Distributed to the Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair, Hale and East Colfax neighborhoods **JUNE 2014** TAPLETON



By Laurie Dunklee

**¬**ounder's Green in Stapleton will become a Broadway stage June 6–8, with a production of *The Drowsy Chaperone*, a 1920s sendup that is "loads of fun," according to Director Bev Newcomb-Madden.

Stapleton's fourth annual theater production produced by the Aurora Fox Arts Center is free and open to the public. Last year's performances drew more than 2,000 theater lovers to The Green to enjoy top-notch professional theater.

"This play is pure entertainment," said Newcomb-Madden, a longtime Denver director who grew up in Park Hill. "The costumes will be bright; the choreography (continued on page 31)

# **New Ideas Proposed for NE Denver High Schools**



What will be the boundaries of Stapleton's new high school? See p. 16 What kind of programming will it offer? See p. 15 And what changes are being proposed at GW, East and Manual? See p. 16

At a May 7 community meeting, Cornelius Foxworth, left, who lives in Green Valley Ranch, offers his views on boundaries for the new Stapleton High School. Ronda Belen and Karen Conklin-Johnson listen intently. School board member Landri Taylor is seated behind them.

Another community meeting was held on May 28.Visit FrontPorch-Stapleton.com to read the outcome of that meeting, which occurred after this paper went to press.

# **Community Responds to Possible Full-Sized King** Soopers at Eastbridge



At a May 15 meeting, about the grocery store, Stapleton resident Margaret Ann Dugan suggests Stapleton is large enough to have both a King Soopers and co-op.

By Carol Roberts and Madeline Schroeder

ince the announcement in April that King Soopers is considering a full-sized store in the Eastbridge neighborhood of Stapleton (at MLK and Havana), a community conversation has been in progress on social media, in meetings, and through written correspondence with Forest City.

Community Advisory Board president David Netz sums up the options, "only apartments, sale of the land in pieces, no development at all." Speakers at (continued on page 4)

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Stanley Aviation: Future Urban Marketplace

Hooked on Archaeology

Regulating **Q** Marijuana Edibles

Legislative Outcomes **1** 

Social Change through Soccer

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



As part of the May 10 NE Walkfest, participants go for a walk through Bluff Lake Nature Center led by one of the nature center's staff members. The Stapleton Transportation Management Association (TMA) is also sponsoring evening bike rides this summer. See details below.



Events listed below are FREE and open to the public or support nonprofits. (Additional events are listed on pages 22-25)

# **JUNE**

\*Check FrontPorchStapleton.com for date of the June groundbreaking for the new high school in Stapleton. Also watch for an announcement of a public meeting on Forest City's General Development Plan for the northernmost land in Stapleton (see page 29).

### **Every Sunday**

City Park Jazz Summer Concert Series. 6–8pm, rain or shine. CityParkJazz.org

June 1: The Hazel Miller Band June 8: The Lynn Baker Quartet

June 15: Ritmo Jazz Latino June 22: Tribute to Freddy Rodriguez

June 22: Tribute to Freddy Rodrig June 29: Gumbo Le Funque

### Every Monday & Wednesday

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

# Monday, June 2 & June 30

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

# Tuesday, June 3 & July 1

Children's Museum, Target Tuesdays

Ist Tuesday nights free, 4–8pm, cmdenver.org

# Wednesday, June 4

The Jewish Life Center at Stapleton Shavuot Celebration. 4pm at the Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. Free event. RSVP at 720-515-4337 or www.jewishstapleton.

# Wednesdays, June 4, 11, 18 Group Bike Rides

Hour-long group bike ride in Northeast Denver. Meet at The Hub at Stapleton, 7284 E 29th Ave. Starts at 6pm. All ages and abilities welcome. June 4: Stapleton public art, June 11: Stapleton to Northfield, June 18: Sandcreek Greenway. No RSVP necessary.

# Thursday, June 5

Active Minds Seminar "The Origins of World War I" 6:45pm Sam Gary Library\*. More info at www. activeminds.com

# Thurs. Fri. Sat June 5–7

Theatre on The Green. 7pm The Green\* Aurora Fox Theater performance of "Drowsy Chaperone." See pg I.

# Saturday, June 7

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"

# **JUNE**

### Saturday, June 7

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

### Friday, June 13

Movie on The Green "Despicable Me 2" Starts at dark. The Green\*

### Saturday, June 14

Stapleton Pride 2014. 7-10pm. Aviator Pool\*. www.stapletonpride.com.

### Saturday, June 14

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

### Saturday, June 14

Park Hill Garden Walk. 10am-4pm. Tickets can be purchased at the event or select King Soopers. Buy tickets at http://parkhillgardenwalk.blogspot.com. (See p. 22)

# Sunday, June 15

First Farmers Market of the Season. 8:30am-12:30pm; Sundays through Oct. 12 The Green\*

# Thursday, June 19

Active Minds Seminar "Bandits, Thieves & Outlaws" 6:45pm Sam Gary Library\*. More info at www.active-minds.com

# Saturday, June 21

Concert on The Green. 7pm The Green\*
The Hazel Miller Band

# Friday, June 27

Movie on The Green "Gravity"
Starts at dark. The Green\*

# Saturday, June 28

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

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

The Front Porch welcomes submissions of upcoming local events and story ideas (see info on p.22). Deadline is the 15th for the next issue.

# Events & Announcements at Stapleton



### Community DNA

We know you love your pets and we do too, but the MCA does recommend leaving all pets at home for events in Stapleton. Each year, our crowd continues to grow and many of the summer events have over 1,500 people in attendance. We feel that this environment may be overwhelming for some pets and these pets may be more content in the comfort of their own home.

To make it up to the dogs, Dog Daze registration will open this summer and is the perfect event for dogs of all sizes! Stay tuned for information about the 2014 event.

### Theatre on The Green

The Aurora Fox Theatre and the MCA will be presenting three showings of *Drowsy Chaperone*, a musical comedy of the 1920s. Showings will be held at 7pm on June 5, June 6 and June 7 on The Green (29th Ave. & Roslyn St.). All showings are free to attend. We recommend that you arrive early to each event, as seating is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. You are welcome to bring lawn chairs and blankets, but we do ask that lawn chairs and other objects do not obstruct the view of others.

### **Movies and Concerts on The Green**

Movies on The Green will begin this month for the MCA's annual summer series! All outdoor movies are free to attend and open to the public. The first outdoor movie will be held on Fri., June 13 and will feature *Despicable Me 2. Gravity* will be played on Fri., June 27. Movies typically begin at dusk. All movies will feature a concession stand to benefit a select nonprofit organization. The stand will sell a variety of sodas, bottled water, candy and freshly popped popcorn. Local food trucks will be also parked along The Green.

Concerts on The Green are also free to attend and open to the public. All concerts will begin at 7pm. The Hazel Miller Band will kick off the summer concert series on Sat., June 21.

# Friday Night Flight

The MCA and the Grape Leaf are excited to present the first wine tasting of the summer tasting series. The first Friday Night Flight will be held on Fri., June 27 at 7pm at the West Crescent (29th Ave. & Roslyn St.).

Participants will need to purchase tickets for this event. Tickets are \$15 each for the June tasting. You may

pick up your tickets at the MCA during the available pickup times (Wed.-Fri., 9am-5pm) or at the will call station at the event. The will call station will open at 6:30pm on Fri., June 27 at the West Crescent. To purchase tickets, visit stapletoncommunity.com or the MCA office (2823 Roslyn St.).

### **Active Minds**

The Origins of World War I – Thurs., June 5, 6:45pm, Sam Gary Library Bandits, Thieves & Outlaws – Thurs., June 19, 6:45pm, Sam Gary Library For more information, visit activeminds.

### **Family Night at the Pools**

Family Night will begin on Mon., June 2. Each pool will have a designated night of the week where they extend their closing time to 7:45pm. Jet Stream's will be on Mondays, PJ on Tuesdays, F15 on Wednesdays, and Aviator on Thursdays. Family Night will end on July 31.

### **Farmers Market**

The first Farmers Market of the season is scheduled for Sun., June 15 from 8:30am–12:30pm on The Green. Colorado Fresh Markets features local produce, gourmet products and delicious food in a European-style, market setting. The market will run every Sun. through Oct. 12.

### **Stapleton Beer Festival**

The Stapleton Beer Festival is scheduled for Sat., July 19 from 4–8pm on The Green. This event will begin with an exclusive VIP tasting from 4–5pm, followed by a 3-hour tasting and free concert. General admission and concert participants will be allowed to enter the event at 5pm. Tickets are limited. VIP tickets are \$60 each (if there are tickets available) and general admission are \$35 each. VIP admission includes an SBF T-shirt, specialty glass taster, tulip glass and food truck vouchers. General admission includes a plastic taster and food truck vouchers.

Tickets can be purchased at the MCA office or online at stapletoncommunity. com. Last year's event did sell out and we are expecting to sell out again this summer.

# Registration for the Kids Triathlon will open at noon on July 1.

If you have any questions about the information above, please contact the MCA at 303.388.0724 or email dmead@stapletoncommunity.com.

Dani Mead Communications Coordinator

Get the latest on **f** 

Master Community Association **STAPLETON** 

Sponsored by Stapleton MCA

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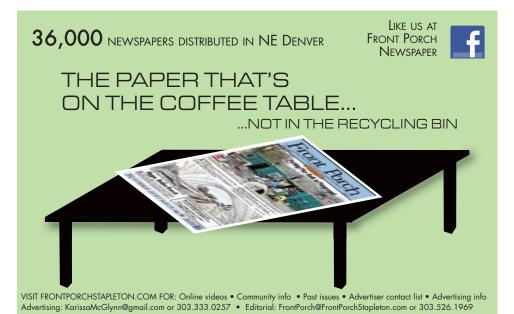


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A directory with links to these businesses can be found at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com > Business Directory



**Grocery Store** 

Left: Yasmine Wilson speaks out about the grocery store at the community forum on May 19. Right: Jim Chrisman, senior vice president, Forest

(continued from p. 1) the community meetings reflected that range of options:

"It's not what I envisioned, but I'd rather have a big King Soopers than an empty lot or more apartments."

"It'd be nice to have this walkable small little store but I understand, not just from what I'm hearing from folks at Forest City, that the business realities of something like that being viable don't seem likely. I would rather have a grocery store of some sort here versus more apartments and more housing.'

"My biggest concern is that this is essentially a conventional suburban strip mall design and the concept is wrong because we're not a conventional suburb here...I live right near this and I'd rather see that land



City Stapleton, explains that Forest City was unable to find a smaller grocer who would build at the Eastbridge Town Center.

stay vacant for decades than have this built."

"I think a lot of us envisioned a town center, and we wanted a grocery store, but I don't think we wanted this. My question is, is there a choice? Can there be mixed use housing and maybe a small market?"

A number of speakers asked if the community could work together with Forest City and King Soopers to find a compromise, saying "We're asking that they please work with us. Whether it be the parking or the types of products that are being served within the store. We want to be part of the process. We're not being consulted from the standpoint of what do the residents want."

Jim Chrisman, senior vice president of Forest



# New Homes for the Summer from Wolfe & Epperson



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3416 Akron St - Stapleton \$625,000 - NEW

Light-Filled John Laing Model Home on CP North Pocket Park\*4 Upper Level Beds + Loft & 2.5 Baths\*Granite & Stainless Kitchen w/ Island\*Backyard Oasis w/ Fireplace, Grill &



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2347 Kearney St - Park Hill **\$460,000** - SALE PENDING Classic Tudor w/ Light Filled Floor Plan\*3 Beds & 2 Baths w/ 2,350 Fin Sq Ft\*Harwood

Floors\*Eat-In Kitchen w/ Saltillo Tile & Quartz Counters\*2 Fireplaces\*Steps to Shops at Fridge\*1/2 Block to Central Park Kearney & 22nd



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City replied, at the May 19 meeting, "I think that's one of the reasons we're here."

But in response to the revised plan submitted by Stapleton United Neighbors, he stated, "The plan will not work and I know that from experience." Chrisman explained that the Denver zoning code's minimum parking requirement is low and only works in downtown locations.

"When people can't park there they stop coming. When people

stop coming the store downgrades the products they have. And when that happens shops go down and now you have a failed center. And what's that going to do to your property values?"

Chrisman went on to explain that the parking ratio in the plan (4 spaces per 1000 square feet) is necessary to get financing and leasing for the devel-

CAB co-chair David Netz says he reviewed parking at other urban grocery store sites. "The Safeway at 6th and Corona is about the same size of store and has about 4 spaces per1,000 sf. It does not have capacity to handle parking and has had complaints about overflow parking. The Trader Joe's on Colorado is only 17,000 sf with 2.5 spaces /1,000 sf and the overflow has created unhappiness with the neighbor-

Forest City says they have tried to bring in a smaller natural foods grocer. They have owned the Eastbridge property for eight years and drew up a plan for a smaller grocer, but the grocers they have talked to are concerned about the lack of rooftops northeast of the location. Chrisman explained that grocery stores are primarily concerned with their long term viability. "If they don't feel like they can draw enough people to support their store, you can give the land and it doesn't matter."

Forest City's current proposed plan has 22,000 square feet of retail in addition to the grocery store, enough space for 7-8 businesses. Some residents asked for more other in Eastbridge. Chrisman replied that by comparison, the 29th Ave. Town Center has 54,000 square feet, but, "We've subsidized many businesses to keep them there and still they've failed—and two miles to the west they can capture more people."

Stapleton United Neighbors is planning to continue the conversation about the grocery store and plans to meet with Councilman Chris Herndon, Forest City, and King Soopers in June.

# Plans for Purchase of Stanley Aviation Moving Forward

By Carol Roberts

**T**e're under contract for the Stanley Aviation building property—a 105,000 square foot building on 22.5 acres," says Mark Shaker, who expects to close on the property in late July. He says the funding for his project, Stanley Marketplace, has been secured.

Stapleton resident Mark Shaker and his business partners and fellow Stapleton resi-

dents Lorin Ting and Megan Von Wald first presented their idea for a beer garden in Eastbridge at a Stapleton United Neighbors meeting in October (see article in the November Front Porch). When Forest City said they couldn't make a decision about the Eastbridge land until they had secured a grocery anchor, Shaker and team started looking elsewhere.

They found their opportunity, not just for a beer garden but for an urban marketplace, only a few feet from Stapleton's southern border along 26th Ave. The huge Stanley Aviation building has been for sale for an extended period of time, and it's in an urban renewal area in Aurora. Shaker and team have been working with the city of Aurora to make this project happen.

Shaker and his partners have just returned from the Global Real Estate Convention in Las Vegas, which he attended with representatives from the city of Aurora. He says the event was the introduction of the Stanley Marketplace project to the real estate community and

there was a lot of interest in the project from metro Denver attendees.

View from the roof of Stanley Aviation building

He adds, "We certainly appreciate Aurora's vision and their courage, and we think they have a great plan for urban redevelopment. There's not enough accolades we can put on their team as far as how we have been able to work together. This is a partnership and they've been fantastic."

Shaker says, "Our vision and concept

they provide a good template for what we're looking to accomplish.

"I think we have a pretty good idea of what both the communities are looking for, and we have that supported by data.

"I think there's a thirsting for something interesting and I think there's also an excellent opportunity to create a literal and metaphorical bridge between two communities, which are currently separated by a fence.

> You will see us be very active in taking two communities and making them into one larger one, or at least attempting to.

"It will be dynamic, pragmatic and fun. We use the word community a lot. We use the word sustainability a lot; we're planning to make this a venture that is geared toward pedestrians and bikers. We have lots of

different ideas as to how to accomplish those objectives."

Shaker says their general contractors have been involved in similar urban marketplace projects in Denver, and their target opening could be as early as next year, though there are a lot of variables as far as permitting, zoning, entitlements and approvals that could affect the opening date. At this time he declines to talk about specific businesses that will be in Stanley Marketplace, but will share more details after the real estate transaction closes. For more information visit stanleymarketplace.com.



might be compared to other urban marketplaces in Denver and elsewhere." He points out that The Source in the River North (RiNo) area of Denver is one of many urban marketplaces across the country, including the Ferry Building in San Francisco, Chelsea Market in New York, and Melrose Market in Seattle. "We are taking those models into consideration in the development of this project."

"The key component that we are doing is to make it contextually relevant. You can't just take something from New York and drop it in to Aurora and Stapleton. But



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5 June 2014 Stapleton Front Porch



Museum curator Michele Koons shows indigenous vessels from Latin America in the Figgins Storage Area of the Denver Museum of

By Madeline Schroeder

t was a hot, dry day on the desert coast of Peru—one of the richest burial sites in the world, and an archaeologist's playground. The team had been digging for hours. A layer of dust stuck to their perspiration. They knew there may be chamber tombs of priestesses underfoot, but didn't know where, when suddenly ...

"We came across two llama sacrifices, like *huge* llamas. Under that we got to adobe brick that started to line the tomb and kept digging to find the entrance to the tomb. Then we keep going and find eight sacrificial victims. We go down lower and find a coffin with copper cut out into these wonderful designs that was made as a mask. The masks were on top of the coffin and on the individual. We knew who the individual was because of images in Moche culture."

Michele Koons is the curator of archaeology at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science (DMNS). She works at the museum but also continues to travel on excavations. "I love my job; it's absolutely fantastic," she says.

She is drawn to complex societies similar to life today but functioning thousands of years ago. How did they sustain themselves? What happened when things went wrong? She argues we're not that different from ancient civilizations.

She specializes in South American archaeology, particularly the Moche (AD 300 to AD 1000), an elite Peruvian culture with intricate architecture, elaborate ceremonies and complex politics. Archaeologists discovered the first tomb of a priestess in 1991 and have continued finding more ever since, including the tomb by Koons and her team.

"There is that element of excitement when you go out in the field

Nature & Science. The large object at front is a Maya "incensario" or incense burner lid of a jaguar nicknamed "sweetie pie" by the donor.

and make a discovery that no one has really put the pieces together for yet," she says. When she speaks about her job her voice rises and falls in a musical way, singing with enthusiasm.

From an early age, Koons showed signs of a future archaeologist. As a child she spent every summer at her family's beach house on the Jersey shore. She explored rocks and shells, searching for little creatures in the sand. She remembers digging to reach China.

And she listened in awe to her uncle's much-exaggerated tales about finding Roman coins and chariots in his backyard.

But even into the beginning of college, a career in archaeology seemed far-fetched. She started as a physical therapy major at the University of Pittsburgh where she signed up for Alternative Spring Break, a service-learning trip for college students. Koons was chosen from 200 students to go to Bolivia, her first glimpse into exploring other cultures. Upon returning she changed her major to Latin American studies and anthropology.

While at the University of Pittsburgh, she did her first dig in Ithaca, New York, on an Iroquois reservation. "I just got it; I liked the techniques and discovering what they did in the past." During study abroad in northern Chile, she completed photographic projects of some of the world's oldest mummies. From that point, there was no turning back. She was hooked.

# **DMNS Curator**



Again, this is at the site of Licapa II (ancient Peruvian site). I was photographing one of the excavation units from the ladder while my co-director and some workers held the red cloth to create shade on the feature below.



Ground-penetrating radar survey in High Cave, Utah circa 2005. This is just outside the Canyonlands. I am with Sara Gale, who is now Technical Trainer at Geophysical Survey Systems, Inc., the company that makes the radar system we were using in this photo.

Koons did her master's at the University of Denver on ground-penetrating radar, high-tech software that produces high-resolution images of scanned ground. She is particularly fond of the technology side of archaeology and recently bought a drone for 3D mapping in the field.



# Hooked on Archaeology

While working on her PhD at Harvard, she spent most of her time doing fieldwork in Peru. Sometimes she was just lucky enough to discover something new.

While part of her job does match the Indiana Jones image, she spends a lot of time at her desk reading and writing. Part of her work at DMNS involves studying ancient water and resource management strategies for modern day application. This summer she will explore the American southwest and how areas like Phoenix, with little water supply, survived in ancient times.

She also curates exhibits and studies collections not on display. She's currently studying pots used to hold an ancient Peruvian fermented beverage called chicha. In collaboration with Denver Beer Co., she is helping create a beer inspired by chicha, which they

will unveil July 21 at the brewery.

Despite her early impression of archaeology, Koons has made a career of it. She warns academic positions are hard to come by, though. This past year only three positions like hers were available in the U.S. with 300 to 400 applicants. "You really have to work hard to make a career out of archaeology, and I feel very lucky and fortunate."

# DMNS Exhibit: Maya Hidden Worlds Revealed

Now through August 24, visit DMNS to uncover Maya history. View a movie, examine the Maya skies, learn Maya games and create your own Mayan name.



I had a local shaman come to cleanse the site (Licapa II) so as to appease the ancestors and let them know that we meant no harm. Here the shaman was performing the cleansing ritual on me by spitting rose water all over my back and head. That's why I am making that face.





2373 Central Park Blvd, Ste 303, Denver, CO 80238



# Colorado Debates Potency of Edibles

By Madeline Schroeder

ajor safety concerns around marijuana edibles have urged a task force of stakeholders to create a safer industry.

"We take our responsibility of comprehensively regulating this industry very seriously," co-chair Lewis Koski says, recalling the recent deaths involving marijuana edibles. Koski is the director of the Colorado Marijuana Enforcement Division. "There isn't a book of best practices on how to regulate marijuana or marijuana edibles. Since becoming an agency we've solicited feedback from stakeholders with varying expertise and opinions."

The task force—comprised of officials from public safety and health, dispensaries, and the Department of Revenue—has met several times to discuss concerns around edible serving sizes.

Currently, one serving of an edible has 10mg of active THC, a level decided through clinical trials. But, the number of servings in one edible varies so that oftentimes consumers don't know how much they're ingesting. The complete edible can have up to 100mg of THC.

At some dispensaries, one infused caramel the size of a mini Reese's Peanut Butter Cup is a single serving (10mg). At other dispensaries, one infused caramel is 10 servings (100 mg). How does the average consumer know to cut a small caramel into 10 pieces?

"Many people are unaware of the potential adverse effects or how to appropriately use these products," Dr. Sam Wang of Children's Hospital says. He is part of the task force and successfully passed a childproof packaging requirement after seeing an increase in accidental pot ingestion among kids.

Unlike smoking marijuana, Wang says edibles have a delayed effect (sometimes up to 2 hours), but the high lasts much longer and effects can linger long after the peak.

Some of the adverse effects include sleepiness, slowed reaction time, increase in heart rate and blood pressure, nausea, anxiety and paranoia.

"People have different tolerances and depending on how habitually they use marijuana it can affect them a lot less or a lot more," Wang says. Body fat, weight, potency, and level of experience affect a person's high.

The task force coined the term "stacking" for when a consumer doesn't feel the effect of an edible right away so he or she consumes another one. If the high still doesn't hit, the consumer may eat another edible. At this point the consumer has "stacked" multiple doses that accumulate and hit all at

The task force is particularly concerned about a consumer who is unaware of how much THC is in a serving and ingests multiple servings.

The group generally agrees upon 10mg as an appropriate THC level, but how to make serving sizes more intuitive for consumers is a complicated question.

One person in the task force suggested using a color-rated system like the ski slopes with green for the new user, blue for the more experienced and black diamond for the habitual.

Some people suggested a serving of THC should always



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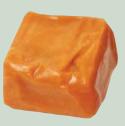
June 2014 8 Stapleton Front Porch

# Can you tell the difference between these two marijuana-infused caramels?









While they look the same, marijuana-infused caramels can be very different. One may contain 10mg of active THC, and another may contain 100mg of active THC. A single serving of a marijuana edible is 10mg, meaning at some stores, one caramel can equal 10 servings. Currently, there is no standard number of servings in one edible. Would you feel confident deciding how many caramels to eat?

correlate to the food serving, but one person's idea of a serving size may be larger than another person's. Is a person more likely to eat one Swedish Fish or 10 Swedish Fish?

Another person in the group said a single product should *always* be a single serving of THC. That way a consumer can open a package and eat the entire product knowing it is always 10mg.

But, dispensaries fear packaging costs for single servings. Currently, a dispensary can wrap a 100mg candy bar, but with a single-serving requirement a dispensary would have to break up the candy and package each

Some dispensaries also fear their more experienced consumers who enjoy a higher dose of THC in one serving may go to the black market.

While some answers remain unclear, other safety regulations have already begun.

On May 21, Governor John Hickenlooper signed a bill into law that requires edibles to be "clearly identifiable" as marijuana products, in contrast to non-infused candies, baked goods, or other products, which often look exactly like edibles.

Since May 1, retail marijuana stores have

been required to submit a sample batch of products on their shelves to be tested for potency. The test determines THC level and will also test for homogeneity, whether the THC is evenly spread throughout the edible.

Beginning June 1, manufacturers will also have to submit flower, or smoke-able marijuana, for potency testing. October will begin contaminant testing.

The task force is also considering a required training program for "budtenders," or pot sellers. Currently, retail stores, owners and employees are required to have a license to sell, but there is no required training program. At some stores consumers receive detailed information and at others no information at all.

While the task force is not working on any deadline, they continue to meet and discuss safety concerns.

"Public safety is the driving force behind a lot of the work with the stakeholder group," Koski says. "For us to be effective we have to always be flexible and adaptable and recognize that as more information comes in we need to continue our analysis and develop a program to lead the nation as an example of what good marijuana regulation can be."

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By Carol Roberts

**√**he 2014 legislative session brought changes that Coloradans will see in their kids' school funding, internet purchases, foreclosure proceedings, broadband for rural areas, regulation of marijuana edibles, and even emergency care for injured pets.

### **School Finance**

"The Student Success Act is the most significant investment in public education since I've been in the legislature," says Senator Mike Johnston, who worked together with Sen. Pat Steadman on school finance this year. "It puts more than \$400 million back into K-12. It has a lot of the components we tried to accom-

plish with Amendment 66, including dollars for: early literacy, retaining and keeping great teachers, support of school programs that were cut during the recession, and early literacy intervention. It also includes targeted dollars for English language learners, charter schools, and full financial transparency so folks know how their tax money is spent. The bill had bipartisan support, with 33 out of 35 votes in the Senate.

"Amendment 66 was about \$1.1 billion, and this was about \$400 million, but we're looking at about \$400 per student in every Denver public school. For a classroom with 30 kids in a class, that's \$12,000 into that one classroom from this investment.

"What's missing that would have been covered by Amendment 66 is full day kindergarten for every child, early childhood education for all 3- and 4 year-olds, it would have made possible for schools to do extended days or extended school years if they wanted to, bonuses for highly effective teachers, and more funding for students at risk and living in poverty—so there were a lot of things we weren't able to do."

### Marketplace Fairness & Small Business **Protection Act**

Three of our NE legislators, Reps. Court and Williams and Sen. Johnston worked on







# What Our NE Le Did in the 2014

this bill to help level the playing field between internet businesses and brick and mortar businesses. Local stores pay property tax as well as sales tax, but many internet companies have not, in the past, collected sales tax. Local stores have found people come in and try on shoes, for example, to find what they like, then order them online and pay less because there's no sales tax—putting local companies that support our economy at a disadvantage. Colorado has always had a law that consumers owe sales tax, and technically they should keep track of all internet purchases made with no tax and pay sales tax on them on a tax return at the end of the yearthough few people do that.

This new law now allows the Department of Revenue, in many cases, to make a presumption that internet companies selling to Coloradans owe sales tax and the burden of proof is on the companies to prove they have no "nexus" in Colorado (no connection like a distribution centers, warranty services, etc.)

"It was a little bit frustrating for us," says Rep. Court, "because the Retail Council, which is historically a Republican kind of group, lobbied very heavily for it but none of the Republians would support it."

# Foreclosure

Rep. McCann sponsored a bill that requires public trustees to refund overpayments directly





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# gislators

to borrowers rather than lenders—which ensures that borrowers only pay what they owe on their mortgages.

Rep. McCann also sponsored a bill that prohibits "dual tracking" in which a lender negotiates a loan modification with a borrower while simultaneously pursuing a foreclosure. The bill also requires a lender to establish a single point of contact for borrowers during foreclosure

Rep. Williams sponsored a bill that extends the state's foreclosure deferment program, which was scheduled to sunset at the end of this year. Under the program, county public trustees are required to delay the scheduled sale of a foreclosed property for up to 90 days for homeowners who meet certain eligibility requirements

### **Broadband for rural areas**

"Passing the five telecommunications updates is a big stride on the telecommunications front, not only for telecommunications providers in our state, but also for consumers," says Rep. Williams. "These laws have not been updated for the statute of limitations for a hit-and-run over 20 years—and you know how fast technology changes. So we're trying to catch up with technology and our telecommunications laws for

One of the bills repurposes money from a fee collected on phone bills to use it for broadband instead of phone lines. Williams says this will

### **NE Denver State Legislators**

State Representative Angela Williams, District 7— Includes all but two Stapleton precincts and Park Hill from Quebec to Monaco (south to Montview).

State Representative Beth McCann District 8— Includes all of Park Hill from Locust to Colorado Blvd.. Hale, East Colfax, and two precincts in Stapleton just north of Montview and east of Central Park Blvd.

State Representative Lois Court, District 6—Includes all of Lowry, East Montclair, Montclair and Mayfair.

State Senator Mike Johnston, District 33—Includes Stapleton and Park Hill.

State Senator Pat Steadman represents District 3— Includes Montclair, Mayfair, Hale and Lowry.

Visit FrontPorchStapleton.com to view a list of each legislator's bills this session.

> offer economic benefits to rural businesses who can now get broadband service, as well as benefits to rural schools and hospitals.

### **Emergency Care for Injured Pets**

Reps. McCann and Court sponsored a bill that allows emergency medical service providers to provide emergency veterinary care in certain circumstances (to be determined by fire district, city, etc), if the provider has completed the needed training to offer such care.

### Marijuana edibles bill

This bill by Sen. Mike Johnston regulates Marijuana edibles so that they are all recognizable, even when they're out of the package, so you don't have gummy bears or cookies or Swedish fish that are marijuana laced but people don't know it when they eat them or see them at a party in a snack bowl.

### Other bills

Sen. Johnston passed a bill that extends from five years to 10 years.

Rep. McCann passed a bill that helps prevent prescription drug overdose through a system in which providers will be notified if their patients are obtaining narcotic drugs from a number of different hospitals or doctors and try to get them help.



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Physician

П Stapleton Front Porch June 2014 By Courtney Drake-McDonough

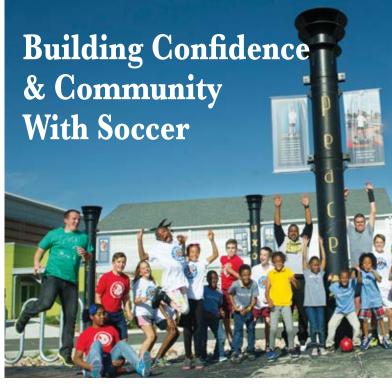
t's World Cup time. Soccer fans are eagerly awaiting a month of World Cup matches from June 12 to July 13 in Brazil. Two local soccer aficionados were instrumental in bringing special soccer activities to northeast Denver to share in the excitement of the World Cup. Stapleton resident Brandon Blew and Park Hill resident Bob Boyle have joined forces with the Sie Film Center and Three Lions Pub to bring four days of films for the whole family, a soccer skills and movie camp for kids ages 6 to 10, and a futsal camp for kids ages 11 to 15.

But it's not just World Cup Soccer that excites these two soccer fans; it's their belief that soccer offers important opportunities for kids. Boyle sees soccer as an ideal vehicle for social change because "it's easy to set up, requires minimal gear, is low cost, has the wellness component, appeals to a variety of communities and is gender neutral."

Both Blew and Boyle grew up playing soccer and have continued to make it a part of their lives through coaching and playing on adult leagues and on a professional basis. Both are committed to sharing the benefits of the game with those who have not had the opportunity to play for financial reasons and/or because opportunities haven't been available.



Boyle discovered soccer thanks to a project developed by his father, who he describes as something of a soccer pioneer. In an effort to enable kids to play soccer in their Michigan neighborhood, Boyle's dad connected with a Brazilian man in town. "They put together a team of kindergartners and first-graders and taught us how to play," recalls Boyle. "The Brazilian guy would do tricks and we'd never seen anything like it. We were hooked." Boyle was awarded a soccer scholarship to Bowling Green State University in Ohio where he studied management and met his wife. After moving to Denver, Boyle explored other



sports but was drawn back into soccer after having his children, now ages 7, 10 and 12. "The magic of the game pulls you in," he says.

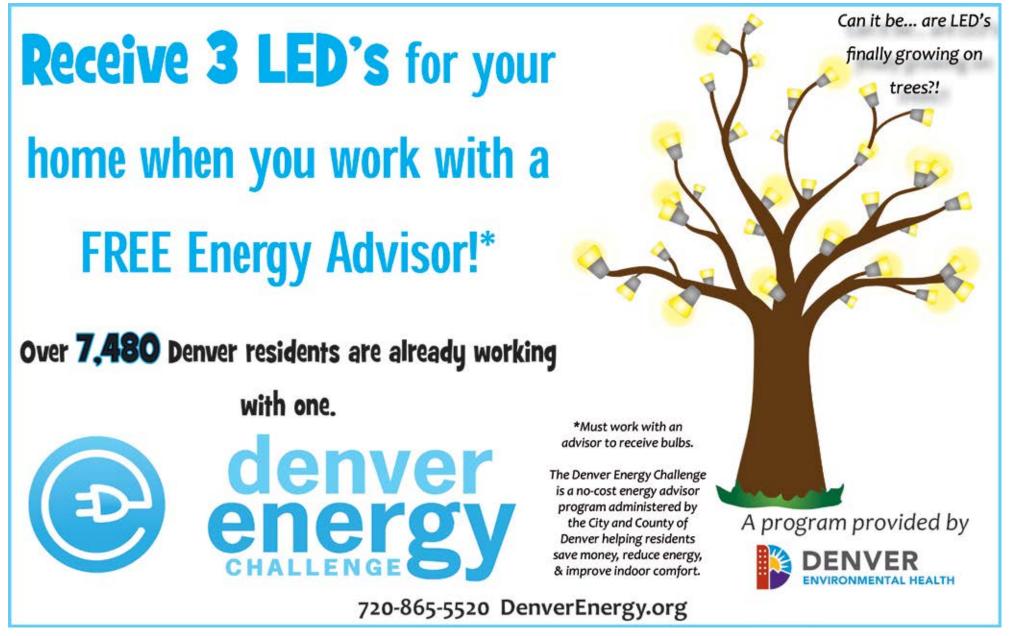
Blew, the father of two children ages 8 and 10, credits soccer with keeping him engaged in school throughout his life. "I attribute that to the rigors of training and a very focused schedule," says Blew. After attending Trinity University in San Antonio, Blew taught English in Mexico, and then got his master's in Latin American studies. By chance, he found out about a position with America SCORES' Denver program, the local branch of a national organization that combines soccer and poetry curriculums and a service learning component in southwest Denver. "It wasn't exactly aligned with my graduate degree but teaching soccer, managing teachers and working with primarily Latino youth was pretty close to my background," he says.

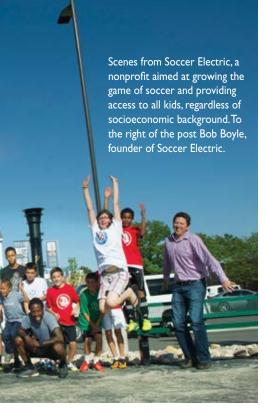
With a philosophy that sports and academics can be mutually beneficial, America SCORES Denver serves more than 320 third- to fifth-graders in 10 DPS elementary schools in southwest Denver, where the population is 90 percent Latino and more than 90 percent are on free lunch. As part of the soccer and poetry program, students perform their original works of poetry in front of 600 peers and family at an annual poetry slam. "A lot of the confidence you see exhibited on the soccer field comes out in their poetry performances," explains Blew. "You see a 9-year-old get up on stage and read their poem to 600 people with exuberant confidence. It's pretty phenomenal to work?"

The program uses a variety of measurement methods to evaluate the success of the program in terms of fitness level,



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Front Porch photos by Laura Mahony

writing ability and attendance. Results show increases in the students' fitness and literacy levels. Attendance rates are higher than district-wide levels and teachers report better behavior and increased attentiveness from the kids in the program.

Boyle and Blew met and became friends when Boyle served on the board of America SCORES Denver. Inspired by what Blew was doing, Boyle, an energy management consultant, established Soccer Electric, a nonprofit startup he runs in his spare time that aims to grow the game of soccer and provide access to all kids, regardless of socioeconomic background. The two organizations work in full support of each other, and oftentimes together, all for the purpose of encouraging a love of soccer.

Soccer Electric has a variety of projects in northeast Denver, including helping schools, corporations and organizations set up soccer programs. An offshoot of Soccer Electric's program is 303 Futsal, which promotes the smaller-scale soccer game typically played with five players on each side, on a basketball court or other small area that is more readily available than a full-sized field. Soccer Electric helped set up the McAuliffe Futsal Club when there were more kids interested in sports than there were spots on the school's various sports teams.

Working together on various projects such as the film festival and soccer camp gives Boyle and Blew many opportunities to keep soccer at the forefront of their lives, which can become a little compulsive for both men. "The game always finds its way into my life," says Boyle whose wife, Emily, will sometimes say "let's just not talk soccer." "I'm just a guy who's passionate about the game and wants to help more kids, and frankly adults, to play soccer," he says. Blew would agree. "The game just brings people together, regardless of your background. You put a ball out there for people and everything else just fades away."

# World Football Film Festival and Soccer Camps

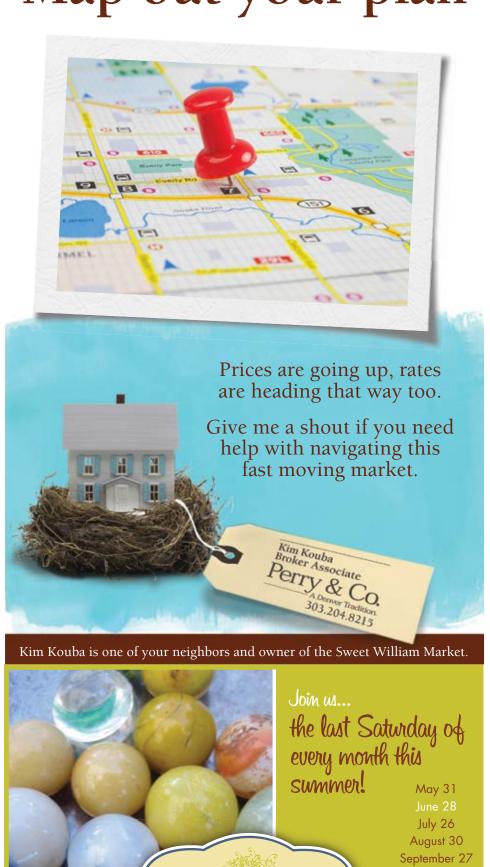
From June 5-8, in celebration of the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, a multi-day festival of film will be offered at the Sie Film Center, 2510 E. Colfax. The event features soccer-oriented films, ranging from classics and family friendly to vintage and impactful documentaries.

June 16–20: A youth "soccer and movies" camp will occur at Denver City Park and in the theater at Sie Film Center. More information posted at denverfilm.org.

June 17-19: 6:30-8:30pm: Street Feet, Attacking Soccer Clinic at Smiley Middle School, ages 11-15 (space limited). All levels welcome. Campers receive a T-shirt. \$125. All proceeds benefit America SCORES Denver and 303 FUTSAL. Register at soccerelectric.com



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# Just the Facts Fossils Underfoot by James Hagadorn



ast summer my kids wanted to go hiking along our local creek.

About halfway down the trail, this usually turns into "Papa, carry me." But not this time.

While walking down the embankment, we spotted something chalky weathering out of the bluff. Sporting jagged edges and a half-dozen pointy teeth—it was a fossil jaw from some ancient creature. Despite its decayed appearance, the kids thought it was as cool as Katy Perry.

Excited by their discovery, they metamorphosed into trailside detectives. Each bend was scoured for something new. My job was to ID each item they discovered. Mostly there were dozens of 'very fossil-like' sticks and stones, plus a few 'dino-

saur-egg-shaped' river cobbles. Ever optimistic, my kids still recite the tale of the trailside fossil

Foot bone of a Pleistocene camel (Camelops sp.) collected near what is now Westerly Creek Elementary School. Image: R. Wicker, DMNS Archives

as a prelude to our hikes. Even when we're hiking on granite.

Fossils are wonderfully abundant here in Colorado. Dino teeth, colossal clams, petrified logs—they're all around us. Many are discovered by citizens just like you.

A neighbor told me about such a discovery—just up the street from here. In 2001, workers cleaning up the pits leftover from the Stapleton airport found some bones. They called the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. A team of staff and volunteers, including my neighbor, sprang into action to help unearth and conserve part of a fossilized camel leg. It is the best modern-style camel known from our state. Such extinct beasts roamed Colorado tens of thousands of years before humans did. Maybe this gnawed-up relic was buried sometime after serving as a drumstick.

A decade previously, dozer operators building Denver International Airport made an even more amazing discovery. While grading earth for the runways, they found giant fish tails entombed in rock. The Museum was called to the scene, but the fossils weren't quite what they seemed. Rather than tails they were palm leaves! Felled by the thousands, they recorded a

swamp where the airport was to be built. Like the fossil rainforest discovered during expansion of I-25 near Castle Rock, the DIA discovery provided scientists with new insights about what Colorado was like near the end of the

age of dinosaurs.

But what about dinosaurs, you might ask? Nary a scrap was found at these sites. Down in Littleton, though, an eagle-eyed dogwalker and his pup were about to hit the jackpot. Cruising through a housing development under construction, they traversed a site that had been scraped. Poking out from the dirt was more than Fido could unbury—a mongo bone. Partnering with the developer, scientists excavated teeth and more bones. Although only a partial skeleton was excavated, this was Colorado's only Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton. The rest of this "T. rex with a street address" is still underground. Perhaps it's peering upward at the bottom of the neighbor's basement slab or awaits the installation of a new pool.

In 1993 crews began building the Rockies' new stadium. Aft of home plate, they found some scrappy bits

they found some scrappy bits of bone. Although unquestionably dinosaur, the bones were completely unidentifiable. Such discoveries are usually ascribed to the most common dinosaur genus, *Chunk-o-saurus*. Jokes aside, the baseball bones were similar in size to the ribs of plant-eating dinosaurs like *Triceratops*—a beast common to Colorado, and one that was first discovered from a creek near Sports Authority Field. After the fossils were announced, fans became fossil-smitten, as did the Rockies. A year later they revealed their very own dino—a fuzzy *Triceratops* mascot named Dinger.

Although most fossil discoveries are of common or inconsequential creatures, game-changing specimens are occasional-



Denver Museum of Nature & Science volunteer John Shinton excavating a Cretaceous dinosaur rib fragment from Coors Field. Image: R. Wicker, DMNS Archives

ly found. And there are plenty of them underfoot here in Colorado. Collecting them requires a permit, unless on private land.

Think you've stumbled across something that's rare or unusual? Give us a shout at the Museum. Record where it occurs, and email us a photo. We'll get right on it.

In the meantime, think about fossils as carrots—if nothing else than to get yourself outdoors. Or get your kiddos to hike down the trail—on their own power, rather than yours.

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

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Get to Know Dr. Christine Conageski

Christine Conageski completed her undergraduate work at Case Western Reserve University and trained at University of Cincinnati and University of Colorado. She lives in Park Hill and enjoys swimming.

# Meet the Kids

Oddball, endearing and quirky answers to life's questions

By Madeline Schroeder

magine for whatever reason adults no longer exist and kids solely occupy the world.

A group of fifth-graders from Westerly Creek Elementary ponder the hypothetical situation. "Are you saying our parents would go on ba-cation without us?" Logan Honnis says.

They mull it over. The ideas start slowly; perhaps they'd watch shows in bed with their dog or not wear pants all day. But quickly the momentum builds, and they realize the reality of no adult existence.

"There are a lot of things we can't do right now that we could if adults didn't exist," Allen Jordan says. "We could build a gigantic pyramid just for the sake of it."

He imagines he would go hunting and dress as Spiderman because '*Man*, who doesn't love Spiderman?' And when he runs out of funding he plans to break dance for money and get signed as a rapper.

"We'd get our driver's licenses," Avalon Currow says. The group pictures driving smart cars or electric scooters—more fit for their stature than full-size cars.

For their meals they list Hot Pockets, Fruity Pebbles, dark chocolate, and fried Twinkies whenever they want. Cooking is easy, they say. Just read instructions on the box.

They would adopt any animal of their choosing—wolf, octopus, sharks, chickadee, "crazy squirrels" and more.

Carmel Thompson imagines hosting a huge sleepover that would take over her entire house. She may also have a friend



move in as a roommate.

"I'd have to figure out how to work the washing machine," Honnis says. He is the logistical one of the group. He calls the other fifth-graders' ideas "crazy." "Sometimes what I'm hearing from you guys can be ridiculous," he says.

"You say that, but when it happens you're going to go crazy," Jordan jumps in. "Your parents will leave and you'll walk out the door and start partying."

Honnis doesn't believe him, though. He pictures an adultless world trashed with litter and kids screaming and running everywhere. He hopes a war wouldn't break out between kids and power-hungry teens.

To survive the chaos, he would form an alliance and build a sanctuary with materials to survive and a hard shell to protect from invasion.

If the fifth-graders did encounter trouble, they don't seem

to fear surviving without their parents. If someone broke into their house, they'd look for nooks and crannies to hide. Honnis would squeeze in between mattresses on his bed.

"I would run into my laundry room. There's this little thing behind my washing machine, and I would sit there," Currow says.

If Carter Hoops ran out of food, she would run to her orthodontist who she says serves tuna fish before fixing her teeth—an oddity that didn't entirely make sense to the group.

Could kids survive without parents? They seem to think yes. Some say they'd miss their parents after a few weeks; others say a few years. After a while they may turn to a sibling for help while others say they'd be OK with a sibling leaving with their parents

"It'd be OK as long as they went on a shopping spree before they left," Thompson says.



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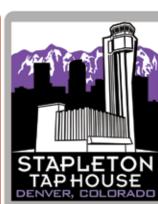
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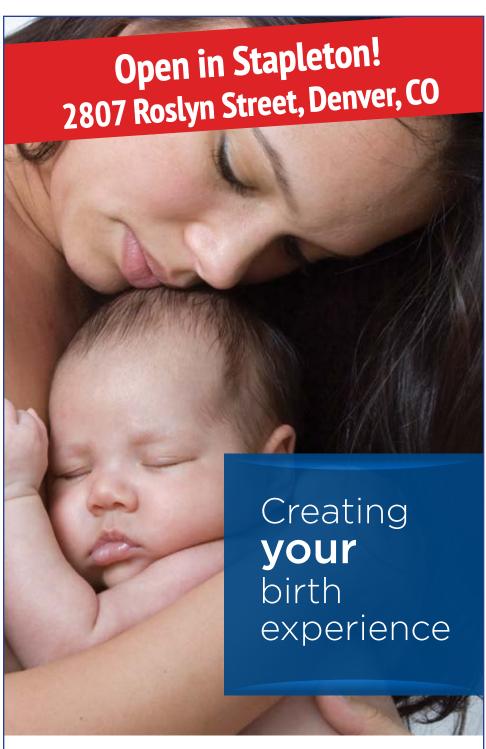




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Q: What is a Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM)?

**A:** A CNM is a registered nurse who has a master's degree in both nursing and midwifery, and who is certified through the American College of Nurse-Midwives.

Q: How is the care different with a CNM?

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# **New Stapleton High School Programming a**

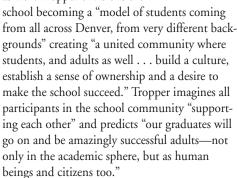
Stapleton high school principal

Avi Tropper

By Maegan Parker Brooks

The physical foundation has yet to be laid. The school name is not yet decided. The enrollment boundary system is still in the works, but the community has great expectations for the high school opening in August 2015. Tom Boasberg, superintendent of Denver Public Schools (DPS), champions Stapleton schools as "among the finest in the state" and "is fully confident that the new high school will continue this track record of exceptional quality." David Sup-

pes, chief operating officer of DPS, writes: "We expect this campus to become a shining star within DPS, providing rigorous academic programs and enrichment to enable the success of thousands of students for years to come." The school's principal, Avi Tropper, is similarly optimistic. He celebrates its potential to serve not only as a district and statewide exemplar, but to become a national model as well. Tropper envisions the



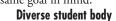
The question now before Tropper, DPS and the Northeast Denver community is how do we establish the type of academic programming and cultural values to achieve such bold aspirations? Tropper has provided us with some initial answers in the school plan he recently submitted to the school board.

Although Principal Tropper has only been on the job for a few months, the contents of this plan have been in the works for years. Throughout his decade-long career as a teacher, an assistant principal and a dean, Tropper has visited at least 100 schools and has spoken with

educators, mentors and students "trying to find out what best practices are—what experiences help children develop a love of learning and a love of humanity."

In response to recent community input, Tropper has spent the last few months taking a careful look at the International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum and is quite impressed. He plans to implement the IB Diploma Program for the 11th-and 12th-grade students and to develop a rigorous IB-aligned curriculum for the school's 9th- and

10th-grade students. Tropper champions the IB curriculum for its rigorous, in-depth and interdisciplinary characteristics, while also heralding its cultural contributions. "It's a schoolwide program," he emphasizes. "Every student in the school does the IB program. A schoolwide instructional model helps form a cohesive intentional school where every student is engaged in the same academic mission with the same goal in mind."



A cohesive academic program, Tropper hopes, will help unite a diverse student body. While Boasberg, school board members and Tropper remain unequivocal in their commitment to the Stapleton community, promising "every single student in the Stapleton elementary boundary who wants to attend the school is guaranteed a seat," they also have pledged to create an enrollment system that "ensures a diverse student body." When it comes to fostering diversity at the high school he leads, Tropper is resolute: "There is no other option." With similar candor, Boasberg's recent public letter reiterated the district's pledge to provide "access to as many seats on the new campus as is necessary to honor these commitments."

# Mixed ability classrooms

The new high school will bring together students from a variety of neighborhoods, and it will also combine a spectrum of learners in mixed ability classrooms. "Diverse learners, students with special needs and English Language Learners will fully participate in all courses to the extent possible," outlines Tropper. As with most programs he





# nd Culture Take Shape

advocates, the new principal is quick to point to the latest research suggesting that within "mixed ability classrooms, all students do better." But it's not just about academic success, he reasons further: "critical success as an adult comes from being able to work with people across the spectrum."

Like the issue of diversity, mixed ability learning environments go to the heart of this educator's moral convictions. "We don't want a stratified school. You want to build a community where everybody is working together," Tropper contends.

Tropper visited schools where every student takes the IB curriculum and the schools don't screen students with tests or anything else. The goal of an IB program, he says, is to expose every kid to a rich curriculum. "They work hard learning to express themselves and write essays and get a global perspective on certain issues. The vision isn't for every child to earn an IB diploma, but every kid will have that access to a rich and challenging curriculum. And they work hard on the curriculum which pays dividends for the rest of their lives.

# June 2—Open Forum for **New Stapleton High School**

6:30-8pm, Bill Roberts gym Parents and students are invited to meet Principal Avi Tropper to ask questions, and engage in conversation on subjects including timeline, school boundaries and programming. Questions? Contact Avi Tropper at tropper.avi@gmail.com.

"Recent research showed it's important that kids are exposed to AP courses, not that they score a five on the tests. The goal is to have every student

engaged in the curriculum. How they do on some of the assessments will differ but they've all taken on the same challenge."

"The skill of taking on a challenge and trying to meet the challenge is persistence. We're going to have an approach to working with students that's going to help with that skill no matter what their background. Character traits are more significant than prior academic performance.

"We're setting up systems and structures so students who come from different backgrounds and educational experiences have multiple ways to get the support they need and will have the opportunity to try again. Not every student will have to ace every essay the first time they try it, but there will be a process to edit and go over their work." (continued on p. 30)

# 9th grade academy would combine Manual and East freshmen in 2015

To address low school performance ratings, low enrollment and retention, and poor test scores at Manual High School, a committee called Thought Partners has been meeting regularly since early March to make a recommendation for qualities they would like to see for a high performing high school at Manual.

A proposal has been made to have a 9th Grade Academy at Manual in the fall of 2015 that would include

both Manual and East students. Students would then choose whether to continue in a medical or engineering pathway at Manual or the traditional comprehensive curriculum at East.

A meeting was held at East High School on May 27 at 6pm to get community feedback on this proposal. Check FrontPorchStapleton.com for more information since the meeting was held after this issue went to press.



Stapleton resident Michelle Camacho Liu asks school board member Landri Taylor a question at a Stapleton high school boundary meeting. Recent community meetings have also been taking place about proposed changes at George Washington (see article below), Manual and East.

# George Washington High School Proposed changes to storied IB program roil parents/students Following is a condensed version of an article by do that without watering down IB enrolled in the program.

Alan Gottlieb and Kate Schimel posted at Chalkbeat Colorado. Visit FrontPorchStapleton.com or co.chalkbeat.org to read the entire article.

Changes are coming to the storied International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Denver's George Washington High School, and some students, parents and teachers connected to the program are up in arms.

George Washington principal Micheal Johnson says his school needs to provide better educational opportunities to more of the school's students, and that the changes he is pushing will

do that without watering down IB.

For almost 30 years, the IB program at GW has educated a small group of high-performing students and sent many of them off to some of the nation's most elite colleges. The rigorous four-year program admits students based on grades, test scores, teacher recommendations and interviews. Ninth- and tenth-grade students take "pre-IB" courses to prepare them for the rigors of the IB Diploma Program, which spans grades 11 and 12 and whose curriculum is set by an international organization.

Just over 400 of GW's 1,424 students are

enrolled in the program.

The changes are coming to pre-IB, which is not part of the official International Baccalaureate Organization curriculum, but rather a school-designed preparatory program that has been part of GW's IB program since its inception in 1985.

In the past, eighth-graders have applied to the IB program, which encompasses pre-IB and the Diploma Program. If admitted, they take all core courses exclusively with other IB students for four years, making the IB program in effect a small, elite school within a larger urban high school. IB students do participate (continued on p. 30)

# Determining boundaries for the high school at Stapleton

By Carol Roberts

About 25 parents from Stapleton, Park Hill and Far Northeast Denver attended a May 7 meeting at DSST to give community input on boundaries for the new high school. The guiding principles in the decision making process are equity and inclusion for an integrated high-performing high school.

A decision needs to be made on what geographic area will be guaranteed a seat, how to ensure socioeconomic diversity, and what, if any, students will have priority for choice seats?

DPS representatives pointed out that setting aside a percentage of seats for free and reduced lunch (FRL—up to 40%) will ensure that the school will always be diverse.

Some of the parents felt that Park Hill students who want to continue to high school with their middle school peers should be considered for priority.

Parents from far Northeast felt setting aside 40% of seats for FRL was unfair to non-FRL families in far northeast because they would end up at the bottom of the list. They pointed out that even without an FRL set aside, giving priority to far northeast families would bring diversity since that population had 82% FRL families in 2013.

The Monaco corridor (from Quebec to Monaco, with 46 9th graders in 2013 and now in the George Washington boundary) is currently being proposed, along with Stapleton, to be the boundary area that will have guaranteed

Stapleton parents continue to voice a concern that there may not be enough seats for all Stapleton students who want to attend the high school AND at the same time ensure a diverse population. DPS continues to say they believe there will be enough seats to do both.

There was another community meeting on May 28 (after this paper went to press) about boundary recommendations. Check Front-PorchStapleton.com or Front Porch Newspaper on Facebook for outcome of the meeting.



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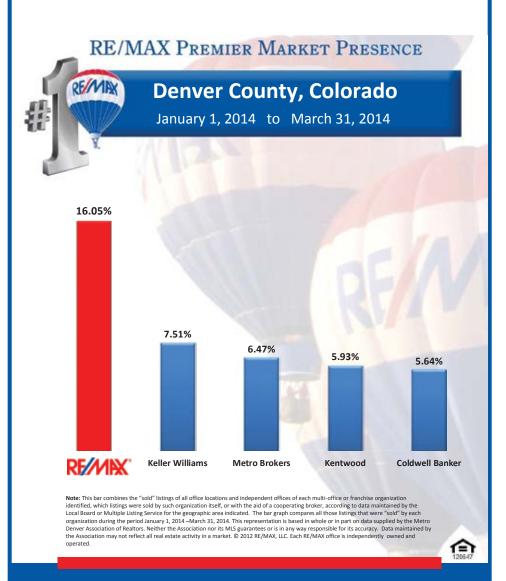
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The Indie Prof Film reviews by Vincent Piturro

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

Follow "Indie Prof" on Facebook for updates about film events and more reviews.

# Burt's Buzz (2014)

This is slightly lighter fare for early summer: the story of Burt's Bees co-founder Burt Shavitz. This is an oddly fascinating look at an unlikely businessman and the roller-coaster life he has led. How this man became one of the most iconic images in modern business is interesting, sometimes heartbreaking, and overall, quite astonishing.

Shavitz is a semi-recluse living in a small house (with only cold running water) on 33 acres of pristine land in Maine. He was a native New Yorker, became a photojournalist there in the 1960s, then abruptly dropped out of society and moved to upstate New York before landing in Maine. He learned beekeeping and carved out a living for many years selling honey out of the back of his car. He met a divorced mother of two, Roxanne Quimby, and they started a business that would eventually hit the billion-dollar mark. But not while they were

They started the business in 1984, and Quimby forced Burt out of the business in 1993. Quimby eventually sold her share in 2007 for \$176 million, and the company was then later sold to Clorox for \$800 million. Shavitz never saw numbers even close to these.

The story is fascinating, but the man is even more fascinating. Ruminating on his lost love with Quimby or his lost millions with the company, the only time he shows any real emotion is with the loss of his former dog. He seems to





be a walking contradiction—at times refusing to leave home yet he relishes the attention of adoring crowds. All seem to think something greater lies beneath the surface but is not allowed to come through. Perhaps what we respond to is something most of wish to be but are not: insouciance to the material world. Maybe.

You will like this if you enjoyed Man on Wire, Searching for Sugarman, and The Tillman Story. Starts June 6 at the Sie Film Center.

### *Like Someone in Love* (2013)

Abbas Kiarostami is one of the world's greatest directors. Born and raised in Iran, he made films there until 2010, when two of his close friends—and fellow filmmakers—were imprisoned because they were seen as threats to the state. He left Iran and now makes films abroad: his first, Certified Copy (2010), was set in Italy, and his latest film, Like Someone in Love, is set

in Japan. It turns out that he is just as brilliant outside his native Iran.

His style can be described as oblique, symbolic, ambiguous, and poetic. He poses questions that are not always answered, his camera stays immobile for long periods as we are allowed to observe

rather than be manipulated, and you always get the feeling that everything can blow at any

The story centers around pretty university student Akiko, who also moonlights as a highpriced call girl. At the beginning of the movie we hear her voice but we do not see her right away. She is in a crowded Tokyo restaurant and the camera takes its time getting to the subject. Akiko's suspicious, jealous, and possessive boyfriend Noriaki is pestering her to marry him, to "save her from the jungle." Except the jungle is where they all live.

She is sent off to meet a client who turns

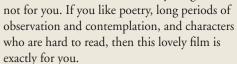


Scene from Burt's Buzz

out to be an old retired university professor (Takashi) who wants to make her soup instead of going to bed. When they do go to bed, is it just to sleep? The next morning Takashi insists on driving Akiko back to school, whereupon they run into Noriaki. Noriaki thinks that Takashi is Akiko's grandfather, but then offers to help fix a faulty belt in Takashi's car. Will he find out the truth about Takashi?

The ending is the surprise, and where we are all left guessing and questioning. How much do we really know about each other? What lies just beneath the surface? Where do

> we really learn about life, and from whom? These are some of the simple questions posed by the film, but there are many more. If you like the kind of film that explains everything, this is

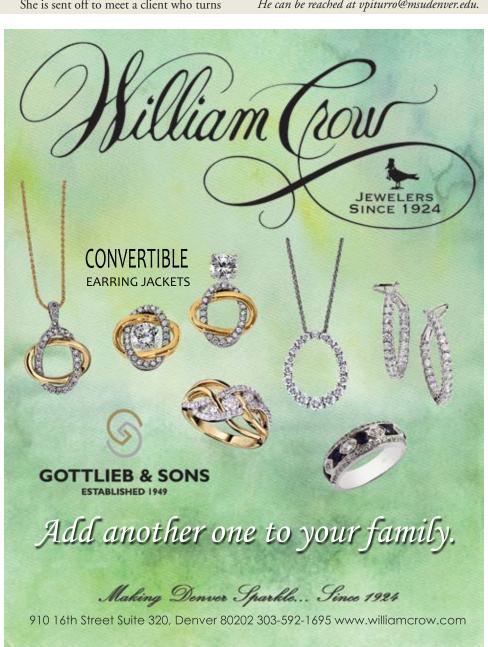


Scene from Like Someone in Love

You will like this film if you enjoyed *Bicycle* Thieves, Upstream Color, and/or The Thin Red Line. Available on Netflix.

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

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





# **Lowry Author Inspires Life After Loss**

By Madeline Schroeder

ome may believe things happen in life for a reason, but Lowry resident Nancy Sharp rejects the "voodoo thinking." Rather than sitting and waiting for life to work out, Sharp says she has made bold decisions that led her to happiness—the focus of her best-selling book, Both Sides Now. The memoir is a series of vignettes that aim to inspire anyone who wants to move his or her life in bolder directions, not just those who have lost someone.

The book hinges on the day in 2001 when Sharp gave birth to her twins and also learned that afternoon her husband's brain cancer had come back after 18 years in remission. After two years, her husband died.

While she could have made the safe decision to stay in her New York home, she knew she needed a fresh start far from ghosts of her past and the pain of losing her husband. "I think the best way to memorialize a loved one is to choose life," she says.

So in 2006, with only her 5-year-old twins, she left New York and moved to

"When life shakes you, like it did me, there is really something very powerful about looking to the mountains as providing that sense of perspective and that sense of sturdiness and permanence I felt I needed."

Seven months after moving, she read in the Rocky Mountain News about Steve Saunders, anchor for 7 News and one of 5280 magazine's most eligible bachelors. She learned, like herself, Saunders had lost a spouse to cancer and was single-parenting two children. She decided to reach out to him as a friend.

After a few weeks with no response, the same courage that led her to Denver told her to send the email again. This time he apologetically responded within a half hour. Unexpectedly, romance blossomed, and the two married in 2008 at Cheesman Park.

While some may look at Sharp's life and say it has fallen into place by chance, she says she created her opportunities. She fiercely pursued happiness after loss and heartache. "Many people wrestle with bold decisions in career and personal passions, but everyone is capable of bold living," she says.

Sharp is an author, writer and keynote speaker on bold living. Visit www.Nan-

# Local Youth Win at National **History Day Competition**



First-place winners from DSA, left to right, Lily Rasmussen, Frances Martin and Isabella Ocana.

By Madeline Schroeder

**T**oung students in Northeast Denver surpassed classroom expectations and spent months preparing exhibits for National History Day, an academic contest nationwide.

Students (up to five per group) choose historical topics within the theme "Rights and Responsibilities in History" and conduct extensive research throughout the year. They compete as Juniors (middle school) or Seniors (high school). Each group presents an exhibit to a panel of judges at regional and state competitions.

A total of 19 students from Denver School of the Arts (DSA) in seventh through eleventh grades received first or second place and will go on to nationals in Baltimore June 14-19. Frannie Martin, Isabella Ocana and Lily Rasmussen from DSA received first place for the Juniors.

Their exhibit titled "Las Madres de la Plaza de Mayo: A Living Legacy of Hope and Human" focused on a group of mothers in Argentina who protested from 1977-83 for the return of their children who were kidnapped and tortured during the Argentine Dirty War, Rasmussen says in one breath without

Their exhibit is split into three panels: the left side provides historical context, the middle gives information about the mothers, and the right, called "so what?" explains how the mothers made a difference.

At the national competition on May 3, Rasmussen was sure they wouldn't win—a humble perspective of her eloquent knowledge about the Mothers of the



Third-place winners from McAuliffe Chloe McNamee (left) and Macy Gosch (right).

Plaza de Mayo. "I kept thinking 'Oh, we're not going to make it' during the announcements. And then they announced first, so we were pretty surprised."

From McAuliffe International School, Macy Gosch and Chloe McNamee received third place. Gosch says it was shocking and cool to do so well, especially this being McAuliffe's first year participating.

She and and McNamee are both interested in women's rights. McNamee had become frustrated feeling the boys' soccer team received better treatment than the girl's team (field time, travel tournaments, etc.). Her grandmother told her about Title IX—something she had never heard of.

Gosch and McNamee researched and knew they found their topic. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance.

The two discovered, after interviewing their teachers and talking to friends, that many people don't know about Title IX or think it only affects sports. "Learning more about it I realized every day that I go to school I am being affected by Title IX," Gosch says. "It was shocking how unequal and unfair it was for women before 1972 when it was passed."

Not the biggest history fan, Gosch was surprised how much she enjoyed working on the project. She is satisfied with winning third place and happy to have become good friends with McNamee.

The DSA team will compete in the national competition in Baltimore June 14-19 and the July issue of the Front Porch will cover the outcome of the competition.

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# The Book Worm

The Front Porch prints book reviews by local librarians, rotating to a different library each month. June reviews are by Thane Benson, Monica Washenberger and Tara Bannon Williamson from Park Hill Branch Library.

Adult Non-Fiction

### Post Secret: Extraordinary Confessions from Ordinary Lives by Frank Warren

As a community art project, Frank Warren printed 3,000 blank post cards with three words of instruction printed in bold on the back: Share A Secret. Frank handed these cards out. He left them in stacks to be found. He even slipped some between the pages of library books. Slowly, the postcards started coming back to him. From all over the world they came—handmade post cards, each one a work of art. On every single card is a secret. Some are funny. Some are sad. Some are joyful. Some are disturbing. Some are endearing, and some will break your heart. Each secret is a glimpse into our shared

humanity, and each one tells a story.

### Talk Like TED: The 9 Public-Speaking Secrets of the World's Top Minds by Carmine Gallo

Do you enjoy watching TED talks? If so, you would be in good company. TED conferences take place around the world and have generated more than one billion views online. More than just a book about public speaking, Talk Like TED celebrates the memorable stories and inspirational people who ignite passions and motivate change. Whether you are presenting to a large group in an auditorium or persuading your boss at work, the tips given will help you deliver your ideas and use your passion to sway your audience. While the nine "secrets" revealed are common to those familiar with public speaking standards, the book is well written and engaging.

Adult Fiction

The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry: A Novel by Gabri-

If you enjoyed the memorable characters in *Mr*.

Penumbra's 24-hour Bookstore by Robin Sloan, The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin will captivate you. This charmingly witty celebration of bookstores, books, and the people who love them, is packed with literary references and laughout-loud moments with bittersweet and moving moments. Sure to be popular with book clubs, the story of the transformation of a lonely and cranky bookseller as a result of friendship, community and love is an engrossing read guaranteed to delight even the most discerning reader.

Young Adult Fiction

### The Strange and Beautiful Sorrows of Ava Lavender by Leslye Walton

Written in the lyrical magic realism style, this offbeat multi-generational tale will sweep you off your feet. For everyone who has ever been made a fool by love, rest assured the members of the Lavender family have had it worse. Plagued for generations with foolish or unlucky romances, the latest misfortune to befall the family was the birth of twins, Henry, selectively mute and uniquely

talented, and Ava, an enchantingly normal girl born with the wings of a bird. A mystical coming-of-age tale spanning decades, readers will identify with this strange and beautiful exploration of the universal experience of feeling different than everyone else.

Young Adult Fiction

### Forgive Me, Leonard Peacock by Matthew Quick

Leonard Peacock wants only two things for his eighteenth birthday, to kill Asher Beal and himself. In this provocative but short read, Matthew Quick explores the experience of a high school boy whose absent parents and lapsed friendships have led him to his final day. Told from Leonard's perspective, Quick manages to capture the essence of what it means to be a struggling teenager. As Leonard prepares to say goodbye to his four closest friends with a gift for each, he receives more than he bargained for in this unpredictable novel that was impossible to put down until the very end.

Librarians interested in writing reviews please contact Madeline Schroeder at Madeline@FrontPorch-







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

# To submit Front Porch "Local Event" Listings

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

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

Press releases for suggested stories should be sent separately to FrontPorch@FrontPorchStapleton.com.

# SEASONAL/HOLIDAY EVENTS

6/15 Sunday—A Taste of Puerto Rico. Civic Center Park www. atasteofpuertoricofestival.com

6/20 to 6/22—Denver Greek Festival. Greek food, music, boutique, cathedral tours and more. 4610 E. Alameda. www.thegreekfestival.com

6/21 Saturday—Raise the Flag Tea. At Molly Brown House. \$20. Sittings: I I am and I pm. jwilms@mollybrown.org or 303.832.4092x17.

6/21 to 6/22—Denver Pridefest. Civic Center Park, downtown Denver. Parade 9:30am, Cheesman Park. I Iam-7pm Sat, I0am-6pm Sun. www.glbtcolorado.org/pridefest

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

### 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"

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

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—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.fourmilepark.org

### **DENVER METRO EVENTS**

6/6 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/den-

# June 14—Park Hill Garden Walk

Calling master gardeners, enthusiasts and anyone interested in a leisurely summer activity. The 2014 Park Hill Garden Walk will take place 10am-4pm on Sat., June 14. The walk features native xeriscape gardens, formal plantings, artist showings and the Park Hill Community Garden. Ride your own bike or contact the Bike Depot at 303.393.1963 to reserve a bicycle to rent on-site for a small donation. Purchase tickets at http:// parkhillgardenwalk.blogspot.com or participating locations.

5/3 I to 6/I—Denver Chalk Art Festival. Larimer Square, FREE. www.denverchalkart.org

6/5 to 6/7—Denver Ukefest 2014. Workshops and concerts. Tickets from \$30. www.swallowhillmusic.org

6/7 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. Free with admission. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-2pm. www.wingsmuseum.org

**6/7 Saturday—Denver Electronics Recycling Collection Event.** 9am-Ipm. Metech Recycling, 500 W. 53rd Pl. Event participation by appointment only; sign up at Denver-ecycle.eventbrite.com, www. denvergov.org/ecycle

6/7 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

6/7 to 6/8—Capitol Hill Peoples Fair. Civic Center Park. www. peoplesfair.com

6/13 Friday—Colorado Symphony Presents Beethoven and **Brews.** Beer tasting, light appetizers and the Colorado Symphony. Magnolia Hotel Ballroom, downtown Denver. 6:30pm. Tickets: www.

6/13 to 6/15—Denver Comic Con. 3-day fan convention featuring sci/fi, comic books, gaming and more. Denver Convention Center, 14th and Curtis. www.denvercomiccon.com

6/14 Saturday—Barrio E Family Workshop. Percussion, dance and song workshop, 10:30am-12pm. McNichols Bldg. \$15/person. In partnership with Denver Arts and Venues. www.barrioe.org

**6/14 Saturday—Juneteenth Music Festival.** Five Points Neighborhood, Welton St. betw. Park and 28th. www.juneteenthmusicfestival.com

6/19 Thursday—3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Art Walk. Santa Fe Art District, Santa Fe between 10th and 6th, 5-8pm. www.artdistrictonsantafe.com

6/21 Saturday—Westword Music Showcase. Golden Triangle.

**6/28 to 6/29—Cherry Blossom Festival.** Sakura Square, Lawrence St. between 19th and 20th. www.cherryblossomdenver.org

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

# **HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

**6/1—6/30 Friday Night Yoga Club.** Fridays in May--Friday Night Yoga Club. Various Denver yoga studios. www.fridaynightyogaclub.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

6/5 to 6/26—Sunrise Tai Chi in the Park. Thursdays in June, City Park Rose Garden. 7-8am www.TaiChiDenver.com

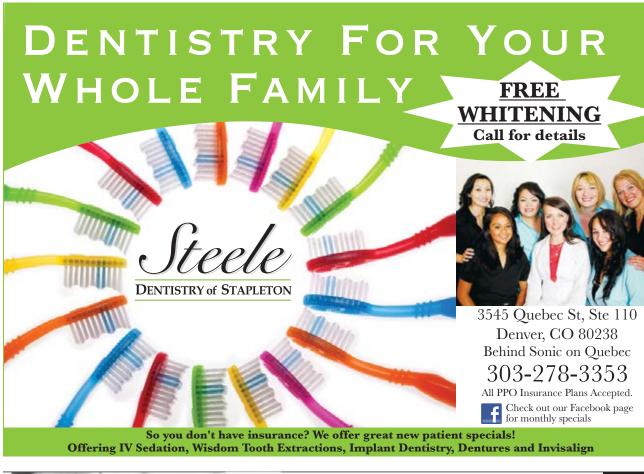
6/7 Saturday—Jody's Race for Awareness. Registration now open. Proceeds benefit the Colorado Ovarian Cancer Alliance. www. colo-ovariancancer.org

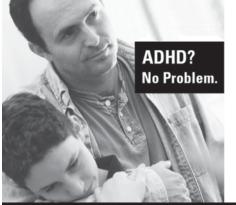
6/7 Saturday—Lucky Mutt Strut. 5K Fun Walk or Run. 7:30am. Cheeseman Park. Picnic following. www.maxfund.org

6/19 Thursday—Free HIV testing at Rocky Mountain CARES nonprofit for holistic HIV care. I-5pm, 3rd Thurs. monthly and by appt. 4545 E 9th Ave, #120. Shannon Southall: 303.951.3694.

6/25 Wednesday—Bike to Work Day. To register: www.bike-

6/28 Saturday—Undy 5000: A Brief Run to Fight Colon Cancer. 5K in your undies to fight colon cancer. Denver City Park. www.undy5000.org





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### KIDS AND FAMILIES

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

6/I to 6/30—Tuesdays in June- 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

6/6 Friday—Bluff Lake Buds. 10-1 lam. For kids ages 2-5 accompanied by adult. \$5/child if advance registered; adults free. Bluff Lake . Nature Ćenter, 3400 Havana Way. keith@blufflake.org to register. www. blufflarenaturecenter.org

6/7 Saturday—Home Depot Kids Workshop. 9am-12pm. FREE

# June-August—Food: Our Global Kitchen

May 31 through Sept. I, the History Colorado Center hosts the exhibit, Food: Our Global Kitchen. Ever wonder what it was like to dine with ancient Romans? How do the Japanese grow cube-shaped watermelons? What did author Jane Austen consider a delectable dessert? Visitors taste treats, cook virtual meals, see rare artifacts and take a peek into the dining rooms of famous figures. General admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for students, and \$8 for children 6 to 12. To purchase or learn more visit HistoryColoradoCenter.org.

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

6/7 Saturday—KidSpree at Yumfest. 10am-6pm. Free entertainment and family activities with reasonably priced attractions and food for purchase. Aurora's largest family festival. Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda P'kway. www.auroragov.org

6/7 to 6/8—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.forney-

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

**6/12 Thursday—Full Moon Hike**. 8:15-9:15pm. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. 303.739.9428 www.auroragov.org/

6/14 Saturday—National Get Outdoors Day Denver. Denver City Park. Rock climbing, live music, outdoor arts, bicycling, fishing, junior ranger activities, more. FREE. 9am-4pm. www.getoutdoorscolo-

6/14 to 6/28—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

# June 12, 19, 26—Civics for Citizens

Representative Lois Court will teach the public how the Colorado state legislature works from 6:30-8pm on June 12, 19, and 26 at Centerpoint at Windsor Gardens, 595 S. Clinton St. The event is free but seats are limited. Sign up at the Activities Desk at Windsor Gardens.



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

6/19 to 6/22—B17 Fly-In. Centennial Airport, in conjunction with Wings Over the Rockies Museum. WWII vehicle and aircraft display and more. www.wingsmuseum.org, www.B17.org

6/27 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**

6/3 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)- Mayans. 10:15-11:15am.

Advanced

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**Pediatric** 

Jewish Community Center, 350 S. Dahlia St. 303.316.6359. www.Active-Minds.com

6/5 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)- WWI Origins. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325. www.ActiveMinds.com

6/12 to 6/26—Civics for Citizens. Rep. Lois Court explains how Colorado State Legislature works. 3 Thursdays, 6:30-8pm. In Centerpoint. FREE; sign up at activities desk.

6/19 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)- Bandits, Thieves and Outlaws. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325.

6/20 to 6/22—Workshops from Catalyst Healthy Solutions LLC. Certificate in Experiential Facilitation and Programming, 40 hour certification for teachers, coaches, trainers. (continued on p. 24)

### www.AdvancedPediatricAssociates.com

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Jennifer Lewis • 720-625-0800 Jennifer@Distinctivedenver.com

\*All data obtained from the MLS as of 1/20/14 and the MCA as of 1/7/14 and should be verified. Distinctive errors, misprints, etc, and shall be held harmless







(continued from p. 23) consultants, therapists, homeschoolers 8-5 pm \$480 www.catalystshealthysolutions com

6/24 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)- Ukraine at a Tipping Point. 5:30-6:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727. 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 6/5—Planetarium.** Tales of the Mayan Sky, Perfect Little Planet, To Space and Back www.dmns. org/planetarium/current-show

6/6 to 6/30—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

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6/19 Thursday—Science Lounge. Cocktails/ entertainment every 3rd Thurs. of month. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/nonmembers. www. dmns.org

# June 8—Raptor Day & Bird Fest

Bluff Lake Nature Center's inaugural Raptor Day and Bird Fest will take place I I am-3pm on June 8. The event begins with a parade. Activities include crafts, speakers, and a live raptor presentation. For more information contact Keith Wood, Bluff Lake education director, at 720-708-4079 or Keith@blufflake.org.

# **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@commongroundgc.com.

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

5/3 I Saturday—Lowry Yard Sale. Lowry Neighborhood, 8am-2pm. www.lowry.org

**5/31 Saturday—The Un-Job Fair.** A Daylong Exploration of Options and Opportunities for Successful Self-Employment. 8:30am-4:45pm. A festival of presentations giving inspiration and practical strategies for those running or considering launching a small business. Colorado Free University, 7653 E. Ist Place, 303-399-0093 ext 0. \$86 or \$74 for CFU members. www.freeu.com

**5/3 I Saturday—Venture Prep Panther 5K.** Smiley Campus, 2540 Holly St. See website for details. www.ventureprep.org

6/1 to 6/30—June Events— Unity on the Avenue. 4670 E. 17th Ave. 303.322.3901. www. unityontheavenue.org

6/7 Saturday—Lowry Wine Walk. Lowry Town Center, tickets \$15. wine walk 6-8pm, FREE Concert 7-10pm, Funkophino. www.lowry.org

6/8 Sunday—Raptor Day and Bird Fest.
I Iam-3pm. Crafts, speakers, live raptor presentation by Nature's Educators. www.blufflakenature-

6/12 Thursday—Bluff Lake Fireside Chat. "Songs and S'mores." 6:30-8pm. All ages welcome. \$1 suggested donation. Bluff Lake Nature Center, 3400 Havana Way. Keith@blufflake.org. www. blufflakenaturecenter.org.

6/14 Saturday—Park Hill Garden Walk. 10am-4pm. Xeriscapes to formal gardens; artists showings at each garden. Tickets available: King Soopers and select locations. www.parkhillgardenwalk.blogspot.com

**6/23 Monday—Minnesota Boychoir.** Montview Presbyterian Church, 7:30pm. Freewill donation will be collected. www.boychoir.org

6/26 Thursday—Bluff Lake Science Speaker Series. "Mosquitoes: Fact and Fiction." 6:30-8:00pm. \$5/person. Bluff Lake Nature Center, 3400 Havana Way. keith@blufflake.org. www.blufflakenaturecenter.org

**6/28 Saturday—Aurora Arts Festival.** Theatre performances, live music, art displays, more. I 0am-8pm. Fletcher Plaza, 9898 E. Colfax. www.auroraculture.org

### **NORTHFIELD EVENTS**

**5/22 to 6/1—3rd Annual Family Festival.** Rides, festival food, midway games and more. www.north-fieldstapleton.com

5/30 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Maleficent; A Million Ways to Die in the West; Tracks www.harkinstheatres.com

6/6 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Edge of Tomorrow, The Fault in Our Stars www. harkinstheatres.com

**6/13 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release.** 22 Jump Street, How to Train Your Dragon 2, Obvious Child, The Signal www.harkinstheatres.com

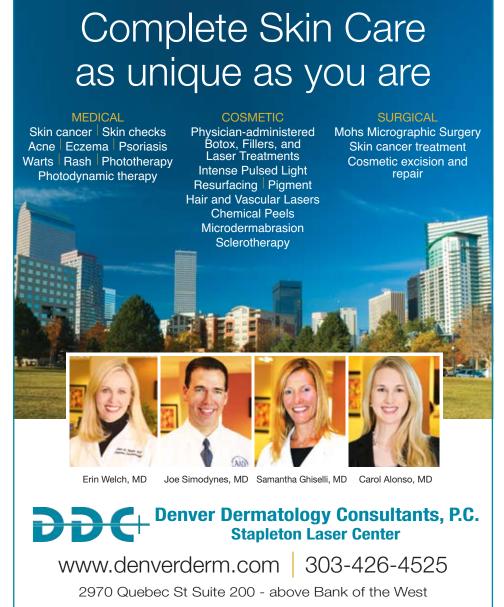
**6/20 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release.** The Rover, Think Like a Man 2 www.harkinstheatres.

**6/27 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release.**Night Moves, They Came Together, Transformers, Age of Extinction www.harkinstheatres.com

# June 24—Bike to Work

Bike to Work Day is a federally funded event dedicated to reducing carbon footprints and promoting fitness. Those who register are eligible to win prizes, get sample refreshments at the 170+ breakfast and bike home stations throughout the Denver metro area, and receive a T-shirt. Primose School at Stapleton, 2501 Syracuse, and Cake Crumbs in Park Hill, 2216 Kearney, are two local stops. For the complete list of stations and to register visit http://biketowork2014.org/user/register. For questions email btwd@drcog.org or call 303-458-7665.





# **Denver Gears Up For Century Ride**

he fifth annual Coldwell Banker Denver Century Ride will take place on Saturday, June 14 beginning on Main Street in the Shops at Northfield. Cyclists can choose their challenge by picking from four course options: Full Century (100 miles), 34 Century, ½ Century, and ¼ Century.

The trail goes from city to plains to mountains, giving cyclists a well-rounded taste of Colorado road biking.

Stapleton resident Angela Haas will ride the Full Century route for her first Century Ride experience. She looks forward to the challenge of riding up Lookout Mountain.

"Riding in the mountains gives you access to views from a completely different perspective. It feels like you're part of the scenery versus traveling through it," Haas says.

She got serious about cycling last summer

when she decided to celebrate 20 years of working at Children's Hospital Colorado by participating in the Courage Classic, a 3-day 155-mile ride through mountain passes and one of the hospital's biggest philanthropic events. She says biking is an easy sport to get into, and the Century Ride offers a ride for bikers of all levels.

"Cycling is a really social sport, right? It's fun to go out with your friends and conquer different climbs or routes. I'm excited it's something I can do with my peers and my kids."

New in 2014, the Denver Century

Noah Makovsky, MD

Richard Gustafson, MD

Amy Nash, MD

Brandon Davison-Tracy, MD

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Ride introduces a ½ Century course for cyclists who prefer a shorter route with less climbing. Her kids will be at the Century Ride finish line in Northfield Stapleton. The ¼ Century highlights bicycle paths around the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, as well as some less known treasures such as the scenic Parkfield



Stapleton resident Angela Haas and her two kids, Ethan Rannie, II, and Ella Rannie, 9, ride their favorite wheels on a sunny day at Wash Park. Ethan and Ella will cheer on Haas at the finish line of the Century Ride on June 14 as she completes the 100-mile course.

Lake Park. Race organizers say most long distance bike rides are 75-80 percent male, but the Denver Century Ride is 60 percent women.

Kids are invited to come decorate their bikes with materials provided by Macy's and ride down Northfield's Main Street in the kids parade at 11am.

The post ride street party from noon until 4pm will include music by The Nacho Men, Michelob Ultra Bar, food, and a children's activity area. For more information and to register visit DenverCenturyRide.

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# ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

**6/6 Friday—Wildlife Viewing Tour.** 9:30-11:30am http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky\_mountain\_arsenal/

6/7 Saturday—Summer Hike and Bird. 8:30am-10:30am. Casual guided hike for novice to expert birders. Recommended for adults. http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky\_mountain\_arsenal/

**6/13 Friday—Bird Olympics.** 10-11am.Ages 6-10. http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky\_mountain\_arsenal/

**6/14 Saturday—Mysteries of Migration**. 8:30-11:30am. Discover the tips and tricks to birding. http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky\_mountain\_arsenal/

**6/28 Saturday—Bike the Refuge.** 10-11am. Naturalist guided 6-8 mile bike ride. Puncture-proof tires recommended; helmet required. http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky\_mountain\_arsenal/

# **THEATRE**

5/9 to 6/1—The Music of Change. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E Colfax Ave, Aurora. www. aurorafoxartscenter.org

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

**6/10 to 6/26—Snow Queen.** Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave., Aurora. www.aurorafoxartscenter.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

# June-August—Denver City Park Jazz

City Park Jazz begins 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 Rodriquez, Gumbo Le Funque, SuCh, and the Dave Watts Ensemble of Deepness. To view the complete lineup and other information visit CityParkJazz.org/calendar.





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# Westerly Creek North & Uplands Park Plans Unveiled

By Carol Roberts

Plans for the completion of Westerly Creek North (WCN) and the East and West Uplands were presented to the community on May 20. Jane Kopperl, landscape architect at Matrix Design Group, announced they hope to have biddable drawings by fall 2014 and begin the 18-month construction project in early 2015.

Most parkland in Stapleton is transferred from DIA's ownership to Stapleton Development Corporation and then to Park Creek Metro District (PCMD), which contracts for the construction. Parks are built to meet

At front, Jay Henke, Senior Landscape Architect, Denver Parks and Recreation, explains park plans to an attendee At back.

At front, Jay Henke, Senior Landscape Architect, Denver Parks and Recreation. explains park plans to an attendee. At back, Stapleton resident Kaia Nesbitt and her two kids, Connor and Lauren, look at the overall plan for the development of Westerly Creek North Park and the Uplands. Nesbitt, a landscape architect, helped develop the plan for Stapleton's Central Park.

the standards of Denver Parks since they are ultimately transferred to the city. In the case of WCN and the Uplands, however, the land was transferred directly to Denver Parks, which is overseeing the construction of the open space parkland.

Kopperl listed the issues to be addressed in the design and construction of the park: change the creek bed to make more gradual, meandering curves; grade back steep banks to create softer slopes; create access across the creek; remove protrusions of metal; save large cottonwoods where possible; work with undesirable views; create a safe, habitat-rich corridor that connects to Sand Creek; plan irrigation and what could grow without irrigation; deal with noxious weeds; address state and local wildlife issues and clean water act requirements; and plan for how Westerly Creek interfaces with Sand Creek.

Westerly Creek North is planned to look just

like the rest of Westerly Creek, with native plants, and a stream bed built as a flood channel.

At the confluence with Sand Creek, a wetlands area will be constructed. Engineers have determined that the flow of water, even during drought periods, has been and will continue to be

adequate to support a wetlands area for wildlife there.

In the East Uplands, the plans call for an irrigated stretch along Florence Way with groupings of trees and shrubs reminiscent of native prairie landscape. Sand Creek trail will be a 12-foot wide concrete path that divides the irrigated area along the road from the non-irrigated area with prairie grass and wildflowers. Softscape trails will wind



# at DMIS Summer Camps!

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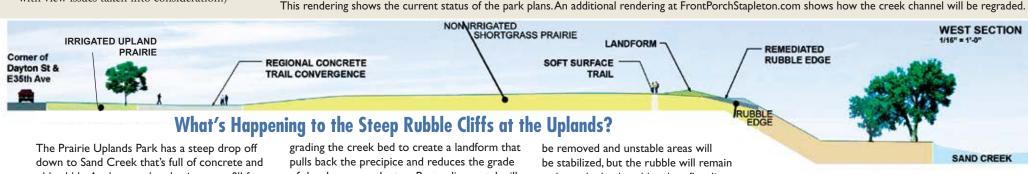
# Update

through the uplands prairie area.

The West Uplands will also have an irrigated area along the road and is expected to have non-irrigated shortgrass prairie in the remaining area. A resident asked whether the temporary trail in the West Uplands would remain and the planners agreed to look at it and consider that request.

Concerns expressed by community members were: keep the process moving forward so the creek bed grading will get done this winter during the dry season (and not delayed once it's wetter), make Westerly Creek consistent with what's already there; get the wetlands done right; maintain existing trail connections; block access that might be used for dumping; and buffer views of the jail but don't block views of the mountains. (Trees will not be planted in a straight line to block undesirable views, but will be in natural groupings with view issues taken into consideration.)



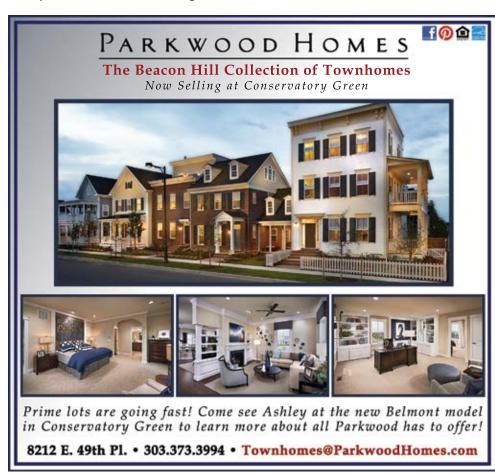


old rubble. At the top, the plan is to use fill from

of the slope near the top. Protruding metal will

to keep the bank stable when flooding occurs.









# The SUN Spot

The independent voice of Stapleton Brought to you by Stapleton United Neighbors

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



# Calling All Neighbors—Come to the SUN Board Meeting June 17

By Mark Mehringer

Every year, after SUN's annual election meeting, the SUN Board picks officers for the organization, as well as chairs and members for each of the various SUN Commit-

The SUN Board invites every Stapleton resident to come to our next Board Meeting on June 17 (6:30pm at the Central Park Rec Center) to find out about our committees and sign up as a committee member. Find out more about SUN's committees on our website at StapletonUnitedNeighbors.org

The SUN Board welcomes volunteers for the following committees: Business Recruitment, Education, Kickball Tournament Organizing, Outreach (Block Captains), Safety, Sustainability and Transportation.

The SUN Board also has two vacancies

and will accept applications and consider candidates for appointing to those vacancies at this June 17 meeting.

If you have any questions or would like to join a committee but can't attend the meeting, please email SUN President Mark Mehringer at Mehringer@gmail.com.

# Stapleton Forum Recap: **SUN Board Working with Community Mem**bers, King Soopers, Forest City, and More on Plans for the Eastbridge Town Center

The Stapleton forum held on May 19 covered a wide range of topics, from SUN's Board election, to mosquitoes, the mix of community groups in Stapleton, and more. Minutes from the meeting can be found on the SUN website at www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.org

The hot topic for the night, though, was the concept plan recently released by Forest City for the Eastbridge Town Center.

The SUN Board will be working with interested residents, our City Councilman Chris Herndon, the Citizens Advisory Board, King Soopers, and Forest City to ensure community input and explore any potential opportunities to fine tune the plans. SUN will also issue a new community survey, with a focus on this topic, in the near future. To ensure you receive an invitation to this survey, please be sure to sign up for SUN's email list at www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.org.

If you have any questions please email SUN President Mark Mehringer at Mehringer@gmail.com.







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# Letter to the Editor

# Say "no thanks" to grocery store that doesn't fit.

Imagine yourself at the shoe store looking for that perfect pair of shoes to fit your small narrow feet. After trying every store in town, you've come up short again. The salesperson says he has called all the other locations and even his supplier, but there's just nothing out there. Disappointed? Sure. But you've heard that news before. Then the salesperson says something that catches you completely off guard: "I do have this size 15 EEE. That should work just fine as a backup plan." Of course, your immediate reaction is that the suggestion is crazy.

So imagine the disappointment many Stapleton residents felt when, after years of hoping for a town center in the small, narrow strip of land set aside in Eastbridge, Forest City proposed a full-size King Soop-

ers with a parking lot so enormous that it will consume one-third of the land and consume an important street connection between 29th Drive and Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. That plan does not represent a mere compromise, like buying blue shoes instead of your preferred brown; it is a complete surrender, and a total abandonment of the principles on which Stapleton was designed and built. Some people have suggested that anything is better than nothing at this point, but I could not disagree more. You wouldn't buy a pair of size 15 EEE shoes when you actually wear a size 9 narrow and then say it's better than nothing, so why should we settle for this travesty? When it comes to the Eastbridge Town Center, if the shoe doesn't fit, then we should say, "No thanks."

—David Vogel

# Stapleton Update

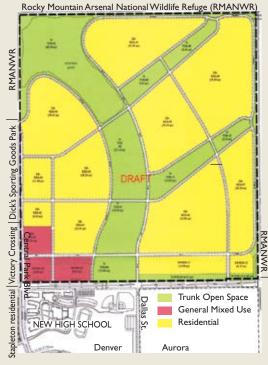
# **Planning Underway** for Northernmost **Section of Stapleton**

By Carol Roberts

orest City has submitted a preliminary Gend eral Development Plan (GDP) to the City of Denver for the last big undeveloped section of Stapleton land in Denver (the plan for the large Aurora parcel along 26th Ave. will be submitted to Aurora). Referred to as "Section 10," the land is one square mile and has 175 acres of open space.

Deirdre Oss, Senior City Planner, explains that a GDP is a regulatory tool in Denver zoning code to address infrastructure and land use concepts for large projects, usually those that are 10 acres or more, and those that include the addition of streets that will be part of the city grid, the addition of stormwater drainage, and publicly accessible open space. The plans must comply with Denver's open space requirements and must also meet the regional open space requirements in Forest City's contract for Stapleton.

GDPs are reviewed for consistency with adopted plans that establish the city's vision in areas such as land use, transportation and sustainability—and in this case, for consistency with the Green Book (the Stapleton Development Plan). Oss says GDPs typically show a framework for how residential will be developed (yellow areas on above map), which might include sustainability principles such as maximizing sunlight and transportation planning (creating arterial and connector streets and



multi-modal connections within the neighborhood).

The plan will be sent out to get comments from agencies within the city and other entities such as DPS—and the city will hold a community meeting (likely in late June) to get public comments. The Stapleton Community Advisory Board (CAB) has already been providing feedback and has expressed concerns that although the detailed level of housing and parks plans aren't determined at this stage, these broad land use plans can drive what's possible later. CAB will continue to have the opportunity to review the plan as revisions are made and the public will be able to see revisions at DenverGov.org > Planning Department.

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# **Changes Proposed for GW High School IB**

(continued from page 17) in elective classes, sports and other extracurricular activities with the rest of the student body.

Johnson plans to do away with the pre-IB program a year from now and replace it with an honors program that is open to all GW students the school deems ready for rigorous academic classes. This means there would no longer be a selective admissions system for IB, and students interested in pursuing an IB diploma would take ninth and tenth grade honors classes with students working toward Advanced Placement classes or other offerings at GW.

In an interview, Johnson said that the changes, which would go into effect in the 2015-16 school year, are necessary because significant "opportunity gaps" exist at his school, and "a lot of times we don't grab some of the students who could be benefitting from [more rigorous academics]." The IB program is heavily skewed toward more affluent students, district data shows, despite the fact that the majority of GW students come from low-income backgrounds.

GW parents said they felt impending changes to one of DPS' most academically successful programs were sprung on them with little notice and no opportunity for them to provide input.

Over 200 people packed a May 10 meeting at GW. The number of people opposed to or concerned about the changes appeared to outnumber supporters by a 4-1 margin.

The idea behind Johnson's proposed changes is to open up the elite academic IB program to more students.

Kevin Omana, 18, an IB senior, said his time at Denver's Cole Middle School "didn't even come close" to preparing him for the rigors of IB. "I stayed up until midnight studying until I caught up," he said.

Omana believes a rigorous course of study in grades 9 and 10 is the only way to prepare for the Diploma Program, which spans grades 11 and 12. If they had asked him he said, he would have told them that with the changes, the school is "setting up all students who come here for failure."

Instead of abolishing pre-IB, a group of students, who met separately from the parent meeting, suggested it should be opened up to any students who wanted to take on the challenge. But the program must not under any circumstances be made less rigorous, they said.

The problem at GW, several students said, is the "closedness" of the IB program combined with what they said was the poor quality of the school's honors and Advanced Placement classes leaves motivated students not in the IB program with no real recourse.

So the student group recommended a substantial strengthening of the honors/AP track at GW. A strong honors program at the ninth and tenth-grade level would allow students to choose between a strong AP program or the IB Diploma Program, they said.

# **Stapleton High School Programming**

(continued from page 17)

Distributed leadership

To develop this social support system, more tangibly, he advocates a distributed leadership model, which empowers the faculty to lead and set policy. He will enlist the student government to survey their peers and the parent committee to solicit feedback among parents; these survey results will help set the agenda for community meetings. Moreover, a "positive psychology" approach to social-emotional growth and a "restorative justice" disciplinary model will shape school culture by emphasizing empathy, reflection and self-regulation among other civic-minded attributes.

Alongside community building, there will be plenty of portunities for students to distinguish themselves and to nurture their particular interests. Honors designations are available in each course to reward students who take on additional coursework challenges. Tropper has also proposed specialized programs like elective pathways wherein students go beyond required courses and select two "pathways for additional advanced study" among "areas of interest including the sciences, the arts, law, business, humanities and social science." Furthermore, the school plan includes a required experiential learning initiative in which students "extend their learning beyond the school walls though internships, volunteer work, research assistantships, community service [and] apprenticeships." If this seems like a lot to implement in a traditional school day, it is. Tropper will apply for innovation status to lengthen the school day and the school year.

While the school plan infuses form and substance into broad discussions about programming and culture, Tropper refers to the proposal as a "living document" and welcomes ongoing dialogue with the community. To learn more, visit "Near Northeast High School" (https://www.facebook.com/NorthfieldHighSchoolDenverColorado) on Facebook.

# What's new at the 29th Ave. Town Center?

# Real Estate/Rental Management Services

The old PostNet space in the 29th Ave. Town Center (on the circle near Anthony's pizza), which has been vacant since 2010, is now home to TJC Real Estate and Management Services. The company started in 2005 as TJC

Management, and has provided property management services in Stapleton, Park Hill and Lowry since its inception. In 2009, TJC Management became TJC Real Estate and Management Services, offering services for real estate buyers and sellers as well as rental management services.

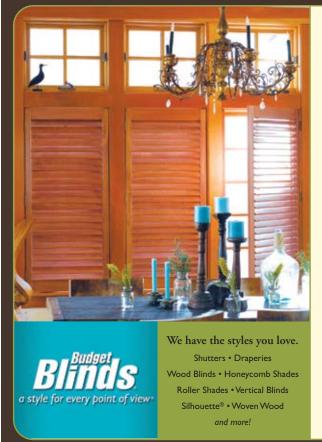
TJC has reconfigured the 1,300 square foot space to accommodate their staff of 12 (which includes five real estate agents, all of whom are Stapleton residents), to offer walk-in services in the town center for buyers, sellers, renters and those who want to drop in to ask questions or talk about the local real estate market. The office is located at 7476 E. 29th Ave. For more information visit TJCRealEstate.com or call 303-324-6988.



### MCA Considering a Move to the Town Center

The Stapleton Master Community Association has outgrown its space on Roslyn (just east of King Soopers), both in terms of their staffing and their need for a community room that is large enough to accommodate meetings and programs. The MCA is working with the city to determine whether they can enlarge the conference room on the 3rd floor at 7350 E. 29th Ave. in the town center to accommodate their programs. The city's various code requirements are based on the square footage of a conference room and the total number of people allowed in that amount of space. The city is assessing whether the MCA's planned usage of the space in that building will meet all their codes. If the city approves the plans, the MCA hopes to move to the town center this summer.





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# **Drowsy Chaperone**

(continued from page 1) is very physical; the music and dancing move it along. The kids will love it."

The Drowsy Chaperone pays tribute to the Jazz-age shows of the 1920s. To chase his blues away, a mousy modern day musical theater addict, known simply as Man in Chair, drops the needle on his favorite LP—the fictional 1928 musical comedy *The Drowsy Chaperone*. From the crackle of his hi-fi, the musical magically bursts to life on stage.

"The play is uplifting, funny and over the top," said lead actor Paul Page, who portrays Man in Chair. "There's an element of slapstick and shtick. The director makes it big, lively and energetic."

Newcomb-Madden, 86 next month, said her long directing experience has taught her to trust her vision. "I learned to direct by doing, by trial and error. Now I can read a script and envision what the show will look like. All that's left is encouraging the actors to see it my way."

A native Denverite, Newcomb-Madden acted at the Elitch Theatre when she was a child. She began directing in 1967 and was resident director at the Bonfils Theater for 17 years.

"I had a reputation for being a tough woman director, but I got nicer," she said. "I mellowed and learned not to get what I want by intimidation. I'm too old and wonderful to let anything faze me; I'm older than God."

*The Drowsy Chaperone* is a character-driven play-within-a-play, with narrator Man in Chair commenting on the action.

The characters are stylized and over the top, said Page. "The lineup includes a ditzy blonde, gangsters, a cocktail-wielding vamp, and a self-imposed ladies' man named Aldolfo. He thinks he's Ricky Ricardo but he's more like The Three Stooges. The show has everything to keep everyone entertained."



In contrast, the Man in Chair character is ordinary, real and honest, Page said. "He's sweet, likable, frumpy, and deeply in love with this show and musical theater."

Page said he relates to the Man in Chair character. "Man in Chair says that when he's feeling blue, music helps. After my father deserted my mother, she and I lifted our spirits listening to *Gypsy*, *My Fair Lady* and other musicals. To this day, I listen to the Broadway channel in my car all the time."

Page's son, Zach, plays the building superintendent in this production. "It's special to do it together," Page said.

The original Broadway version of *The Drowsy Chaperone*, which opened in 2006, will be adapted for the Stapleton production. "The

total running time is a bit shorter, about an hour and a half, so it comes in at a better time frame for this audience," said Newcomb-Madden. "We included an intermission, which the Broadway production didn't have."

The show is edited for a family audience, said Page. "There's a definite PG-13 quality to this show: it's tongue-in-cheek and wink-wink. We made it more G-rated by eliminating the sexual references and cutting out the raunchy bits. But the show's intention is intact."

Outdoor theater production has its challenges, including lighting and sound.

"All musicals scream for spotlights, but this will be performed while it's still light," said Newcomb-Madden. "So the challenge is bringing the focus to different actors. We'll do that by having everyone look at the person who's talking."

She said everyone in the cast will wear microphones so they can be heard. A small,

live combo will provide the instrumental accompaniment. "We'll have somebody good making the sound work," said Newcomb-Madden.

Newcomb-Madden said she'll keep working in theater "as long as it's fun."

Of the hundreds of plays she's directed, which ones rise to the top? "The next one is always my favorite," she said.

The MCA requests that dogs stay at home because a large crowd is expected. Bring a blanket, beverage and picnic dinner. The following food trucks will be on site: Coaches Scoop (Ice Cream), Ba-Nom-a-Nom (Frozen Fruit), Pacific Bonsai (Asian Fusion), Pikes Pop (Kettle Corn), Brava! Pizza (Wood fire pizza).





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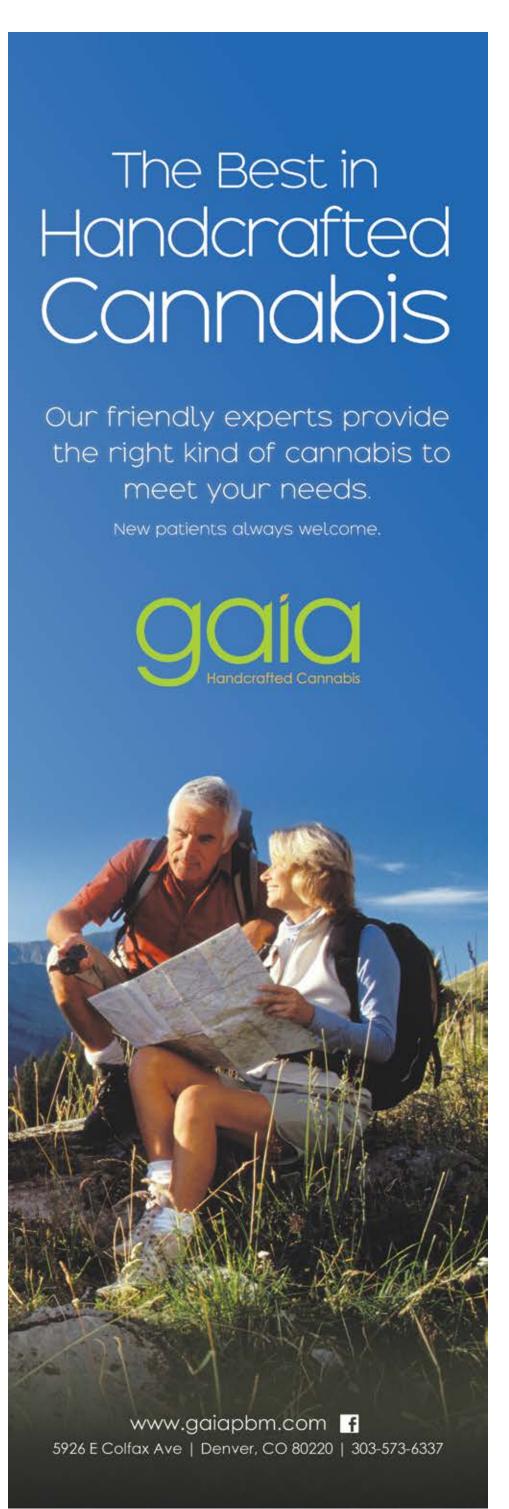
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