

Front Porch

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

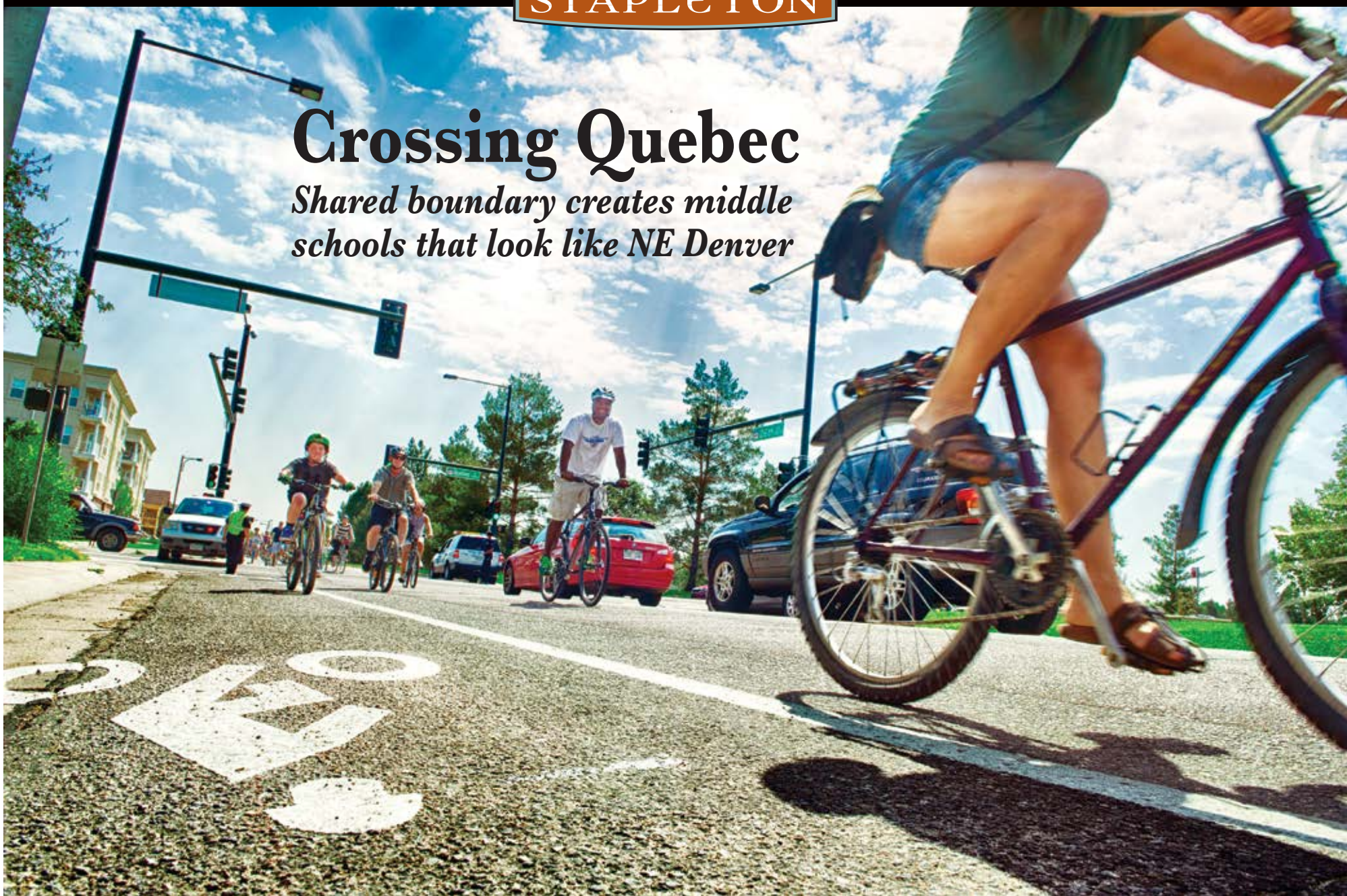
DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

SEPTEMBER 2014

Crossing Quebec

Shared boundary creates middle schools that look like NE Denver



Front Porch photo by Laura Mahony

The City of Denver created new bike lanes along 26th Ave. between Quebec and Holly so students would have a safer commute between Stapleton and Park Hill. Councilman Chris Herndon organized a commu-

When 5th graders and their families in Stapleton and Park Hill submitted their school choice forms last January, they were the first participants in the new DPS shared boundary policy where middle schoolers in the two communities are guaranteed a place at one of five schools but don't have an assigned home school. The April 2014 issue of the *Front Porch* illustrated the mix of elementary schools within each of the five schools. Now this mix of students from numerous DPS and non-DPS elementary schools are making their com-

munity bike ride from the 29th Ave. Town Center to Smiley to celebrate the opening of the new bike lanes. Above, Herndon and others cross Quebec at 26th en route to a celebratory gathering at Smiley on Aug. 9.

muties by bike, by bus and on foot to their new middle schools. Bill Roberts and DSST:Stapleton retained their same programs and facilities. DSST:Conservatory Green is a new program in a new building (featured in the August *Front Porch*). McAuliffe doubled in size and moved to the Smiley building, leaving their space for a new program, Denver Discovery School.

Interviews with the McAuliffe and Denver Discovery principals address what's new and/or different at their schools this year. *(continued on pages 8 & 9)*

Window Well Artistry

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Basements, by their subterranean nature, don't have views, unless you count the window wells of grey cement or corrugated metal. But head down the stairs of some Stapleton residents' homes and discover views of family cabins, mountain vistas, city skylines, garden paths or even the 7th hole at Pebble Beach.

Tom McDougale and his wife, artist Valli Thayer McDougale, wished for a mountain view from their ranch-style home, but didn't have one. About five years ago, Tom got the idea to have someone paint attractive scenes on their basement window wells like he had seen elsewhere, in plastic versions. The couple consulted *(continued on page 34)*



Thalia Hoke peers into the window well mural at her grandparents' Stapleton home.

Attention Turning to Mental Illness

By Madeline Schroeder

For hours, Park Hill resident Alison Canjar desperately left voicemail after voicemail trying to find someone who could help her 19-year-old son, Jordan. At this point Jordan was in psychosis and needed immediate attention. Not knowing what else to do, Alison and her husband, Phil, had taken him to the emergency room, but he was discharged because the hospital wasn't equipped to treat him. So Alison returned home, looked up the psychiatrists covered under their insurance, and began calling each one. The only doctor who called her back could see Jordan in a week, a long time for him to be out of touch with reality. *(continued on page 4)*

Step Inside Neighborhood Homes & Studios



Stapleton Open Studios

Saturday and Sunday,
Sept. 27, 28
See page 7



36th Annual Park Hill Home Tour & Street Fair

Sunday, Sept. 28
See page 6

Beer Garden
at Stanley

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



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

The setting sun lights up a cloudbank over the new park at 26th & Fulton on a summer evening.



Most of the events listed below are FREE or support nonprofits. All are open to the public (additional events are listed on pages 18 and 24-27).

SEPTEMBER

Every Sunday

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

Saturday, September 6

Stapleton Rocks...a concert for a cause 10am – 10pm, Northfield. See p. 25

Saturday, September 6

Tour de Fat. 10am to 5pm at City Park. Free admission. Concerts, food vendors, beer and biking. www.newbelgium.com/events/tour-de-fat. See p. 24

Saturday, September 6

First Responder Tribute; Their Sacrifice, Their Vehicles car show. 10am to 3pm. See p. 24

Sunday, September 7

Dog Daze 1–3pm at F15* To register, visit www.stapletoncommunity.com

Tuesday, September 9

King Soopers & Evergreen Development present plans at Zoning & Planning Meeting, 4:30pm 7350 E. 29th Ave, 2nd floor, Stapleton Development Corporation. See p. 29

Thursday, September 11

Active Minds Seminar “Saudi Arabia” 6:45-7:45pm, Sam Gary Library*

Saturday, September 13

Grand Opening of The North Green. Good Gravy concert and community picnic provided by Jim’ n Nicks. 6–8pm. Dinner free for the first 500 who register. www.stapletoncommunity.com.

Saturday, September 13

Free pancake breakfast and RTD FasTracks East Rail Line update. Swigert International School, 3480 Syracuse St. 9–11am. More info: 303-297-5284, Joshua.Solis@dtjv.com

Saturday, September 13

SUN Kickball Tournament. 1 to 4 pm. Live DJ and ice cream. www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com/ SUNKickball/kickballsponsors or email Stapleton UnitedNeighbors@gmail.com. See p. 18.

Saturday, September 13

5k Run/Walk for Huntington’s at Central Park 9am to 12pm. Stapleton Central Park, 9651 MLK Blvd. www.hdsa.org/thwdenver or call 303.837.9937. See p. 18.

Wednesday, September 17

League of Women Voters of Denver meeting and presentation by Cary Kennedy on Denver’s budget. 5:45pm. Fellowship Hall at Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St.; lwvdenver.org

SEPTEMBER

Fri., Sept. 19—Sun., Sept. 28

4th Annual Stapleton Community Food Drive for Food Bank of the Rockies. www.foodbankrockies.org/. See p. 27

Saturday, September 20

Bikes for Life free community event. Bicycle skills courses, bike mechanics, more. 9am-noon Stapleton Central Park. See p. 26.

Sunday, September 21

Workshop exploring parenting styles. Hosted by Lauren Ross and Dr. Auster. 3:45pm. Sam Gary Branch library, 2961 Roslyn St. Email laurenross1818@yahoo.com. See p. 18

Tuesday, September 23

League of Women Voters forum at Evie Dennis Campus, 4800 Telluride St. 6:30 pm. House District 7 (Northeast) Jason DeBerry, Angela Williams

Thursday, September 25

Active Minds Seminar “Aviation: From Kitty Hawk” 6:45-7:45pm, MCA Community Room*

Sat., Sept. 27 & Sun., Sept 28

Stapleton Open Studios Tour 11am–5pm. See p. 7

Saturday, September 27

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

Sunday, September 28

Park Hill Home Tour & Street Fair. 11am to 5pm. 5 homes and the Smiley Campus. See p. 6

Tuesday, September 30

OCTOBER

Tuesday, October 7

4th Annual Stapleton Education Expo. 6:30pm. 8499 E Stoll Place in Conservatory Green (north of I-70). SUNedcommittee@gmail.com. See p. 18.

Fri., Oct. 10 & Sat., Oct. 11

Theater on The Green - “Guys on Ice” 6–8pm, The Green*

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

Events & Announcements at Stapleton



Community DNA

Has someone new moved into your block? Have you met them yet? This month we would like to challenge you to introduce yourself to someone new. One of the greatest attributes of a community is knowing who your neighbors are and acknowledging each other on the street.

Stapleton Rocks...a Concert for a Cause

Our annual Stapleton Rocks concert is scheduled for Sat., Sept. 6 from 10am–10pm on Main Street in Northfield. The Denver Children’s Home is the “cause” this year. Money will be raised by ticket sales for activities and by purchases at our concession stand. Activities this year will begin at 11am and conclude at 6pm. The activities include a stilt party, hamster balls, a skateboard simulator, face painting, a magician and the quad bungee trampoline. The schedule for the bands is online at www.stapletoncommunity.com.

Dog Daze

On Sept. 7, before winterizing the pool for the season, F15 will open its gates for an afternoon of fun for dogs. All dogs will have plenty of room to swim, fetch and socialize throughout the afternoon. Registration is \$5 per dog and the proceeds will benefit The Stinkbug Project. To register, visit www.stapletoncommunity.com. We have a limited number of spots, so register early to ensure your dog gets to have fun!
1–1:45pm Small dogs (under 40 lbs.)
2–3pm Large dogs (41 lbs. and over)

Grand Opening of The North Green

We are excited to open the new Green in Conservatory Green with a concert and community picnic on Sat., Sept. 13 from 6–8pm. Good Gravy will perform and Jim ‘n Nicks will provide the food. The dinner is free to the first 500 people who register for the event at www.stapletoncommunity.com.

Saturday Night Live...for kids only!

The MCA and Central Park Rec Center are partnering again this fall to host a night of entertainment for children ages 7–12 at the Central Park Rec Center. The first SNL will be Sat. night, Sept. 13 from 6–9pm. The event will include snacks, dinner, games, pool time and music. Preregistration is \$15 and available online at www.stapletoncommunity.com. The week of the event the cost increases to \$20, so reserve your spot today!

StapletOM

This yoga festival will feature classes, vendors, food and music. The event will take place on The Green at 29th Ave. between Roslyn and Syracuse on Fri., Sept. 19 and Sat., Sept. 20. For tickets and information, go to www.StapletOM.com.

Final Friday Night Flight

The final outdoor wine tasting of the summer will be held from 7–9pm on Fri., Sept. 26 at the West Crescent. Tickets are \$25 per person, but this is our grand finale and you will be treated to live music, the backdrop of a classic black-and-white film and fire pits to take the chill off the autumn air. Tickets include a variety of over a dozen wines, appetizers from several area restaurants, cheese and meats from Whole Foods and a special sweet treat to accompany your “after-dinner drink.” Tickets can be picked up prior to the event (Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm) at the MCA office or at the will call station after 6:30pm at the West Crescent. A valid ID and ticket will be required for entry.

Final Sweet William Market

The final Sweet William Market of the season will be held Sat., Sept. 27 from 9am–2pm on The Green. This will be your last chance to find that unique item you must have!

Stapleton Open Studios

Stapleton Artists invite you to see demonstrations, work in progress and finished art pieces as they welcome you into their process in an up-close and personal way. Enjoy this free self-guided tour of 20 artists’ studios working in 10 different mediums. This year local musicians will provide entertainment along the route.

The event will take place on Sat., Sept. 27 and Sun., Sept. 28 from 11am–5pm. For more information, go to www.stapletonopenstudios.com.

Active Minds

This free, no-reservation-needed public program is brought to you by the Stapleton MCA. Location: Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St.

Thursday, Sept. 11, 6:45–7:45pm

Saudi Arabia

Join Active Minds as we tell the story of Saudi Arabia including Saudi history, the current impact of the Arab Spring, and the complicated role played by Wahhabi Islam and Sunni Islam in the country and region.

Thursday, Sept. 25, 6:45–7:45pm

Aviation: From Kitty Hawk to Today

Join Active Minds for a review of aviation in the U.S., beginning with the Wright Brothers and ending with a look at today’s airline industry.

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

Diane Deeter
Community Director
events@stapletoncommunity.com

Get the latest on 

Master Community Association



Sponsored by Stapleton MCA

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Front Porch

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

A graphic advertisement for Front Porch Stapleton. The background is a solid light green. At the top left, the text '36,000 NEWSPAPERS DISTRIBUTED IN NE DENVER' is displayed in a dark green, sans-serif font. At the top right, the text 'LIKE US AT FRONT PORCH NEWSPAPER' is in a smaller, dark green font, positioned next to a blue Facebook 'f' logo. In the center, the text 'THE PAPER THAT'S ON THE COFFEE TABLE...' is written in a large, dark green, sans-serif font. Below this, the text '...NOT IN THE RECYCLING BIN' is written in a smaller, dark green, sans-serif font. At the bottom, a black silhouette of a coffee table is shown with a copy of the Front Porch newspaper resting on it. The newspaper's masthead 'Front Porch' is visible in blue and white. At the very bottom of the slide, a line of small black text provides contact information: 'VISIT FRONTPORCHSTAPLETON.COM FOR: Online videos • Community info • Past issues • Advertiser contact list • Advertising info • Advertising: KarissaMcGlynn@gmail.com or 303.333.0257 • Editorial: FrontPorch@FrontPorchStapleton.com or 303.526.1969'.



Park Hill residents (left to right) Alison, Tayler, Jordan and Phil Canjar stand in front of Jordan's art at *In Our Own Voice*, an anti-stigma event when speakers share realities of living with a mental illness. Jordan presented his art that depicts his time in psychosis.

ing to start a 24-hour hotline and drop-in respite and care center for people who need immediate treatment.

Although areas of the mental health system need improvement, Glaser says the stigma of mental illness is getting better. NAMI hosts anti-stigma events called *In Our Own Voice* when speakers share realities of living with a mental illness. Jordan recently

presented his art that depicts his time in psychosis.

Under the ACA, Jordan can stay on the family plan for one more year, until he turns 26. The Canjars are hopeful access to treatment will improve. "Whether it will or not depends on our understanding and having compassion for those who suffer from illnesses that affect their brains and taking steps to improve the level and quality of care they receive," Alison says.

We welcome comments at FrontPorchStapleton.com

support and treatment to improve the lives of people living with mental illnesses.

Beginning in January, insurance plans have been required to have 10 "Essential Health Benefits," including substance abuse disorder and mental health services like depression screenings or psychotherapy. States cannot apply a cap on the coverage for the essential benefits. Insurers also cannot deny anyone coverage or charge more for pre-existing conditions, including mental health conditions.

The services must also follow parity, or be on fair and equal terms, with other medical care. The Parity Law was created in 2008 to stop insurers from discriminating against those with mental illnesses. The rule has been brought back through the ACA.

While these changes, in theory, should guarantee a person living with a mental illness should not get worse, receiving treatment continues to be a challenge—parity is confusing,

benefits vary greatly from plan to plan, and treatment often isn't available, according to Scott Glaser, executive director of NAMI Colorado, where Alison has now volunteered for three years and Phil one year.

In Colorado, the network of doctors cannot provide for all the people seeking treatment due to the Medicaid expansion,

which has added 178,000 people to the system, according to the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. "The system is so overloaded it's not funny," Alison says. She figured the scramble of phone calls would end after Jordan's diagnosis, but at times he has had to wait up to three months to see a psychiatrist.

"The Canjars' situation is pretty typical," Glaser says.

Colorado fluctuates between 48th and 49th in the U.S. in terms of psychiatric hospital beds per capita, according to

Glaser. NAMI is part of a coalition work-



The individual panels put together make "a reference to Leonardo da Vinci's sketch Vitruvian Man," Jordan says.

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StapletonWomensHealth.com



Valli Thayer McDougale



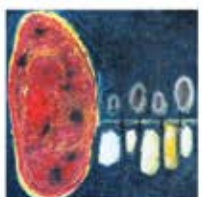
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Ed Natan



Kathy Daly

2 days of Art and Music

STAPLETON OPEN STUDIOS



Enjoy the free, self-guided tour of
20 Artists' home studios, open
from 11-5, September 27-28, 2014.

www.StapletonOpenStudios.com

Look for the location of our 7 porch
musicians in your tour booklet/map.

During the month of September
pickup your **tour map** and
see the **artist preview** at
7483 E. 29th Place, Denver, CO 80238



36th Annual Park Hill Home Tour & Street Fair Sunday, Sept. 28

From 11am to 5pm on Sun., Sept. 28 the Park Hill Home Tour will feature some of the neighborhood's greatest architecture, including five homes and the Smiley Campus.

1932 Hudson, Bob and Sue Homiak

Bob and Sue Homiak purchased the 1925 two-story brick colonial home in 1999. During their 15 years as homeown-



2315 Monaco

ers they have completed many projects to restore the original beauty and add modern conveniences. A breakfast nook, family room, skylights, gas fireplace, stained-glass windows and more are featured in this home.

2050 Grape, Trish and Ed Leary

The 2,550-square-foot brick home is believed to have been the living quarters of farmhands at the City Park Dairy (located at what is now City Park Golf Course) in the late 1800s. The home combines century-old elements—gabled rooftop, white picket fence, and coach house—with modern style—moving staircase and reading nook. Perennial flowerbeds are seen from the living-room windows.

2315 Monaco, John Wyszynski

Wyszynski recently completed a yearlong remodel on the 1942 Tudor. He preserved original features including the hammered pewter hardware and fixtures, leaded glass windows and art deco-style bathrooms, while also adding modern features. The kitchen now has a six-burner stovetop, warming drawer, granite-topped island, and more.

2334 Grape, Wendy and Brent Mather

Homeowners and architects Wendy and Brent Mather wanted a unique



2050 Grape

modern home that reflects nature. They added a butterfly roof, rustic cedar siding, walnut and cork flooring, quartz countertops and natural lighting to the 3,500-square-foot home. Other unique features include accordion sliding doors, geothermal heating, a heat recovery ventilator and an induction cook top.

2351 Grape, Rob and Heidi Rager

The two-story house has distinct modern features—concrete pillars, exposed steel beams, steel roofing and irregular-shaped windows. The home also has a particularly unique staircase made of solid maple on a steel structure with thin vertical

stainless cables. While it is modern, the home also has elements of Park Hill traditions including a gable roof, front and back porches and an open backyard.

2540 Holly, Smiley Middle School

After 86 years as Smiley Middle School, the building will house McAuliffe International School beginning this year. To celebrate its history in Park Hill and introduce McAuliffe, the

will feature kids' activities, a wine and beer garden, vintage car show, live music, and more than 100 local businesses, restaurants and vendors. The event benefits the Greater Park Hill Community, Inc. (GPHC).



2334 Grape

Photos by Sara Donnelly

Adult tickets (13+) cost \$15 in advance or \$20 the day of, seniors (65+) \$10 or \$15 the day of, and kids (6-12) \$5. Kids younger than 5 get in free. To purchase tickets or learn more, visit www.parkhillhometour.org.



1932 Hudson



2540 Holly



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27714 R3-14

By Laurie Dunklee

Stapleton is home to a rich community of visual artists who work in various mediums including oil and acrylics, mixed media, sculpture, photographic art, pastel, glass, watercolors and collage.

“We have a good concentration of artists here in Stapleton, making it the perfect place for an open studio tour,” said Lin Clark, coordinator of the event and owner of Art & Framing at Stapleton. The free event will be held Sat. and Sun. Sept. 27 and 28 from 11am to 5pm.

The self-guided tour of the artists’ home studios allows visitors to meet the artists and get a behind-the-scenes look at their creative processes. “There will be demonstrations and talks about how they actually do what they do,” said Clark.

She said most of the artists work primarily out of their Stapleton homes, while some have studios elsewhere. Clark is offering a free 28-page guide and map of studio locations. The guide includes information on each of the artists and their work.

The studios are between Quebec and Havana, from Montview Blvd. to the Conservatory Green neighborhood. “We encourage people to bike the route,” said Clark.

Inspired by open studio tours in Evergreen and Boulder, Clark initiated the Stapleton event last year. “We had about 500 visitors. This year we hope to quadruple that,” she said.

“Last year people loved it,” Clark said. “They said ‘Thank you so much for doing this.’ It made me feel good because I loved bringing the Stapleton community together over art. Art is my passion.”

Learning about art in a casual setting makes people more comfortable and builds their enjoyment, Clark said. “It takes the intimidation out of art. When you walk into a gallery and you can’t tell whether a painting is oil or acrylic, maybe you don’t want to ask. But just talking to the artist, you don’t have to know anything. You learn, so that when you go to a gallery, you have an appreciation for the time and talent required to create a piece.”

A compelling part of the studio tour is learning

about the artists.

“Some artists have worked at it all their lives, while others retired and took up art,” said Clark.

She pointed to Valli Thayer McDougle, whose acrylic painting is on this year’s commemorative poster. “Valli retired from the academic world and now wins awards for her paintings.”

The creative process can be eye-opening for the public. “Glass artist Linda Wingate’s pieces require so many steps, including forming, hand-drawing a design, sand blasting, carving and cutting,” said Clark.



Artist Paula Arroyo-Natan, Ed's wife, works on a painting in their home studio.

“Art makes the world a better place,” Clark said. “It enriches everyone’s soul.”

All the artists will offer their work for sale. “If you fall in love with a piece, you can buy it directly from the artist and talk to them about it. It personalizes it,” Clark said.

New this year will be the addition of live music. Seven musical ensembles will play on front porches

Stapleton Open Studios Free Tour Sept. 27, 28



Artist Ed Natan holds a painting of Stapleton in his studio, one of the featured homes on the Stapleton Open Studios Tour Sept. 27 and 28.

along the tour route and in Autumn Park. Musical offerings are included on the map. “Hopefully we’ll grow the number of musicians participating next year,” said Clark.

Clark would like the tour to become a destination weekend for out-of-town visitors. “I like to think big, like having people from Colorado Springs come to Stapleton for a weekend event,” said Clark, who added that the annual tour will continue to be on the last weekend in September.

A preview of the artists’ work will be on display at Art & Framing at Stapleton, 7483 E. 29th Place, beginning Sept. 2. The public is invited to the opening reception on Fri., Sept. 26 from 6 to 8pm, to meet the artists.

The printed tour guide will be available to pick up Sept. 1 at Art & Framing at Stapleton or it can be downloaded at www.stapletonopenstudios.com. For more information, email Clark at lin@artandframingatstapleton.com.

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New Denver Discovery School Opens



Front Porch photos by Laura Mahony

Denver Discovery parents surprised the school's new staff with a rally to welcome them to their new school.

By Carol Roberts

Everything is new at Denver Discovery School this year, but the first subject Principal Kristen Atwood talks about is the new school's parent volunteers. She says they jumped in over the summer and established committees with mission statements and goals; they meet monthly to talk about obstacles and successes, "and then carry on the work and come back a month later. There is no doubt we are where we are now because of those parents."

Additionally, she says, the passion and expertise of her new teachers are critical parts of the school's startup and success. Atwood advertised nationally and says she "never looked at where they were from. These were people that called me, sent videos, and were creative about getting their names in front of me. Some were vacationing here and walked into my office. I just hired the person who felt most qualified and aligned with the mission of our school."

Starting in January Atwood sifted through hundreds of resumes. "That's what year zero is for a principal who is opening a school," she says. She screened applicants through phone conversations, people flew in for interviews, and she required each one

to teach a lesson in person locally (through an arrangement she made with other principals) or send a 45-minute video of a lesson in front of their class.

The outcome was a staff that is 80 percent from out of state. The twelve people who had never before worked together needed to be a cohesive team on day one—so a week and a half before school started, Atwood took them on a two-day outing in the mountains to focus on collaboration, leadership and communication.

The teachers were hired with the understanding that Denver Discovery would be applying for innovation status. They have started meetings to discuss the goals and legal-

ities of innovation and the waivers they will consider. The staff has already come to agreement on their first waiver. All agreed they would like more time for professional training than is possible in the one week before students arrive—so they will have several two-hour sessions by tele-conferencing during the week before they report back to work in the fall.

"Any time we propose a waiver, we'll lay out the pros and cons and have an open conversation with the whole staff so it's not a surprise and they have voice in the process as a whole," says Atwood. By October they will have had eight meetings and will take a staff vote on the plan. In December the Board will vote on their innovation plan.

Small is Beautiful

With a smaller number of students, Atwood says the school can "celebrate the individual and ensure everyone feels valued." She personally learned about each new student by talking to their fifth grade teachers and visiting them in their homes last spring.



Back row: Veronica Fiedler, Special Education; Heidi Cockerille, Language Arts; Ben Kissam, Physical Education; Jenny Sickle, Science; Mandy Abbott, Math; Amy Foote, Visual Arts; Claire Vock, Spanish; Kristen Atwood, Principal. **Middle row:** Rachel Stutzman, Gifted/Talented Teacher; Martha Turner, Counselor; Michael Windham, Guitar/Orchestra Teacher. **Front row:** Laura Hoguet, Social Studies.

And when students came in over the summer to register, the school made a video of each student talking about him/herself. From the videos, each student was already known to the teachers on the first day of school. And in a smaller setting, Atwood adds, discipline is not as much of an issue because of the strong relationships that are formed and nurtured at the school.

In addition, Denver Discovery has smaller class sizes, with 27-28 per class. Atwood says they can keep that size "if we can keep up the fundraising."

Common Core

Common Core is a focus for all principals this year, not just new ones. Atwood says the first step toward getting students ready for the new online testing based on Common Core standards is to get a laptop in every child's hand and be sure every student is comfortable with the mechanics required by the test (using the mouse, scrolling, typing in a box, etc). Next she says it's critical that the teachers understand exactly what's involved in the problem solving process in the new tests. She had her teachers divide into groups of three to chart every step they needed to go through to solve a sample problem, identifying every academic or technological obstacle that may exist for students.

"We document, skill by skill, what the kids will have to be able to do. Those become our stepping stones to what we're going to do in a chronological fashion in the classroom to be sure our kids are prepared." Denver Discovery students will take their first practice online assessment the end of September, with a focus on the technology of the test. Two future practice tests will focus on more complex skills and knowledge. The actual tests will be given in March and May.

With the new tests, Atwood says, "There's a lot more problem solving and there's a lot more deep critical thinking skills that are expected from our kids." She says part of the reason Denver Discovery School uses project-based learning is the problem solving and critical thinking skills students develop as multiple contents are blended in one project. One of the first projects, creating earthquake sustainable structures, will use cross-curricular learning between math and science.



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McAuliffe Moves and Doubles in Size

By Carol Roberts

The new 26th Ave. bike path is making it possible for Stapleton and east Park Hill students to have a safer commute as they ride to the new McAuliffe International School location at 26th and Holly. Principal Kurt Dennis estimates that about 200 of the school's 724 students ride their bikes. "We had to get more bike racks," he says. He adds that all the kids are wearing helmets, even skateboarders, and one of

He points out that when kids go from the basement to the 3rd floor, "It's a decent haul." The first couple of days there was a lot of giving kids directions and support in the hallways but by the second week of school the kids had adapted.

With the challenges mostly handled by pre-planning and assisting students during their first week of school, Dennis describes the benefits that came with the move to the Smiley building.

Shared Boundary

Dennis believes the shared boundary policy for Stapleton and Park Hill is working in all five middle schools. "For the most part, all the schools are representative of the cross section of NE Denver." His observation at McAuliffe: "Right away the kids seemed to embrace the whole idea and make new friends. It's fun to see."

"It's really cool seeing the kids from all over NE Denver converging on this campus whether on foot, by bike, or by bus. It's pretty special having so many kids here from all over NE Denver."

And Dennis adds that the shared boundary has dramatically changed the capture rate for Park Hill kids attending school in their home boundary area. "For the folks that live in Park Hill, 74 percent of the kids are attending middle school in their home attendance area where in the past that number was 18 percent. In one year we captured almost 60 percent more kids."

Daily Teacher Collaboration

Dennis says a big benefit of the larger school is that they are able to schedule a planning and collaboration time every day for the core team teachers at each grade level (math, social studies and language arts).

Having more specials teachers allows an entire grade level to go to specials at one time. For example, all 6th-graders go to (continued on page 10)



Front Porch photos by Laura Mahony

At the McAuliffe celebration after the bike ride are (back row from left): Nicholas Michas, 9th grade DSST; Cole; Tyree Durst, 6th grade McAuliffe (in bomb squad gear); Jabraun Durst, 8th grade Hill; Alexander Michas, 4th grade Izzie B; DeAndre Long, 6th grade McAuliffe; Sophia Michas, 7th grade McAuliffe; Joaquin Casias, 6th grade McAuliffe; Toby Snyder, 3rd grade Swigert and (center front): Veronica Hearne, 6th grade McAuliffe.

the first subjects at school meetings each year is bicycle safety.

But a new location and a new bike path aren't the only changes at McAuliffe this year. The approach is the same, but scale has changed—the school has almost doubled in size, to 724 students, and is at full capacity in its first year.

Scaling up has offered lots of new opportunities, says Dennis, as well as a few challenges. The biggest challenge was planning for the movement of students between classes in the large four-floor building (including basement). Dennis says he and his administrative staff spent much of the week prior to the first day of school "walking the building and figuring out where we wanted kids going, which stairwells we wanted them to use and how they get from one space to the next with the least amount of inconvenience."



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McAuliffe Moves

(continued from page 9) electives the last period of the day, leaving their core team of teachers free to meet and collaborate on lesson planning and talk about kids—and teachers love it, says Dennis. “Feedback in the last two years was that teachers wanted more collaboration time. Now they’re getting that for 80 minutes a day and it’s helping improve instruction and it’s improving collegiality and professional relationships.”

Common Core

The teacher collaboration time has been especially helpful with the changes brought by Common Core. Dennis says the school’s approach to teaching reading, writing and math is changing fairly significantly to align with Common Core standards. “Having thought partners when you’re looking at new standards and how you’re going to approach those standards is important—and fortunately we have the scale now to do that work effectively.”

Dennis explains that IB in middle school is really more an approach to learning and not so much a curriculum, like it is for juniors and seniors in high school. “For us we’re still administering the same approach to learning and instruction that we always have, but the skills and the content have adjusted,” with the focus on Common Core.

Specials

“This facility, having been designed 85 years ago to serve a true middle-school model, is much better aligned with our needs.”

Having a 19-acre campus offers playing fields to run multiple PE classes outside at the same time. “Two full-sized playing fields, baseball and softball fields, and a tennis court make it almost like an athletic complex.” He adds that having more teams means McAuliffe is able to accommodate more kids who attend other middle schools that don’t have a particular sport—they can play their sport of choice at McAuliffe while attending their own school. The school has three large engineering labs in the basement that used to be the woodshop and industrial arts classrooms in the old Smiley. They have been renovated into engineering labs where the school offers courses in robotics, design, environmental architecture and aerospace engineering. The three engineering teachers teach only engineering classes and all have had careers in engineering. “Almost every kid in our school takes engineering,” says Dennis.

With an auditorium, Dennis says, the school has scaled up opportunities in the performing arts with eight classes in theatre, a choir, two orchestras, and three bands. The larger number of students has allowed the school to hire full-time teachers for drama, art and music.

For more info about the 5 shared boundary schools go to resource guides at FrontPorchStapleton.com

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Little Libraries Nurture Neighborhoods & Reading

Front Porch photo by Laura Mahony



Gabrielle Rohwer stands by the Little Free Library outside her home at 7809 E. 28th Ave.

By Madeline Schroeder

In 2009, Todd Bol of Hudson, Wisconsin, built a model of a one-room schoolhouse as a tribute to his mother and former school-teacher who loved reading. He filled the miniature school with books and invited neighbors to take one and add a book in return. Rick Brooks, of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, saw the house and connected with Bol to create the Little Free Library program, which goes by the tagline “Take a Book, Return a Book.”

Now crafty, colorful little libraries are popping up on front lawns all over the country, including Denver. Park Hill has eight little libraries and Stapleton has one. Gabrielle Rohwer at 7809 E. 28th Ave. started her library after hearing an NPR story about the idea a year ago. She repurposed a bathroom cabinet into a three-shelfed library and stocks a variety of genres for adults and kids. She tries to feature local authors and



This barn library at 1390 Eudora is a replica of a family barn that burned.

has “Little Free Library, Stapleton Author” labels available for people to add. She enjoys watching the turnover of books. *Why Do Men Fall Asleep After Sex?* is the most interesting book to make it into the box so far. “Actually, someone picked it up pretty quickly,” she says and laughs.

Phoebe Schroeder at 1390 Eudora says her Little Free Library is her way of giving back to the community. As a birthday present to Phoebe, her dad built a replica of their family barn, which burned down a couple of years ago. He used scraps of leftover materials from the barn to build the library. Although Schroeder will be moving out of Mayfair, the library will stay. “It didn’t feel right taking it with us because it really does belong in the neighborhood.” She has received notes from several neighbors thanking her for the library.

To learn more about Little Free Libraries or register your library, visit littlefreelibrary.org.

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New York Style Pizza and Pasta Restaurant Opens in Mayfair

By Nancy Burkhart

Whether it's been a long day and the kids need to be fed or there is a big game on TV dinner at a neighborhood family restaurant is often answer. The newly opened Garlic Knot Mayfair, serving authentic New York pizza and pasta, is aiming to fill that need for northeast Denver residents.

The Garlic Knot Mayfair is one of 11 Garlic Knot restaurants in the Denver area. The Mayfair New York style Italian restaurant is owned by Bill Kurz, Steve Cooke, Joe Giampietro, and Jinny and Russell Zeller.

"We all run it," Kurz explained. "Jinny and Russell are the cooks. They have done a lot in pizza over the years. We always have an owner-partner at the restaurant. On a busy shift, you might find two or three partners in the restaurant."

"Generations of recipes are distilled from New York pizzerias and restaurants," he added. "The partners are from New York. We know what is good style pizza and pasta be-

cause we grew up with it. The partners have all been here a long time. We all just sort of found each other. We all wanted to create what they had in New York, so we created a fast, casual Italian restaurant."

"We have artwork that reflects New York. We've tried to reflect the places in New York that have a nice, inviting, family feel to them."

The Garlic Knot Mayfair offers salads, calzones, spaghetti, penne, ziti, ravioli, lasagna, manicotti, scampi, pizza, hot he-



Russell Zeller (right), general manager and owner, and Bill Kurz (left), owner, hold a pizza at the Garlic Knot Mayfair, one of 11 Garlic Knot restaurants in the Denver area. At back (left to right) David Ireland and Kraig Young, the pizza tosser.

Front Porch photo by Laura Mahony

roes, desserts—and a kids menu that offers mini-sized portions with reasonable prices.

And, of course, there are garlic knots, which are knotted-up pieces of dough that are rolled in oil and garlic before baking. They represent a tradition available at Italian restaurants on Long Island and in New York City, according to Kurz.

The restaurant also serves beer and wine, offering six beers on tap. And there is a Build-your-own Sundae Bar.

The Mayfair Center wanted to redevelop the property, which also includes a 7-Eleven and a liquor store. "The owner redeveloped the building and redid the parking area to make it a little more inviting," Kurz said.

The Garlic Knot Mayfair offers space for a team celebration after a kids' game, a birthday party, or other group gatherings. The dining room has big booths and TVs throughout, the party room seats 40 people, and the restaurant has an outdoor patio for summer nights.

"We had a fundraiser for an elementary school to raise money for their PTA. We do birthday parties where kids can make their own pizza. And, we work with local businesses to provide food at work places. We will cater for 10 to 200 people."

The Garlic Knot Mayfair delivery boundaries are Colorado Boulevard, Martin Luther King Boulevard, Havana Street and East Alameda Avenue. The minimum order for delivery is \$10, and there is a \$1.50 delivery fee.

For delivery or to reserve the party room, call 720-941-1000. For a menu, visit GarlicKnotPizza.com and select the Mayfair location. Garlic Knot Mayfair is located at 6217 E. 14th Ave. Hours are: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday; 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday; and 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday.

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Front Porch photo by Laura Mahony

Contemporary to Rustic Colorado Wood Furnishings

By Nancy Burkhardt

The rustic look of Colorado wood inspired designer Jackie Campbell and her fiancé, Keith Stevenson, to open Colorado Rustic Furnishings in Northfield, located next to Macy's. "We do anything from contemporary to rustic. We mix woods together. It's a very popular thing to do, and the refurbished wood fits anywhere," says Campbell. "We have a group of people who hand make the furniture mostly out of Colorado wood," Campbell explained. "We have aspen, rustic refurbished wood and barn wood. We have furniture for bedrooms and kitchens. We have dining tables, stools, benches, beds and bedding for the beds. We don't carry living room furniture on a regular basis, but we do have coffee tables and end tables." She adds that they don't carry upholstered furniture, though she will upholster stools and chairs upon request.

Campbell says aspen and refurbished wood from an old building get sanded and finished and made into furniture—and wood from a barn may still have some red paint on it. "Beetle kill pieces are used for tables and beds. At least we can make something positive out of beetle kill wood that will last forever," she said. Campbell herself makes floral accessories. Colorado Rustic Furnishings also carries accessories, including rugs from Turkey and Saudi Arabia. "The rugs are made of olefin fiber," Campbell said. "It's a lot stronger than polyester. It's really thick and cushiony. But they are like a carpet—you can spot clean them and steam clean them."

Co-owners Jackie Campbell and Keith Stevenson sell inspired Colorado rustic home décor at their Colorado Rustic Furnishings store in Northfield.

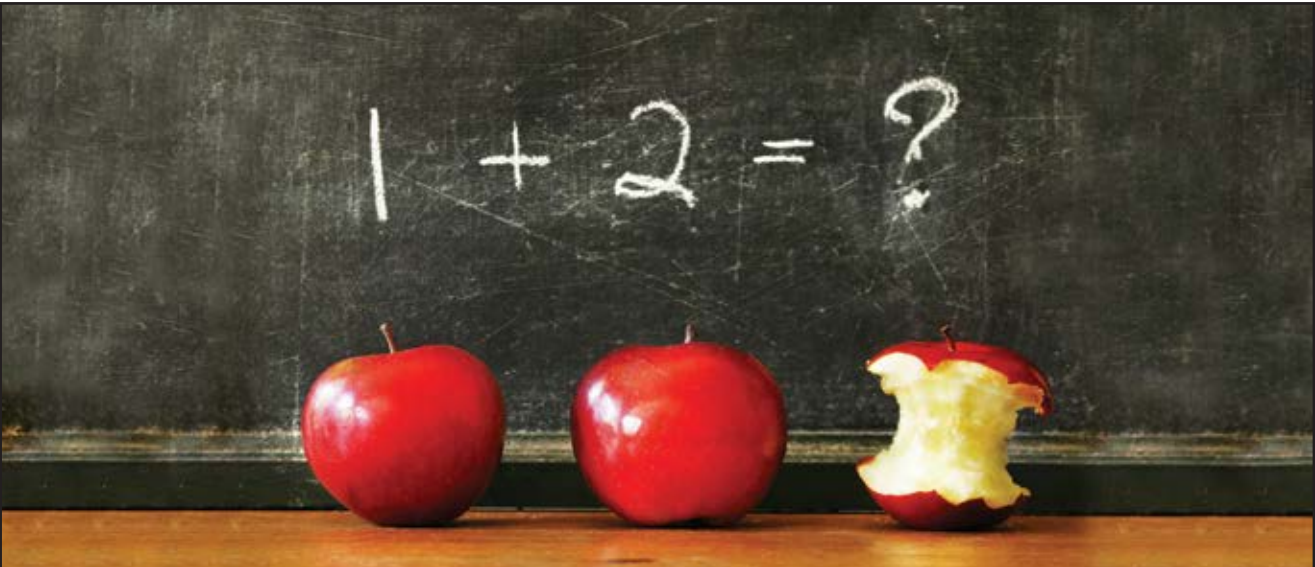
"I do a lot of design work, so we can help people put things together. Everything is unique," Campbell says.

Campbell says they support local artists. If someone wants a different size table or chest of drawers, they will arrange for it to be custom made.

Campbell and Stevenson opened Colorado Rustic Furnishings in Northfield after spending time at a similar store in Lakewood. "We wanted to expand," Campbell said. "Keith and I wanted to open a store on our own and have a store close to home. When I saw Stapleton, I knew this was it. I just love it."

Campbell and Stevenson live in Aurora with their lovable German shepherd, Homer, who spends time in the store greeting customers, especially children. "I was a high school teacher, and I love to support schools," Campbell said. "We'll be out there with activities and events in Stapleton."

Colorado Rustic Furnishings has a gift registry and online ordering is available at www.Coloradofurnishings.com. Hours are 10am–9pm Mon. through Sat. and 11am–6pm on Sunday. For more information, call 303.371.1483 or email Jcampbell_25@msn.com.



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Front Porch photo by Laura Mahony

Dr. Valerie Ginsburg, an obstetrician/gynecologist, does an ultrasound at her new practice, Stapleton Women's Health.

New Women's Health Clinic Opens in Stapleton

By Nancy Burkhardt

Dr. Valerie Ginsburg, an obstetrician/gynecologist who worked for Exemplar Stapleton Ob-Gyn, has opened her own office, Stapleton Women's Health, located at 2373 Central Park Blvd., Suite 202.

Ginsburg is a Denver native who graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School and the University of Pennsylvania. Then she returned to Denver for medical school and residency at the University of Colorado.

"My family is here, she said. "Denver is a good place to be. I'm a big telemark skier and I mountain bike."

Ginsburg and her 6-year-old Portuguese water dog, Boomer, enjoy attending events throughout Stapleton.

"Stapleton is a great community," she said. "People are active and lead healthy lifestyles. They want to be preventative about their health. They take good care of themselves."

"For most healthy women without significant medical problems, a gynecologist is considered a primary care provider. A lot

of young, healthy women don't need to see other providers. We talk about contraception and healthy behaviors with teenagers. We do family planning for women in that stage of life. We take care of women who are pregnant, caring for them during their pregnancy and delivery. And we work with other women who are experiencing changes in hormones and are having menopausal or premenopausal issues."

Ginsburg is proud of her approach in helping women achieve and maintain good health.

"I think I have a very practical approach," she said. "I strive to make women empowered to make their own decisions and to get to know what is going on with their body at all stages of life."

Stapleton Women's Health accepts most insurance, except Kaiser, including Medicare and Medicaid. The office is open from 8am to 5pm, Mon. through Fri. Call 720.723.2176 for an appointment, or fill out health forms and request an appointment online at www.stapletonwomenshealth.com. For information, email info@stapletonwomenshealth.com.

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For more information about NHS visit Northfield.dpsk12.org

TCAP Outcomes A Cause for Celebration and Concern

Following the release of TCAP scores, DPS announced that their students ranked first in overall academic growth for the third year in a row among the 12 largest school districts in Colorado. And from 2005 to 2014, DPS proficiency scores increased from 13-16 percentage points more than the state averages in reading, writing and math.

But average DPS proficiency levels are in the 40s or 50s and the lack of progress closing the achievement gap present serious cause for concern.

The district has recently released their 2020 plan to address these challenges with a short list of ambitious goals including that by 2020: 80% of DPS students will attend a high-performing school; and for African American and Latino students they will increase the graduation rate by 25 percentage points and increase third grade reading and writing proficiency by

25 percentage points. As has become a pattern, DSST Public Schools lead the state in many of the measures of academic performance. The five DSST middle schools and two high schools are all in the top nine Denver secondary schools for growth. And city-wide DSST had the top two middle schools and the top two high schools. In addition, DSST set the bar for yet another accomplishment—an inverted achievement gap. DSST 10th grade low-income students had significantly higher proficiency rates in all subject areas (math, reading, and writing) than Denver Public Schools non-low-income students. DSST: Stapleton High School has been the top performing high school in Denver since 2008. One hundred percent of DSST graduates have been accepted to a 4-year college or university for the last seven years. Half of DSST: Stapleton graduates come from low-income families. Ninety-percent of DSST graduates enroll in college after graduation.

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The Book Worm

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

Adult Graphic Novel

BBXX Baby Blues: Decades 1 & 2 by Rick Kirkman

Baby Blues consistently delivers quality jokes with engaging, sympathetic, and funny characters. Occasionally, it even pushes the boundaries of the strip format, experimenting with form and content in innovative ways. *Baby Blues* is a good comic strip, but if you are a parent it's a great comic strip because you will relate to the characters' struggles, making the jokes all the more funny. You will also be comforted knowing that other parents have it just as bad, or maybe even worse than you do. Raising kids is not easy. You have to have a sense of humor about it. *Baby Blues* is there for you.

Adult Nonfiction

Riveted: The Science of Why Jokes Make Us Laugh, Movies Make Us Cry, and Religion Makes Us Feel One With the Universe by Jim Davies

If you find yourself wondering why certain trends, ideas, or notions capture attention while others fail to catch on, the analysis and summary provided by Davies will sate your current questions and simultaneously ignite your imagination. If you enjoy the writing style and thorough research of authors like Malcolm Gladwell, *Riveted* will no doubt engage, inform and provide fascinating insights into the complexity of "the evolutionary underpinnings of why we find things compelling."

What We See When We Read by Peter Mendelsund

Utilizing an engaging, creative and playful format, Peter Mendelsund—a celebrated book

jacket designer—delves into the deepest recesses of readers' minds and examines the magical evocation of images based on the words we read. Throughout time immemorial, every reader creates a unique picture in their head based on the carefully chosen words of the author, and while the words are always the same, the pictures in our head change over time. Mendelsund explores phenomenology and will forever change the way you think about reading.

Adult Fiction

Where'd You Go Bernadette by Maria Semple

Bee has always been a bright child, despite her heart condition and a peculiar upbringing by her workaholic father, Elgin, and reclusive mother, Bernadette. As a reward for Bee's good grades, her family plans to take a trip to Antarctica, and Bee couldn't be more excited. Little does Bee know, her mother has a secret life including an overseas, virtual assistant and an ongoing feud with the

other mothers at Bee's school. Bernadette goes missing only days before their trip. This satirical, character-driven novel told through the eyes of 15-year-old Bee will keep you guessing until the very end.

Kids Fiction

Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell by Chris Colfer

Alex and Connor had always looked forward to their father's stories to help them through hard times, until his death. One year later, they receive a surprise birthday visit from their grandmother bearing a copy of his favorite fairytale. Elated to own a piece of his past, the twins are shocked when the book begins to hum and glow. This first book in the *Land of Stories* series will give you a behind-the-scenes view of your favorite

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Get to Know Dr. Sarah Appleton

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



At this year's Stapleton Beer Fest, the Northeast Transportation Connections (NETC) provided free valet bike parking to more than 500 bikers.

Rising Number of Cyclists Makes Safety Essential

By Madeline Schroeder

Residents are becoming concerned about bike safety, both on sidewalks and paths. "I've noticed there are quite a few people who don't have the awareness of the rules and even basic bike etiquette," says Stapleton resident Janet Miskowicz, who has been biking for 25 years. She bikes and walks around Stapleton nearly every day, and has observed a growing number of cyclists in recent years, including kids, some of whom ride very fast on sidewalks. According City regulations, it is illegal to ride on sidewalks unless it is a designated bike route, within one block of parking, or part of a newspaper delivery route.

While walking, Miskowicz has noticed bikers frequently do not warn pedestrians or other bikers before passing. She has had close calls pulling in her dog leash due to little or no warning from bikers.

City regulations say bikers need to give ample warning to pedestrians. But, pedestrians have to be paying attention, says Doug Mendelson, who has been biking in Stapleton for 13 years.

Mendelson is most concerned about bike safety on paths or multi-use trails that, unlike sidewalks, are legal to ride on (Westerly Creek, greenways, etc.). He says people wander all over the paths with kids and dogs. "They're mostly talking on their phone and barely ever look both ways before crossing...People seem to be obsessed with the dang thing and not paying attention to anything else."

At times he's seen people set down their bikes on paths, not expecting other riders to need to pass. When he's passing a pedestrian he says, "On

the left." He's noticed many people think that means to go to the left. Mendelson suggests 10 rules for bike safety: Stay to the right side of the path; do not block the path with yourself or your stroller, bike, etc.; look both ways before crossing or moving across a path; be alert and cognizant of your surroundings and not distracted by a phone; "on the left" means move to the right; teach by example; and be aware of bikers' body language to understand where they might go next. Contention between cyclists and pedestrians at Wash Park led to divided lanes. "I would hate for us to get that legalistic about it,"

Miskowicz says. "I would love for us to be a community." The Northeast Transportation Connections (NETC—previously called the Stapleton Area Transportation Management Association) encourages safe use of alternatives to driving, including biking, walking, carpooling, carsharing and using public transit in Stapleton, Park Hill, E. Montclair, and NW Aurora neighborhoods. State bike laws, bike maps, safe routes to school, rules of the road, and more resources are available at StapletonTMA.com. NETC also continues to run The Hub, a community bike library, cop shop and resource center located behind Cycleton in the Stapleton Town Center.

Upcoming NETC events include: Community walking trip from Park Hill to Union Station, 9am to 2pm on Sept. 6; Stapleton Rocks, 12pm to 10pm on Sept. 6, a full-day benefit concert with outdoor games, rock climbing and a bungee trampoline; Bikes For Life, 9am to 2pm on Sept. 6, offering bike mechanics, skills courses and more to get people biking and feeling confident riding in Denver. For information or bike resources, visit StapletonTMA.com.

We welcome comments at FrontPorchStapleton.com

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Don't Miss These Events

Sept. 13—11th Annual Stapleton Kickball Tournament

Right on the heels of the World Cup in Brazil takes place Stapleton's version of "football" with the 11th annual Stapleton Kickball Tournament, presented by Stapleton United Neighbors and the Stapleton MCA.

This year's tournament will be held from 1 to 4 pm on Saturday, September 13 at Central Park. Space for 20 teams is available, teams and players of all abilities are welcome, sign up online: www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com/SUNKickball

In addition to the tournament, there will be a live DJ and an ice cream social for kids. Proceeds from the tournament will be used to support PTAs for Stapleton's newest elementary schools: Isabella Bird and High Tech Elementary. SUN is a 501(c)(3); this is a tax-deductible donation.

Teams must have at least nine players, with a maximum of 20 on the roster (maximum of 14 on the field), with four males and four females playing at all times. Registration per team is \$125 and includes a kickball souvenir.

SUN is looking for sponsors of our event. If you own a local business and interested in sponsoring visit www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com/SUNKickball/kickballsponsors. There are various sponsorship levels. For more info email SUN at stapletonunitedneighbor@gmail.com.

Sept. 13 —5k Run/Walk for Huntington's at Central Park

The 10th annual Team Hope 5K Run and Walk benefiting the Huntington's Disease Society of America Rocky Mountain Chapter will take place 9am to 12pm on September 13 at Stapleton Central Park, 9651 MLK Blvd. Every participant is invited to dress up as their favorite hero or villain and is eligible to win a best costume contest. Check in 7:30am. Run 9am. Walk 9:15am.

Huntington's disease is an inherited brain disorder that causes a slow and irreversible loss of mental and physical capacities, including the ability to think, speak and walk. Every child born to a parent with Huntington's has a 50 percent chance of inheriting the disease. There

is no cure. If you would like to schedule an appointment with a genetic counselor to discuss a family history of Huntington Disease, ask your physician for a referral or call 720-848-0782 to schedule an appointment with the University of Colorado Hospital Genetics Clinic.

The Huntington's Disease Society of America (HDSA) is a national non-profit organization dedicated to finding a cure for Huntington's disease while providing support for those with HD and their families. Team Hope hopes to raise \$30,500 for the organization. Visit www.hdsa.org/thwdenver or call 303.837.9937.

Sept. 21—Free Workshop Exploring Parenting Styles

Stapleton residents Dr. Alison Auster and Lauren Ross will offer free workshops on parenting beginning in September, focusing on a different topic each month. The first workshop will take place at 3:45pm on Sun., Sept. 21, in the Sam Gary Branch Library (2961 Roslyn) meeting room and will explore parenting styles related to three books—*Attachment Parenting*, *Simplicity Parenting* and *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother*. All parents are welcome. Participants are not required to read the books before attending any of the workshops. RSVP is not necessary.

Dr. Alison Auster works at Advanced Pediatrics in Stapleton and practices in all aspect of pediatrics. Lauren Ross, LCSW, is a Stapleton resident and behavior interventionist at Aurora Public Schools. For questions, email Lauren at laurenross1818@yahoo.com.

Oct. 7—SUN Education Expo

6:30pm on October 7, Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) Education Committee will host the fourth annual Stapleton Education Expo at High Tech Elementary School, 8499 E Stoll Place in Conservatory Green (north of I-70). SUN will be updating the community about K-12 school capacity and Northfield High School Principal Avi Tropper will present. Regional schools from pre-K to high school will provide information to interested parents and students. For more information email suneduc-committee@gmail.com.

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By Courtney Drake-McDonough

The name “Kevin Taylor” and the concept of a casual, family-friendly beer garden don’t immediately jive. Taylor’s collection of restaurants, including Kevin Taylor’s at the Opera House and Pal-ettes Contemporary Cuisine, are known for luxury with china, linens, table service and fancy cuisine. He says his plans for a beer hall that will straddle Stapleton and NW Aurora will remain true to his high standards but will have a feel and price point the community will welcome.

Talks with Taylor originally revolved around a beer garden in the Eastbridge neighborhood of Stapleton before the Stanley Marketplace option evolved. Whereas the Eastbridge concept was going to be a free-standing, new-build from the ground up, Taylor describes the Stanley project as “much more of a community center with more synergy with the other vendors (in the building).” Taylor’s restaurant will also provide food service for the events hall in Stanley.

Taylor welcomes the neighborhood diversity that the Stanley location affords. “It’s right there in the middle of the communities, not just of Stapleton and Aurora but also the medical campus and all the residential areas around it. The whole idea behind it is this great community,” he says.

The restaurant’s design will play off of the

Beer Garden at Stanley

Kevin Taylor says his new beer garden restaurant will keep his high standards for quality but have a feel and price point the community welcome.



Photo courtesy of Flightline Ventures.

open, industrial architecture of the former Stanley Aviation building as well as its location at the southwest corner of the property offering sunshine and views of the mountains and a park, which will also be part of the Stanley Marketplace development.

Taylor says the format won’t be the typical beer garden where diners order at a counter, get “buzzed” that their order is ready to be picked up and sit at picnic tables. He says the menu will have more options than the typical sausages and pretzels. “We’ll serve very high-end food but reasonably priced with table service.” The exact details of the menu will be

finalized early next year but Taylor says items will top out at \$15 with plenty of options below \$10 and will include local craft beer and wine and locally sourced food as much as possible.

Taylor believes he can provide high-quality food at reasonable prices. “We’ll approach a hamburger like you would a piece of foie gras—it’s driven by quality ingredients,” he says. “In a luxury restaurant, it’s ingredient driven, of course, but it’s also the china, glassware, silverware and all of that, that is an added expense.” He describes the new restaurant as being “stripped down.” “There’s

absolutely no reason we can’t knock people’s socks off with the menu and have it be approachable.”

After 27 years in the luxury restaurant environment, Taylor says the clientele for that kind of restaurant is shrinking. “Casual, approachable restaurants are the future,” he says, adding “If your business plan is correct, you can provide high-end, quality food that is approachable to the masses.”

Slated to open in 2015, with permitting and initial demolition planned for the first part of the year, Taylor says menu specifics and a lot of other elements are still in the planning stages. “We’ve been through a lot of hurdles, designs and a lot of work. But we have plenty of time to do this correctly.”

We welcome comments at FrontPorchStapleton.com

View Stanley Concept Plans

The sale of Stanley Aviation took place on Friday, August 22. The 100,000+ square foot building sits on a 22-acre lot.

Visit FrontPorchStapleton.com to view preliminary concept plans that were provided by The City of Aurora.



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

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

The Last Robin Hood (2013)

“In like Flynn.” You surely have heard the saying, but do you know where it comes from? The origin points back to Errol Flynn, the great Hollywood actor from the 30s to the 50s who was most famous for *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1938). Flynn was a charismatic and charming actor who was notorious for his off-screen partying and romances. To be “in like Flynn,” meant that you were as cool, charm-

ing, and smooth as the great actor. But Flynn had a dark side: drunkenness, womanizing, and scandal. In 1942, he was accused of the statutory rape of two underage girls. He was eventually cleared of the charges, but his reputation was ruined, and the charge remained a scarlet letter for him.



Scene from *The Last Robin Hood*

This newly released film tells the story of a fifty-something Flynn (Kevin Kline) and his teen-aged lover, Beverly Aadland (Dakota Fanning). Their romance was covered by the tabloids and became sensational news in the 50s; the story was further inflamed by Beverly’s publicity-hungry mother, Florence Aadland (Susan Sarandon), who used the platform as a vehicle for notoriety. The film tells their story without judgment, but the obvious takeaway is the desire for fame and the price it exacts on the many players.

The performances are the draw of the film: Kline gives another star turn and inhabits the famous persona of Flynn with strength and steel. Fanning is perfect in the role of the young woman caught up in a maelstrom that is only partly of her own making. And Sarandon is her usual screen-stealing self, inhabiting a character who so desires fame that she fails to see the destruction she is causing. The directors stay out of the way of the characters and smartly let them drive the bus. Overall, this is a strong film with a fascinating subject and confident performances.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *Chaplin*, *Nixon*, and/or *The Aviator*. Starts Sept. 5 at the Esquire Theater.

Only Lovers Left Alive (2014)

This is the best film I’ve seen this year.

The 19th film from the best director you (probably) never heard of, it is the most accomplished work in the wonderful career of Jim Jarmusch, the foremost American Independent director. Jarmusch’s career spans four decades, and he has made films his own way: never for a studio, always retaining final cut rights, and remarkably versatile in style and form. *Only Lovers Left Alive* is no exception.

The film concerns two modern vampires, Eve (Tilda Swinton) and Adam (Tom Hiddleston), who have been lovers for several hundred years. Eve lives surrounded by books in Tangiers while Adam lives surrounded by musical instruments in an abandoned Detroit house. When Eve finds Adam particularly sullen on a phone call, she flies

to Detroit (all night flights, of course) to be with him. The two are so leery of contemporary society that they both obtain their blood from doctors—clean and pure. Their evening treat is a Type-O popsicle and a flute of pure blood.

The narrative is not particularly intricate, but the filmmaking and the characters are mesmerizing. The pacing of the film is as languid as the characters, and the cinematography swirls and creeps through the film as the characters do through life. We sit for long periods of time as they talk, sleep, or drive around Detroit (which serves as a perfect setting for a decaying city well past its prime). The allegories are delicious.

The acting is delightful—both Swinton and Hiddleston ARE their characters, and their relationship seems as natural as the passing of time. These are people who have seen everything and remain aloof from



Scene from *Only Lovers Left Alive*

the rest of society. It is so refreshing to see a genre film (vampires) that gets it: if you were alive for thousands of years, you likely would have read everything ever written and/or become the greatest musician in the world. And you might find society quite boring and uninspired. The actors inhabit these traits effortlessly, so sit back and relish the performances.

One review of the film said that Jarmusch “updated the genre.” I argue that he actually just gave the genre an intelligent and thoughtful injection: there are no swooning teens or bloodthirsty crazies here, only a couple in love who have seen it all. Doesn’t that make sense for a vampire movie?

You will like this film if you enjoyed *Inside Llewyn Davis*, *Byzantium*, and/or *Nebraska*. Available on Netflix and at the Redbox.

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

We welcome comments at FrontPorchStapleton.com

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A Recommendation for Relief on Quebec

By Carol Roberts

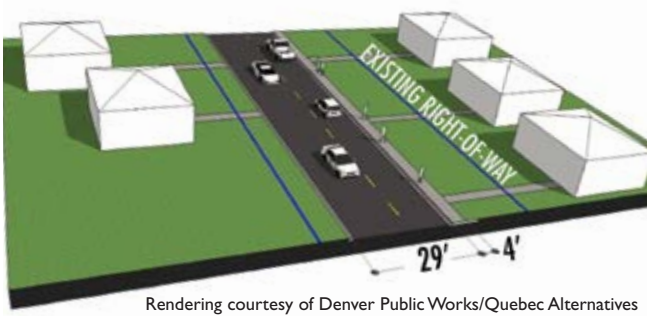
It's no surprise to NE Denver drivers that Quebec from 6th to 26th avenues was targeted for a study on how to relieve congestion. Travel time for that two-mile stretch currently averages 8.8 minutes. Transportation plans in both 2008 and 2010 identified there is a problem.

"It's a tough corridor—there are a lot of things to consider. If it were an easy challenge we would have had a solution already. We've been back and forth on this for years," says Cindy Patton, senior transportation planner in Denver's Public Works Department.

For the past 18 months planners have been looking for a solution that meets these criteria:

- Can be completed in 5–10 years for \$20 million or less
- Improves multi-modal access/safety, mobility, connectivity, and
- Respects neighborhood livability and environment

In an ideal world, says Patton, Quebec would be a divided road with a median, four lanes, and turn lanes at intersections—like Monaco Parkway. She says such a project would have cost upwards of \$50 million due to the acquisition of a large amount of private property and would have significantly impacted many property owners. That option was taken off the table from the beginning because it didn't meet the three criteria.



Rendering courtesy of Denver Public Works/Quebec Alternatives



The illustration at left shows city right-of-way (which varies block by block) as it may exist now on a two-lane portion of Quebec. The illustration at right shows how the right-of-way could be accessed to create four lanes. In this example, the roadway is moving 10 or more feet closer to the building, which is projected for approximately 25% of properties along the corridor.

To address traffic backups at intersections, particularly Colfax, 17th, and Montview, one option proposed one lane in each direction with improved intersections that included turn lanes.

This option reduced travel time from 8.8 minutes to 6.8 minutes—but in about 17 years Quebec would be back to the current level of congestion. With that option, 55 parcels of private land would require some degree of acquisition (either purchase or easements).

As the study continued over the 18-month period, it was determined that greater use of the available city right-of-way opened the possibility of four lanes for the entire length of the corridor. And in addition to four lanes, the intersections could be configured with a turn lane.

This alternative is currently believed to offer the most benefit. The full design process will finalize roadway dimensions, costs and exact impact

on private property, but at this stage the cost is estimated to be about \$24–\$25 million. Driving time is projected to be 5.5 minutes and the plan is projected to have a 26-year life before congestion gets back to present levels. It is estimated that about 65 private parcels would require some level of acquisition.

An added benefit to this plan is it could be built in phases if all the money isn't available at once. Projections show that 73 percent of the time improvement could be accomplished by completing the stretch from 14th to 26th for a cost of about \$10 million. The overall plan also includes improved sidewalks on Quebec as well as a bike lane and improved sidewalks on Syracuse.

At this stage, planners believe only 25 percent of the properties along the corridor would have the roadway move 10 or more feet closer to the

buildings (as shown in the illustration above). For 50 percent of properties, the roadway will move closer to the buildings by 5 feet or less. For the remaining properties, the roadway will move 5–10 feet closer.

The next steps are to finalize the report and findings and seek funding for design from federal and local sources so the project will be ready to build when construction funds are available.

Public input will continue to be accepted until there is funding to finalize the plans. Comments can be submitted online at www.denvergov.org/QuebecAlternatives.

A 24-page downloadable pdf with additional information and graphics about the Quebec Alternatives study is posted with this article at FrontPorchStapleton.com.

We welcome comments at FrontPorchStapleton.com

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Just the Facts

Red Light Cameras: Eyes in the Sky

by James Hagadorn



In nearly every country where such cameras have been employed in traffic management plans, they tend to drastically reduce violations, injuries and fatalities. And they typically have a spillover benefit, reducing red light running at nearby intersections. In most municipalities, the revenue they generate is almost inconsequential, especially when compared to system installation and maintenance costs and the personnel and infrastructural costs required to achieve similar improvements in safety. Finally, their financial impact pales in comparison to the liability and “costs” of avoidable permanent injuries and fatalities.

But, like speed violation cameras, red light cameras are no panacea. Here in Colorado, they’re one tool in the suite of countermeasures used to make intersections safer. They’re employed in sync with other traffic engineering

But was my friend Heidi’s experience just a fluke? Not really—most of us are two degrees of separation from an incident. For example, every time we enter a busy intersection, we’ve got about a 1 in 1,000 to 1 in 15,000 chance of encountering a red-light runner. Seems low—until one considers how many stoplights we drive through every day. And how many days we drive each year. Whoa.

But should safety trump privacy, or become an inroad for government surveillance? It seems the Supreme Court as well as local courts have spoken to the heart of the issue. Driving on a public road does not afford Fourth Amendment privacy protections, largely because driving is a regulated activity that occurs in public, not in private. Because your driving is a granted and agreed-upon privilege, municipalities have the right to deter you from and cite you for breaking the law.

Concerned about Big Brother? Such automated systems are less invasive overall because they don’t profile drivers, nor do they examine vehicle interiors or driver/passenger behaviors like police officers might. And they certainly don’t check to see if the pulled-over driver has the munchies.

And my friend Heidi? She was luckier than most. After surfing with her last week, the only thing different I noticed was a big bump of scar tissue on her shoulder. And a renewed sense of caution in the street.

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

My friend Heidi, mother of two, was recently hit by a car. In a crosswalk, no less. The driver? Chatting on the phone, she blew through the light. Heidi’s surreal summersault began. First she hit the hood, then the roof, and eventually the pavement. Next stop—the ER.

Intersection accidents like this happen all the time. There are more than 200,000 annually in the U.S. That’s twice the headcount of the People’s Republic of Boulder.

Blowing red lights is even more common—in some Colorado intersections it happens about every 10 minutes. It isn’t usually because drivers are intoxicated, but because they’re going too fast to stop, on the phone, distracted, or in a hurry.

You know the feeling—“I can make it.” Or “Oh, drat, I blew it.”

Yet at intersections where photographic ticketing devices are present, drastically fewer such events occur—both at the monitored signal, and at other stoplights in the vicinity.

So why is it that every year our state representatives support bills to ban red light cameras, along with photo radar systems used to reduce speeds near schools, construction zones and the like? Are they trying to appease constituents, or are they privy to data that the

rest of us don’t know about?

They claim such systems jeopardize public safety, are aimed at generating municipal revenue, or invade privacy. In some ways, such cameras do smack of Big Brother, and people understandably fear that successful programs will lead to even more monitoring. Seems like a slippery slope.

But how successful are these systems at improving safety? I decided to investigate, with focus on photo red-light cameras, where there is abundant, statistically rigorous, peer-reviewed data available.

In general, the data on the effectiveness of these cameras seems nothing short of

compelling. Especially if you don’t cherry-pick factoids to suit your position, as seems to happen with arguments used by proponents and opponents of such cameras. Unlike opinions, not all data are valid or equal in stature.



How successful are red light cameras at improving safety? Data on the effectiveness is nothing short of compelling.

cameras appear to be optimally effective in accident-prone intersections where police monitoring isn’t practical or where physical infrastructure can’t easily be changed, such as by replacing an intersection with a roundabout.

We welcome comments at FrontPorchStapleton.com

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Stapleton Dentist Named President of Colorado Dental Association

By Madeline Schroeder

Dr. Brett Kessler distinctly remembers standing at the mailbox ready to drop in his application to medical school. *This isn't really what I want to do*, he thought for the first time. He had studied biomedical engineering at the University of Illinois with the intent of going to medical school, but at this moment he suddenly wanted to bolt from the mailbox.

While studying at Illinois, a guest lecturer from dental school had showed pictures of dentures and implants. "I got to see the change in smile from someone going from having no teeth to having teeth," he says, remembering that lecture that first sparked his dental interest. Plus, his friend told him he would do well with an engineering background and there were cute girls in dental school.

Both played out true. In his first year of dental



Photo courtesy of Brett Kessler

Brett Kessler and his wife, Gina, own and operate Town Center Dentistry and Orthodontics in the Stapleton 29th Ave. Town Center.

school, Kessler met his wife, Gina, and they married four years later. They moved to Denver and for 10 years have owned Town Center Dentistry and Orthodontics in the Stapleton 29th Ave. Town Center, with Brett the dentist and Gina the orthodontist.

In May, Kessler became president of the Colorado Dental Association (CDA), a state network of dentists striving to advance dentistry and oral health in Colorado.

"It's a huge honor," he says. "What I love about the CDA is we represent the voice of dentistry in Colorado."

Along with other dental entities like the hygiene association, the CDA advocates at the Colorado Capitol to review laws surrounding dentistry. Kessler was a part of an effort to provide a dental benefit through Medicaid. "We are really getting to help the communities who need

it the most," he says.

As CDA president he plans to improve the leadership of dentists in the association, boost the number of dental providers who accept Medicaid, and make sure the CDA is fiscally sound.

Town Center Dentistry and Orthodontics uses a comprehensive approach to dentistry that focuses on health of the teeth and gums, function of the jaw and muscles, and aesthetics of the smile. Kessler also specializes in oral recovery after damage from methamphetamine.

Besides being a dentist, Kessler is an endurance athlete, ultra-marathon runner and father of four ages 14, 12, 8 and 4. "Stapleton has allowed me to live a dream. I want to be in a neighborhood where I practice and work, and it allows me to have choices of I can do things with my kids and I can schedule my dental life around my Stapleton life. I am really grateful it's turned out the way it has."



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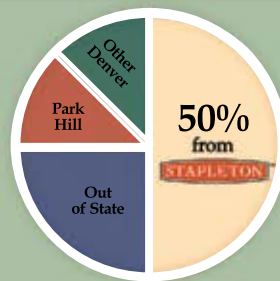


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DISCLAIMER: The Front Porch obtains event information through websites and press releases and cannot guarantee that events will occur as listed. Please use contact information to check for updates.

SEASONAL/HOLIDAY EVENTS

9/1 to 11/15—Miller Farms Fall Harvest Festival. Corn maze, petting zoo, tractor rides and more. 9040 Hwy 66, Platteville. 9-6pm daily. www.millerfarms.net

9/4 to 9/7—Longs Peak Scottish Irish Festival. Pipe bands, Irish and folk dancing, parade, much more. Estes Park. www.scotfest.com

9/13 Saturday—Sunshine Harvest Festival. 11am-5pm. FREE. Live music, vendors. Bring extra organic garden produce to barter or donate. Garden Events Center, 3435 Albion St. info@sunshine-foodproject.org or 303.321.5231. www.SunshineFoodProject.org

9/19 to 9/21—Denver Oktoberfest. Ballpark neighborhood. Repeats 9/26-9/28. www.thedenveroktoberfest.com

9/19 to 11/1—Botanic Gardens Corn Maze. Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield, 8500 W. Deer Creek Canyon Rd. www.botanic-gardens.org

9/19 to 9/21—Downtown Boulder Fall Fest. Pearl St Mall,

Sept. 6—2014 Tour de Fat

If you like beer, bikes and bemusement, come to City Park on Sat., Sept. 6 for the 2014 Tour de Fat, 10am-5pm. Admission is free. The day includes concerts, food vendors, beer and biking. Everyone is invited to dress as silly or as wild as they want and join the bike parade at 11am around the park and along 17th Ave. For the complete schedule, visit www.newbelgium.com/events/tour-de-fat.

Boulder. Free. www.boulderdowntown.com

9/22 to 10/31—Cottonwood Farms Pumpkin Patch and Fall Festival. Farm animals, straw bale maze, 1.5 acre corn maze, wagon rides and more. Open daily 10am-6pm. 75th and Arapahoe, Boulder. www.cottonwoodfarms.com

9/24 to 11/1—Anderson Farms Fall Festival. Corn maze, pumpkin patch, hayrides and more. 6728 County Road 3 1/4, Erie. www.anderson-farms.com

9/28 Sunday—Oktoberfest. Join the Oktoberfest celebration at Messiah Community Church. 11am. Beer, brats and lively music. \$6. info@messiahdenver.org, <http://www.messiahdenver.org>

10/4 to 10/5—Four Mile Historic Park Pumpkin Harvest Festival. Old-time fall festival with pumpkin patch, horse-drawn wagon rides, food, crafts and more. Free admission. 10am-4pm. 715 S. Forest St. www.fourmilepark.org

10/4-10/5—Cider Days. Lakewood Heritage Center, 10am-5pm. \$4-\$7. www.lakewood.org

DENVER METRO EVENTS

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

View more events online or submit events at FrontPorchStapleton.com > Events

9/5 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Santa Fe Arts District, Tennyson Art Walk, River North (RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Museum, Navajo Street Art District. www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

9/6 to 9/7—Fall Miniatures Show and Sale. 50 dealers of doll-house scale miniatures, workshops and more. Renaissance Denver Hotel, 3801 Quebec St. www.dmmtd.org/fallshow.htm, 303.322.1053 or education@dmmtd.org

Sept. 6—Dianne Reeves Concert

Five-time Grammy winner Dianne Reeves will perform with the Bennie L. Williams Spiritual Voices on Sat., Sept. 6 at Central Presbyterian Church, 1660 Sherman St., at 7:30 pm. The concert will be a tribute to the late Dr. Vincent Harding, noted civil rights leader and personal friend to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A Silent Auction begins at 6pm. For tickets and information: <http://www.blwspiritualvoices.org/events.html>.

9/7 Sunday—Denver's Worldwide Festival. McNichols Building, Civic Center Park 144 W. Colfax. Free. 10am-4pm. www.denversistercities.org

9/6 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

9/6 Saturday—Sunnyside Music Festival. Chaffee Park, NW Denver. www.sunnysidemusicfest.org

9/6 to 9/7—11th Annual Festival Italiano at Belmar. Italian food, wine and artisan vendors. 10am-7pm. www.belmarcolorado.com

9/6 to 9/30—LoDo Walking Tour. Guided tour tells story of Denver. www.historicdenver.org

9/11 to 9/15—Americas Latin Eco Festival. 2115 13th St Boulder. www.americaslatinoecofestival.org

9/12 Friday—Brew at the Zoo. Pair samples of Colorado-brewed beer with food from well-known restaurants; dance under the stars. www.denverzoo.org

9/12 to 9/14—47th Annual Denver Gem and Mineral Show. Denver Merchandise Mart, 451 E 58th Ave. 1-25, exit 215. Tickets \$4-\$6, under 13 free with adult. Cash or check only.

9/13 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. Free with admission. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-2pm. www.wingsmuseum.org

9/13 Saturday—Make a Difference Tea. Molly Brown House. \$20. Sittings: 11am, and 1pm. jwilms@mollybrown.org or 303.832.4092x17. www.mollybrown.org

9/13 to 9/14—Curtis Park Home and Community Tour. 10am-4pm. 14 of the finest Denver homes. www.historicdenver.org

9/13 to 9/14—Grand Lake Art Fest, 10am-5pm. www.bouldermarket.com

9/19 to 9/20—Botanic Gardens Fall Plant and Bulb Sale. North parking lot. 8-5pm Fri., 8-3pm Sat. Free admission to sale. Thousands of bulbs, plants and bushes. 1007 York St. www.botanic-gardens.org

Sept. 6—First Responder Tribute: Their Sacrifice, Their Vehicles Car Show

On Sat., Sept. 6, from 10am-3pm at the Shops at Northfield, a car show will honor responders who lost their lives on 9/11. The show will have 13 categories of responder vehicles, which people will vote on. The People's Choice award will be announced at 2pm.

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9/20 Saturday—Bon Marche Hat Workshop at Molly Brown House. Create your own millinery masterpiece with help of historic fashion experts. Materials provided. \$55, ages 16+. 10am-1pm. RSVP 303.832.4092 ext. 16. www.mollybrown.org

9/20 Saturday—Denver Dumb Friends League Wag N Trail. 1.6 mile hike with your dog to help homeless pets at Buddy Center. 8am-12pm. Glendale Farm Open Space, Castle Rock. 303.751.5772 ext. 1378. www.ddfl.org

9/25 to 9/28—Just Between Friends Gear and Clothing Sale. Huge consignment sale. National Western Complex, 4655 Humboldt St. www.denver.jbfsale.com

9/26 to 9/27 Handmade in Colorado Expo. 16th St Mall and Skyline Park. 11am-7pm. www.bouldermarket.com

9/26 to 10/4—Denver Beer Fest. Tastings, tours, paired dinners and more. Multiple locations. www.denverbeerfest.com

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Through 9/24—Denver Bike Night. Every Wednesday. Evening bike rides through downtown Denver. 7pm. www.denvercruiserride.com

9/7 Sunday—Denver Trail 1/2 Marathon and 10K. 8am. Cherry Creek Reservoir. www.denverhalf.com

9/13 Saturday—3K Walk to Defeat ALS. Denver City Park, 9am. Register free at event or fundraising teams at www.alsa.org/denverwalk

9/20 Saturday—2014 Walk to End Alzheimer's. Denver's City Park, 8am www.coloradoalzwalk.org

9/21 Sunday—6th Annual Hop, Skip and a Jump Start. Stroller and family-friendly 5K and expo benefits Children's Museum of Denver. www.mychildsmuseum.org

KIDS AND FAMILIES

9/2 to 9/30—Tuesdays in September—Four Mile Historic Park Small Settlers. Ages 2-5 accompanied by parent 9am. \$5/child adults/members free. 7150D. Forest St. Register: 720.865.0814 or education@fourmilepark.org www.fourmilepark.org

9/5 Friday—Bluff Lake Buds. 10-11am. For kids

ages 2-5 with adult. \$5/child if advance registered; adults free. Bluff Lake Nature Center, 3400 Havana Way. keith@blufflake.org to register. www.blufflakenaturecenter.org

9/6 Saturday—What If...Festival of Innovation and Imagination. 1 North Tejon St. Colorado Springs 80903. Free. 9am-4pm. www.whatif-festival.org

9/6 Saturday-- PBS KIDS Fun Fest. Preschool to 6th grade, block party of fun free activities. 1089 Bannock St., Downtown Denver, 10am-2pm. www.rmpbs.org

9/6 to 9/7—25th Annual Colorado ArtFest at Castle Rock. 9am-6pm. Downtown Castle Rock. Adults \$5, seniors \$3, under 16 free. www.castlerockculture.com

9/6 to 9/7—Forney Transportation Museum Moffat Modelers Toy Train Layout. Scale toy train layout open first weekend every month. Free with museum admission. 4303 Brighton Blvd. www.forneymuseum.org

9/7 Sunday—Grandparents Day at History

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Colorado Center. Ice cream social and Snow White performed by Town Hall Arts Center. www.historycolorado.org/events/grandparents-day-history-colorado-center

9/13 Saturday—4th Annual Cherrity Pie Festival Benefitting Anchor Center for Blind Children. www.anchorcenterevents.com

9/13 to 9/28—Day Out with Thomas the Tank at Colorado Railroad Museum. Sat. and Sun. only. 25-minute ride

with Thomas, storytelling, live music. Tickets: www.coloradorailroadmuseum.org

9/14 Sunday—Junior Rangers. 1:30pm. Ages 6-12. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd.,
(continued on p. 26)

Sept. 6—Stapleton Rocks Concert for a Cause

From 10:30am to 10pm on Sat., Sept. 6 the Shops at Northfield will feature local bands and raise money for charity. Other event activities include bungee trampolines, hamster balls and a magician. Visit stapletondenver.com for the complete lineup.

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(continued from p. 25)

Sept. 6—25th Annual Friendship Powwow and American Indian Cultural Celebration

From 10am–4pm on Sat., Sept. 6 the Denver Art Museum will feature American Indian dancers, drum groups, working artists, hands-on activities, vendors and more. The third floor of the museum features an American Indian art collection. Powwow activities and museum admission are free. For more information, visit www.denverartmuseum.org.

Aurora. Reservations required. 303.739.9428. www.auroragov.org/nature

9/14 Sunday—Living History Day. Pan for gold or take tour of Four Mile House Museum. Free with admission. www.fourmilepark.org

9/19 Friday—Guided Tour of Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys. 11am. Learn history of the collection and 115-year-old museum home. www.dmmtdt.org

9/19 Friday—Nature at Night. 7:45-8:45pm. Explore nature after the sun goes down. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. www.auroragov.org/nature

Sept. 19 and 20—StapletoM Yoga and Music Festival

This inaugural event will offer a variety of yoga classes, live music, local artisans, food trucks, wine and craft beer, and raffles and prizes. On The Green at the 29th Ave. Town Center in Stapleton. Weekend pass is \$100; kids yoga class \$5. Friday night only is \$25. Music-only pass Friday is \$10 including beer/wine. Saturday music-only pass is \$5. Tickets at www.StapletoM.com.

9/19 Friday—Star K Ranch Bird Walk. 8:30-10:30 am. Ages 8 and up. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd., Aurora. www.auroragov.org/nature

9/20 Saturday—Miniature House-Making Workshop. Family workshop at Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys. 1:30pm. 1880 Gaylord St. \$16. RSVP 303.322.1053. www.dmmtdt.org

9/19 Friday—Denver Botanic Gardens Family Fun Night. 5:30 pm. Explore nature at night in Mordecai Children's Garden. Monthly themes, snacks by campfire, other activities. www.botanicgardens.org

LECTURES AND CLASSES

Saturdays in September—Learn to Compost Classes. 9-11am. FREE. Registration required. 303.292.9900. www.dug.org/compost/

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

9/9 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—John F. Kennedy. 12:30-1:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727. www.ActiveMinds.com

9/11 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)—Saudi Arabia. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325. www.ActiveMinds.com

9/17 Wednesday—A Titanic Clash Over the Constitution – History Colorado Center. Jack Van Ens portrays Pres. Jefferson in 18th-century costume questioning early drafts of

Sept. 20—Bikes For Life Community Bike Event

From 9am to noon on Sat., Sept. 20 at Central Park Rec Center, learn more about biking at an event hosted by Children's Hospital Colorado. Practice cycling on a course, teach your kids how to bike without training wheels, get a repair fixed by a bike mechanic on-site, go for a group ride, participate in a bike competition and more. The event is free. For questions, call 720.777.4166.

9/25 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)—Aviation: From Kitty Hawk to Today. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325. www.ActiveMinds.com

MUSEUMS—DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE

Through 10/9—IMAX Movies.

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

9/18 Thursday—Science Lounge. Cocktails/entertainment every 3rd Thurs. of month. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/nonmembers. www.dmns.org

MUSEUMS—FREE DAYS

9/2 Tuesday—Children's Museum. Target Free First Friday. www.mychildsmuseum.org

9/6 Saturday—Denver Art Museum. SCFD Free Day. 720.865.5000. www.denverartmuseum.org

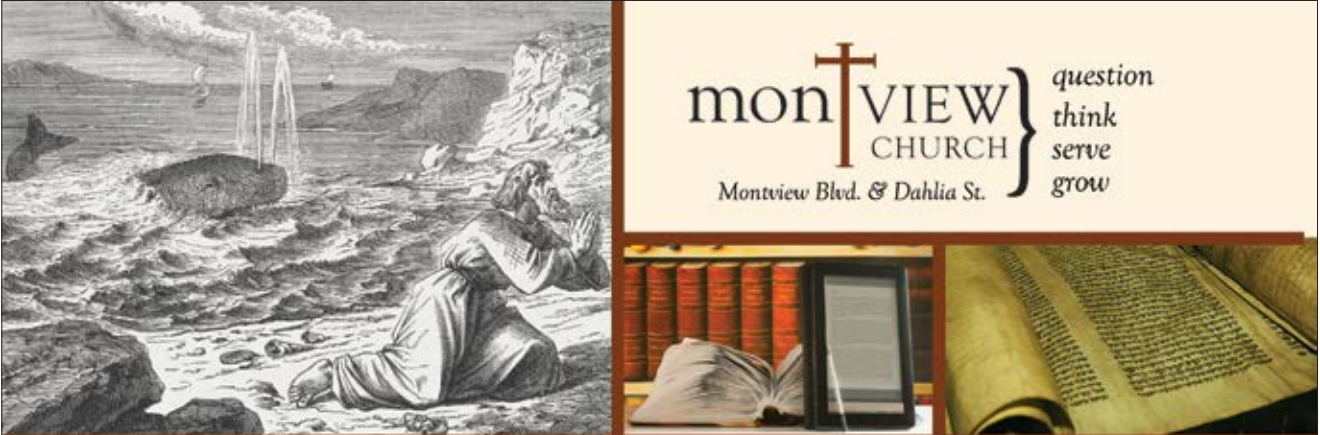
9/8 Monday—Denver Museum of Nature and Science. SCFD Free Day. 303.370.6000. www.dmns.org

9/28 Sunday—Denver Museum of Nature and Science. SCFD Free Day. 303.370.6000. www.dmns.org

10/4 Saturday—Four Mile Historic Park. SCFD Free Day. www.fourmilepark.org

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

9/5 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. The Remaining. www.harkinstheatres.com



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9/14 Sunday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Releases. 108 Stitches; Dolphin Tale 2; Starred Up. www.harkinstheatres.com

Sept. 19–28—4th Annual Stapleton Community Food Drive
Sept. 19–28 local businesses and neighbors will participate in a food drive benefiting Food Bank of the Rockies, “Fighting Hunger. Feeding Hope.” One in seven Coloradans worry where they will find their next meal—nearly half are children. In 2013 28,000 pounds of nonperishable goods were collected through Food Bank of the Rockies. This year’s goal is 30,000 pounds. There are several ways to be a part of the event, which is presented by New Perspective Real Estate. For details, visit <http://www.foodbankrockies.org/>

9/15 Monday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Releases. The Maze Runner; This Is Where I Leave You; Tracks: A Walk Amongst the Tombstones. www.harkinstheatres.com

9/29 Monday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Releases. The Boxtrolls; The Equalizer; Jack and the Cuckoo Clock www.harkinstheatres.com

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

9/1 to 9/28—Refuge Amateur Photo Contest. Submit your favorite 5x7 matted photo taken at the refuge to the Visitors Center by 9/28. Winning photos announced in early Dec. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

9/7 Sunday—Stream Splashers. 10am–12pm. Get wet collecting aquatic creatures in refuge ponds. Ages 6–12. RSVP. Repeats 9/20. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

9/12 Friday—Wildlife Viewing Tour. 9:30–11:30am. 2-hour bus tour of refuge. Repeats 9/21, 26 and 27. RSVP. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

9/13 Saturday—Birding for Beginners. 9:30–11:30 am. RSVP. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

9/14 Sunday—Bike the Refuge. 8:30–10:30am. Guided 8 mile ride. Fat tires strongly encouraged; helmets required. RSVP www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

9/19 Friday—Fall Hike n Bird. 8:30–11:30am. One of last guided hikes of the season, up to 3 miles. RSVP. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

THEATRE

Through 9/6—Sylvia. Avenue Theatre, 417 E. 17th Ave. www.avenuetheater.com

Through 9/7—A Streetcar Named Desire. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

9/4 to 9/28—M. Butterfly. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

Oct. 4—Urban Farm FarmFest
On Sat., Oct. 4, from 10am to 6pm, The Urban Farm will host the 5th Annual FarmFest. Admission is \$1; activity and food tickets are \$1, or \$20 for 25 tickets. The day includes pony rides, face painting, carnival games, hayrides, goat feeding, and petting farm animals. Rudy and the Buffalo Riders, Briar Branch and Stapleton’s own Porch Jam will perform. The Urban Farm and Denver Sheriff Mounted Posse will present. All proceeds go to The Urban Farm. Visit theurbanfarm.org or contact info@theurbanfarm.com or 303.307.9332 for details.

9/6 to 9/20—Pippin. Buell Theatre, Denver Center for Performing Arts. 303.893.4100. www.denvercenter.org

9/9 to 9/28—Memphis. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. Arvada. 720.898.7200 www.arvadacenter.org

9/12 to 10/5—Once On This Island. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

9/12 to 10/26—The Unsinkable Molly

See more events on p. 18

Brown. Stage Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. 303.893.4100. www.denvercenter.org

9/26 to 10/5—A Midsummer Night’s Dream. Presented by Colorado Ballet and Colorado Children’s Chorale. Ellie Caulkins Opera House. www.coloradoballet.org

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Stapleton Front Porch

27

September 2014

Recounting a Life Not Celebrated

By Madeline Schroeder

Does the name Fannie Lou Hamer sound familiar? She is well known to historians, but not so much among the general public.

Like many other under-celebrated activists in history, Fannie Lou Hamer did not make many of the history books, though she was right alongside Malcolm X and Martin Luther King during the black freedom movement.

Stapleton resident Maegan Parker Brooks is particularly drawn to Fannie Lou Hamer for this reason. "She gave these amazing speeches, but yet when I started researching, I only found three."

To recognize the underappreciated achievements of Fannie Lou Hamer, Brooks recently completed the book, *A Voice That Could Stir an Army: Fannie Lou Hamer and the Rhetoric of the Black Freedom Movement*.

Brooks recounts Hamer's life from her early



Photo courtesy of Maegan Parker Brooks

influences to her intersection with the black freedom movement and finally to her rise to prominence when she gave a speech at the 1964 Democratic National Convention. Brooks takes the reader to Hamer's hometown of Ruleville, Mississippi, to examine the larger social and political implications of her legacy.

"The book speaks to the hole in our memory of her. Sometimes the most under-celebrated activists were the most interesting,"

Brooks says. For her doctoral dissertation, Brooks co-edited, with Davis W. Houck, *The Speeches of Fannie Lou Hamer: To Tell It Like It Is*. During her research, Brooks discovered more than 30 speeches by Hamer. "She's got a lot to say to contemporary audiences about equality and opportunity ... she really makes us rethink what we know about history."

Proceeds from Brooks' first book paid a large portion of the cost of a statue of Fannie Lou Hamer erected in Ruleville in 2012. Brooks is a member of the Fannie Lou Hamer Education Fund Committee and she is a lead researcher on a forthcoming documentary about Hamer.

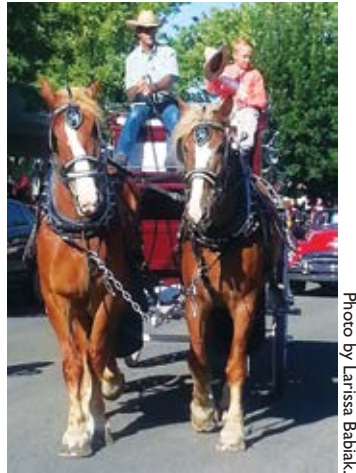
She is also currently working on a book about the integration of Denver Public Schools. For more information visit <http://www.maeganparkerbrooks.com/>

Fourth-Grader Grand Marshal of Peach Parade

By Madeline Schroeder

In November 2013, Stapleton resident and fourth-grader Nick Babiak had a fruitful idea. He decided the Palisade peach should be named the official state fruit for contributing 75 percent of Colorado's fruit output. Plus, "It's like the sweetest thing you can ever have. It's like better than chocolate, better than marshmallow," Babiak said.

After complaints from cantaloupe growers, the House of Representatives did not name the Palisade peach the state fruit. The Palisade Chamber of Commerce still wanted to thank Babiak for his effort and asked him be the grand marshal at the Palisade Peach Festival parade on Aug. 16 near Grand Junction.



Nick Babiak at the peach parade.

Photo by Larissa Babiak

12-year-old All-Stars Play at World Series

By Madeline Schroeder

Stapleton resident Dustin Dinges is a proud man right now. His team of SE Denver Baseball League 12-year-old all-stars played in the Cal Ripken World Series this August in Aberdeen, Md. "First and foremost, they're all great kids and they also share a passion for baseball," says Dinges, who has coached most of the boys since they were 9 and a couple since age 7.

The SE Denver Baseball League, made up of many players from Stapleton, Park Hill and Lowry, is the second team from Colorado to ever advance to the World Series and the first in the 45-year history of SE Denver. Dinges coached alongside Andy Monroe and Jayson Thompsen.

Dinges describes the Cal Ripken World Series as a major league-like experience for young players. Cal Ripken played and coached for a total of 37 years with the Baltimore Orioles and his two sons combined played 33 years in the major leagues.

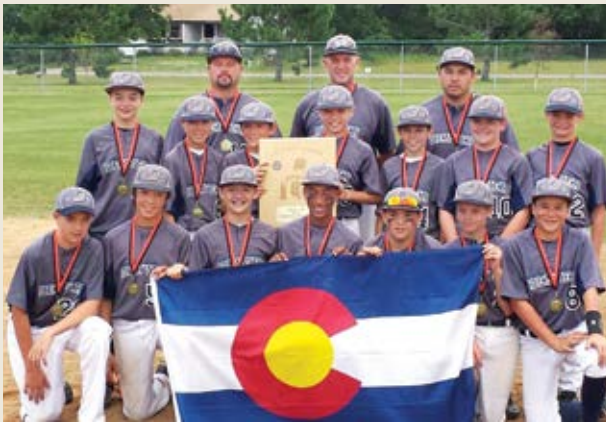
Ten U.S. teams and eight international teams qualified. West Raleigh, N.C., won the championship against Mexico to be first U.S. team in four

years to win.

The SE Denver Baseball League went 1:4 in the series. "We did really well in the regionals, but underperformed in Maryland," says Campbell Thurman, right fielder and relief pitcher from Lowry. He

thinks the pressure may have gotten to the team. It was the biggest stadium they've played at. Plus, they attended ceremonies, press conferences and media interviews. "It was a lot more than they're used to," Dinges says.

In a heartbreaking finish, the team lost 8:9



The SE Denver Baseball League 12-year-old all-stars played in the Cal Ripken World Series this August—the second Colorado team ever to advance to the World Series.

Photo courtesy Paul Dinges

against Arkansas when a base runner on third stole home as the SE Denver pitcher was walking back to the mound. The loss stopped SE Denver from advancing to their first international game, which would've been against Australia. "It was frustrating we had to go out that way," Thurman says.

Caleb Monroe, outfielder from Stapleton, says the team faced the best pitching they've seen. While at bat against an exceptional pitcher, he stays confident and thinks of all the times he's gotten good hits. "Then I see what happens," he says. His best moment during the tournament was a hit into right

field. "It was only a single, but I'll take it."

Nate Dinges, center fielder from Stapleton, says, "We didn't play our regular baseball. We were tight and tense." He's proud of how he dealt with the pressure, though. He was awarded the All-Defensive Team-Gold Glove Award for the best center fielder out of all 10 U.S. teams.

Although the results weren't what they hoped, the team is proud to have made it to the once-in-a-lifetime tournament. Jack Michalek, who was named to the All-Tournament Team for catcher position selected out of the 10 U.S. teams, says he's proud of the SE Denver Baseball League, who are some of his best friends, and proud of the coaches. "Our coaches are nice, strict, and you know what they expect you to do."

This is Dustin Dinges's last year coaching the team, which he will miss immensely. "A lot of the individuals have worked really hard over the years, and the quality of play has changed dramatically." He wants to continue supporting the players and looks forward to watching their games next season.

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Stapleton Update

Forest City Signs Contract for Eastbridge Retail Development

King Soopers and Evergreen Development will present plans at the Zoning and Planning Committee meeting Tuesday, September 9 at 4:30pm, 7350 E. 29th Ave. 2nd floor, Stapleton Development Corporation. The meeting is open to the public.

By Carol Roberts

At the August Zoning and Planning (ZAP) Committee meeting, the hour-and-a-half long discussion about the Eastbridge Town Center had three distinct elements:

ZAP chair David Netz started the meeting with a reference to his ZAP presentation a month earlier on creating a sense of place in an urban town center. He asked Forest City to talk about their vision of Eastbridge as a Town Center. How could they give it the distinctive look and feel of being an urban town center, and how would they tie it into the existing neighborhood?

Forest City Senior Vice President Jim Chrisman felt he had already answered those questions in community meetings and in last month's Front Porch interview and



Yard signs in Stapleton's Eastbridge neighborhood show some residents' discontent about the design of the town center and/or having a full-sized King Soopers rather than a smaller grocer.

he was ready to introduce the contractor, Tyler Carlson with Evergreen Development, who will build the retail development.

Members of the community came to express their concerns about the current plan, get information, and see if there was still an opportunity for their concerns to be addressed.

Netz specifically asked Chrisman about tying together all the undeveloped land in Eastbridge with features that might include distinctive lighting, pedestrian crossings, "all of those things that create a town center in addition to having a retail pad and a development. It's that bigger picture of what's pulling this all together."

Chrisman responded, "In my mind the town center is the retail development on the west end. I don't, quite honestly, view the gas station area as part of the town center. That's surrounded by one way streets that, in my mind, can only be automobile related uses—which aren't particularly conducive with the kind of environment you're trying to create. The northern piece—I don't know what that will be."

Netz persisted, "Can we do other things that would" *(continued on p.30)*



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3382 Xenia St • \$440,000
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Eastbridge

(continued from p. 29) slow traffic in this area to keep it pedestrian friendly and that impact the design for the overall site. What is the bicycle access? How do we make this more than a suburban retail pad?"

"I don't think it is a suburban retail pad. It's far from it, in fact," responded Chrisman. "It's 22-23,000 square feet of retail space, a little under half of the 29th Ave Town Center. It's fairly sizeable in my mind. Once you get out of your car, it's a very nice environment where you want to stay." He adds there will be amenities in a large public plaza where kids can run around.

Evergreen Development's Tyler Carlson is a Stapleton father of four who has lived in Eastbridge and has been talking to Forest City for a number of years about developing retail in Eastbridge. He's excited about the team he has put together: the architect will be Scott Higa of G3 Architecture (who designed the CitySet project in Glendale) and Norris Design will do the landscape/hardscape.

Carlson sees the shared parking arrangement with King Soopers as a necessity to find tenants. "If I had just

this plan, just 118 stalls, no cross parking with Kings, I'd be DOA. You want to make it an attractive option to walk, but you can't plan your business model around the pedestrian. We did the Sprouts on East Colfax and that's got the busiest bus line in all of Denver. Still I think 95% of the customers are coming in their cars."

"I would love a good mix of restaurants, regional and local concepts—probably three. There will likely be a nail/hair salon, a liquor store (that will be screened very hard). We'd love to have a coffee shop/bakery." He expects there will be about eight tenants.

Carlson says he likes the scale of this project: "I think you have a greater opportunity to create an intimate space on smaller scale projects like this than you do at a big large scale project. We'll advocate for what the neighbors want in terms of pedestrian access. If there's any feedback or thoughts the neighbors have I'm sure they'll let Forest City know or let us know. We're an open book. It's going to be a collaborative process."

Following are some of the questions and concerns raised by community members:

Question: Is there still the possibility to change the plan to have the King Soopers and the retail both facing Geneva Court with parking on the ends?

Carlson: Kings has approved their deal and their deal is their deal.

Comment: Walkability—we'd like to be able to walk to a town center. People drive 50mph on MLK routinely. Fulton is somewhat frightening as well. That should be a key consideration for the plan.

Comment: Most people wouldn't have moved there is that's how it had been marketed

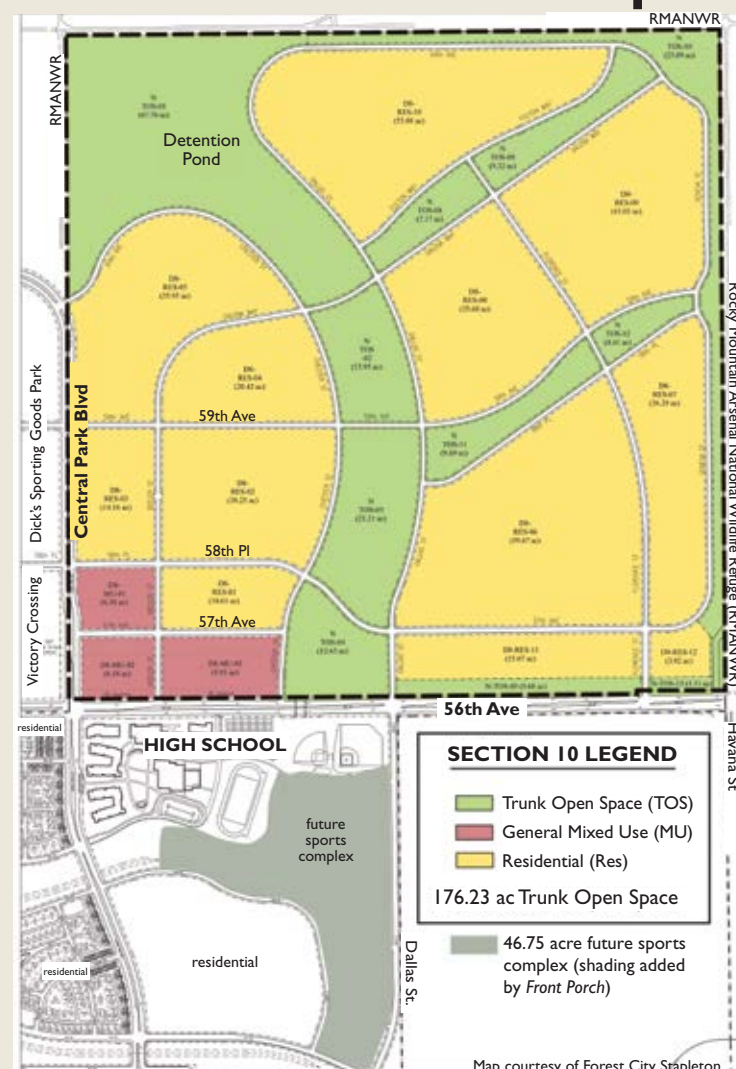
Carlson: 2014 isn't 2007. Retail has changed.

Comment: What design criteria does the design review board use? As citizens we should be able to go find the document.

Comment: I just want some out of the box creative thinking. A car wash and dental in Eastbridge is not great retail. I want to be sure these folks are held accountable.

Comment: The advantage of the MCA owning town center land is they can put programming there. Will Eastbridge have a place for that?

Carlson: We haven't talked to them yet. We're open to conversation if MCA wants to program stuff there. Programming space drives traffic.



The above map shows land use in Section 10 at the top and, below, the acreage set aside for a future, as yet unfunded, sports complex.

By Carol Roberts

Section 10 General Development Plan Changes

Forest City's Director of Development Heidi Majerik, is working on the third version of the general development plan (GDP) for the one square-mile parcel bordering the Wildlife Refuge (referred to as Section 10). She expects there will be four iterations of the plan by the time they get approval from the City. Forest City got over three hundred comments in response to their first submission. Many of the comments were from city departments and were very specific and technical—but they also made changes in response to community suggestions. Majerik, at the August Citizens Advisory Board (CAB), explained some of those changes.

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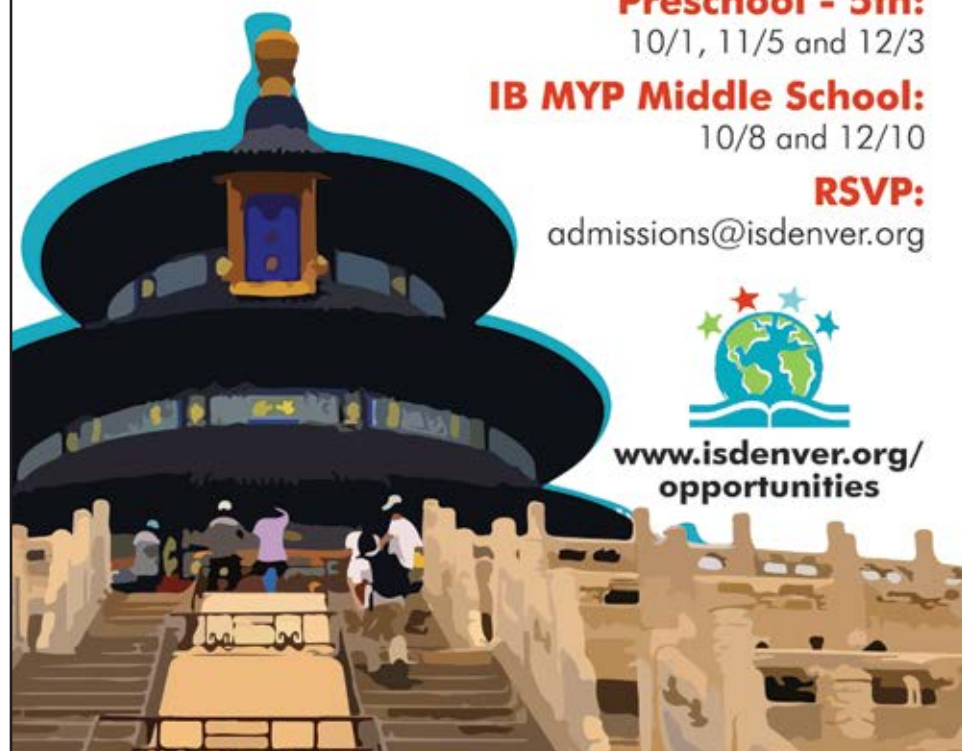
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Commerce City and the Stapleton Parks Advisory Group (PAG) suggested lining up roads with current and future roadways in Kroenke's Victory Crossing Development that adjoins Section 10 on the west side—changes that can be seen along Central Park Blvd. on the west border of Section 10.

The south edge of the detention pond was extended further south to be sure that open space area includes a high elevation point from which there are sweeping views of the Front Range. PAG also commented about the importance of quality trails and trail connectivity. The perimeter trail was widened to about 80 feet and will have a multi-use path. And open space was added in the northeast corner to enhance connections to the Wildlife Refuge.

Water flows north to the detention pond, so the central green spine is essential for that purpose. Though it will have flat multi-use areas, it won't have regulation fields due to drainage requirements. Scott Gilmore, Deputy Director of Parks pointed out that Commerce City also has a detention pond in that area and the two will combine to make a very large and very beautiful open space amenity.

Sports Complex

PAG expressed concern that there is no funding for the 60-80 acre sports complex envisioned in the Green Book to have ten multi-use lighted fields as well as baseball/softball fields, in-line hockey rink, skate park, play area, pavilions and parking. A 46.75 acre plot of land next to the high school (see map at left) is designated for a sports complex, but with fewer fields than originally planned.

Scott Peterson, co-founder of Stapleton Jets boys lacrosse told the CAB that in five years their program grew from 12 kids to 150 and they expect up to 200 in the spring—and by far their biggest difficulty is finding fields (and the growing girls lacrosse league faces the same problem). Scott Gilmore acknowledged that the sports complex may not be the full 80 acres but the Parks Department is currently working with DPS to build the fields for the high school—and there is room for eight multi-purpose fields in the area designated for a sports complex. And, he says, there *will* be a sports complex when funding is found.

26th Ave. Open Space

Forest City Senior Vice President Charlie Nicola, at the August Parks Advisory Group, said DIA has cleaned up contamination in front of Stanley Aviation (now Stanley Marketplace), which will enable Park Creek Metro District to buy that piece of land from DIA. He said a couple thousand yards of dirt was removed and that paves the way for improvements to go forward. The improvements, cleaning up and a crusher fine path, are an interim plan until homes are ready to be built in the Aurora parcel. At that time Forest City and Aurora will come to agreement on the finished park that will accompany the Aurora residential development.

Nicola added that west of Moline in the Aurora parcel, progress is being made on cleanup but they are waiting for that to be completed by DIA before the land can be transferred to Forest City for construction of residences there.

We welcome comments at FrontPorchStapleton.com

What's been built with TIF and what's left?

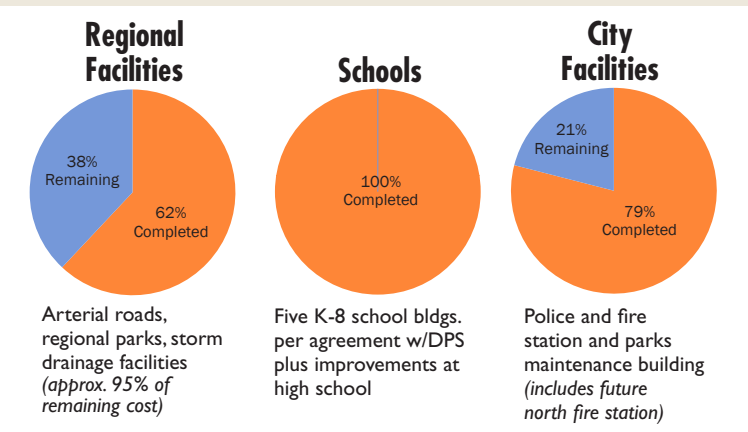
By Carol Roberts

Over \$450 million in trunk infrastructure has gone into the ground at Stapleton. \$332 million of that has been financed through TIF (tax increment financing). TIF revenue is growing every year and will continue to pay for Stapleton's trunk (regional) infrastructure until 2025, when that financing ends. However TIF comes with an inherent challenge. Future TIF revenue needs to be accessed to keep development happening now and moving at a pace that will generate revenue according to projections.

Until now, the Denver Urban Renewal Authority has issued bonds to obtain the funds needed for development. However, with only ten years left in the TIF, and with the existing obligations that already have priority, Brad Dodson from the City Department of Finance recently explained to Stapleton's Citizens Advisory Board that traditional bond financing is no longer an option. DURA and city staff are assessing how they can best leverage future TIF revenue to

maximize development in the remaining years of the TIF. **What has been completed so far?**

"We've passed the halfway point," says Dodson. The five K-8 school buildings to be constructed with TIF funds have all been completed. Of the city facilities listed in the Stapleton Development Plan, only the north fire station and a parks maintenance building remain to be built. A police and fire station have been completed. And sixty-two percent of the arterial roads, regional



parks and storm drainage facilities have been built.

What regional infrastructure is left?

Thirty-eight percent of the regional infrastructure remains to be built (arterial roads, regional parks and storm drainage)—and that accounts for 95 percent of future TIF expenditures.

What will be the next projects?

Short-term projects, to be initiated by 2017, include (in no particular order) Stapleton Transit Station infrastructure, Westerly Creek North/Sand Creek Uplands, Central Park Blvd 46th to 50th, grading and drainage up to 56th Ave.), and parks north of I-70.

Affordable Housing Update

By Carol Roberts

At the request of the Stapleton Development Corporation, Forest City in August presented a report on the status of affordable housing in Stapleton. At buildout, a total of 4000 rental units and 8000 for-sale homes are anticipated in Stapleton.

Forest City's contract calls for 10% of all for-sale homes in Stapleton to be affordable, as outlined in a housing agreement with the city—and 33% of all housing units are to be rentals, with 20% of rentals being affordable. Currently 4.8% of all for-sale homes are affordable and 28.6% of rental units are affordable. The percent of affordable rentals will go down as market-rate rentals increase.

Lee Ferguson, who leads Forest City's Multi-family and Affordable Housing programs, pointed out that the overall percentage of rental units increased from the prior quarter, the first time he had seen that percentage increase. Current rental units under construction now include Aster Conservatory Green (350 units), Horizon (109 units for age 55+) and Zocolo (150 units for age 55+). And Forest City is almost ready to break ground on 135 more rental units at Aster in the 29th Ave. Town Center.

To date, Forest City affordable for-sale home closings have averaged two per month. However Ferguson points out that those homes make up 25% of all affordable homes built in Denver during that time period. They believe the market is picking up and their goal is to sell four per month over the next ten years to reach their goal of 10% affordable. One indicator of the market, Ferguson says, is that New Town builders will be constructing an all-affordable community of 120 units north of I-70.

Visit FrontPorchStapleton.com for additional information on affordable housing at Stapleton.




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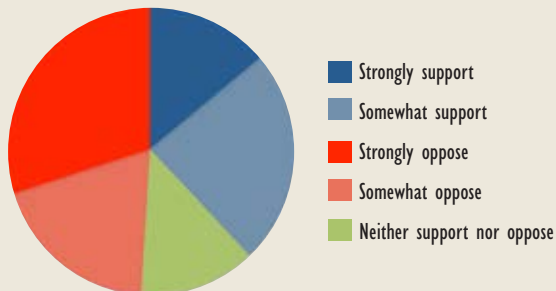
SUN Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm (Block Captain meeting) and 7:30pm (Board meeting) at the Central Park Recreation Center, 9651 MLK Jr. Blvd. For information about SUN, visit www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com. To contact SUN or confirm meeting time, email stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com



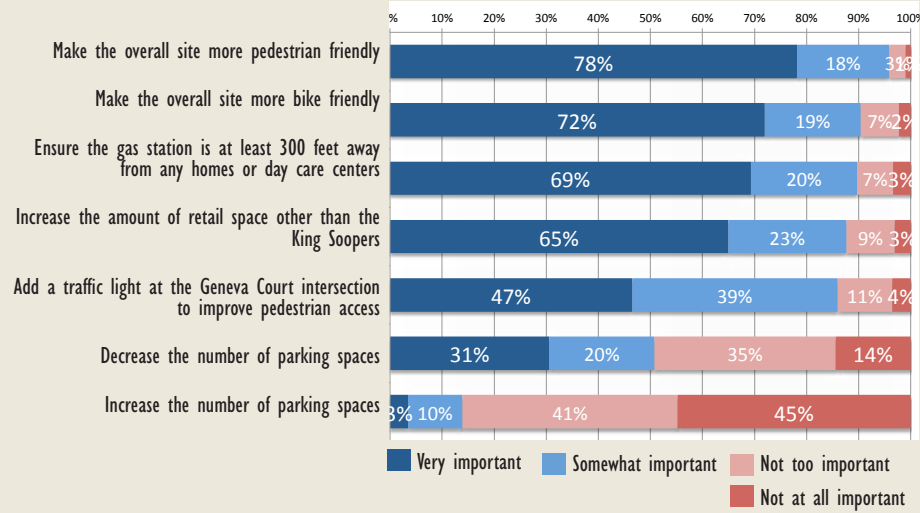
SUN, in July and August, put out a survey to Stapleton residents. Over 1,500 residents responded to at least some of the questions; 1,300 responded to all the questions. Results of the entire survey are posted at StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com.

- Eastbridge, at 31%, was the neighborhood with the most responses.
- Respondents had lived in Stapleton an average of 5.5 years
- Satisfaction with living at Stapleton was 7.8 on a scale of 10.
- The average home had 1.4 children under 18 living at home.

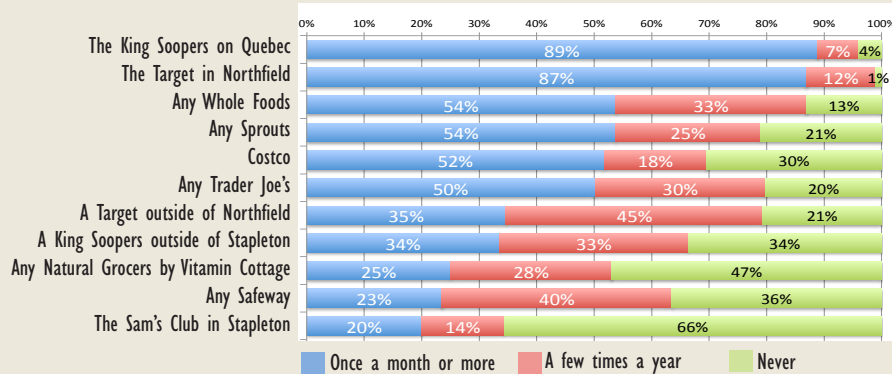
Do you support the plan Forest City has proposed for a King Soopers and retail area at the Eastbridge Town Center?



Please indicate how important it is to you that the following changes be made to the plans for Eastbridge Town Center.



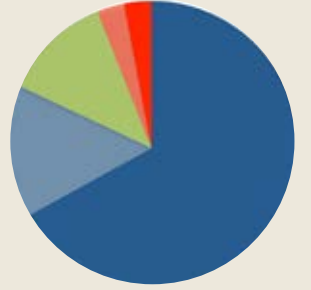
How often do you shop at the following stores?



We welcome comments at FrontPorchStapleton.com

The Denver's Office of Economic Development has suggested to Costco that they open a store in NE Denver, possibly in Northfield. Which statement is closest to your view of a Costco in Northfield?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Strongly oppose
- Somewhat oppose
- Neither support nor oppose

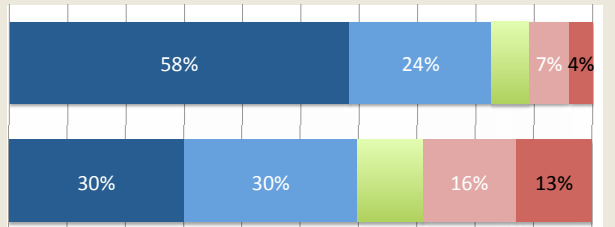


How do mosquito problems this year compare with previous years?

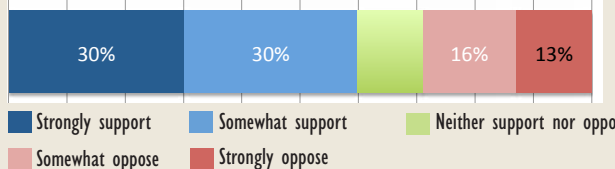
- 15% say less than in the past
- 43% say more of a problem this year
- 39% say about the same as in the past
- 3% say mosquitoes were never a problem

Spraying for adult mosquitoes should happen:

When mosquitoes may threaten a public health emergency such as West Nile virus, as determined by the City of Denver or the State of Colorado



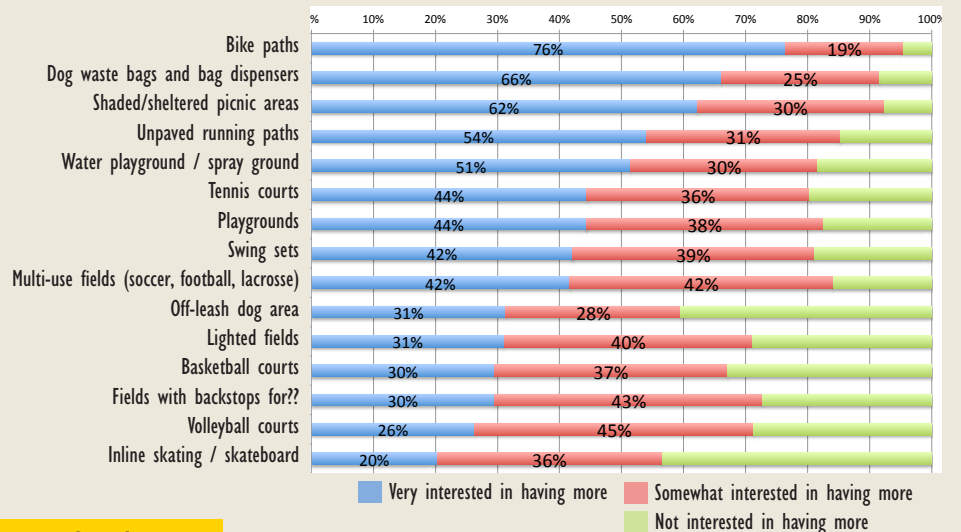
When mosquitoes create a neighborhood nuisance



What is your current level of satisfaction with parks?

- 42% Very
- 47% Somewhat
- 8% Dissatisfied

Please indicate how interested you would be in having more of each type of amenity or facility built in Stapleton as development continues?



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Letters to the Editor

In Support of Stanley Marketplace

Having vision means being able to look back with better than 20/20. The Stanley Aviation vision for a marketplace and community center feeds right into the vision we have of Stapleton being a friendly, inclusive and energetic community. I am thrilled to see this vision come to fruition! In addition, I can't wait for the feasibility study to come back on the Northeast Denver Community Co-op. If it says the co-op should be in the Stanley, the win-win-win will play for many decades. It's why I joined the co-op.

Chris Englert

Gay Marriage: Healing the Past and Honoring What Already Is

As I hear the discourse about the merits of marriage equality and the baseless concerns, I am always shocked that I never hear that the case for gay marriage is to honor what already exists. As a country developed on Democratic principles, how can we not acknowledge the case for marriage equality comes from the tapestry of relationships and love that has always existed? Marriage has always existed in the gay community. The refusal to recognize it did not prevent this from occurring.

When the AIDS crisis was at its crest, I "came out" into the world. Because of my unbelievable fear of the virus and a desire to be a part of my community, I volunteered to support people with HIV and with AIDS. I saw the authentic demonstration of the Christian love I had been told about my whole life. I saw men in long-term relationships love each other until the very end and learn to say the hardest of goodbyes as their loved ones were ravaged by a host of symptoms. These teachers taught me how to be a married man through their demonstration of love, loyalty, and courage when things were hardest.

Words and language have tremendous power to separate and cause harm. Civil unions offer the same rights in our state with no access to the federal rights of marriage, and this "second class" status communicates to our community that our journey of love and family is somehow less sig-

nificant. I honor the opportunity civil unions have provided and the hard work of many people to make civil unions a reality. However, it is time to take that next step.

When I legally married my husband in Massachusetts, I realized that "I do" was really "I already do and will continue to for the rest of the days of my life." Truly, I would give my life to my dear John and I count myself blessed to share this life with such a beautiful man. He inspires me everyday to grow and expand who I am and how I love. He is my greatest teacher and my best friend.

We have approved legalized marijuana, and yet, it will take our court system to recognize my relationship. As a Colorado native, I don't think we should be proud of this. As tourists flock here to get stoned, we are forced to travel to another state to get married.

Does this make sense to anyone?

As Maya Angelou teaches us, "Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope." I hope our magnificent and beautiful state can embrace the love we share.

Acknowledging and celebrating marriage for all will only strengthen us.

Brian Bowles



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Joan and Bill Betz sit in the basement guest room where artist Carol Tuttle is painting a scene of their family's cabin on the window well.

Window Wells

(continued from page 1) with their friend Carol Suss Tuttle, an artist with theater set design experience, to see if she would do the job. Valli wasn't interested in doing the work herself since she usually does abstract painting using water color, acrylic and mixed media.

When The McDougles met Tom and Joan Betz in the park one day, they invited their new friends and fellow Stapleton residents to their house to see their window well works of art. The Betz's loved them and hired Tuttle to do their window wells too.

Tuttle asked the Betz's what they wished they could see out their windows. The family's mountain cabin of 41 years in the Gore Range came to mind. When the project is complete, four window wells will display views of the cabin in four seasons. Props became an additional element for perspective as much as for whimsy. Bill found a stuffed beaver online and beaver-chewed logs

near the cabin, adding them to a painting that shows a beaver damn. The couple's grandchildren are also represented, as is the family dog. "Every time we go down to our basement, it's evocative of our memories of the cabin our kids grew up with," says Bill.

Both couples rigged small lights with dimmer switches inside their window wells to illuminate the murals any time of day, which

about the magic of art."

The McDougles' chose three distinctly different images rather than all one theme, as in the Betz's home. Tuttle created a mountain scene for their family room, a flowering path for the bedroom and the 7th hole of Pebble Beach for Tom's office. While painting the mountain scene, Tuttle suggested including cut logs from her yard to represent trees in

they feel adds to their enjoyment of them. A piece of polycarbonate on top of the window grates helps keep debris and moisture out.

"It's a real pleasure to walk down and see the murals," says Joan. "It adds so much more to those rooms than I would have imagined." To Tuttle, it's like set design. "You turn the lights on, the play takes place and it just becomes the background. When you enter and use the room, you just have something pretty to look at instead of that cement wall. It's an illusion. It's all



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Front Porch photo by Laura Mahony
 Props are an integral part of the whimsical murals, like this stuffed beaver and beaver-chewed logs.

the foreground of the mural. With the addition of grasses bought from a hobby store, a multi-dimensional diorama emerged. For the flowering path, Tom even built a small gate and Valli added artificial flowers to create the illusion of taking a stroll into the mural. “Even though I know it’s on concrete, you see the perspective,” says Valli.

Painting on a canvas of window wells isn’t entirely outside the realm of what Tuttle was used to. Initially a commercial artist, she moved into watercolors and then to set design for her children’s school plays. Painting large sets translated well to painting murals on window wells. Her interest in it was fueled by her love of the dioramas she saw years ago at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. “This is kind of my mini version of satisfying that. It’s a dream come true

to get to do them,” says Tuttle.

While they are not a traditional artist’s canvas, Tuttle looks at the cement or corrugated metal surfaces as a unique challenge. The corrugated window wells pose the greatest obstacle because of the rippled surface but Tuttle says more abstract or linear images work best such as cityscapes. Holes, bolts, globs of cement and even escape ladders don’t phase Tuttle either.



A mural in the Betz’s basement family room shows a mountain scene near their cabin with their grandchildren walking together and a friendly troll from the kids’ favorite book.

She incorporates them into the mural, even painting the ladder so it blends in. “You can’t even see it when it’s done,” she says. “A lot of artists can’t take the limitations. I can. I think I excel on limitations. Throw some more at me!”

Tuttle works 6-7 hours at a stretch. The aver-

age mural takes 14 hours but varies depending on the size of the window well and the level of detail the homeowner wants.

Photos of the McDougles’ window wells and Tuttle’s work on corrugated window wells can be viewed online.

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Master balcony.

- 3192 sq ft
- 4-Bed + Loft/3.5-Bath
- 2-Car Garage
- Stunning Finishes
- Corner Lot

Presented by Janis Carey

Featured Properties

- 1 8705 E 34th Pl | \$899,900
- 2 2522 Alton St | \$775,000
- 3 2322 Alton St | \$735,000
- 4 9090 E 29th Ave | \$599,000
- 5 2248 Uinta St | \$469,900
- 6 2245 Valentia St | \$399,900
- 7 2998 Elmira St | \$255,000

2014 Transactions*

- Successful Transaction
- Leased or Managed
- Under Contract
- Coming Soon

* Representing buyers and sellers. Square feet numbers indicate finished space. Property locations on map are approximate.

New Perspective Real Estate

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303-394-4526

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Get comfortable.

1) Bring non-perishable food items to a collection barrel site listed at www.Facebook.com/NPREco

2) Fill the collection bag delivered to your door on Sept 19 and place back on front porch by 8:00 am Saturday, Sept 27 & we will pick it up.

3) Make a direct cash donation: www.foodbankrockies.org/goto/stapletonfooddrive2014

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See who else is welcome at www.augustanadenver.org.

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