

Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

JULY 2014

World of Lacrosse Coming to Denver

38 nations will compete at Dick's Sporting Goods Park July 10 to 19



Members of the first Chinese national lacrosse team, shown along the Bund (the river front area in downtown Shanghai), will come to Denver for the world tournament at Dick's Sporting Goods Park. Players (L to R): Ye Huabao, Cai Xinyi (Sean), Zhang Ying (Daniel), and Zhang Yongchang. Coaches (L to R): Michael Elefante (head coach), Nicholas Pizzo and Barton Wheeler.

Photo by Steve Larson, Stapleton Front Porch

By Carol Roberts, Shanghai, China

Soccer and the World Cup have been capturing the headlines, but July is bringing another sport to the limelight, particularly in our own part of town. Denver, for the first time, is sponsoring the World Championship lacrosse

games. From July 10 to 19, lacrosse teams from 38 nations will be competing at Dick's Sporting Goods Park. Organizers expect more than 100,000 people will attend.

Not too many years ago, much of the public in the western United States didn't even know what lacrosse was. The sport

has grown so much in the Denver metro area that now it seems just as common to see kids carrying lacrosse sticks as footballs or basketballs. From 2003 to 2013 the number of lacrosse players in the United States grew from 301,560 to 746,859, according to U.S. Lacrosse, (continued on page 4)

Residents Take the Stage in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*



A Midsummer's Night Dream cast rehearses for the production coming to The Green at the 29th Ave. Town Center in Stapleton on July 11 and 12. L to R, Director Eric Peterson, Rebekah Henderson and Aaron Mathews. In the background: Catherine Erhardt, Eliana Caplan, and Sara Farmer.

Why isn't Stapleton more diverse?

By Carol Roberts

As Stapleton has developed, a number of committed volunteers have been meeting monthly to review the actual development against the vision in the Green Book (Stapleton's Development Plan) and to work with Forest City on meeting the vision.

"Stapleton in many ways is better than what the Green Book called for," says Jim Wagenlander, a Park Hill resident who has been on Stapleton's Citizens Advisory Board for 23 years. "I don't think any of us anticipated it would turn out as successfully as it has. And some people just want to talk about that. And maybe some don't ever want to talk about that. I think both have to be discussed. In a few areas we've fallen short and I don't think you sweep that under the rug. But that doesn't dismiss the other successes."

The Housing and Diversity Committee, which meets monthly, has been concerned for a number of years that the products that have been built at Stapleton don't meet the goals and projections set in the Green Book for rental and affordable homes.

Rental and affordable homes are a key component of the social justice principles on which Stapleton was (continued on page 6)

By Laurie Dunklee

Shakespeare's most popular comedy will have a new look—courtesy of a "Welcome to the '80s" theme—July 11 and 12, 7pm at The Green at the 29th Ave. Town Center in Stapleton.

"It will be 'Welcome to the 1880s AND the 1980s,' with steampunk costumes for the mortals and Goth costumes for the fairies," said Eric Peterson, director and founder of Kids Theatre West and a Stapleton resident. "We'll have New Wave music (continued on page 35)

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



A new playground is now open at 26th Ave. and Fulton St. The playground is open to the public, but Forest City asks that people try to stay off the grass as much as possible until it has had a chance to get established.



Events listed below are FREE and open to the public or support nonprofits. (Additional events are listed on pages 24-27)

JULY

Every Sunday

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

Every Sunday

City Park Jazz Summer Concert Series. 6-8pm, rain or shine. CityParkJazz.org. See p. 26.

July 6: SuCh

July 13: The Dave Watts Ensemble of Deepness

July 20: The Dexter Payne Quintet

July 27: Dan Treanor's Afrosippi Band Featuring

Erica Brown & Merrian Johnson

Aug 3: Chris Daniels & The Kings with Freddi Gowdy

Every Monday-Thursday

Family Fun Night 6-8pm.

Monday - Jet Stream Pool*

Tuesday - Puddle Jumper Pool*

Wednesday - F15 Pool*

Thursday - Aviator Pool*

Tuesday, July 1

Registration Opens for Kid's Triathlon Noon.
www.stapletoncommunity.com

Tuesday, July 1

Children's Museum, Target Tuesdays
1st Tuesday nights free, 4-8pm, cmdenver.org

Friday, July 4

Pancake Breakfast. 9-10:30am, Central Park*

Parade 10:30-11:00am, Central Park*

DJ's @ Pools, Noon-4pm, the Pools*

Saturday, July 5

Concert on The Green-"Under a Blood Red Sky"
7-9pm, The Green*

Saturday, July 5

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

Saturday, July 5

Denver Art Museum - SCFD Free Day 720-865-5000
www.denverartmuseum.org

NOTE: NOT ALL OUR EVENTS FIT IN THE PRINTED PAPER.

Upload or search for more events and view ongoing events at the redesigned
FrontPorchStapleton.com > "Events"

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.

JULY

Thursday, July 10

Active Minds Seminar "South Africa: Nelson Mandela
and the Journey from Apartheid" 7pm, Sam Gary
Library*

Fri, July 11 & Sat, July 12

Theatre on The Green-"A Midsummer's Night Dream"
7pm, The Green*

Tuesday, July 15

Near Northeast High School/Paul Sandoval Campus
start of construction celebration. 9:30-10:30am at the
high school.

Friday, July 18

Cinema in The Park-"Bicycle Thieves" 8:30pm,
The Green*

Saturday, July 19

Beer Festival & Concert 4-8pm, The Green*

Sunday, July 20

SCFD Free Day, Denver Museum of Nature
& Science. 303-370-6000, www.dmns.org

Thursday, July 24

Active Minds Seminar "The Mayans" 9-11am,
Sam Gary Library*

Thursday, July 24

Quebec Alternative Analysis public meeting. 5:30-
7:30pm at Central Park Rec Center. Denver will
present plan for Quebec & get public input. 9651 E.
MLK Blvd. www.QuebecAlternatives.com

Friday, July 25

Movie on The Green-"The Hunger Games, Catching
Fire" at dark, The Green*

Saturday, July 26

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

* 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.
Central Park: Central Park Blvd. & Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.

Events & Announcements at Stapleton

Community DNA

We know how important bike riding is to you as a Stapleton citizen, and that is why we want to ensure that you have the most safe and enjoyable experience possible. Therefore, we want to remind drivers and riders both to use caution in the community. Drivers: be sure to come to a complete stop as you are instructed, and be aware of bikers as you are driving on the streets. Bikers: make sure to use the bike lane (it's there for a reason), be a defensive biker, and assume that cars do not know you are there.

By following these simple suggestions, you will arrive safely to all destinations. We want to thank the Stapleton TMA and the HUB for sponsoring a free bicycle parking lot on the east crescent located at 29th Ave. and Syracuse.

4th of July Pancake Breakfast & Parade

The Annual Pancake Breakfast will begin at 9am at the Fountain Pavilion in Central Park. Tickets will be sold for the pancake breakfast at the event. Tickets are \$5 per adult, \$3 per child or you can purchase a family 4-pack (2 adults/2 children) for \$12. All donations will benefit the Stapleton Stingrays Swim Teams.

Bring your decorated bicycles, tricycles, wagons or scooters for the parade, which will begin at 10:30am at the Fountain Pavilion in Central Park. Participants should line up along the promenade at the fountain and head east toward the lake, looping around back to the fountain area. There will be leaders at the start of the parade to guide participants through the course.

Following the parade, the pools will open at noon. There will be a DJ at each pool from noon until 4pm and all pools will close at 6pm.

Friday Night Flights

The second wine tasting will be held at the West Crescent and will showcase wines from California. Find a sitter and come enjoy a wonderful evening sampling wines under the stars. It will be on Fri., July 25 from 7-9pm. Tickets are \$15 each for residents and \$20 each for nonresidents.

Participants must be 21 and will need tickets for this event. To register for this event, visit www.stapletoncommunity.com or call 303.388.0724. You may pick up your tickets at the MCA office Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm each week. If you cannot pick up your tickets at this time, please visit the will call station at 6:30pm on Friday, July 25 at the West Crescent. Space is limited.

Concerts & Movies on The Green

Bring your family and friends to our annual music and movie series on The Green.

Concerts

Under a Blood Red Sky is scheduled to perform on Sat., July 5 at 7pm. The Matt Nasi Band and the Austin Young Band will both be performing Sat., July 19 during

the Stapleton Beer Festival. All concerts are free to attend and open to the public. Local food trucks will be parked at The Green during all concerts.

Movies

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire is scheduled for Fri., July 25. *The Butler* will be showing on Friday, Aug. 8. All movies will begin at dusk. The concession stand will be open during all movies and will benefit local nonprofit organizations. Cash only, please.

Cinema in the Park

Come join us for our newest event, Cinema in the Park held at The Green. *Bicycle Thieves* will be showing on Fri., July 18 at 8:30 pm. This event is free and open to anyone eager to explore thought-provoking interpretations in the world of film. Our own "Indie Prof," Dr. Vincent Piturro, will lead a discussion about the movie beginning at 8:30pm.

Active Minds

South Africa: Nelson Mandela and the Journey from Apartheid. This seminar will be held Thurs., July 17, from 6:45-7:45pm at the Sam Gary Library.

The Mayans. This seminar will be held Thurs., July 31, from 6:45-7:45pm at the Sam Gary Library.

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

Stapleton Beer Festival

SBF tickets are now on sale! Mark your calendars for the 5th Annual Stapleton Beer Festival. This event will be held on Sat., July 19 on The Green. VIP tickets will include an extra hour of beer tasting (includes specialty craft beers), souvenir glass, tasting glass and food truck vouchers. General admission will include a tasting glass, food truck vouchers and tastings during the event. Residents may register for this event through their online ActiveNet account. Nonresidents must complete a "Nonresident Registration Form" (available on our website, www.stapletoncommunity.com) to register for the event. This is a ticketed event. Tickets may be picked up in the MCA office Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm prior to the event.

2014 Kids Triathlon

The 2014 Kids Triathlon will be held on Sun., August 17. The event will begin at 8am at the Jet Stream Pool. This race will have all of the components of an official triathlon, including timing chips, finisher medals, race T-shirts and a kid's swag bag! Registration opens July 1. To register your child or for more details, visit www.stapletoncommunity.com. Space is limited.

Madison Haverty
Stapleton MCA Event Intern
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www.stapletoncommunity.com
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World Lacrosse Championships

(continued from page 1) the national governing body for youth lacrosse. The last time the world championship was held in the United States, in 1998, just 11 nations competed, compared to this year's 38.

The goal of the Federation of International Lacrosse (FIL), which organizes the championship games, is to promote and develop the game throughout the world. The FIL assists countries that are starting up lacrosse by providing grants and its expertise to help countries get the sport off the ground. The championship games are structured in a way that allows newer teams to increase the visibility of the sport at home by competing in a world championship.

The FIL is the only international sport organization to recognize a Native American tribe at the national level. The Iroquois* were the originators of the modern day game of lacrosse, playing the sport long before the Europeans came to North America. The Iroquois team includes Zach Miller, who, playing at DU, was the No. 1 freshman in the country this past year; Brendan Bomberry, who will play at DU next year; and brothers Lyle and Miles Thompson who played for Albany and shared the Tewaaraton Trophy for the outstanding collegiate player(s) this past season.

The championship puts the six top ranked teams in a single top division—Australia, Canada, England, Iroquois, Japan, United States. Four of the six will advance to the quarterfinals.

The remaining 32 teams are not ranked but are grouped in divisions of four teams that will play each other, with teams being ranked as they play and the winner of a division having the opportunity to advance to the quarter finals.

In addition to the World Championship Games, more than 150 boys youth and men's elite/master's teams will participate in the World Festivals, which will be held in conjunction with the championship games at Dick's Sporting Goods Park.

Growing the sport of lacrosse internationally

“Having the right people in the right places has meant lacrosse has been exposed to more people in different countries,” says Mike Elefante, coach of the Chinese team that will be coming to Denver in July.

Despite its size, population and economic power, China is one of the countries where lacrosse is just emerging. Elefante is one of the “right people

in the right place” who is helping spread lacrosse in China. He is from New Jersey and played lacrosse in high school but now lives in Shanghai and works as head of operations for a chemical company that provides products used in water purifiers and the motors of wind turbines.

When Elefante arrived in China he searched the Internet for lacrosse teams there. “Everything was ‘GM introduces Buick Lacrosse in China,’” he says. Then about five years ago, a network of expat lacrosse players in Shanghai formed a men's league and started coaching local teams, so the players didn't just throw and catch, they were able to learn skills and strategy. The goal is to have these young people become coaches when they graduate from university, says Elefante. “The real credibility for that comes from the team that's going to go to Denver. When these players come back, kids will say, ‘Wow, that guy played for the national team.’ That means a lot here.”

In the interest of developing the sport in China, Elefante said they decided the only North American players allowed on the team would be people who had played or coached in China, though they could have fielded a stronger team without that policy—two professional Chinese players from Canadian teams asked to be on the team. Teams are allowed a maximum of four non-passport holders, but FIL makes case-by-case exceptions for countries with developing teams that are not in contention for the championship. On the Chinese team, 16 of the 23 players are Chinese nationals.

For more information about the 2014 FIL World Championship, visit www.worldlacrosse2014.com.

**The Iroquois represent the indigenous people that occupied land in what is now New York State, southern Quebec and Ontario, Canada. The tribes formed the Six Nations Confederacy encompassing the Cayuga, Oneida, Onondaga, Mohawk, Seneca and Tuscarora tribes. The Iroquois name for themselves, Haudenosaunee, means “People of the Longhouse.” The longhouse symbolizes a way of life where the Six Nations live under one common law, think with one mind and speak with one voice. The Iroquois people identify themselves as sovereign and independent citizens of their nation and travel internationally under their own passports.*





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Charlie Jones, Trevon Hamlet and Cooper Silverstein were selected to participate in the opening ceremonies at the World Championship Lacrosse Games on July 10 at Dick's Sporting Goods Park.

Local Players/Teams Join Lax Festivities

By Carol Roberts

Of the more than 450 youth who participate in NE Denver lacrosse (lax) leagues, three players were selected to participate in the opening ceremony at the World Lacrosse games.

Trevon Hamlet, a City Lax player who grew up in NE Denver and just graduated from Kent Denver, was selected to carry the ceremonial stick and lead the parade of 38 teams onto the field at the World Lacrosse Championship opening ceremonies. Hamlet was this year's recipient of the Zach Hills Award, an honor given to a high school lacrosse player who demonstrates inspiration, courage and a special commitment to the game of lacrosse. Hamlet plans to enroll at the University of Colorado in the fall, putting him on track to be the first member in his family to graduate from college. "He's both smart and determined, as well as being a genuinely thoughtful and caring individual. A great role model for youth today," says Rod Allison, executive director Denver City Lax.

Two Stapleton Jets players, Charlie Jones and Cooper Silverstein, were among the 38 youth players selected to escort a team at the opening ceremony. Their coaches wrote why they should be selected for this honor:

"Charlie (Jones) is the type of player every coach dreams of having on his or her team. He works tirelessly, hustles 100% of the time, is a fantastic listener and does anything the coaches ask of him and anything the team needs of him."

"Cooper (Silverstein) lives and breathes

lacrosse. He values being a teammate above anything else. This past season he has fought foot problems throughout the year. Still, he attends all the practices and plays when he can."

To support the teams and players from countries where the sport is just developing and encourage local players to join in the excitement of the games, local teams are planning activities for and with some of the teams. The Jets plan to greet Team Switzerland at the airport, rally their players and families to attend their games, and they hope to have a dinner or BBQ with them.

City Lax is planning a variety of activities including viewing a documentary movie with and about the Uganda team, visit practices and meet players from several teams, and they hope to have a pizza party with various teams including Team Iroquois.

Lacrosse is growing so fast it is difficult to find enough fields, coaches and officials, says Rod Allison from City Lax. City Lax has boys and girls teams for grades 3 through 8 and their U13 team will participate in the Festival games.

The Stapleton Jets boys lacrosse league, which has competitive teams as well as "learn-to-play teams," has players from age 5 to age 14. Two Jets teams, U9 and U11, will be playing in the World Festival games that are being held during the championship games. Stapleton Electras offers lacrosse for girls from ages 5 to 12 and had participants from over 20 schools this year.



How to Get Your Roof Replaced in 5 Easy Steps with Minimal Hassle

- 1. Get a roof inspection from a reputable, local roofing company.** Many homeowners call their insurance company first, however, your roof may not have damage. In this case you may have this "claim" count against you anyway. Start with a free, no-obligation roof inspection and get a detailed inspection report.
- 2. If you have damage, make a claim with your insurance.** With your inspection report in hand you can file your claim on your homeowner's policy with confidence. Your insurance company will likely ask you if your roof has already been inspected and if you have selected a contractor. Keep in mind, you can work with any roofing company you wish. It is entirely your choice.
- 3. Have your insurance adjuster and your roofer inspect your roof together.** When they inspect the roof together, they are more likely to be on the same page about what will be covered by insurance. This will save you a lot of back and forth phone calls. And you will be able to get the project started more quickly.
- 4. Schedule your roof replacement with your selected roofing company.** At this point in the process, our customers are assigned a Project Manager who is the homeowner's point of contact for the duration of the project. Typical roof replacements take 1-2 days, start to finish. You are not required to be home when the work is being done.
- 5. Pay when the work is completed.** Your insurance company will cut you a check and once your roof work is done you will pay that to your roofing contractor. A reputable company will not require money up front to do your roof. And the only out-of-pocket expense on your part should be your deductible.

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This photo of a high school meeting earlier this year, like most Stapleton gatherings, reflects the lack of diversity in the community—despite the Green Book’s vision for diversity in age, race and income.

Why isn’t Stapleton more diverse?

(continued from page 1) created. Two of the principles in the Green Book are: create a community that accommodates a diversity of people—ages, incomes, races, occupations and lifestyles...; and facilitate the development of affordable housing...through a broad mix of housing types, densities and price ranges.

The Stapleton Affordable Housing Plan states it “assumed that approximately 8,000 for-sale dwelling units and 4,000 multi-family rental units will be developed at Stapleton upon final buildout.” As of April 30, 15.3% of the total (all rental and for-sale combined) 6,350 units at Stapleton were rental, half the percentage “assumed” in the Housing Plan.

And Forest City’s contract calls for 10% of all for-sale units to be affordable. As of April 30, with a total of 5,380 for-sale units, only 4.78% were affordable (housing statistics are provided by Forest City each quarter).

Members of the Housing and Diversity Committee have been raising concerns that a range of factors, including the marketing of Stapleton, the cost of homes, and the lack of housing diversity, have contributed to a less diverse population than the Green Book envisioned (as shown in the photo above)—and that, in turn, has influenced how people perceive Stapleton.

Tom Gleason, vice president—public relations for Forest City Stapleton, Inc. says, “It is human nature to seek simple solutions for complex challenges. Forest City has created housing diversity at Stapleton that includes rental

How is Stapleton perceived?

Angela Williams, a Stapleton resident and this area’s state representative answers, “Outside of Stapleton the perception is viewed as an upper class gated community. When you look at diversity from a socio-economic, housing and people of color perspective, we know it’s just not present at Stapleton and these areas could use improvement.”



“Members of the Stapleton Citizens Advisory Board were appointed to that position because they were considered active, credible members of their community. They can play an important role in creating a more racially and economically diverse community at Stapleton by more actively promoting the affordable housing program.”

—Tom Gleason, Forest City vice president, public relations, written response to Front Porch

Councilman Chris Herndon, when asked how he thinks Stapleton is perceived outside the community, says, “The perception of Stapleton runs the gamut...The vision of Stapleton is to be an inclusive community and there are some facets where we’re doing a really good job with inclusivity and there are certainly other factors we can do better on. When people look at the demographics of Stapleton along the lines of race, Stapleton is not a reflection of the city and county of Denver, so there are people that think from a race standpoint Stapleton is not as diverse as it could be...I wouldn’t say Stapleton is solely unique to have challenges along the lines of diversity, I would say they’re pretty similar to the challenges of other communities in Denver and far NE Denver.”

Kevin Marchman, board chairman of the Stapleton Development Corporation, says, “What I hear is that Stapleton is a gated community. I don’t think that, but I can see why you come to that conclusion...I come up here (the 29th Ave. Town Center) and shop. It’s not unusual to me that I’m the only black person there... People are asking me all the time, why isn’t Stapleton more diverse?”

homes for low income families transitioning from homelessness, Somali refugees, and others earning as little as 30% of the Area Median Income in addition to our market rate rentals that attract middle and upper income tenants. And, our for-sale housing, which in the early years started in the middle \$100s for affordable and market rate homes and went to more than \$1 million, has been marketed widely throughout the broad community, including communities of color.”

Why don’t more people of color move to Stapleton?

At a recent Housing Diversity Committee meeting, Alice Kelly, a Park Hill resident who has been active in the Stapleton Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) for over 20 years, talked about an African American couple she knows who lived at Stapleton and moved to City Park North because they felt more comfortable there. Park Hill resident and recently named president of the Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC) Tammi Holloway said, “I think it’s almost too late (to change the perception of Stapleton).”



“Single family residences are easy and you prove it being easy by selling 500-600 of those per year. Affordable housing wasn’t supposed to be easy. But you (Forest City) committed to doing it.”

—Justin Ross, at the June 26, 2014, SDC meeting
Councilman Chris Herndon is at right.

She says she has friends who can afford to live at Stapleton and looked at Stapleton, but have chosen to drive longer distances and live further from the city because they don’t feel comfortable at Stapleton.

Angela Williams says, “Diversity is more than just affordable housing. We have a lot of different groups at Stapleton that are very active. Business groups, mom groups, singles groups, LGBT groups. But we do not have a group for people of color. We have a community at Stapleton that embraces inclusion for all residents. And we have a community that would put gates up around Stapleton if it were possible. People of color that have socio-economic status (to move here) have told me Stapleton just is not embracing. Park Hill is one of the most diverse embracing communities I know. You’ve got all kinds of people who live there. It’s a different feeling when you’re in Park Hill. It doesn’t matter what color you are.”

Why have rental and affordable for-sale housing lagged?

The Affordable Housing Plan states, “Forest City shall endeavor to develop or cause to be developed Affordable Housing Units at a pace consistent with the pace of development of market-rate housing at Stapleton.”

“That continues to be our endeavor” says Gleason, “but the affordable for-sale housing program has a number of challenges that has limited its success, not only at Stapleton but throughout the City of Denver. Gleason said those challenges include a limited pool of interested buyers who can qualify for a mortgage, restrictions on the

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Date: Saturday, August 2nd. **Time:** 11am-2pm
Place: The Garden in NE Park Hill - 3435 Albion St, Denver, CO 80207

PARTYING: the be well WAY
Date: Saturday, August 30th.
Time: 6:30-8:30pm
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amount of allowable appreciation and the restrictions the program places on owners when it comes time for them to sell their homes. “

Councilman Herndon, who is familiar with the city’s efforts to make affordable housing available to a greater number of people, says, “Economic



“The real concern is that the development is going to get completed and we’re going to be sitting with vacant lots that say ‘low income housing coming in the future’ and Forest City will have completed the entire development and the low income housing still not done. We are running out of daylight. It is important that the voices that are saying, “Let’s do something” are heard.”

—King Harris, at the June 26, 2014, SDC meeting
SDC Board Chair Kevin Marchman is at left and SDC President Tammi Holloway is at right.

conditions had a hand in changing the dynamics of the community. With that we had a lag in affordable housing product. It certainly prevents diversity from happening as fast as it could.” He also acknowledges the importance of timeliness, “because one thing we don’t want to do is build and not have the occupancy, so timing is always a key piece of development. We certainly want things as best as we can, but we have to make sure that the market conditions are right. But understanding that this (affordable housing) is a requirement, I appreciate Forest City as they continue to let us know as a city where we have challenges...and sit at the table with us and find ways we can better it.”

Although affordable for-sale homes are only at 50% of their goal relative to market priced homes that have been built (4.78% rather than 10%), Forest City has exceeded a requirement that 20% of all rental units be affordable, with 28.6% of rental units being affordable as of April 30.

Alice Kelly, at a Housing Diversity committee meeting, acknowledged that there was market pressure for single family homes. “The community was growing. Young people were looking for housing and that’s what they wanted.” She added that Forest City President John Lehigh has told her, in regard to housing products, “This development is market driven.”

But Kelly and Bev Haddon, President of the Stapleton Foundation, both said they think having one-third rental housing would have created a more diverse community.

Wagenlander agrees and points out, “This is the city’s property...If we don’t provide rental housing, we’re denying housing to a lot of young families and minorities and different groups that are well represented in Denver but have not been able to move to Stapleton.” He adds that Jim Chrisman, senior vice president at Forest City, has said Forest City will fill in now with more rental. “Even if that happens, the image of Stapleton is now being set,” says Wagenlander. “I don’t know of anybody who thinks of Stapleton as being diverse. The failure to get the one third rental units developed skewed the demographics for the community and that just becomes self-reinforcing.”

Kelly adds, “Years ago when the SDC Board was searching for a master developer...what attracted some of us to Forest City was that they had a terrific track record of building affordable housing all over the country. The vision of the Green Book is that you should be able to live where you work and work where you live whether you are a table waiter or a CEO.”

Damon Knop, a Stapleton resident says, “If I moved (I won’t), that would be why. Even if it’s 95% great, I would move because my kid goes to a school with all white people instead of how it was when I went to East. There were tons of rich people and tons of poor people and you’re just going to school together. At Stapleton it’s total keeping up with the Joneses (continued on page 22)

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PUT A STOP TO DOOR KNOCKERS!

Farm to Front Door: Organic Food Delivery

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

The mere thought of taking the kids to the grocery store is reason enough for some local residents to willingly pay a little more to have their produce and other groceries delivered to their door. But kid hassles aren't the only reason. From freshness to control over where their food comes from to the thrill of opening a package, organic produce home-delivery services are gaining popularity.

"We know when you take the risk out of food production in terms of creating environmental changes, it makes people feel better about what they're eating," says Jessica Kibble, director of marketing for Mile High Organics, which offers non-GMO products. It was that desire to continue to buy organic produce that led Stapleton resident Jessica Agur to find a source of local, organic produce after she and her family moved from Atlanta. There, they would frequent a large farmers market where they loved buying local, farm-raised, organic foods.

In Denver, Agur, the mother of two young children, felt the health food stores were just a tad too far away and the major grocery stores didn't have the selection she wanted. She noticed her neighbor received deliveries from Door to Door Organics and gave it a try nearly a year ago, recently adding the service's meat, dairy and other items to her produce order.

Stacy McDonald, of Park Hill, says with working and attending college full-time, she just doesn't have time to shop anymore. A customer of Mile High Organics for the past four years, she likes that their items are all GMO-free. She also feels she's eating better. "I eat more seasonally now and I'm far more likely to buy local since (Mile High Organics) puts where the food is from on the website," she says.

To Cambria Jacobs, vice president of marketing for Door to Door Organics, the success of the company and the concept of online grocery shopping isn't a big surprise, considering how many other things people order online. "We get our medicine, our books, our dog food (online) and why not food?" she says. In addition to produce, both services offer meal kits and other grocery goods.

Jacobs says their clients are primarily very busy, well-educated women. "Time is not on their side," she says. "Fifty percent of our customers have children, and anyone with small children knows going to the grocery store can be a challenge."

The kid factor is a consideration for Agur. "We go to the store and we have to wrangle the kids," she says. "If I went to the store and hunted around, I could probably save a little money but time is money, so if I can mark that errand and that frustration off my list, I'm willing to put a few extra dollars into it."

Both Door to Door Organics and Mile High Organics say their prices are comparable to higher-end health food grocery stores, if not



Celeste, 2, Mira, 7, Jessica and Jason Agur display what's left of the week's delivery of organic food in front of their Stapleton home.

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less. McDonald says her grocery budget dropped, primarily because she sticks to a grocery list. "I don't have any impulse buys," she says.

Food freshness is another perk to home-delivery customers. Kibble says conventional grocery stores are stocked to make a store look full and food is often on display too long. "We get our produce in daily, we order to demand and because we go from a warehouse environment right to your door, it isn't lying around the same way it would at the grocery store."

Agur still goes occasionally to buy the specific cereals her kids like. "I like (the service) for the things that are more important to eat, that are locally grown and organic," she says.

The organic produce delivery services don't see themselves as a threat to local farmers markets either. Jacobs feels the two can augment each other. "If you can't get to the farmers market, or they didn't have something you wanted, you can still order online." Because the online companies also offer other items that might not be available at a farmers market, customers can decrease their produce delivery orders during the farmers market season while continuing to buy other items online that support local producers.

A major benefit of the service is the novelty of opening up the box to see what's inside. It might be rainbow carrots the kids have never seen before or a peach variety that's a twist on the usual, all fresh off the farm. "Kids get more engaged in understanding where their food comes from and they are more interested in trying it because it comes from a big box every week," says Jacobs. It's fun for the adults too. "It's fresh and I get excited to cook with it," says Agur. "It feels like a gift."

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APPLY THE KNOWLEDGE



By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Urban farming is all the rage these days. Of course, having a garden in the backyard is nothing new, but the enthusiasm for it is growing like a weed—and the outcome is more like lettuce and tomatoes.

With a mission to “provide agricultural and environmental education to urban children, youth and their families,” The Urban Farm at Stapleton has been on the bandwagon for more than 20 years. This summer brings new opportunities for people to learn how to grow their own food and to see what life is like on the farm while living in the city.

One of The Urban Farm’s best teaching tools is its aquaponics project. Rick Garcia, farm manager, has worked with volunteers and students from area schools to create a 300-gallon system in their “hoop house,” a greenhouse of sorts on the property with two other systems in the works, including a 1500-gallon one. “Aquaponics” refers to a closed system in which fish in one container (including tilapia and catfish, which can later be harvested as a protein source), generate nutrient-rich wastewater which is pumped and circulated into another container to water and feed plants including lettuce, cucumbers, herbs, strawberries and tomatoes. Another pump pushes the water through the plants’ roots and soil, providing the fish with clean water. The circulating water is constantly being aerated so that in a closed system, the fish receive the oxygen they need and the plants get the carbon dioxide they need. The aquaponics system is inherently organic. “You can’t do anything but have organic food because you can’t add anything to your fish tank or you’ll kill the fish,” explains Garcia.

The fish and their waste nutrients is what differentiates this system from hydroponics where nutrients have to be added to the water. For those who do not want fish to eat at the end of the season, hearty goldfish, such as those meant for ponds, are a good alternative that kids enjoy watching.

The main reason for creating an aquaponics system is water conservation. “In an area like Denver, which is a high desert where we are lacking water, this is a way to conserve water and grow your own food, getting your vegetables throughout the season and your protein too,” explains Garcia.

People can volunteer to help Garcia maintain the current 300-gallon system and build the other two, learning how to create their own system in the process.

In Garcia’s work with schools, many of whom include Urban Farm visits in their biology and earth science curriculums, students rotate between working with the aquaponics system, doing chores around the farm and learning about horses’ physiology, behavior and how to ride them. “We don’t just put kids to work,” says Garcia. “We always have an educational component.”

It isn’t enough to just teach people how to grow their own food. Garcia

Aquaponics Taking Root at Urban Farm



As part of biology and earth science courses, students from Escuela Tlatelolco School learn about aquaponics at the Urban Farm. Later this summer, the farm will offer workshops for the community on sustainable agriculture.

wants people to want to eat the food they are growing. To that end, The Urban Farm is planning to bring in area chefs who will teach people how to prepare what they are growing. “You can learn how to grow a food, but if you don’t know how to prepare it, what’s the point? Education is tantamount to everything regarding growing food right now—you have to learn how to compost, when to put the seeds in, how much to water, how much sunlight and ultimately how to eat it,” says Garcia.

The Urban Farm has community garden plots for those who want to garden in a farm setting. A \$60 family membership fee, which supports the farm, includes horse rides, camps and extended visiting hours. Every Saturday, The Urban Farm

offers tours and a chance to explore the farm from 10am–1pm, year-round for a donation of \$5 per person.

At the beginning of October, the farm will host Farm Fest, a weekend of music, food, pony rides, a rodeo show, horse shows and workshops on aquaponics, composting and sustainable agriculture.

It’s all part of Garcia’s efforts through The Urban Farm “to get people on the farm, knowing where their food comes from.”

Anyone interested in learning about aquaponics is welcome to contact Rick Garcia directly at 720.495.6876. To learn more about The Urban Farm, visit www.TheUrbanFarm.org or call 303.307.9332.



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Transforming Alleys

By Madeline Schroeder

Tucked away in an alley, on a ragged-looking fence, above a trashcan and near a parked car—this is not where most would expect art, but that's exactly why Jack and Pam Farrar love it. Like art fairies, the Park Hill residents anonymously put up art in alleys and on fences throughout the neighborhood.

"We like to think of it as three-dimensional graffiti," Jack says. Fifteen years ago, they created their first "alley garden," which still remains intact behind a neighbor's house. Now several dozen alleys throughout northeast Denver have something by the Farrars.

"We put up things we can't even remember anymore," Jack says.

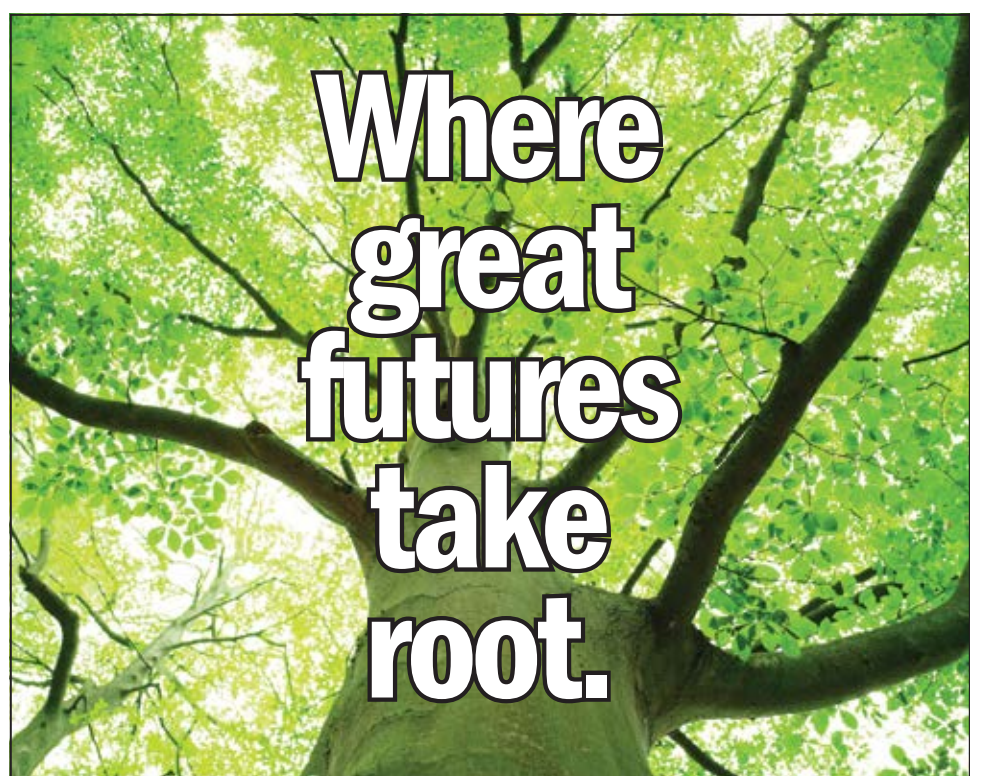
"We'll go down an alley and say, 'Hey! That's pretty cool,'" Pam adds and they laugh.

The couple says the art has become a part of their life, a daily enjoyment of

imagining what they can create next. Their house is an organized inventory of eclectic materials. They scour alleys, yard sales and thrift stores for materials to use, including all the free stuff at Goodwill. They mostly collect metal and wood—old, funky screen doors and window frames being their most recent favorites. They reconstruct the recycled items into something new. Then two to three times a week, they cruise alleys to seek out ones that look "neglected" or "needy," and would be a good home to the art.

They rarely ask owners for permission. "None of what we do is defacing," Pam says. They never paint surfaces or mount art on new fences or walls, and also make the items simple to remove if people choose to do so.

Their particular alleyway between Holly and Hudson and 22nd and Montview more closely resembles an art exhibit than an alley. Colorful paintings glued



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into Art Walks

with buttons, spoons nailed to wood boards, a dish drain playfully attached to a basket with wire—these are only a few of the trinkets installed behind virtually every house. They also make sure to always have in their alley a water bowl for dogs and books to share with neighbors.

Being out in the alley, the art tends to wear, often rusting or fading, but it's something they enjoy. "That's part of it, watching it return to the earth. If pieces of wood fall, that's OK. If it needs work, we'll do it," Pam says. "We're hippies," Jack admits.

"There's a very urban hippie junk art element going on with what we do."

Jack hopes to one day buy a warehouse to store items and weld art—a bucket list item he suspects may take a while but is nice to think about.

The Farrars also teach classes on junk art for kids at the Art Garage, 6100 E. 23rd Ave. A fence along the parking lot behind Axum Restaurant at 5501 E. Colfax features art done by kids in the class. This remains one of

Park Hill resident Jack Farrar shows neighbors Brian Dunn and his girlfriend Katie Hummer his latest work in progress in his alley. Farrar and his wife, Pam, reuse items from thrift stores and yard sales to create "alley gardens" throughout the neighborhood. Dunn enjoys the enlivened alley.

Farrar's favorite projects. "Many parents come over to view their kid's art," Pam says. When



new restaurant owners repaired the fence, they took down the art, repaired the fence, and put the art back up.

Besides alley art,

Jack also does photography and Pam dabbles in watercolor painting. Nearly all of the art in their house they created, which they laugh is a much cheaper hobby than collecting art. They love the Museum of Contemporary Art, which often features art with unusual materials, and look forward to seeing the Dale Chihuly exhibit at the Denver Botanic Gardens this summer.

To view more of their art and Jack's photography, visit DenverViews.com.

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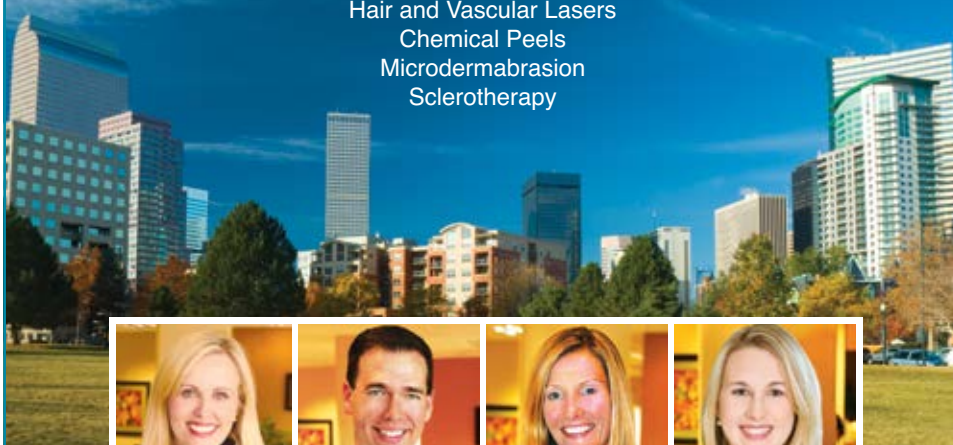
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Powerless Residents Seek Temp Living Arrangements

By Madeline Schroeder

Residents building new homes in Conservatory Green have become frustrated with delayed move-in dates due to no power installation. “We’re planning our lives around this stuff, and they’re just stringing us along,” says a resident who wishes to remain anonymous.

She and her husband sold their house in south Stapleton to build their “forever home” in Conservatory Green. They have been given a mid-September move-in estimate, two months later than the original date.

According to the resident, construction began in February. They were told they’d be given 90 days’ closing notice as soon as the drywall was complete, which was projected for May.

“They finished the drywall at the beginning of May, and we didn’t hear anything,” she says. They were told the delay was an issue with Xcel Energy; however, Gabriel Romero, spokesperson for Xcel, is unaware of any issue. “From our books we’re right on schedule,” he says. “We get an order, and once the developer pays in advance, we go out and fulfill the order in the time we give them. We’re right on track with that.” He believes this is a communication issue between the homebuilders and residents.

Vice president of media relations for Forest City Tom Gleason says issues including a change in contractors and the September flooding added to the delays.

Residents with later move-in dates are seeking short-term living arrangements. The anonymous resident, her husband and their daughter live in a rental home with a month-to-month lease. She says she’s met residents who have moved as many as three times waiting for power to be installed. While she knows she has to anticipate hiccups when building a new home, she is tired of waiting. “We will only have 30 days’ notice to get all our finances and everything together. And we don’t even have a final date for sure.”



Landscaping Your Hell Strip

By Sarah Christian

The rectangular piece of lawn between the sidewalk and the street was historically known as the tree lawn but has also been referred to as the median strip, parking strip, right of way, boulevard and “hell strip.” Colorado horticulturist and author Lauren Springer said in a 2010 New York Times article, “It’s a strip and it’s hellish. It’s hard for plants to grow there.” She listed the hardships of the hell strip, which include dog waste, snowpack, road salt, and reflected pavement heat that can reach 150 degrees at ground level.

In historic Denver, parkways such as those along 17th Ave., Monaco Blvd., and 6th Ave. had beautiful tree lawns that provided continuity in the streetscape with one lawn flowing into the next all the way down the block. Susan Baird, planner for Denver Parks and Recreation, said in a CSU Extension publication, “Since Denver’s earliest days, planted tree lawns have provided the aesthetic character that ties neighborhoods together. It’s the visual rhythm of green trees above that frame a space below, complemented by a continuous, horizontal green tree lawn that gives Denver its distinctive character.”

As beautiful as these spaces are, periodic drought, runoff tainted by chemicals and growing population in the semi-arid West calls into question the sustainability of this historic aesthetic. Susan recommends using masses of silver-leafed and other color plants. “Our modern definition of green has expanded beyond bluegrass to add richness to our urban design.” By tying your strip to your region, you give it a sense of place and make it more sustainable.

If you are tired of mowing, fertilizing, aerating and controlling weeds in your hell strip and are contemplating removing the lawn, know the city ordinances since this is city property even though you are required to maintain it. Before designing your project, contact the Utility Notification Center of Colorado to mark underground utilities for your project at 1.800.922.1987 or 811. You may not pave over utilities

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Referred to as the “hell strip” for being an unwelcoming home to plants, the strip of lawn between the sidewalk and the street is often neglected, but according to guest writer Sarah Christian, has aesthetic potential with the right design.

with anything permanent like concrete. If you plant a tree, you will need a permit from the City Forester. No plants, boulders or artwork can be taller than 30 inches.

In terms of maintenance, this undertaking will not necessarily require less maintenance than lawn. The tree lawn was first envisioned by Frederick Law Olmstead, the father of landscape architecture, in the late 1800s and was inspired by English estates with uninterrupted lawn. However, unlike the aristocratic English model, he viewed this area as a “commons” that was shared by each homeowner whose civic responsibility it was to maintain his piece of it. This is true for lawn or plants. The plants used should match the level of maintenance you are willing to invest. Do you have an irrigation system? How much and how often will watering will be required? Will the plants require pruning, deadheading, weeding, dividing and how often?

If you decide to commit to this project, the first step is to remove the lawn. Make sure you don't create maintenance problems. It is best to dig out the lawn to lower the bed below sidewalk/curb level to allow room to add soil amendments and mulch that are key to success. Soil compaction in this area is a major problem where road crews have poured concrete for adjacent roads and sidewalks. If you plant above grade, irrigation will run off rather than soak in, and mulch, which helps retain moisture, will tend to slide onto the sidewalk requiring sweeping.

Next, plan places for stepping that will allow room to get in and out of the car and access the sidewalk and

front door. The hardscape you choose should reflect the architectural style of your home. Where possible, repeat colors and materials in the house such as brick or stone. If you have a path from the sidewalk to the door, consider repeating the same material at the street for cohesiveness.

Considerations for Plant Design

- Choose plants with a tidy growth habit that do not require much pruning or encroach on the sidewalk
- Plant densely to discourage weeds
- Repeat plantings already present in the landscape for cohesiveness

Design options include:

- Minimize the number of species for a simple classic look and to avoid looking too chaotic
- Plant in mass to create a design effect similar to lawn
- Use low, compact plantings so as not to obstruct views with a few optional taller things at the back or in the center for drama

A list of suggested plants is posted with this article at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com.

Sarah Christian is a registered landscape architect with 18 years of experience. She owns and operates Urban Gardens, Inc. Sarah has lived in Stapleton for 12 years with her husband and two now teenage children. For more information visit www.urbangardensinc.com.

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Just the Facts

Moth Madness

by James Hagadorn



Euxoa auxiliaris (Miller Moth)
Photo courtesy of Denver Museum of Nature & Science

For my middle-of-the-night visits to our home's smallest room, I'm usually alone. But not lately. Nocturnal face-flapping moths have invaded our home.

Sometimes hidden in a hung towel, curtain or closet crack, these fuzzy brown moths seem to be everywhere. Yesterday morning one burst upward at my son from beneath a closed toilet seat lid. Eeaaagh! Well, at least he was lifting the seat.

These inch-long greyish brown beasts are called miller moths. Their journey begins as eggs laid in turf grass or weedy fields in eastern Colorado and vicinity. Upon hatching in autumn, they emerge as a caterpillar known as the army cutworm, *Euxoa auxiliaris*. Like a squadron of squishy inchworms, these caterpillars get their name from moving en masse like an "army" does across the landscape. In the fields, miller caterpillars munch on oats, wheat, alfalfa and the like. In the Front Range, they nosh on gardens, grass and broad-leafed weeds. Over winter these creepy crawlers hunker down and feed when necessary. When the ground thaws in spring, they burrow into soil where they undergo metamorphosis. As the weather becomes hotter and drier, they emerge as moths and migrate to mountain meadows in search of wildflowers. En route, some stop by your yard to sip your flowerbed's nectars. Summers

are spent dining on mountain nectar, before return-



ing to mate and lay eggs in the fields again. Such moths are so plentiful this year that in one room downstairs from my office, they get trapped by the bucketful. Entomologists hypothesize that their greater abundance is due to several weather conditions in northeastern Colorado that were conducive to moth viability. First, the fall's heavy rains (remember the September floods?) provided more vegetation than normal for newly hatched caterpillars to snack on. Then our snowy winter helped to insulate more of these ground-hugging creatures, so fewer of them froze to death. Lastly a wetter-than-usual spring catalyzed early growth of plants, providing ample food for caterpillars to devour.

But why are they called "miller" moths? It's their scales. Like a snake or a fish, moth wings are shingled with thousands of tiny scales. Butterflies have them too, which is why scientists classify these creatures as "lepidopterans," after the Greek words for scale (lepido) and wings (ptera).

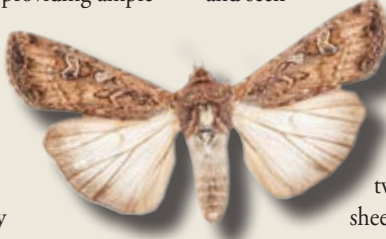
If you were to rub a moth wing between your fingers, these scales would come off and leave a powder-like coating on your skin. Back in the day, this coating reminded people of the flour dust that coated the clothes of grain mill workers. Thus the moths are nicknamed after miller's flour dust.

Although they can be startling to adults and kids alike, miller moths aren't harmful to humans. In some cases, their carcasses can lead to increases in other harmful pests like carpet beetles, because scavengers eat the carcasses and then multiply. Some miller moths are a nuisance because they excrete secretions that mar light-colored fabrics and walls. Standard cleansers can remove this moth goo.

In the wild, moths are important. They polli-

nate as they flit from flower to flower in search of nectar. Moths and their caterpillars underpin much of the terrestrial food chain—providing food for birds, bats, frogs, lizards, beetles and spiders. They're also essential for big critters like Yellowstone grizzlies—who can consume tens of thousands of moths per day.

So what to do if miller moths are bugging you? Insecticides are ineffectual, so your best strategy is prevention. Seal your home's windows and exterior doorway openings in the spring and turn off white lights at night. Millers are nocturnal so they emerge at dusk and seek



shelter at dawn. Most become accidentally trapped in your home while seeking such shelter.

To trap moths you have two options. Fill a cookie sheet or cake pan with soapy

water and place it below a desk lamp overnight. The next morning you'll find a *polillo* soup of dead millers. Better yet—get your kids to go on a moth hunt in all your home's dark spaces, as a sort of entomological version of catch-and-release fishing.

Like nature's own Clif bars, miller moths have more fat and protein per ounce than do game such as elk, deer and bison. They contain a bunch of essential minerals and aren't poisonous. Thus, moths are eaten all over the world. POWs swear by them as survival food.

A while ago my wife told our daughter that people in other cultures regularly eat insects. Later that afternoon our daughter and her friend were deeply absorbed in some activity out in the yard. Turns out they were eating ants. "Ants taste like salad dressing," they reported.

I wonder how miller moths taste. James W. Hagadorn, Ph.D., is a scientist at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Suggestions and comments are welcome at jwhagadorn@dmns.org.

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Josie Quick and Tom Carleno rehearse in their home studio where they also give lessons. After a bout of health issues, the couple is enjoying life with good health, love, and music-filled days and nights.

After 21 years, Park Hill couple still enjoys music-filled marriage

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

It's not unusual to hear one married person declare to their partner "I don't know why we even bother talking to each other." While that statement is usually said as a complaint, in the case of Tom Carleno and Josie Quick, it's a compliment. "We have a joke that I'll say something and he'll be thinking the same thing so we say 'why do we even talk?'" laughs Quick. "We're very lucky in that we think alike so much," says Carleno. This fortunate couple lives together, works together and creates music together. It's a love story set to music.

When guitarist Carleno began looking

for someone to write and perform music with him 24 years ago, he approached Quick, a violinist. Akin to asking her to come up to “see his etchings,” Carleno asked Quick if she’d be willing to come hear some of the songs he’d written that could lend themselves to a violin playing the melody. “I wanted to ask her out but I was afraid of rejection,” said Tom. “I figured if she said ‘no,’ at least she wasn’t turning me down for a date.” “The only reason I said ‘yes’ was because I could see he was sincere,” adds Quick.

Initially, they collaborated as friends but their relationship flipped back and forth between something professional and personal. The Park Hill residents married 21 years ago.

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Music fills their days and nights, teaching, composing, recording and performing individually or as an acoustic jazz group called Perpetual Motion. The group has had various incarnations, with up to five members. Currently, it's just Carleno and Quick, performing at various venues around town.

"We are together 20 hours a day," says Quick. "Which is fine. We talk about how people have to work at marriage—we're still waiting for that," says Carleno. "We don't really fight. If there's a disagreement, we work it out right away," says Quick. That carries over to their musical relationship too, where disagreements are worked out based on what's good for the music, putting egos aside.

That philosophy was helpful when Quick served as producer on her husband's album, *Perfect Imperfection*, released last fall. For Carleno, the making of the album was therapeutic, helping him work through a lot of insecurities about himself and emotions surrounding the death of his mother 19 years before. It took four years to make. "I thought 'I could just not record this and take the easy way out' but then I knew I'd be kicking myself if I didn't," says Carleno. "That's why I wanted Josie to be my producer because I knew she'd figuratively

and literally hold my hand and other times, tell me to quit stalling."

Perfect Imperfection debuted on the ZoneMusicReporter Chart at number four and rose to number two the next month. Carleno was shocked. "I thought it would have been nice to make the top hundred so to shoot up to number two in a month was amazing." The album has received stellar reviews and has received airplay all over the world. In addition, Carleno was nominated for two awards, winning Best Instrumental Album-Acoustic at the ZMR Music Awards in New Orleans, in May.

When asked how she feels about her husband's first solo effort, Quick warns, "Oh, now I'm going to tear up" and does. "It's wonderful. He's been through a lot and I'm glad he has this opportunity." Carleno quietly says, "I didn't know you felt that emotional about it." "I do," she responds.

The first day Carleno was scheduled to go into the studio, Quick was diagnosed with lupus after having been misdiagnosed the year before with arthritis. Carleno offered to cancel the session but Quick wouldn't let him. "She was very practical about it, saying that since she was struggling and we

weren't performing much, it was actually good timing," he says.

Quick is currently in remission. "It was pretty scary for a while," she says. Looking over at her husband, she adds, "I feel like he's the one who lived through it. He was a prince. I was just busy trying to survive it." Throughout her illness, Quick made a point of practicing violin every day even if it was only to move one finger and up and down repeatedly. "I kept trying to play because I was afraid if I stopped, I'd never do it again," she says. Quick found that when she got up after playing, her whole body would hurt less, not just her fingers. "You talk about the healing power of music—I really experienced it."

Spending even a short amount of time with this musician couple, it's clear there is something special between them, both as a couple and fellow musicians. When asked why they think the combination of being married and working together works for them, they respond "It's effortless; it just kind of happens."



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Sarah Appleton attended medical school at Penn State University and trained at University of California, San Diego. Sarah lives in Stapleton with her husband and son.

New Alphabet Video Series Puts Fun Into Learning to Read

By Laurie Dunklee

Four- and five-year-olds are learning to read—and having a lot of fun in the process. Alphabet Workout, a new online course developed by Stapleton resident Darcie Froehardt and her sister Mary Forhan, provides videos and printed materials to help parents teach their children how to read.

“It’s not an app,” said Froehardt, a teacher and reading consultant. “It’s designed for parents to be actively involved in their kids’ learning to read. We know from research that apps for kids are entertaining but they’re not really learning. Parents’ interaction is critical. We developed Alphabet Workout so parents can be better teachers of their children.”

Alphabet Workout provides 14 video lessons for the computer or tablet; personalized support from Froehardt; and a backpack filled with puppets, books and games to make the video lessons active and engaging for children. Forhan, also a teacher, wrote the books and songs; Froehardt created the illustrations and puppets.

Froehardt said the method teaches children how reading works, starting with the most useful information. “Children were learning uppercase letters first, which isn’t the most useful,” Froehardt said. “Uppercase letters are used for signs but books are mainly lowercase, so we teach lowercase first...Also, most methods teach the letter names before letter sounds, which isn’t useful for sounding words out,” she continued. “Kids need to understand how connecting the sounds makes a word. It’s much more useful than memorizing words. We noticed that children’s reading was falling apart in third grade because



Stapleton resident Darcie Froehardt pronounces the sounds of the word “owl” while holding a puppet. Along with her sister Mary Forhan, they have developed a new online course that helps parents teach their kids how to read.

they had memorized words to that point but weren’t advancing. It’s critical for kids to understand how words work.”

Froehardt taught full time for 14 years before retiring two years ago. She still instructs and tutors young readers, including second-language students, and trains teachers how to teach phonics, the basis of Alphabet Workout.

Teaching kids to read is rewarding because of the results, she said. “Learning to read increases kids’ confidence—they are proud of their ability. I’m particularly impressed by second-language learners and their parents. The parents want what is best for their children. When I tell them to read every night with their child, they do it. They are so thrilled that their child is learning to read.”

Why should children learn to read at such a young age? Froehardt says, “Because they can.”

“Most children have the capacity. I believe a kindergartner can read to learn, not just learn to read. Those who aren’t ready to put it all together still learn the underlying skills and build a foundation for reading. If they’re pressured it can be too much, but we make it fun.”

Alphabet Workout teaches letter sounds using story, sound and movement. “We hit all the learning modalities,” notes Froehardt. “We want it to be fun for kids, to put the play back into it.”

She said children love the stories that help them remember letters and words. “They love the monkey, the alligator and the snake. The paper snake puppet excites them and they feel empowered.”

She stressed the importance of play: “We expect so much. Let them be kids

while they learn.”

Parents can make unintentional mistakes when teaching their kids to read, including reciting the ABCs, Froehardt said. “The ABCs focus on the name of the letter, not the letter sound. The letter sound is more useful.”

She said parents want their children to read faster so they encourage memorizing words: “Memorizing words says our language is unpredictable. But 80 percent of words can be sounded out. Just a few words don’t play fair.”

Froehardt hopes Alphabet Workout makes learning to read easier and more fun for children and parents.

“We’re empowering parents to be the best teachers of their child. We provide the tools to give them confidence to do that.” For more info, see <http://alphabetworkout.bossreaders.com>.





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Outlook Positive for Co-op Market in Northeast Denver



Photo courtesy of The Second Kitchen

The Second Kitchen in Boulder is one of Colorado's few co-op markets and a model of the type of store northeast Denver residents hope to bring to Stanley Aviation Marketplace.

By Madeline Schroeder

Efforts persist to bring a co-op market to northeast Denver. "This is the first time that all the pieces are in a row," says Thomas Spahr, Stapleton resident and ringleader of the effort.

The idea spawned from Stapleton residents Amanda Allshouse and Juli Pearson, who tried to recruit a natural grocery store to come to Eastbridge after growing frustrated with driving 15 minutes to do their shopping. When they didn't receive a letter of intent for the Stapleton land last summer, they decided to change vision.

A co-op is a member-owned neighborhood grocery store that provides natural, local, sustainable foods. When a person pays to become a member, he or she receives member-only sales, coupons and discounts.

A neighborhood co-op fills a different niche than a large grocery store like the King Soopers coming to Eastbridge. "We don't see King Soopers as competition in any way," says Pearson, who is still one of the main leaders in the effort. Looking back, she realizes Eastbridge wasn't the right location for the co-op vision, which requires a more intimate space.

The group is now pursuing tenancy at an 8,000-square-foot space at Stanley Marketplace in the Stanley Aviation building at 2501 Dallas in northwest Aurora on the edge of Stapleton. (Stanley Marketplace is currently not announcing tenants.)

The co-op group is hopeful about the location, which will be renovated and provides accessible parking and outdoor space. "I think the developer has a very strong vision for the Stanley site that is community-based and authentic to what the community wants. It features a lot of independent businesses and I think that gives a lot better with our vision for the co-op," Spahr says.

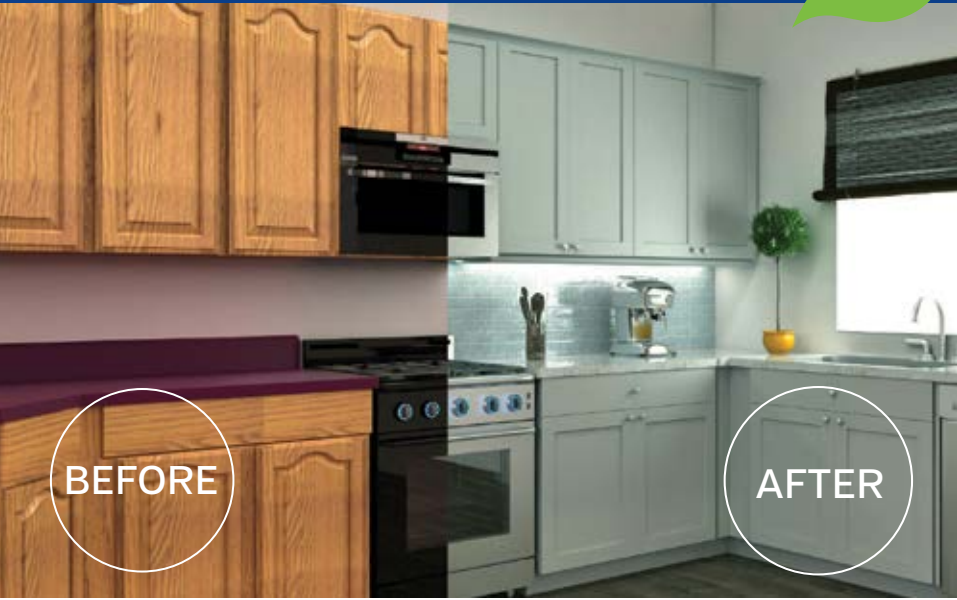
The space the group hopes to receive will be compact but offset with vaulted ceilings for an open feel. The conceptual plan includes a salad and hot foods bar, beer and wine, walk-in coolers, a juice bar, meats counter, and more.

The group hopes to raise \$40,000 in the next month to conduct a feasibility study, hire a full-time project manager, and connect with legal experts to establish the co-op. They report good response from Stapleton residents, but support has been slower in Aurora. They hope to begin building relationships with Aurora residents.

"We're at this turning point where it's really exciting and we have a visual of what it looks like, and a space we're targeting to be located. People are stepping up with fantastic skills to contribute," Pearson says.

To donate or learn more about the proposed market co-op, visit Northeastco-op.org or [Facebook.com/NortheastCommunity-CoOpMarketCafe](https://www.facebook.com/NortheastCommunity-CoOpMarketCafe).

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Each month, the Indie Prof reviews a current film in the theater and a second film that is available on DVD or an instant-streaming service.

Follow "Indie Prof" on Facebook for updates about film events and more reviews. One special note: see the Facebook page for information on the Cinema in The Park Series in Stapleton!

July is Sci-Fi Month: the Fourth Annual Science Fiction Film Series begins on Wed., July 9 and continues through August 6. I host the series, and we have a scientist from DMNS speaking about the

actual science in the film. For more information, visit my Facebook page. In honor of the series, I review two sci-fi films this month.

Snowpiercer (2013)

In a future world where global warming increases exponentially, the governments try an



Scene from *Snowpiercer*

experiment to cool down the world by shooting a chemical into the atmosphere. The cooling works, but too well—

the world is plunged into an ice age and mostly everyone dies. The survivors are all housed on a train constantly travelling around the world, financed and run by an eccentric billionaire (Ed Harris). The micro-society has a tight military rule, where clear class distinctions have arisen. The action centers around a rebellion led by Curtis (Chris Evans) and Edgar (Jamie Bell), who methodically work their way from the back of the train (poor) to the front (rich). Putting aside the outlandish premise, the film delivers an intelligent and thoughtful take on our current society and the imbalances therein.

The first English-language film by South Korean director Bong Joon-ho (*The Host*), this is a thoughtful, interesting, and increasingly captivating film. Based on a French comic book, it gets to the core of how we organize ourselves into societies. It is at times an action film and at times a philosophical film. The cinematography is tense and thematic, the direction is crisp, and the acting is acutely sharp. The film is not bereft of stars either, most of whom are in secondary roles: Tilda Swinton, Harris, and John Hurt. The mix of seasoned veterans and young stars adds heft to the film. This is smart sci-fi that delivers in the end.

You will like this if you enjoyed *Blade Runner*, *Europa Report*, and/or *Moon*.

Opens July 4 at the Sie Film Center.

Her (2013)

The best science fiction asks us to consider what it means to be human. While *Her* (directed by Spike Jonze) is not populated with aliens and spaceships, it nonetheless qualifies as science fiction as it tackles this question in a near-future setting (Los Angeles of the future is played by Shanghai of the present!). Yet it is much more than sci-fi, however, and it bleeds over into a love story and even a romantic comedy. The catch here is that our hero Theodore Twombly's (Joaquin Phoenix) love interest is an artificially intelligent operating system (voiced by Scarlett Johansson). The best science fiction also takes the science of today and extrapolates into future

possibilities. The future world of *Her* is frighteningly close.

Twombly works for a company writing love letters for paying clients. Recently separated from his wife, he is a lonely man who surrounds himself with technology. When he sees an ad for the first AI Operating System, he buys it immediately. The OS is interactive and learns from the user; it also begins to develop emotions and emotional attachments. On paper, this sounds like an absurd concept, but the writing, directing, and acting are so endearing that we immediately relate to the realistic implications.

The relationship plays out much like an actual human relationship, and we begin to understand that Theodore is not a singular case in this society. How easy and natural it all seems may be the scariest/most interesting part of the film.



Scene from *Her*

Nominated for five Academy Awards this year, it won its only award for Best Original Screenplay. I gave a short synopsis of the film a few months ago,

and I said at the time that if you could only see one Academy Award nominee, this one should be it. Upon seeing it again, I am convinced of that. It is the rare film that crosses genres, makes us laugh and cry, and delves deep into our humanity. We walk away from the film asking many questions—mostly of ourselves and how we live our lives. How far away is this world? Probably closer than we think.

You will like this if you enjoyed *Being John Malkovich*, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, and/or *Stranger Than Fiction*.

Now available on Redbox or Amazon Instant Video.

This film, along with all other films I've reviewed, may be found at the Sam Gary Library when it is released on DVD. 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.

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Stapleton Teacher-Librarians Receive National Award

By Madeline Schroeder

Some may picture a high school library as an outdated room with dusty books and few students. But enter the library at Eaglecrest High School and it's an environment more similar to a college library.

Students lounge in comfortable seating in a sunny atrium. Other students work on their computers at charging stations. Some check out iPod nanos at the front desk for audiobook listening.

At Eaglecrest, the library is a place students want to be.

"We'll do anything to get students reading," says teacher-librarian Kristin McKeown.

McKeown and her fellow teacher-librarian

Hollie Hawkins, both Stapleton residents, have made the library an inviting and safe place, while also establishing an academic standard.

Eaglecrest, located in the Cherry Creek school district, was recently named the 2014 National School Library Program

of the year by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL). The organization annually recognizes a school for an exceptional library environment that is fully integrated into the entire school. The winning school receives a symbol of excellence and \$10,000 for the library program.

"We're making a difference for students professionally and academically, and ultimately their lives," McKeown says.

Rather than librarians, McKeown and Hawkins are teacher-librarians because they train colleagues how to integrate the library into the curriculum. McKeown previously taught high school English and Hawkins taught elementary, so they both have classroom experience.

Eaglecrest is focused on reading, and the results are making a difference. The school reports a strong correlation between the number of book checkouts and ACT reading scores. Both have

steadily increased over the past eight years.

"We're lucky enough to work in a school and a district that supports the need for a library," Hawkins says.

The \$10,000 will go toward more books, a summer reading program and e-books and additional staffing.

Beyond academic reading, McKeown and Hawkins collaborate to keep students enthused about reading as a hobby. They host book talks and a book club. They offer more than 150 Kindles for students to check out and read e-books. They also coordinate with the local public library.

McKeown is a self-professed fantasy geek and jokes if there is a map at the beginning of a book then you know it's going to be good. Hawkins enjoys a wider range of books, mostly fiction. The two occasionally carpool from their Stapleton homes, but most of the time they each don't want to risk interrupting the audio book waiting in the car.



Eaglecrest librarians Kristin McKeown (left) and Hollie Hawkins (right) celebrate after being named the 2014 National School Library Program of the year.

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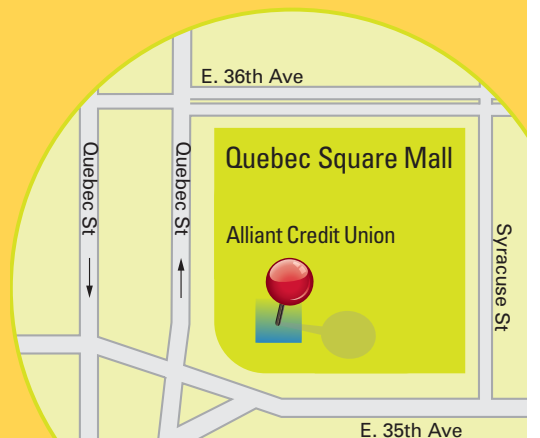
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Why isn't Stapleton more diverse?

(continued from page 7) going on here. It's not what I thought I was buying."

Tammi Holloway concurs with Knop about the value of a diverse community. "When I went to East, I didn't know if I was rich or poor. Now I know. But when I was at East I didn't know. The socio-economic status of your parents didn't trickle down to you as a child. We all just got along."

Gleason says, "The projection for one third rental units was for full build-out of Stapleton, and we are several years away from reaching that point. It is important to remember that the very earliest phases of development at Stapleton did include 466 units of rental housing. And since that time, 645 more units have been completed, with another 152 coming in the next three months."

Is it too late?

Jim Wagenlander thinks it's not too late to change the perception and a lot can still be done. "Forest City has said it needs to reflect market conditions and economics whenever the issue (of rental and affordable percentages) has been raised, but that's avoiding the requirements that are contained in the documents they signed. If those agreements are followed, I believe the kind of diversity that was a goal and a commitment of Denver and Forest City and the community originally can be satisfied."

Damon Knop acknowledges Forest City is catching up on the rental housing, but adds, "It's kind of too late to change what Stapleton is looked at as. Whether we can change it a little here and a

little there to make it more diverse as we build out, maybe. They say they will build the 10 percent (affordable for sale), but it's hard to imagine they will save all their losses til the end."

Tom Gleason says Forest City intends to honor that commitment, which is why it sets aside lots for "Income Qualified Homes" as it moves forward with the development of market rate homes. "We have the lots and we have the commitment, all we need are interested and qualified buyers. We would welcome more help from the Stapleton Citizens Advisory Board in attracting those buyers."

What can be done to reach the goals?

Stapleton's Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) has, for years, been writing an annual report to the Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC) saying the measurements for diverse housing aren't being met and SDC has passed on the reports to Forest City. SDC board member Justin Ross, who has repeatedly spoken out on the issue said at the March SDC meeting, "As a board, we haven't been very thorough with addressing the report over the years. We've been very lackluster at best... I can't remember in my history where there's been some real formative response to CAB's report...we still have this affordable housing looming over our head that's not being addressed. The numbers aren't getting better."

At an SDC meeting in January 2012, after intense discussions about what SDC should do, a motion was made to stop land sales to

Forest City. It was voted on and didn't pass. SDC then formed a committee to work with Forest City and the City to look at changes in the affordable housing program, which all agreed wasn't working well. Forest City, the City and SDC worked to gain City Council approval of several measures to increase the potential for the Stapleton affordable for-sale program to succeed.

The changes will help existing homeowners sell their homes, "But," added Justin Ross, "those changes weren't an incubator for Forest City to build additional affordable housing. Affordable housing is a requirement at 10%. It is not up for discussion. We're still drastically lacking and this board needs to do something about it."

Tom Gleason says, "In addition to setting aside lots to meet the affordable for-sale commitment, Forest City will continue to work with the City of Denver and SDC to address the shortcomings of the program. Until the affordable for-sale program becomes more appealing and responsive to the needs of qualified buyers, it will continue to struggle. Members of the Stapleton Citizens Advisory Board were appointed to that position because they were considered active, credible members of their community. They can play an important role in creating a more racially and economically diverse community at Stapleton by more actively promoting the affordable housing program."

With Forest City's recent submission of a General Development Plan (GDP) for the large remaining parcel of land north of 56th Ave.

(referred to as Section 10), the Citizens Advisory Board unanimously approved a resolution requesting that Forest City "take into consideration" putting an appropriate and adequate amount of affordable and market rate rental housing there. On June 26, the SDC board voted in favor of the resolution and Tom Gleason agreed Forest City would take the resolution into consideration. SDC also asked Forest City to bring a plan for meeting the housing goals to SDC's August meeting.

The future

"After 23 years, I have to be an optimist," says Jim Wagenlander. "I think the city may have to be the one to engage itself in this process. That's a shame because the whole concept of Stapleton was that the SDC board and the CAB would be the players to try to hold the developer to the vision and the legal requirements of the Green Book."

Kevin Marchman, board chairman of SDC says, "I have made a personal commitment...I know the three decision makers over there (at Forest City), and we have to work together on this."

"I am extremely fortunate to have the experience I've received (as Assistant Secretary of Public and Indian Housing [U. S. HUD] and former executive director of the Denver Housing Authority [DHA]). What good is all that experience if I don't do something in my own backyard? This project has the opportunity, before the window is closing."

"SDC has to step up. We're the ones who signed the contract. I just want to make sure that we don't continue to have the reputation that I sometimes hear we have."

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8th-Grader Publishes First Children’s Book



Bella Horton

(continued from page 1) By Madeline Schroeder

D SST Stapleton eighth-grader and Stapleton resident Bella Horton recently published her first book, *The Warm Waters of Winter*, a children’s book about a young humpback’s

journey in its first year of life. The book is recommended for first- to fifth-grade reading levels.

Horton began the book in sixth grade as an assignment to write an educational piece about humpback whales after a class science trip to the Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito, Calif.

Horton, or “Whale Turkey” as she goes by on her blog, loves to write. She’s written quotes, poems and short stories, and is in the process of writing a few novels. “I kind of like to go all over and explore all my options at the moment.” She admires J.K. Rowling and Robert Frost. She previously studied creative writing in the Duke University Talent Identify Program (Duke TIP).

Duke TIP is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving academically gifted and talented youth. The program believes gifted children often do not reach their full potential for a variety of reasons. Duke TIP identifies and supports those children.

Horton has been determined to return to Duke TIP ever since finishing her program. She decided to publish her book to help pay for the program a second time.

“My mom told me the book was really good and so did my father so we revised a few things because I’ve grown in my writing a little bit more in the two years.”

In addition to the writing, she drew all the illustrations.

“We had a blast creating the book, revising it, publishing it. It’s just a feat in itself to do it as well as to make it back to Duke again.”

Beginning in October, *The Warm Waters of Winter* will also be sold in the Denver Museum of Nature and Science during a temporary exhibit on whales. The book is available now on Amazon at <https://www.createspace.com/4689107> or directly through Horton by emailing BooksByBella@yahoo.com. To read Horton’s other writing, visit WhaleTurkey8282.wordpress.com.

Roller Derby Chronicles Not Your Typical Princess Book

By Madeline Schroeder

When Meghan Dougherty started playing roller derby in 2007, she learned much more than how to ride on eight wheels and knock into players. The Montclair resident and mother of two discovered the strength and fierceness it brings to women.

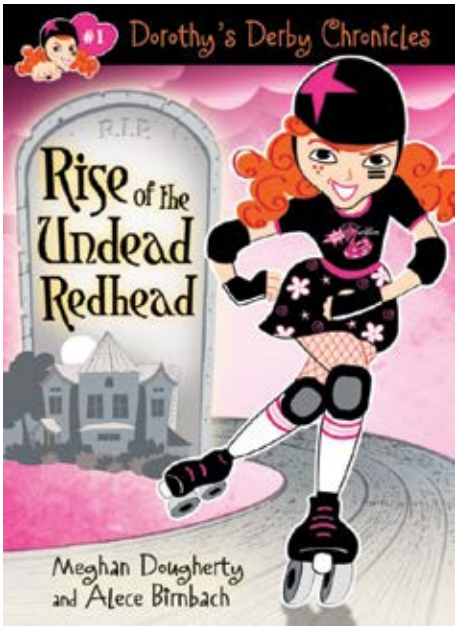
“It’s like a sisterhood,” she says. “You can be a mom with two kids living in Stapleton or single for life and go listen to bands all the time, and you can become a sister in the sport, no matter what your background is. It’s a giantly supportive environment.”

Roller derby began as a subculture of punk rock skaters. Unlike most sports, it welcomes all body types. Big hips that might be considered negative otherwise become powerful threats on the rink. Dougherty, aka “Undertaker’s Daughter” for being the daughter of a mortician, started to consider how the sport can help young girls who are often teased or feeling pressure to be “pretty” and “cool” during middle school years. She started considering the idea of a book.

At the time, Dougherty’s friend and illustrator Alece Birnbach, also a Montclair resident, had been creating images of girls and women with jokes for party napkins and decor. When Dougherty approached her to discuss a possible book, Birnbach jumped on the idea. She had seen little to no marketing toward young girls in the illustrating world.

The two, along with co-writer Karen Windness, came up with *Dorothy’s Derby Chronicles: Rise of the Undead Redhead*, which will be released July 8.

The book follows the life of Dorothy Anne Moore, aka “Undead Redhead” on the roller rink—a character inspired by a younger Meghan Dougherty. She is 11 with a medium build, green eyes and unruly orange pigtails. “I had a blast coming up with what she looked like because I imagine Meghan’s hair was out of control and a lot redder,” Birnbach



says. She describes Dorothy as Lucille Ball-like with clumsy tendencies.

Dorothy starts playing roller derby because of her grandma, a pink-haired, hearse-driving woman and retired roller derby star. Dorothy falls into a wildly unique and supportive group of girls, a blessing as she enters the often-awkward “tween” years. The book chronicles the team’s ups and downs on their way to the championship.

Dougherty says she would’ve liked to have this book and the sport when she was younger. Growing up with brothers, she was always wrestling and often mistaken for a tomboy, but still liked pretty things. “It’s not that we don’t love a good princess book, but we also like the anti-princess, the girl who’s just going to be herself,” Dougherty says. “Even the prissy girl in the book turns out to have a pretty rough side to her. Roller derby gives that opportunity to her,” Birnbach adds.

Rise of the Undead Redhead is the first of the *Dorothy Derby’s Chronicles*. The creators plan to publish up to 10 books, with the second coming out spring 2015. Through July 7, people can preorder the first book and save money on the Tattered Cover, Amazon and Barnes & Noble websites.

From 10:30am–12:30pm on Sat., July 19 at Taxi, 3544 Ringsby Court in the RiNo District, Dougherty, Birnbach, Windness and the Rocky Mountain Roller girls will host a book launch event in conjunction with roller derby’s 10th birthday in Denver. The event will include junior roller derby demos and information, face painting, fake tattoo station, food and drink. There will be a book-signing event on August 20 at Plum Consignment, 2372 Central Park Blvd. For more information, visit <http://www.dorothysderby.com/>

Stapleton Student Receives Boettcher Scholarship

By Madeline Schroeder

At 16, what did you know about your future? Were you confident in who you were and who you wanted to be? Had you planned your career? Did you look forward to the challenges of a college curriculum?

For many, answers to these questions might have been unclear, but 16-year-old Stapleton resident Ellis Aune speaks about her future with confidence and maturity beyond her years.

The 2014 George Washington High School graduate recently received the Boettcher Scholarship, a virtually full-ride, merit-based scholarship to attend a four-year college or university within the state of Colorado.

The board of trustees of The Boettcher Foundation considered more than 1,600 applicants. This year, 40 Colorado high school seniors received the scholarship.

(continued on p. 24)



Ellis Aune

Photo courtesy of Ellis Aune

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Boettcher Scholar

(continued from p. 23) “The rather rigorous application and interview process looks at who you are, not even necessarily what you’re doing now, but how you got there,” Aune says. She focused her essay on how she is shaped by her father’s death when she was young.

While she is grateful for her time at George Washington with the “best teachers and a strong sense of community,” she is ready for college. Her room is already half packed and all her dorm items are ordered (she likes to be prepared).

Aune will attend the University of Colorado-Boulder in the fall and study biological and chemical engineering. “I am probably most excited to start studying what is the relevant material that I’ll use in my career and the rest of my life.”

She looks forward to getting involved in the academic programs, extracurricular activities and intramural sports. After earning her undergrad, she plans to join the Peace Corps for two years, which she hopes will direct her ultimate career goal. Then she plans to get her master’s in biomedical engineering and be integrated into research.

Besides studying, Aune enjoys softball, speech and debate and snowboarding.

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”

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.

SEASONAL/HOLIDAY EVENTS

7/3 Thursday—Independence Day Eve Celebration in Civic Center Park. 8pm. FREE community concert with patriotic favorites by Colorado Symphony. Lightshow and fireworks show. Denver Civic Center Park. www.civiccenterconservancy.org

7/4 Friday—2014 Freedom Run 5K. 8am. Evergreen Middle School, Evergreen. www.mtevans.org

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

7/4 Friday—Aurora’s 4th of July Spectacular. 6-9:30 pm. Live music, largest fireworks display in metro area. Fireworks 9:30pm. Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda P’kway.

7/4 Friday—Colorado Rapids vs. Columbus. Fireworks after game. Family fun zone 5pm, game 7:30pm www.coloradorapids.com

7/4 Friday—Denver Outlaws vs. Boston Canons. 7pm. Sports Authority Field. Fireworks after game. www.denveroutlaws.com

7/4 Friday—Elitch Gardens Fireworks. At dusk.

7/4 Friday—Evergreen 4th of July Celebration. Evergreen Music Festival, art show, kids activities. 10am-8pm. Tickets \$10. 12 and under free. Evergreen Lakehouse. www.evergreenmusicfestival.org

7/4 Friday—Liberty 4 Mile and Firecracker Kids Run. 8:30am. Washington Park. www.hallucinationsports.com

7/4 Friday—Old Fashioned July 4th Celebration. Four Mile Historic Park, 10am-4pm. 715 S. Forest St. 720.865.0800. www.four-milepark.org

7/4 Friday—Olde Town Arvada Spirit of America 4th of July Festival. Free family events. Classic car show 4pm. Fireworks at dusk. www.arvadafestivals.com

DENVER METRO EVENTS

7/4 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Santa Fe Arts District, Tennyson Art Walk, River North (RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Museum, Navajo Street Art District. www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

7/4 to 7/6—Cherry Creek Arts Festival. www.cherryarts.org

7/5 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

7/7 to 7/28—Monday Movie Madness at Infinity Park. FREE movies at Infinity Park in Glendale. 8pm. www.infinityparkatglendale.com

7/11 to 7/13—Colorado Black Arts Festival. City Park West. www.colbaf.org

7/11 to 7/13—Colorado Irish Festival. Largest Irish Celebration in Rocky Mountains. Traditional Irish music, dancing, drama, storytelling, games, food/drink. Littleton, Clement Park. www.coloradoirishfestival.org

7/12 Saturday—Drums along the Rockies. 7pm. Sports Authority Field at Mile High. Tickets,

info: www.bknights.org

7/12 Saturday—Summer at the Symphony. Colorado Symphony presents Classical Top 40. www.coloradosymphony.org

7/12 Saturday—Women of the Titanic Tea. At Molly Brown House. \$20. Sittings: 11am, and 1pm. jwilms@mollybrown.org or 303.832.4092x17. www.mollybrown.org

7/18 Friday—Third Friday Art walks. Santa Fe Arts District, Santa Fe Drive between 6th and 10th. www.artdistrictonsantafe.com

7/19 Saturday—Cat Fest at Denver Dumb Friends League. 10am-3pm. Denver Dumb Friends League, 2080 S. Quebec. 303.751.5772. www.ddfl.org

7/19 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. Free with admission. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-2pm. www.wingsmuseum.org

7/19 to 7/20—Denver Dragon Boat Festival. 13th annual. At Denver’s Sloan’s Lake Park. www.cdbf.org

7/23 to 7/27—Buffalo Bill Days. Wild West show, car show, mutton bustin’, arts/crafts. Parfet Park, downtown Golden. www.buffalobilldays.com

7/24 to 7/27—Denver Post Underground Music Showcase. S. Broadway. 230-300 bands play in more than 30 venues. www.theums.com

7/25 to 7/27—Evergreen Jazz Festival. www.evergreenjazz.org

7/26 to 7/27—2nd Annual Cheesman Park Art Fest. 115 artists/craftsman showcase art in free, family friendly setting. Music, kids activities, artist demos and food trucks. www.cheesman-parkartfest.com

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

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

7/1 to 7/29—Free Meditation Group. Every other Tuesday beginning July 1. 6:50p-7:50pm.

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7/12 Saturday—4th Annual Highland Running of the Bulls 1K. Try to outrun Rocky Mountain Roller Girls team wielding wiffle ball bats. Benefits Tennyson Center for Children, music, food dancing. 32nd and Tennyson. www.highlandbulls.com

7/12 Saturday—The Sand Creek ½ Marathon and 5k/10k. Start at Stapleton Central Park. Different length runs go through Bluff Lake Nature Center, Sand Creek Trail and/or Westerly Creek. www.runningguru.com

7/13 Sunday—Answers to Stress. Free brunch at The Garden-Park Hill with Dr. Sandra Thebaud, author of The Young Person's Ultimate Guide to Managing Stress and Navigating Life. Get a free month of unlimited online stress management training "How to Develop Resiliency and Stress Hardiness" for every book signed at the brunch (order on Amazon). See www.StressIntel.com. RSVP by July 10 at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/brunch-with-the-author-tickets-11905352229> www.thegarden-parkhill.com

7/17 Thursday—Free HIV testing at Rocky Mountain CARES nonprofit for holistic HIV care. 1-5pm, 3rd Thursday monthly and by appt. 4545 E 9th Ave., #120. Shannon Southall: 303.951.3694.

7/19 Saturday—Moonlight Classic. Charity bike ride through Denver at night. Family wave 10:30 pm. www.moonlight-classic.com

7/27 Sunday—3rd Annual Dash for Smiles Walk/Run. Stapleton Central Park. www.dashforsmiles.org

7/30 Wednesday—Stress Reduction Class. FREE. Central Park Rec Center. Discover easy, proven ways to reduce stress. 7-9 pm. etaubert@gmail.com to register.

To submit Front Porch "Local Event" Listings

PRINT: Email information in the following format by the 15th of the month to FrontPorchEvents@gmail.com. Events will be run subject to space available.

Date in numerical format (mm/dd), day of week- Name of Event. A one- or two-sentence description. Time. List cost or if free. Location. Contact information.

ONLINE: Visit <http://frontporchstapleton.com/submit-event/>

STORY IDEAS: Send press releases for suggested stories to FrontPorch@FrontPorchStapleton.com.

KIDS AND FAMILIES

6/14 to 8/3—Colorado Renaissance Festival. Weekends, mid June through early August. Larkspur. www.coloradorenaissance.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

7/4 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

7/4 Friday—City of Aurora 4th of July Spectacular. Fireworks display with live entertainment, food and vendors. Starts at 6pm at the Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, fireworks start at 9:30 pm. FREE and open to the public. <https://www.auroragov.org/ThingsToDo/Events/>

(continued on p. 26)

Healthy Women Needed for Cardiovascular Research Study

Purpose of the Research Study:

- The purpose of this study is to investigate how the menopause transition and the loss of estrogen impacts the health and function of arteries in women

Main Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria:

- Premenopausal women 18-49 years, Perimenopausal women 40-55 years and Postmenopausal women between the age of 45-70 years
- Non-smokers
- Volunteers should NOT currently be taking Birth Control or Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) or exercising vigorously more than 2 days per week

Main Procedures Involved:

- Physician supervised exercise stress test
- Ultrasound of the blood vessels and heart
- Blood cholesterol profile
- Comprehensive dietary analyses
- Measurements of bone mineral density and body composition

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(continued from p. 25) [FourthofJulySpectacular/index.htm](#)

7/5 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](#)

7/5 Saturday—Junior Rangers. 1:30-3:30pm. Ages 6-12. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd., Aurora. Reservations required. 303.739.9428, [www.auroragov.org/nature](#)

7/5 to 7/6—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](#)

7/12 to 7/26—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](#)

7/18 Friday—Nature at Night- Skunks. 8:15-9:15pm. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd., Aurora. 303.739.9428 [www.auroragov.org/nature](#)

7/25 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](#)

LECTURES AND CLASSES

7/1 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)- Eleanor Roosevelt. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. 303.316.6359. [www.ActiveMinds.com](#)

July-August—Denver City Park Jazz

City Park Jazz began its 28th season on June 1. From 6-8pm every Sunday, rain or shine, there are free concerts in the park at the boathouse. The first concert features the Hazel Miller Band. Other concerts include: The Lynn Baker Quartet, Ritmo Jazz Latino, Tribute to Freddy Rodriguez, Gumbo Le Funque, SuCh, and the Dave Watts Ensemble of Deepness. To view the complete lineup and other information visit [CityParkJazz.org/calendar](#).

7/8 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)- Wildfires. 12:30-1:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727. [www.ActiveMinds.com](#)

7/17 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)- South Africa. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325. [www.ActiveMinds.com](#)

7/22 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)- Sudan. 5:30-6:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727. [www.ActiveMinds.com](#)

7/31 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)- Mayans. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325. [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—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](#)

7/17 Thursday—Science Lounge. Cocktails/entertainment every 3rd Thurs. of month. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/non-members. [www.dmns.org](#)

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July 21—Science on Tap

5:30-9:30pm at Denver Beer Co, 1695 Platte, the Denver Museum of Nature & Science (DMNS) will unveil a beer they created. The custom-made brew is inspired by an ancient Maya drink and created based on scientific data related to Museum artifacts from an ancient Maya city. The event will include a presentation about beer-related research by DMNS curators Dr. Garneau and Dr. Koons. A ticket (for 21+ only) includes two beers and food. \$30 Young Professional member (or use one of your free tickets), \$35 nonmember. Advance tickets 303.370.6000. For more info visit [dmns.org/press-room/news-releases/denver-museum-of-nature-science-and-denver-beer-co-partner-for-science-on-tap](#).



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STAPLETON FAMILY EYE CENTER

NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS

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

7/10 Thursday—Bluff Lake Fireside Chat. 6:30-8pm. All ages welcome. \$1 suggested donation. Repeats 7/24, new topic. Bluff Lake Nature Center, 3400 Havana WWay. keith@blufflake.org. www.blufflakenaturecenter.org.

7/25 Friday—Urban Farm Day at Found-ers Green. The Urban Farm 4H group will show animals and leading activities 3-8pm. Pony rides 5-8pm, \$5. Games, chickens, rabbits (3-6pm) and more. www.theurbanfarm.org

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

7/2 Wednesday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Begin Again, Earth to Echo, Tammy www.harkinstheatres.com

7/4 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Ivory Tower www.harkinstheatres.com

7/11 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Dawn of the Planet of the Apes www.harkinstheatres.com

7/18 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Disney's Planes: Fire and Rescue, The Purge: Anarchy www.harkinstheatres.com

7/25 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Hercules, Lucy www.harkinsthe-atres.com

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

7/11 Friday—Bird Olympics. 10-11am. ages 6-10 http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_moun-tain_arsenal/

7/11 Friday—Summer Hike n Bird. 8:30-10:30am Recommended for adults. http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

7/12 Saturday—Bike the Refuge. 8:30-10:30am. Naturalist guided 6-8 mile bike ride. Puncture-proof tires recommended, helmet required. http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

7/20 Sunday—Birding for Beginners. 8:30-11:30am. Learn tips and tricks of birding.

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_moun-tain_arsenal/

THEATRE

5/30 to 7/6—Lobby Hero. Vintage The-atre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

6/7 to 8/10—Colorado Shakespeare Festival. CU Boulder campus, various plays, times. www.coloradoshakes.org

7/8 to 7/24—Sideways Stories from the Wayside School. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave, Aurora. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

7/11 to 7/27—The Book of Moron. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

KIDS CAMPS AND CLASSES

6/3 to 7/11—Star K Nature Camp. Ages 6- 12, Tues to Fri 9-12pm. Various weeks. \$50/child per week. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. 303.739.9428 www.auroragov.org/nature

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

July 26-27—Cheesman Park Art Fest

The second annual Cheesman Art Fest will take place July 26-27 at southern are of the park near 8th Ave. One hundred juried artists and craftsmen will show their work, including sculptures, jewelry, painting, glass art, and more. The event will also include live music, food trucks, food samplings and demonstrations and activities for kids. For more information visit dasheventsdenver.com/#!/cheesman/ctzx.




Golf Carts

They're cute and zippy, but are they legal and safe?

Now that the weather is nice, golf carts are seen around Stapleton, including major streets like Central Park Blvd. and 26th Ave. But is this legal? That's actually a big question. Last summer the Front Porch inves-tigated and discovered golf cart laws are much debated. Get the clearest understanding of golf cart laws at FrontPorchStapleton.com.



Announcing our newest arrival, Nicole Erwin, M.D.

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Lois McLauchlan M.D., F.A.C.O.G.

The Book Worm

The *Front Porch* prints book reviews by Denver Public librarians in Northeast Denver, rotating to a different library each month. This month, reviews are by Kristi Harder and Kelly Wright from the Sam Gary Branch.

Adult fiction:



Missing You by Harlan Coben

Someone is using dating sites to lure new victims, steal their money and make them disappear. A great cautionary tale? Nah. I usually like Coben's work but this just feels phoned in and done to death. A

better bet? Coben's Myron Bolitar mysteries.



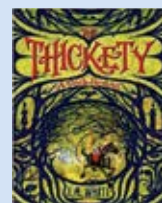
Museum of Extraordinary Things by Alice Hoffman

This book asks the question, is it worse to be ugly on the outside or the inside? Coralie spends her life answering that question, and looking for real love in turn-of-the-century America where her father opens a museum full of freaks and manufactured creatures. He's a conman who horribly mis-uses her in his financial schemes. Then she sees Eddie, a man who shuns his own religious past to recreate himself, and falls in love, but is it that easy to escape your past? Alice Hoffman at her best.

Children's fiction:

Thickety: a path begins by J. A. White

Kara lives in the fold where magic is forbidden. Her mother was hanged as a witch and she is living under a cloud of suspicion too. Shunned,



her family is barely surviving. Their community is surrounded by fast-growing poisonous weeds and a forest where all who enter disappear. Kara is compelled into Thickety to dig up a magic book that belonged to her mother. Is it controlled by an evil presence that's controlling her? What's the truth about her mother? Great word building. I can't wait to read book 2.



Young adult fiction:

Noggin by John Corey Whaley

Travis is a medical miracle. He was dying of cancer and decided to sign up for a risky experiment—he had his head chopped off, frozen and shipped to a hospital in Denver, Colo. Five years later it is attached to another boy's body and now Travis is alive again. He is still 16 and living at his parent's, but everything has changed. His

best friend and girlfriend are now in college, and all Travis wants to do is get his old life back. Can he get used to his new life?



Rebel Belle by Rachel Hawkins

Harper is a typical Southern Belle who is looking forward to getting crowned at her homecoming dance. Something happens at the dance and she suddenly has amazing abilities that change her life forever. She becomes a Paladin, an ancient guardian who has super strength and reflexes. She finds out that she must protect her arch nemesis, David, a reporter for the school paper. Can she save the Earth? And can she adjust to having super powers and putting up with her least favorite person? This is a great book for those who like their action with a dose of humor.



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Museum Returns Treasures to Their Native Homes

By Laurie Dunklee

Indiana Jones was mostly right when he recovered priceless artifacts from the baddies and declared, “These belong in a museum!”

The handsome movie archaeologist may have missed the mark on a few items of cultural significance, however. “Nine out of 10 archaeological objects do belong in museums, where we celebrate our past and our future,” said Dr. Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh, curator of anthropology at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science (DMNS). “But certain cultural and sacred objects need to be returned to the cultures that created them—where they are most cherished. It comes down to respect for the values and views of other people and cultures.”

DMNS is a leader in the movement to return such artifacts to their homes, mostly to Native American tribes but also internationally. The museum has returned nearly 200 objects and 100 sets of human remains to their places of origin.

Cultural objects have been returned to the Hopi and Apache communities in Arizona, the Tlingit in Alaska, the Miccosukee in Florida and the Cheyenne and Arapahoe in Oklahoma. This February the museum repatriated 30 sacred statues, called *vigango*, to the Republic of Kenya.

“We work with the communities to return objects of cultural patrimony: communally owned items that are to them like our Liberty Bell—an object all the people have a right to, and not even the president has a right to sell,” said Colwell-Chanthaphonh, who has been at DMNS since 2007.

Colwell-Chanthaphonh and the museum work with Native American tribes to return found human remains. “It’s our ethical responsibility to consult with all potential kin,” he said. “This year we located 20 sets of human remains that we think are Native American, so we reached out to 566 federally recognized tribes to get their input—do they want us to return the remains, keep them for study, or share curatorship? We have a commitment to engage with the communities. They have a say in how their heritage is cared for.”

Such sensitivity for cultural rights wasn’t always the norm for museums. “Repatriation emerged in the 1970s,” said Colwell-Chanthaphonh. “Native American people coalesced around the return of their ancestors’ remains and objects that meant the cultural survival of their people. There were sit-ins at museums and archaeological digs and vigorous protest against colonial museum work.”

In 1990, the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) was passed, requiring museums to



Dr. Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh, curator of anthropology at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science (DMNS) stands in the Northwest Coast section of the Crane American Indian Hall. Behind him plays a video of the museum’s first repatriation under

federal law, in 1997, of a sacred wooden hat belonging to the Tlingit of Alaska. The museum has returned more objects to the Tlingit than any other tribe. In the exhibit hall are many of the kinds of objects that the Tlingit use in their ceremonies.

inventory human remains and cultural items and consult with tribes about repatriation.

“There was animosity between the tribes and museums but we became collaborative. We sat around the same table and realized we had a lot in common,” said Colwell-Chanthaphonh. “In the collaborative process, some tribes want us to keep their objects because they don’t have a safe place for them. Others want us to do research on the human remains to better understand their ancestors’ lives. Museums learn that we don’t have a complete understanding of things. Tribal elders are able to correct our records with their stories and interpretations.”

Colwell-Chanthaphonh’s project to return the *vigango* sacred wooden statues to Kenya began in 2008. “I read an article about objects stolen from Kenya. I looked and sure enough, we had 30 of them,” he said. “It took five years to return them. The challenge was finding the right person to talk to. Who could help us? Last summer I read that Denver City Councilman Albus Brooks was going to Kenya with the Sister City Program. I cold-called him and a Kenyan delegate came the next week. The Sister City connection worked and we returned them to the National Museum in Nairobi, which will return them to their community of origin.”

The *vigango* were created by the Mijikenda on Kenya’s east coast. They are carved wooden statues between three and nine feet high that are erected as memorials to revered elders. They are believed to be living objects that intercede to bring good to the community.

More than 400 *vigango* are held in 21 museums in the U.S. and Europe. Although the Mijikenda strongly object to the removal of *vigango*, they continue to be stolen and sold on the international art market.

“There’s no legal instrument to recover stolen cultural objects. You continue to see antiquities for sale on eBay,” said Colwell-Chanthaphonh.

Although not legally bound to return the *vigango*, Colwell-Chanthaphonh and others felt it was important to return the communally owned, sacred items.

“The DMNS has done a lot to go beyond the letter of the law to embrace the spirit. Some other museums don’t return artifacts unless they are legally required,” he said.

Colwell-Chanthaphonh is conducting an ethnographic project to study whether the return of these objects and remains has led to the healing of the wounds of history.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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The **Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC) Program** allows qualifying borrowers to receive an annual federal in-

come tax credit equal to 30 percent of the annual interest they pay on their mortgage loan (\$2,000/year maximum). For more information visit DenverGov.org/oed > Housing Assistance.

The **Metro Mortgage Assistance Program** provides a down payment assistance (DPA) grant equal to 4 percent of the mortgage amount. Low and moderate income homebuyer families do not have to be first-time homebuyers. Families of two can have an income up to \$91,100 and families of three up to \$103,000. The mortgage interest rate is anticipated to be 3.5 percent. There is no maximum home purchase price. For more information visit DenverGov.org/oed > Housing Assistance.

The **Wells Fargo NeighborhoodLIFT down payment assistance program** offers eligible homebuyers \$15,000 for the purchase of a primary owner-occupied residence in Denver. Owners must live in the home for five years to keep the full grant. Eligible buyers must have a family income equal to or less than 120 percent of the area median income. For example, a household of two qualifies with an income between \$61,750 and \$64,450. For more information visit WellsFargo.com/mortgage/lift.

By Carol Roberts

The northernmost part of Stapleton, referred to as Section 10, is a one square mile area that will have about 2,000 single family homes and, in addition, some multi-family units. But at this stage the focus is more on infrastructure and land use concepts.

Planning for drainage is a high priority for Section 10. The water in this area flows north, so a detention pond is planned in the northwest corner. After the land is developed, though there will be more storm water runoff, the water cannot flow into the Rocky Mountain Arsenal at a rate any greater than it has historically from the undeveloped land. The north-south open space, about the width of Westerly Creek,



Forest City Senior Vice President Jim Chrisman explains the General Development Plan (GDP) that Forest City has submitted for the one square mile area of Stapleton north of 56th Ave. at a June 26 meeting in Northfield.

Forest City Presents General Development Plan for Northernmost Section of Stapleton

will be central to that drainage system. The two "fingers" of open space, which are wider than Greenway park, connect the central open space to the perimeter.

Connectivity to main streets and access are also considered at this stage of planning. 56th Ave. will be a six-lane road from Quebec to Peña Blvd with three main north-south roads that connect to it in Section 10: Central Park Blvd., Dallas St. and Havana. A narrow open space area is planned for pedestrian (and likely bike) access along 56th and along the east and north borders with the Arsenal. That open space, along a perimeter road also provides a firebreak between Stapleton and the Arsenal.

For years it has been expected that Stapleton land would be used for a regional park, adding much needed sports fields in Denver. However, Deirdre Oss, Senior City Planner, stated that the planning department determined that being so close to Dick's sporting goods, and being in the middle of a residential area did not make the open space area north of 56th Ave. conducive to a sports complex. She said fields will likely be built south of the high school fields, but there may not be as many originally

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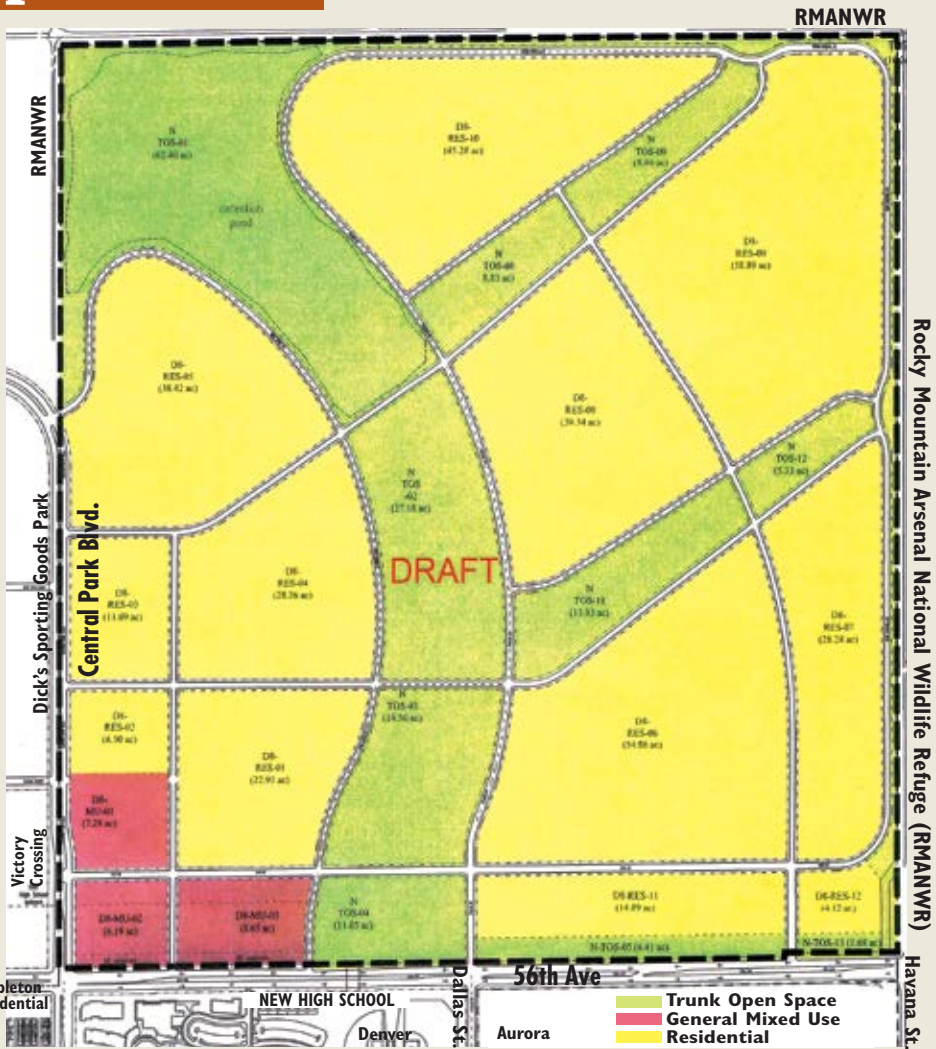
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planned. She added that the open space in Section 10 will be “programmable” and can be used for informal soccer games and other activities.

The June 26 public meeting was the only public meeting required by the city for this GDP, and the public has two weeks to respond. The GDP can be viewed at DenverGov.org > Stapleton Section 10.

Although timing may not end up exactly as projected, Forest City submitted a schedule that the western portion, north to south, including most of the drainage, would be built first, in 2015-16, with three more constructions phases, working on the eastern portion from south to north and finishing the last phase in 2018-19.

MCA Tackles Mosquito Issues

Keven Burnett, Executive Director of the Stapleton MCA, says he has been getting lots of calls about mosquitoes. The MCA has hired a contractor to monitor the situation to see what types of mosquitoes Stapleton is getting and where. The counts have been done using traps located in the Bluff Lake Nature Center, the East-West Greenway and the Northfield ponds behind Target. Two more test areas are being added: the Bluff Lake neighborhood and near Jetstream pool or the Uplands area.

“We are doing very active larviciding in the storm-water areas, and we’re mapping where we’re getting complaints from to see how that needs to shape the future of our program. The larvicide we spread out is a very benign organic non-toxic product. It is the basis for just about every mosquito management program that I’m aware of,” says Burnett.

Since mosquitoes emanate from Bluff Lake Nature Center into the Stapleton neighborhoods, the MCA has been working with Bluff Lake to be sure they get enough of the long lasting larvicide product to adequately cover their entire facility—which they did in early June.

“Certainly the biggest issue is who’s supposed to be taking care of this? Is it the city, is it Department of Environmental Health, is it Parks and Rec, is it us, is it the Park Creek Metro District? We’re really trying to understand where that responsibility lies,” says Burnett.

Burnett is currently trying to get more information


on adult mosquito spraying of the pesticide Aqualuer 20-20. He says, “The spray will last for 30 minutes and it will knock down everything in that 30 minutes, including bees and a lot of the stuff that supports our ecosystem in our native areas. But then after 30 minutes it becomes useless. And you can’t spray every day for nuisance mosquitoes, so it’s really about when there is truly a public health threat that you want to be directing your spray. But we’re not sure we even have the authority to spray on a Denver city street or property. Every property we’re talking about is Denver city property or right-of-way.

“We’re being very proactive in putting together a comprehensive mosquito management program that can be executed throughout the summer,” says Burnett, but he points out that there is a lot of undeveloped land and they need to work with all parties to effectively manage the problem.

Trap counts and information on pesticides is posted at StapletonCommunity.com > what we do > community maintenance.


City Prepares FAQs about Grocery Store Planning Process

In response to inquiries about the regulations and processes that will apply in the development of the Eastbridge site for the grocery store, the city has prepared a fact sheet with Frequently Asked Questions. It is posted at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com.



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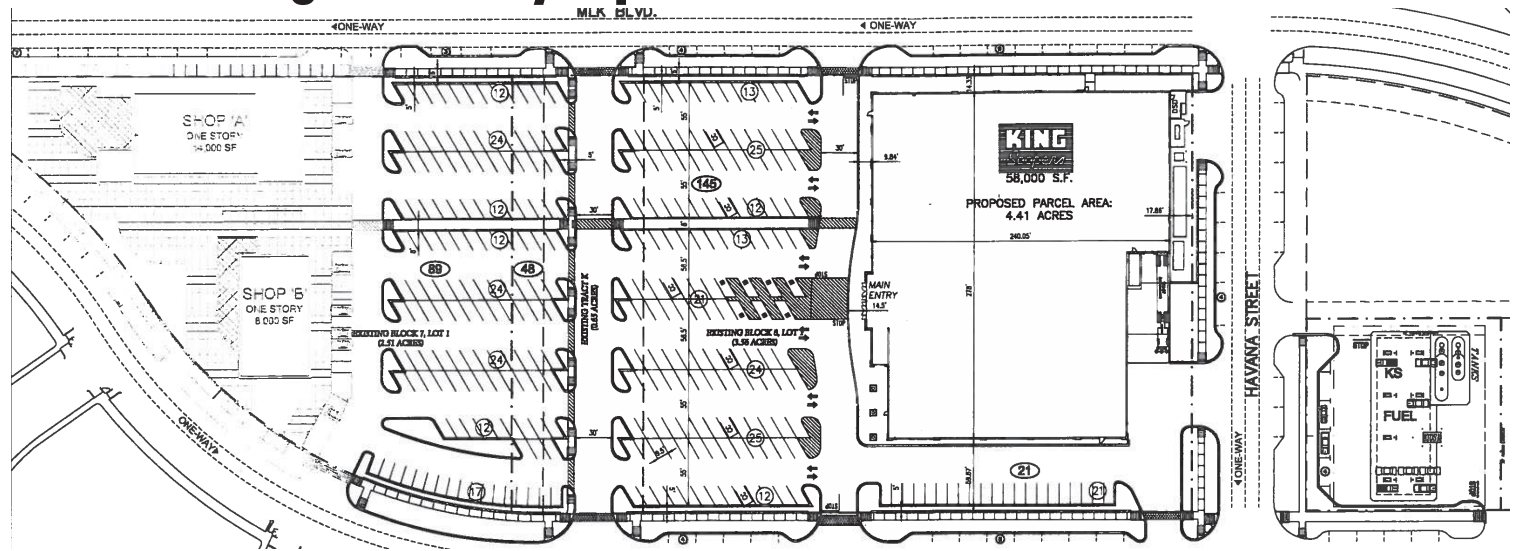


Eastbridge Grocery Update

By Mark Mehringer & Amanda Allhouse

Stapleton United Neighbors has been actively researching what is allowable on the land owned by Forest City in the Eastbridge Towncenter. The land on which Forest City's concept plan has space for a gas station is zoned Commercial and adjacent is residential property. In Denver, no protection exists for such situations to protect homeowners from pollution released at gas stations. Language in the zoning code for the land on which the gas stations will be built reads, "Although residential uses are permitted in the "C-MU" districts, it is expected that residential uses shall be responsible for buffering themselves from nonresidential uses that may locate on adjacent property." As no explicit protection is provided by zoning, we are faced with gas stations building pumps directly across from residential housing in Stapleton.

Although federal organizations like the Environmental Protection Agency highlight risks from Benzene exposure near gas stations, there are no federal regulations that prohibit the juxtaposition of gas stations near residential property, it is a local zoning issue. Our City Council member Chris Herndon has stated that he would not be willing to put forward a motion to change the zoning code to prevent gas stations from being built near residential housing across the city without the advisement from the head of a city agency such as the Department of Environmental Health. The Head of Denver Environmental Health, Doug Linkhart, has stated that a gas station "would result in concentrations of pollutants at nearby homes only slightly higher than regional background levels," and has declined a meeting to further discuss the topic. SUN is currently working with at-large representative Councilwoman Robin Kniech to further research options. Other cities across the country where urban growth is being encouraged have zoning language that is more restrictive on what land use can be adjacent to residential land. Specifically, Raleigh North Carolina has a 400 foot buffer



Revised concept plan presented at a June meeting about the Eastbridge grocery store.

between residential property and gas stations.

On Friday, June 13, SUN Board Members met with representatives King Soopers and Forest City, along with Councilman Chris Herndon, to discuss concerns raised about the proposed Eastbridge Town Center plans. King Soopers representatives stated they want to find a way to work with the community where possible to accommodate our requests, including when it comes to product selection and layout of the store. The new concept plan brought to this meeting by King Soopers differed from the original concept plan by 23 parking spaces, and had better north-south vehicular access along the area currently referred to as Geneva Court.

King Soopers highlighted the following during this meeting:

Layout: This is not going to be like the Quebec store. They suggested residents visit their store in Glendale (on Leetsdale). They plan a more modern store "with Fresh Fare features," including open ceilings and sky lights and more table and chair seating, among other details. They also

said they heard clearly the desire for more organic and natural items, and they pledged to offer that, and that their newer stores are built with a larger emphasis on produce, deli, and meat. King Soopers further noted that their target market for stores generally comes from the immediate area—90% of their customers come from within a 2-mile radius.

Gas: Soopers representatives indicated that the majority of feedback received thus far from their customers has been in favor of the store and a gas station. Only

two locations are under consideration for a gas station and both are on the same block—bounded by MLK on the north, 29th Dr on the south, Havana on the west, and Lola and on the east. A gas station would go either in the current planned spot on the SW corner of this block, or possibly on the NW corner.

Parking/Layout: Forest City brought revised plans to the meeting. They reduced the number of parking spots, down to 243. King Soopers says that is as low as they are willing to go. King Soopers said their first priority in designing these stores is keeping the loading dock area away from pedestrians and shoppers' cars for safety. They also emphasized that they prefer several lanes for parking to avoid people denting other cars when cutting between parking lanes. To make the parking lot more pedestrian friendly and to better connect it with the other retail, King Soopers and Forest City are considering a walkway/sidewalk through the middle of the parking lot, and along the part of the parking lot that is Geneva Court. Cars would not be able to pull through parking spaces and cross this walkway from the store to the other retail.

King Soopers also indicated that most of the comments they had received indicated that residents want to keep Geneva Court a through street.

Forest City noted that the retail near Fulton Street has a plaza separated from the parking lot that is designed to provide a gathering space.


Next steps: King Soopers should submit new plans to the Zoning and Planning Committee and the Design Review Committee. SUN will work to get those meeting details out to the community to maximize opportunities for community input.

New SUN Survey on Eastbridge, Mosquito Management, and More

SUN has started collecting feedback through a new community survey, to help quantify the community's views of the latest concept for the Eastbridge Town Center, as well plans for managing mosquitoes, and other topics.

Please continue sending comments to StapletonUnitedNeighbors@gmail.com, ask your neighbors to sign up for our email list at www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com, and be on the look out for our next SUN Survey. A more complete version of this meeting summary, as well as links to information about Benzene exposure can also be found on the SUN web site.

	Plan #1	Plan #2
Retail Sq-Feet (in buildings A and B)	22,000	same
Parking in-lot	104	107
Parking on-street	24	24
Total	128	131
Ratio: #spaces per 1000sq feet	5.82	5.95
Grocer Sq-Feet	58,000	same
Parking in-lot	235	207
Parking on-street	31	29
Total (including accessible)	266	243
Ratio: 6.68/1000	4.43	4.19



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Letter to the Editor

Northfield Gas Station Too Close to Homes

The 7-Eleven gas station being built on Northfield Blvd. between Willow and Xanthia Streets is dangerously close to new homes being constructed. Due to the gas station, my wife and I have decided to terminate our builder contract. The builder was more than fair regarding the issue, but we have decided to move on.

I understand and respect the rationale behind Forest City's decision to contract a parcel along Northfield Blvd. to a 7-Eleven franchise. I get the neighborhood needs a gas station and people like convenience. I get why this makes sense in many respects for the 7-Eleven franchisee and in meeting some kind of need of the neighborhood, but let's be real for just a second...

It's still a 7-Eleven—a store with extended, or worse, overnight, hours that sells gas, tobacco products, soda, junk food, lottery tickets and potentially malt beverage/beer.

No matter how it's designed, what it looks like, how it's landscaped, or how well it's maintained, it's still a very close-by center of attraction that could be an unwelcome and unsafe environment for families like us wanting to raise kids nearby.

I really hope the Forest City team understands that. I hope they understand that it might not be what the Conservatory Green residential neighborhood wants that close to their homes, whether

they are within sight of a gas pump or not.

I understand Forest City has a tough job, and it's nearly impossible to please everyone. My issue is the 7-Eleven's very close proximity to single family homes that people are staking their futures on in one way or another.

Did Forest City ever conduct a traffic study prior to contracting the space to truly understand how this kind of business would affect traffic patterns in that proximity to a residential area?

Is this a "green" business that fits within the mission statement that is marketed to potential residents up there?

How will this ultimately affect property values or the perceived value and appeal of the neighborhood?

Needless to say, my wife and I have had a ton of questions. We went from tremendously excited as they started to frame our new house to absolutely crushed in a matter of hours as we confirmed the news.

Ultimately, we're sad to leave Stapleton, a great neighborhood that we've called home for the past nearly 6 years, but putting a gas station at that particular spot along Northfield with the general perceived disconnect with Forest City and the residents recently was a deal breaker for us.

Sincerely,
Mark Breidenbach

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Tackling the Achievement Gap in NE High Schools

By Maegan Parker Brooks

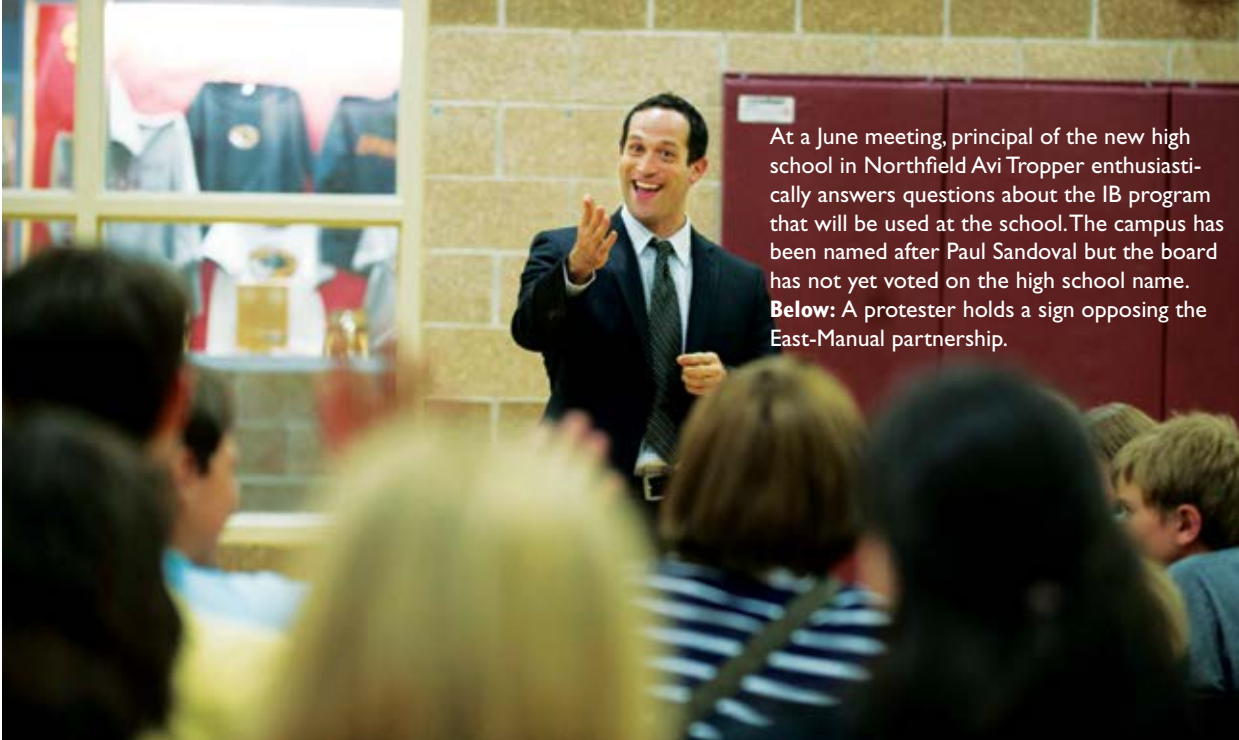
Springtime was a season full of fresh ideas for change in the Denver Public School (DPS) system. In Northeast Denver, these proposals elicited controversy across the Northfield, East, Manual, and George Washington High School communities.

Why all the changes?

DPS Superintendent Tom Boasberg says he understands that parents have very real concerns about their own children and DPS needs to “listen, acknowledge and understand” those concerns. However, particular concerns over the rigor of programs, access to quality schools, and services available to individual students must be considered within a larger context. DPS “continues to see very large gaps on virtually all academic measures between our white students and our African American and Latino students—gaps that remain large even when the economic circumstances of our students are taken into account.” Boasberg contends: “The achievement gap remains our nation’s biggest civil wrong. We need to make it right.”

The Proposals

Plans for the new **Northfield High School** (NHS) are proactively targeted to address opportunity and achievement gaps that plague the district. *DPS has reiterated that all Stapleton students are guaranteed a seat at the high school.* They have also made an unwavering commitment to ensure diversity by drawing school boundaries to include neighboring communities. The Boundary Advisory Group, consisting of community members across the Northeast, recommended that 35 percent of the seats at NHS be reserved for choice and, within that 35 percent first priority be given to *all* residents of the far Northeast, then residents in Park Hill who are part of the shared middle-school boundary *and* who qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL), and next, FRL students across the city—and the school board recently approved these recommendations. Furthermore,



At a June meeting, principal of the new high school in Northfield Avi Tropper enthusiastically answers questions about the IB program that will be used at the school. The campus has been named after Paul Sandoval but the board has not yet voted on the high school name. **Below:** A protester holds a sign opposing the East-Manual partnership.

Front Porch photo by Laura Mahony

NHS will institute the IB program as a schoolwide curriculum, where all students are engaged in rigorous 9th- and 10th-grade preparatory courses and where all students have an opportunity to participate in the 11th- and 12th-grade IB Diploma program.

A **proposed East-Manual High School partnership** was presented to more than 200 attendees at a community meeting at East High School on Tuesday, May 27. If there is support for such a partnership, one form it could take would be a 9th-grade academy that would combine all East and Manual freshman into a single cohort taking classes together on Manual’s campus. Graduates of the academy would have the choice to return to East for a comprehensive 10th–12th-grade high school experience or they could opt to attend what will become Manual’s 10th–12th-grade Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math program. DPS will continue to meet with the community to determine whether an East-Manual partnership makes sense or what form it may take to address the low enrollment and retention at Manual and to ease overcrowding at East while providing a wider array of

opportunities for East students. The **George Washington** (GW) community recently learned



Photo by Maegan Parker Brooks

that in the 2015-16 school year, GW will be altering the admissions program for its International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma program. In its present configuration, the IB program screens students in the 8th grade and admits students who qualify into a rigorous pre-IB program for the 9th- and 10th-grade years. Those students then go on to pursue the IB diploma during 11th and 12th grades. DPS staff explain that by shifting the selective admissions process from the 8th to the 10th grade, GW can open up rigorous 9th and 10th grade preparatory classes to more students and thereby provide opportunities for more students to gain access into the acclaimed IB Diploma Program. This is just one of several changes GW will be making to its academic programming in hopes of attracting some of the nearly 67 percent of high-school-age students within their boundary who presently choose out.

The Objections

Stapleton residents, despite repeated assurances from DPS and Principal Avi Tropper, continue to worry that there will not be enough space at NHS for DPS to guarantee a seat to every student in the neighborhood *and* ensure a diverse student body. At the May 7 boundary meeting, moreover, residents of the far Northeast voiced strong objections to high percentages of FRL set-asides. Jimmy Alexander, a parent from Green Valley Ranch, put it bluntly: “How stereotypical can you be? Not one of the African American families here qualifies for FRL,” suggesting that conflating racial diversity with low socioeconomic status would result in lost opportunity for middle-class families in the far Northeast. The committee and the board listened to this concern and opened the boundary equally to all far Northeast students regardless of FRL status.

The East-Manual proposal raised a host of concerns for attendees at the community meeting. Some were concerned about students’ social and academic development, others worried about services for special-needs students, still others wondered how sports teams would be impacted by the East-Manual partnership. Rob Robertson’s question, however, drew the loudest applause: “DPS has a lot of problems. What problem are you actually trying to fix here?” Another parent followed up, asking: “Is this to save Manual, is that the point of doing this, because it’s failing and we don’t want to leave those kids out?” Principal Andy Mendelsberg’s response to this line of inquiry remained consistent: “I don’t see [the partnership] as saving anything. I see it as giving kids access and opportunities. And I think we can do that.” Several parents expressed frustration with Mendelsberg’s consistent “more opportunities” refrain. But Mendelsberg’s promotion of more and “different opportunities, different access points” is one of the prime ways DPS plans to suture its achievement gaps.

The GW proposals were also met with heated opposition. As Lisa Sigler, a parent of an IB student at GW recalls, the crowd gathered at the May 10 meeting with DPS to discuss changes to the IB program was “extremely emotional. People were angry.” Parents who objected to the changes at GW felt that DPS had made the decision to alter one of its most academically successful programs without consulting those families affected by the change. “There was very little stakeholder input,” argues Sigler. Sigler’s daughter, Kate, addressed the June 12 Board of Education meeting, informing members that “the elimination of the pre-IB program saddens” her and makes her “lose hope that DPS has the best interests of its students in mind.” Both Kate Sigler and her mother feel that the solution to GW’s low enrollment should not be an “either or, but a both”—the Siglers advocate keeping GW’s IB program as it is and also strengthening the school’s other programs.

The Vision: Quality and Diversity

Superintendent Boasberg says there is no clear path to balancing the needs of DPS’s wide-ranging student body. While he acknowledges “there are absolutely times when it is important to group kids by level,” he also does not “believe that we should have systems that are so rigid in the way kids are grouped that they . . . resemble the failed tracking programs of the past.” The district “cares deeply about the quality and rigor of a child’s education and the ability to have diversity in our community.” Quality and diversity, Superintendent Boasberg reminds, “are not at odds with each other. That is the mission of our schools: to celebrate and make real the promise that quality and diversity are complements of each other. They support each other.”



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A Midsummer Night's Dream

(continued from page 1) and choreography. It will be a lot of fun.”

More than half of the 27 cast members in the free production are residents of Stapleton, Park Hill or Lowry. They range in age from 5 to 60. “The cast represents a broad range of our community,” Peterson said. “They are mostly our neighbors, which brings another level of enjoyment for audiences.”

Eliana Caplan, a veteran of the Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park series, is excited to join her 11-year-old daughter, Mayan, in the cast. Caplan portrays the comical Peter Quince and Mayan will play a fairy. “When we heard the production needed both kids and adults, we decided to do it together for a lark,” the Stapleton resident said.

Sisters Ellison and Rosie Mucharsky-O’Boyle, ages 10 and 7, respectively, will be portraying fairies in the play.

Ellison, a fifth-grader at Odyssey this fall, said, “I like theatre because I like to talk a lot and I like people.”

Second-grader Rosie said, “It’s fun to be in costumes and make the audience laugh.”

A Midsummer Night’s Dream, written in 1594 or 1595, concerns the world’s most popular pastime: falling in love. Four young lovers meet up with the inhabitants of an enchanted forest and find that “The course of true love never did run smooth,” when they are ensnared in a lovers’ quadrangle.

“You can’t resist *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*,” said Caplan. “It’s so magical and full of fun. I’ve loved Shakespeare for a long time; I love the richness of the language.”

Peterson said the authentic Elizabethan language will be used in this production, which will run about one and a half hours.

“We talk the kids through their lines so they know what they are saying,” Peterson said. “You can’t memorize lines if you don’t

know what you’re saying. The language is easier for kids than for adults because kids don’t have a block about it. The kids always impress me; they always rise to the occasion.”

He said that learning Shakespeare builds kids’ vocabulary, and that theatre experience helps them develop other skills. “Kids learn to work together and commit to a project; it builds maturity. It instills the idea that hard work pays off, and that everybody is important—it doesn’t matter whether you have one line or 100 lines.”

Ellison Mucharsky-O’Boyle said, “Theatre helps me do things at school, like how to talk loud and ask good questions. It helps me get in front of people and not be embarrassed to do it.”

Peterson’s three youngest children—age 8 and 6-year-old twins—are in the production. He said working with kids can be challenging but rewarding. “With kids, the attention span isn’t always there. But it’s great because their ego is checked at the door. Often, whatever they come up with is funnier and more creative than what I come up with—whether it’s how to deliver a line or do a pratfall in a new way. They make it theirs and they own it.”

He said the productions feature individual kids’ special abilities. “We try to find every kid’s strength. Whether they are a singer, a dancer, a juggler or a gymnast, they are given their moment to shine. We play to their strengths.”

Peterson got his love for theatre at age 10 when he attended a



Eliana Caplan, left, and Sara Farmer, right, rehearse at the Montview Presbyterian church before their production of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*.

performing arts school in Pittsburgh. “I was a class clown but I learned to channel that into something more positive,” he said.

After earning his bachelor’s in theatre and his master’s in acting, Peterson lived in Los Angeles and worked as an actor. “I supplemented my income with teaching. When we moved to Denver, I got to marry the two things I love—acting and teaching. I get to make a living doing what I’m passionate about.”

Peterson founded Kids Theatre West in 2006. The four-week camps welcome children ages 4 to 17 and meet at Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St.

Peterson owns more than 800 costume pieces and builds some of the sets in his garage and backyard. “It’s helpful in theatre if you can do everything,” he said.

Kids Theatre West has room for more kids to participate in this summer’s *Peter Pan* and *Best of Broadway* camps. See www.kidstheatrewest.com for more information.

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