOR'S NOT LOST OR ANYTHING. JUST THOUGHT YOU SHOULD SEE HIM.

Mention that you saw Vic and get **10% off** any 750ml bottle of wine (excludes already discounted wines).

35th Ave and Quebec
7305 E. 35th Ave., Denver, CO 80238
303-322-VICS | VicsLiquors.com

Follow us on Facebook for additional specials and to find out when you can meet Vic at the store!



BACK TO SCHOOL NEVER TASTED SO GOOD...

Shop for School...earn FREE pizza!

August 1-9, 2014

- ✈ Spend at least \$150 at any of the retailers listed below at Northfield Stapleton between **August 1st – 9th** (it doesn't have to be all at the same store!)
- ✈ Bring your receipts to us* during that same time, and receive a certificate for **two FREE large, specialty pizzas from Marco's Pizza!**
- ✈ To earn some (pizza) dough, **shop these Northfield stores:**

Buckle • Charlotte Russe • Charming Charlie • Claire's • Famous Footwear • Finish Line • Hot Topic
• Journey's • Justice • My Best Friend's Closet • Off Broadway Shoes • Old Navy • Zumiez

* Redemption locations and times are as follows: Monday–Friday, redeem 9am – 7pm at the Northfield management office, located in the building behind Claire's on the 2nd floor. Saturdays & Sunday, redeem 9am – 5pm at the Northfield Guest Services desk, located in the lobby of the building behind Claire's.

STAPLETON ROCKS... A CONCERT FOR A CAUSE



September 6, 2014 10am–10pm

Bring your lawn chairs, shades and the whole family and come down to Northfield's Main Street for music from local bands, children's activities, beer, concessions and more! Bands kick off at 12pm.

NEW Join the Denver Firefighters Museum and the Denver Police Museum for *First Responder Tribute: Their Sacrifice, Their Vehicles* with a special display of current and vintage fire trucks, police cars, SWAT trucks and more! Display opens at 10am.



The Shops at

NORTHFIELD

S T A P L E T O N

STAPLETON

NorthfieldStapleton.com • 303-375-5475

Visit our specialty shops and restaurants including:

Macy's • Bass Pro Shops • La Sandia Tequila Cantina • Toby Keith's I Love This Bar & Grill • Texas de Brazil Improv Comedy Club • SuperTarget • Harkins Theatres 18 and much more!