

Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

NOVEMBER 2014



Anatomy of a Turnaround: *Painful and hopeful*

David Chavez takes a photo of his son, Davian, with Ashley Elementary ECE teacher Michael Cammilleri, aka "Dean of Fun," to use as the background for Davian's new iPad, which the school

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

This fall, Ashley Elementary became the first DPS school to put an iPad in the hands of every one of its students from kindergarten through 5th grade, thanks to a grant from the Walton Family Foundation. Incorporating technology into day-to-day classwork is part of the plan as Ashley Elementary gets its fresh start as an innovation school (see Ashley turnaround story on page 9). The \$250,000 award provided 350 iPads and a software program

got through a grant to support their turnaround plan. Ashley had a difficult year as they transitioned to the new plan, but the program now appears to be moving forward in a positive way.

that will be used in the school's literacy program, giving students access to a digital library accessible from school and home.

A key purpose of the iPads is to provide personalized assessment. With the data obtained through the iPad programs, teachers can identify specific skill gaps children may have, down to a "miniscule" level, and can research and evaluate an appropriate app and send it to that child's iPad. "Instruction is incredibly tailored for that student so it's time-saving for the teacher" (continued on page 8)

Giants of the Deep Visit DMNS



Museum visitors pose as divers swimming by a whale at the new DMNS exhibit about whales.

By Laurie Dunklee

Whales: Giants of the Deep, at Denver's Museum of Nature & Science, might be the closest many of us landlubbers

get to these giant mammals.

Two sperm whale skeletons—the largest 50 feet long—greet visitors to the exhibit, here through Feb. 15. (continued on page 42)

Eastbridge Plans Continue to Evolve



King Soopers says the decor in the proposed Eastbridge store at Havana and MLK Blvd. will be like their store at Leetsdale and Cherry—and will have a sitting area similar to the one shown above. Although King Soopers has not yet signed a contract or formally submitted a design, they are continuing to modify their plans based on feedback they are receiving.

An update on King Soopers' and Evergreen Development's evolving plans is on page 38.

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



Disney princesses sing carols at the 2013 Winter Welcome, Stapleton's annual event to kick off the holidays. This year's Winter Welcome will be November 21. See details below.



Most of the events listed below are FREE or support nonprofits. All are open to the public (additional events are listed on pages 30-33).

NOVEMBER

Saturday, Nov. 1

Cabinet in the City—Mayor Hancock and city officials will make presentations and meet individually with citizens 9-11am Bill Roberts School, 2100 Akron Way

Saturday, Nov. 1

Divorce 101. 1-4pm at Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia. Hosted by Blue Iris Divorce Resources for Women.

November 1-16

Compost collection, small bundles accepted at Aviator* and Jet Stream*, larger items at Puddle Jumper* or F15*

November 1, 8 and 15

Free coed self-defense classes 5:30pm. Stapleton Family Karate at The Shops of Northfield between Macy's and Harkins Theater. Space is limited, call to reserve a spot 303-928-0043.

November 3, 14 and 20

Denver Zoo - SCFD Free Days www.denverzoo.org 303-376-4800

November 7, 14 and 21

Free women only self-defense classes 6:45pm. Stapleton Family Karate at The Shops of Northfield between Macy's and Harkins Theater. Space is limited, call to reserve a spot 303-928-0043.

Thursday, November 6

Active Minds Seminar "Eleanor Roosevelt" 6:45-7:45pm, Sam Gary Library*

Saturday, November 8

How to manage gluten-free, dairy-free and other diets at Thanksgiving. Hosted by NE community co-op. 11:30am. *Sam Gary Library. northeastco-op.org. See p. 30.

Tuesday, November 11

Community Garden Fall Meeting 6-7pm, MCA Community Room*

NOVEMBER

Wednesday, November 12

Community Garden Fall Meeting 6:30pm, MCA Community Room*

Thursday, November 13

Active Minds Seminar "China's Human Rights Struggle" 6:45-7:45pm, Sam Gary Library*

Friday, November 21

Winter Welcome 6-8pm. The MCA will host a night of festive traditions. 29th Avenue Town Center*

DECEMBER

Thursday, December 4

Active Minds Seminar 6:45-7:45pm, Sam Gary Library*

Friday, December 5

Winter Movie "Elf" 6pm, Stapleton South Green

Thursday, December 11

Active Minds Seminar 6:45-7:45pm, Sam Gary Library*

* More information at Events@stapletoncommunity.com

Aviator pool: 8054 E. 28th Ave.
Jet Stream pool: 3574 Alton St.
Puddle Jumper pool: 2401 N. Xenia St.

F15 pool: 2831 Hanover St.
Sam Gary Library: 2961 Roslyn St.
29th Avenue Town Center: 29th Ave and Roslyn St.
MCA Community Room: 2823 Roslyn St.
Stapleton South Green: 29th Ave & Roslyn St.

DENVER POTTERS ASSOCIATION FALL SHOW & SALE

December 4, 5, 6, 7 - 2014



Suzanne Williams

Showcasing the work of approximately 50 artists including Ceramics, Glass, Jewelry and more.

Thursday	December 4	3pm-7pm
Friday	December 5	10am-7pm
Saturday	December 6	9am-6pm
Sunday	December 7	11am-3pm

SALE LOCATION:

SIXTH AVENUE UNITED CHURCH
3250 EAST SIXTH AVE.
(SIXTH & ADAMS), DENVER

Denver Potters Association

303-377-5535
www.denverpotters.com

Events & Announcements at Stapleton



Community DNA

Do you RSVP when you receive an invitation? It is coming up on the holiday season and if you are hosting an event or party, you know how important it is to have an accurate count of how many people are attending. If you receive an invitation, we would like to challenge you to respond with a "yes" or "no" within 24 hours. The nice thing with electronic invitations, you can always go in and change your reply as needed!

MCA Annual Members Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 6:30pm

The Annual Meeting of Members will be held in the MCA Community Room at 2823 Roslyn St. This meeting is open to the public and Stapleton residents are encouraged to attend. The meeting will also be available as a webinar; go to www.stapletoncommunity.com to access. If you are interested in serving as a delegate in 2015, call the MCA at 303.388.0724. The Annual Meeting of District Delegates and the Executive Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 19 at noon in the MCA Community Room. To RSVP for this meeting, email board@stapletoncommunity.com.

Coat Drive

The MCA is hosting a coat drive to benefit the Academy of Urban Learning (AUL). AUL is a Denver Public School charter high school serving students ages 16 to 21 who have experienced many difficult barriers to achieving success at their former schools. A large population at the school is homeless and these coats will help make it a warmer winter for them.

All sizes of coats are wanted. Kid to adult sizes are needed, so please either drop them off at the MCA office at 2823 Roslyn St., or bring them with you to the Winter Welcome booth where we will have a bin at the ticket booth. Coats will be accepted through Nov. 25 at the MCA office. For more information on AUL, visit www.auldenver.org.

Winter Welcome

Friday, Nov. 21, 6-8pm

Join the MCA at the West Crescent to kick off the holiday season! The MCA will host a night of festive traditions including the lighting of the trees and streets at the 29th Ave. Town Center. Holiday lights will be strung across 29th Ave., in the street trees and we will have a Christmas tree on the West Crescent and a menorah on the East Crescent. Participating Town Center retail shops will be open and many will feature holiday specials.

The streets will be lined with toasty fires for marshmallows and s'mores. Carolers will stroll along the avenue, dancing trees will twirl along the sidewalks and the overwhelming scent of roasted almonds will fill the air. An ice-climbing wall and snowboard simulator will be available for the kids.

All event proceeds will benefit local nonprofits: Bluff Lake Nature Center, The Urban Farm and Sand Creek Regional Greenway.

Composting

Nov. 1-Nov. 16: The MCA and Happy Dirt are providing composting drop sites at the four pools on the south side of Stapleton. Small bundles will be accepted only at Aviator and Jet Stream in the parking lot. The space will be designated and please be sure you only drop off small bundled items or items that fit inside a closed trash bag. If you need to drop off larger items, please do this at the compost dumpsters in the PJ or F15 parking lot.

Saturday Night Live...for kids only!

Saturday night, Nov. 15 from 6-9pm The MCA and Central Park Rec Center are partnering again to host a night of entertainment for children ages 7-12 at the Central Park Rec Center. The pool will be open for this event so make sure to bring your swimsuit. The event will include snacks, dinner, games, prizes and music. Preregistration is \$15 and available online at www.stapletoncommunity.com. The week of the event the cost does increase to \$20, so reserve your spot today!

Active Minds

Thursday, Nov. 6, 6:45-7:45pm

Eleanor Roosevelt

As the longest-serving First Lady of the United States, Eleanor Roosevelt was both outspoken and, at times, quite controversial. Join Active Minds as we examine her life and the impact it had on important causes such as human rights and the successful launch of the United Nations.

Thursday, Nov. 13, 6:45-7:45pm

China's Human Rights Struggle

Twenty-five years ago, China's human rights issues were showcased to the world by the Tiananmen Square massacre. Join Active Minds as we look at how modern China continues to struggle with the balance between authoritarian government and basic human rights. We will highlight the ways in which Chinese society is restricted as we peer through the lens of American freedoms we sometimes take for granted.

This program is brought to you by the Stapleton Master Community Association.

Location: Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St.

Cost: Free **RSVP:** Not required

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

EDITORS and PUBLISHERS:

Carol Roberts & Steve Larson

ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR/WRITER:

Madeline Schroeder

PHOTOGRAPHY: Steve Larson

AD SALES: Karissa McGlynn 303-333-0257

KarissaMcGlynn@gmail.com

Front Porch

www.FrontPorchStapleton.com
FrontPorch@FrontPorchStapleton.com 303-526-1969

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The New Saint Joseph Hospital Opens 12.13.14 **19th Ave. & Downing St.**



Past. Present. **Future of Health Care.**

Saint Joseph Hospital is creating one of the most advanced, patient-centered facilities in Colorado. By partnering with some of the nation's top providers, Saint Joseph Hospital brings the future of health care to the heart of Denver.

Follow the conversation at FrontPorchStapleton.com



News

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- Advertising
- Classified Advertising
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View the most recent comments or the most-read articles...

This is an amazing endeavor by some visionary pioneers. You guys are really doing something great for the communities, and thank goodness Aurora had the guts to take a chance on you!

I haven't met one person that wasn't excited about the potential of this project.



Stanley Marketplace

...and subscribe to conversations.

On the one hand, attending Smiley & Manual during this era of Denver's intentional racial and socioeconomic integration was a formative experience. On the other hand, I remember so clearly the inner-school segregation that existed, particularly in the AP classes, in the lunchroom, and elsewhere. This topic remains so relevant today.

I'm a graduate of Manual, class of '92. The experience had a very positive impact on my life. It made me realize that racism only exists because people of all backgrounds are not exposed to other cultures.

share your opinion...



King Soopers and Eastbridge Town Center

There is a definite need for community-based gas stations. It will no longer be just mom and dad, but the kids too.

What a nice thing it must be, to not have to worry about a gas station being built a mere 80 feet from where your family lives and plays. If it weren't being built in my front yard, I would advocate for those it was impacting.

The Eastbridge plan is far off the mark of the Stapleton Vision and is an anywhere, USA concept.

I would much prefer what is proposed to an open field of weeds. If a King Soopers builds I would like enough parking spaces. I would prefer no gas station, but that is hardly a deal breaker.



Schools that Transform Lives

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BISTRO

At Stapleton

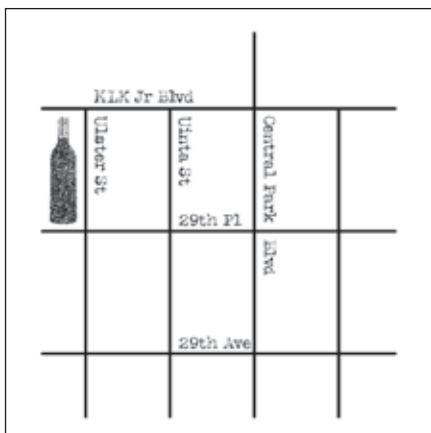


Thank you Stapleton for your support during our opening months. We are excited to present our updated fall menu, including delicious new options at breakfast, lunch, and dinner, plus new seasonal cocktails and several terrific new wines. Come visit us soon.

Holiday parties • Special events • Wine dinners • Our market place • Jazz nights



2955 Ulster Street • www.stapletonbistro.com • 303-388-9463



Try our new Fall menu at the Bistro & receive a 10% discount at Wine Cellars

WINE CELLARS (THE BOTTLE SHOP) OF STAPLETON

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100 different craft beers • Special wine storage and wine lockers
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Gene Myers

Innovating Affordable, Sustainable Housing

By Madeline Schroeder

Housing in the U.S. is moving in new directions to be more sustainable. Gene Myers, owner and CEO of New Town Builders, is a big part of that effort. New Town recently received the Grand Award for Innovation from the U.S. Department of Energy for the second year in a row.

Seven builders qualified for the innovation category and met “rigorous requirements of outstanding levels for energy savings, comfort, health and durability.”

“It’s a great honor because there are really great builders that compete for it so I was candidly surprised to receive it two years in a row,” Myers says.

The “closet Texan” went to the University of Denver in 1969 and, with the exception of a few lengths of time away, has spent his entire life in Denver. He started New Town Builders in 1993 doing high-end semi-custom work. New Town was Colorado’s first production builder to equip homes with solar panels as a standard feature and the first production builder to offer a Zero Energy option on all single-family homes in Denver. Myers became interested in New Urbanism in the early 2000s. His Bell Creek development in Commerce City won the highest honor at the Pacific Coast conference and attracted Forest City to develop Stapleton.

New Town builds three types of homes in Stapleton: Solaris II Single Family, Z.E.N. Single Family and Conservatory Green Rows. The Zero-Energy Z.E.N. home won the innovation award.

Myers believes in “thinking outside the beige box” and has become known for two areas in housing development: sustainability and affordability.

Coming from humble beginnings, he knows the power of owning a home. “If you’re trying to get on your feet or trying to get ahead or just a hardworking family, about the only thing you get is home ownership.” He believes no one understands that more than a low-income family.

Denver is short 30,000 affordable housing units, meaning 30,000 people cannot afford their house or don’t have adequate housing.

Eight to 10 percent of New Town housing units are affordable housing. New Town also recently found out they have up to 120 lots north of I-70 to build



The New Town Builders management team stands in front of one of their new affordable homes under construction in the neighborhoods north of I-70. Left to right: Gene Myers, CEO; Jeff Seibold,

CFO; Stephen Myers, VP Sales and Marketing; Bill Rectanus, VP operations; Heather Plappert, Director of Purchasing; Kevin Puccis, VP Community Development.

affordable homes. They’ve received 11 proposals from architects and are deciding which to contract with.

Myers has served on task forces for affordable housing, including co-chairing a committee with the city and county of Denver. Affordable housing is more of a philosophical discussion, he says.

Should affordable housing be mixed into more expensive areas? He says yes. New Town affordable homes are sprinkled among other more costly homes.

“It’s becoming impossible to live in the city you want to live in,” says Damon Knop, Stapleton resident and real estate agent who worked for New Town selling affordable units from 2007 to 2010. “You need a guy like Gene to help affordable housing come to fruition so there are homes at all different price points available for all different people.” He describes Myers as a Hawaiian-shirt-and-shorts kind of boss who makes a big company feel like family.

“New Town is also cutting-edge

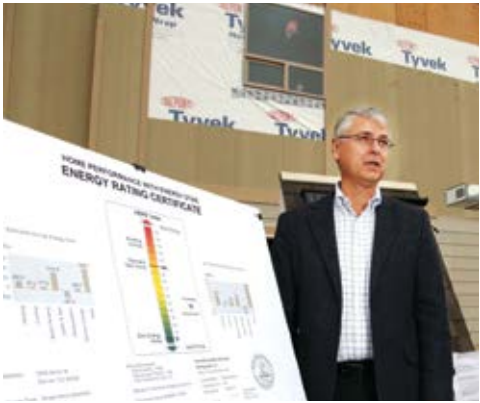
on the green stuff and at a price point that makes them valuable builders.”

New Town is one of the few production builders in the country building zero-energy homes. “It’s a really rigorous design exercise that looks at many different options and means by which we can get to zero energy. Then we price them and then just keep going back to the drawing board,” Myers says and laughs. He’s thankful for his team, the “highest caliber people” he’s ever had in his career.

The team has hit the sweet spot in terms of production cost and price for customers. Z.E.N. homes cost an additional \$100 a month in the mortgage payment, but saves people \$300 a month in energy bills. “As utility bills continue to increase, the more that savings will be as time goes by and so that’s why we say it makes economic sense to pay a little more.”

It seems to make sense to buyers also. The Z.E.N. models opened October 2013 and sold out in March.

Myers feels blessed to be a builder now when buyers have aspirations for their homes that may exceed even what the builders include in the homes. “In the past, if you pushed the envelope too far no one would buy it. Nowadays buyers are way ahead of the builders. It’s great to be a builder and innovating out there in the marketplace, especially in Stapleton. I’m just very grateful for that.”



Myers presents New Town’s Energy Star Energy Rating Certificate in November 2010. Since 2010, New Town has started producing zero-energy homes that save money on energy bills.

Open House at the New Saint Joseph Hospital

Join us for a sneak preview and tour of Denver’s most advanced hospital.

When

Saturday, Nov. 8, 2014
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

What

Activities for the whole family, behind-the-scenes tour of the new hospital, giveaways, refreshments and much more

Where

The New Saint Joseph Hospital
1375 E. 19th Ave., Denver, CO 80218
(19th Ave. & Lafayette St.)

Free parking available in the new hospital garage; enter on Downing Street between 19th & 20th Avenues

The New Saint Joseph Hospital Opens 12.13.14
RSVP: SaintJosephDenver.org/open-house





Health & Wellness Initiative

The **be well** Health and Wellness Initiative of the Stapleton Foundation aims to recognize residents who are local champions for “health” in the **be well Zone** neighborhoods!

Stapleton

NE Park Hill

Greater Park Hill

E. Montclair

NW Aurora

Montbello

There are unsung “**Healthy Living Heroes**” – people who quietly go above and beyond to help others improve their health and quality of life in every community. Often times, their efforts go unnoticed. At the 5th Annual **be well Awards** and Community Celebration, we want to salute those who volunteer their time or go further than their professional responsibility to motivate others, initiate change and/or provide key services to advance healthy lifestyles in the **be well Zone**! Do you know someone that deserves to be recognized? Help us to identify these individuals who make a difference in our communities! Review the criteria for each **be well Award** category below. A youth and an adult will be selected to receive an award in each category.

- ☐

be well Physical Activity Leadership Award:
This award is given to a person who has improved their own physical activity habits and has significantly helped others to become more physically active.

☐

be well Nutrition Leadership Award:
This award is given to a person who has improved their own nutrition habits and has significantly helped others to eat more nutritiously.

☐

be well Community Advocate(s) of the Year Award:
This award is given to a person whose grass roots advocacy, educational and/or outreach efforts have helped others make informed healthy living decisions and engaged additional people as advocates.
- ☐

be well Preventative Care Leadership Award:
This award is given to a person who has helped to significantly raise awareness around the importance of preventative care and connected others to preventative care resources.

☐

be well Service Award:
This award is given to a person, company and/or organization that has provided an outstanding healthy living service(s) to residents (i.e. screenings, physicals, healthy food programs, picked up trash, walking school bus, gardened, hosted fun activities or programs, promoted or advocated for health and wellness in schools)

The nomination process is simple and can be completed electronically, by mail or in person! Anyone is eligible to make a nomination. Nominees must live, work or make a significant contribution to “healthy living” (as it relates to the categories) in one of the **be well Zone** neighborhoods listed above. A youth and an adult will be selected to receive an award in each category.

1. Visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/bewellawardsnomination> to access a nomination form, clip the nomination form from your neighborhood newspaper (Greater Park Hill News, the Montclarian, Stapleton Front Porch, Far Northeast Neighbors) or pick up a form at your local **be well Center** (located inside of Denver’s Hiawatha Davis and Central Park Recreation Centers and Moorhead Recreation Center in Aurora). 2. Fill in the contact information for yourself and the person your are nominating 3. Select the category for which you are making the nomination 4. Respond to each of the three proposed questions with a brief (250 words or less), passionate, compelling story about your nominee describing something that distinguishes them as a healthy living champion. Be sure to highlight how the person’s actions advance healthy living in the **be well Zone**. Answer the questions on a separate sheet of paper if you are not completing your entry online. 5. Submit your entry using one of the methods below.

Nominator Information

Name:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Nominee Information

Name:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Award Category (Please select only one category per nominee)

- ☐ Physical Activity Leadership Award

☐ Nutrition Leadership Award

☐ Community Advocate(s) of the Year Award

☐ Preventative Care Leadership Award

☐ Service Award

Please include the answers to the following questions with your nomination

- Please describe how this extraordinary individual has performed outstanding personal acts to promote health in the category for which they are nominated in the **be well Zone**. Why is this person unique?

Detail how this person's acts have helped others and impacted the **be well Zone** (i.e. explain the changes or improvements that this person was responsible for as a result of his/her work).

How long has this person been doing this work?

Completed forms can be submitted online using the link above, scanned and emailed to ljoseph@stapletonfoundation.org, or mailed or dropped off at your local **be well Center** or the Stapleton Foundation’s **be well Offices** no later than 5pm **December 12, 2014**. All entries must be received (not postmarked) by **December 12, 2014 at 5pm**.

Ashley iPads

(continued from page 1) and more effective in getting the child what they need more quickly,” says Principal Zachary Rahn. Before students can take the iPads home, they will take part in a 3-week course covering responsibility, online safety and effective educational use of their iPad.

Deirdre Greenemeier is more concerned about damage to her kindergartener Gabriel’s iPad than Internet safety. As a longtime volunteer at the school, she says, “I know how important safety is to the staff so I’m not really worried about any Internet issues.” Greenemeier says her rules will be that Gabriel can only use it at the kitchen table and only for schoolwork.

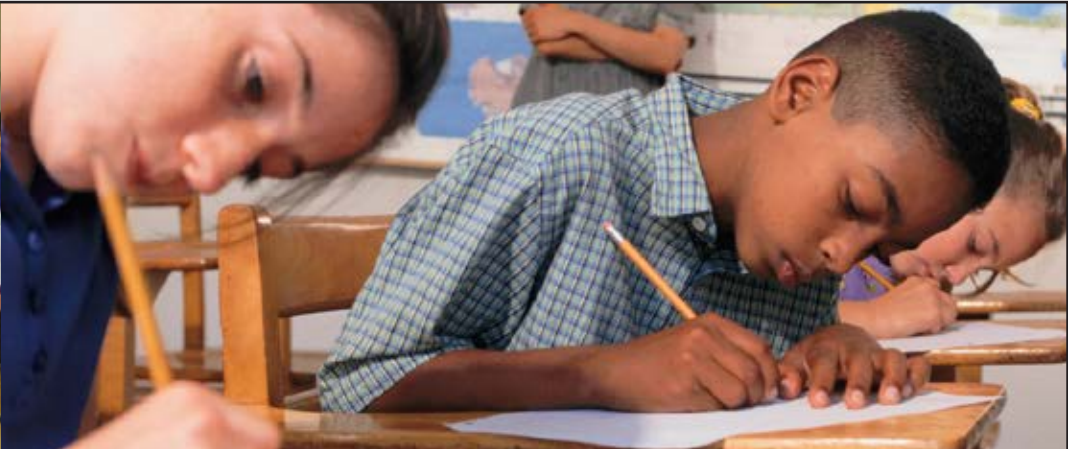
Rahn says the school will have complete control over the iPads including what is downloaded and viewed. The school can also lock an iPad and track it if it gets lost. The iPads will be used in all facets of the students’ education including uploading their artwork into their own digital portfolios and monitoring their progress in P.E.

Rahn believes incorporating tech-

nology into the classroom from a young age is critical in preparing the students for the future but adds, “Technology isn’t the centerpiece of what we are—it’s a component to help us achieve our goal of making sure every kid gets an education.”



Upper left: Mia Balderas tries to get the attention of her teacher Michael Cammilleri, known as “Mr. C.”
Upper right: Cammilleri shows the students how to turn on their new iPads.
Lower right: The classroom is abuzz with excitement at the arrival of the new iPads. Isabel Palomo, kindergarten teacher at Ashley and mom of (left to right) Emily, Saul and Mia Balderas, sits in on Cammilleri’s class to help show her children how to use the iPads.
Lower left: Tammy Ballez smiles with her grandchildren, Dismas and Nevaeh Ballez, for a photo they will use as the iPad background.



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Anatomy of a Turnaround

The painful and difficult, but ultimately hopeful, story of Ashley Elementary's transformation

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Turnaround. To many parents and teachers who have experienced it at their school, it's a painful subject. Though a school may be considered "failing," parents, teachers and staff are still investing themselves in their students' education and taking pride in their efforts. When those people are told a new staff and new program are coming to their school, many respond with hurt and anger—feeling their efforts are being cast aside.

DPS made such an announcement at Ashley in April 2013 and the school community was shocked and angry. DPS listened to their concerns and came back soon thereafter to say the staff could stay and DPS would work with a committee (the Strategic School Design Team, including the principal, teachers and parents) through the summer to make a new plan to raise achievement and draw in more neighborhood children. (At the time, 33% of Ashley boundary students were opting out.) The old principal ended up leaving, and a new principal, Zachary Rahn, was selected by DPS and a committee from Ashley.

The plan continued to be refined after school started in 2013. That fall the teachers voted in favor of the new plan, including innovation status, which gave the school more autonomy in teacher hiring and evaluations, school calendar and curriculum among other areas.

Ashley Elementary is now 18 months out from the April 2013 meeting. Principal Zachary Rahn, in reflecting on the process, says, "You have to wonder, when you do turnaround...is it healthier or easier on a culture to say everyone's going to leave and we're going to start over? Or is it healthier to say we're going to set the environment for you, build a plan and then if you want to opt out you can and if you want to stay you can too?" Rahn says. "I can see both perspectives. I have lived one but not the other. I do know where we are now is an incredible place for kids and adults to learn and the teachers who stayed are thriving."

Rahn says he approached the transformation of Ashley and attracting families to the school with a business mentality. "We cannot expect that families are going to come," he says. "We provide a service and if we don't provide the service to meet their expectations, they have every right to

be upset with us." Part of that business mentality included thinking about the Ashley "brand." "When you think about a brand of a store or product, you feel something," says Rahn. "And when you thought of the Ashley brand, it was not a good feeling and we had to do something to convey to folks that it was a new chapter."

Changing the perception of Ashley began with Rahn, teachers and parents reaching out to neighborhood families, going door-to-door, telling them about the plans for the school and inviting them in to visit. Enrollment decreased in 2013-14 during the transition, and was projected to stay low until the new plan proved itself. But the enrollment

rip the Band-Aid off because we know when you make gradual change, you fail," says Rahn. "There's never been a turnaround school that has been successful that gradually makes changes."

In the spring teachers had to finalize their decision on committing to the many changes required by the new plan. Of the 21 licensed teachers who were at Ashley in 2013-2014, Rahn says 11 of 21 teachers stayed under the new program. One retired, two were reduced because of enrollment projections, two were non-renewed at Ashley due to performance, two moved out of state, two moved on due to not being a program match, and two positions were reduced due to not being in the innovation plan.

When parents realized how many staff were departing, emotions again rose to the surface. The school held a "Vision Casting" where parents could talk about the changes and share their ideas for what they wanted in the school, paths to accomplish that and the challenges they faced. A graphic designer visually illustrated what was discussed (the graphic representation of that meeting is shown on page 10.) "The theme was how we can partner together to create the school we want," says Rahn, who plans to hold another session this year. "We're engaging in conversation and it shows that change is really, really hard—more so for adults than kids."

Donna Sims, grandmother of three Ashley students in grades kindergarten, 2 and 4, and a fourth who graduated from Ashley last year, was at first unsure about the changes. After learning more, she felt better and advised Ashley parents (and would advise others going through a turnaround) to attend meetings to better understand the changes. "Don't be so resistant," she suggests. "That's how I was in the beginning but I asked questions and understood how it could be good."

Sims became part of the committees and says, "I liked the way the old staff worked together but now we have a staff that has agreed to put that vigorous time and effort in to meet that achievement level that we want our students to have."

Mother of third grader Miguel Rivas, Martha Martinez says she wanted to keep her son at Ashley to experience how good the changes could be. She has seen improvements in her son since last year including better behavior and improved responsibility.

Phil Garvin, President of Colorado Studios (among many other business accomplishments), has an office just down the street from Ashley and for years has been a staunch supporter of the school, donating both his time and money very generously, including serving as president of the (continued on page 10)

Good schools are made not born. They have to survive trial by fire.

Ashley Principal
Zachary Rahn



increased dramatically this fall, increasing by 30 students to 365. If the increasing enrollment continues, the school will soon reach its capacity of 400 students.

The new plan included creating a school culture of high expectations, a rigorous academic program, two teachers per classroom (a lead and an associate), blocks of instruction time, an extended day (from 8am-4pm with the last hour for enrichment including sports and music); and the introduction of technology into the classroom (which extends to home learning—see iPad story on page 1). Ashley also implemented weekly teacher evaluations and has numerous committees with strong parental involvement.

However, a dramatic change doesn't come easily, and the 2013-14 transition year was an emotion-filled time. "You



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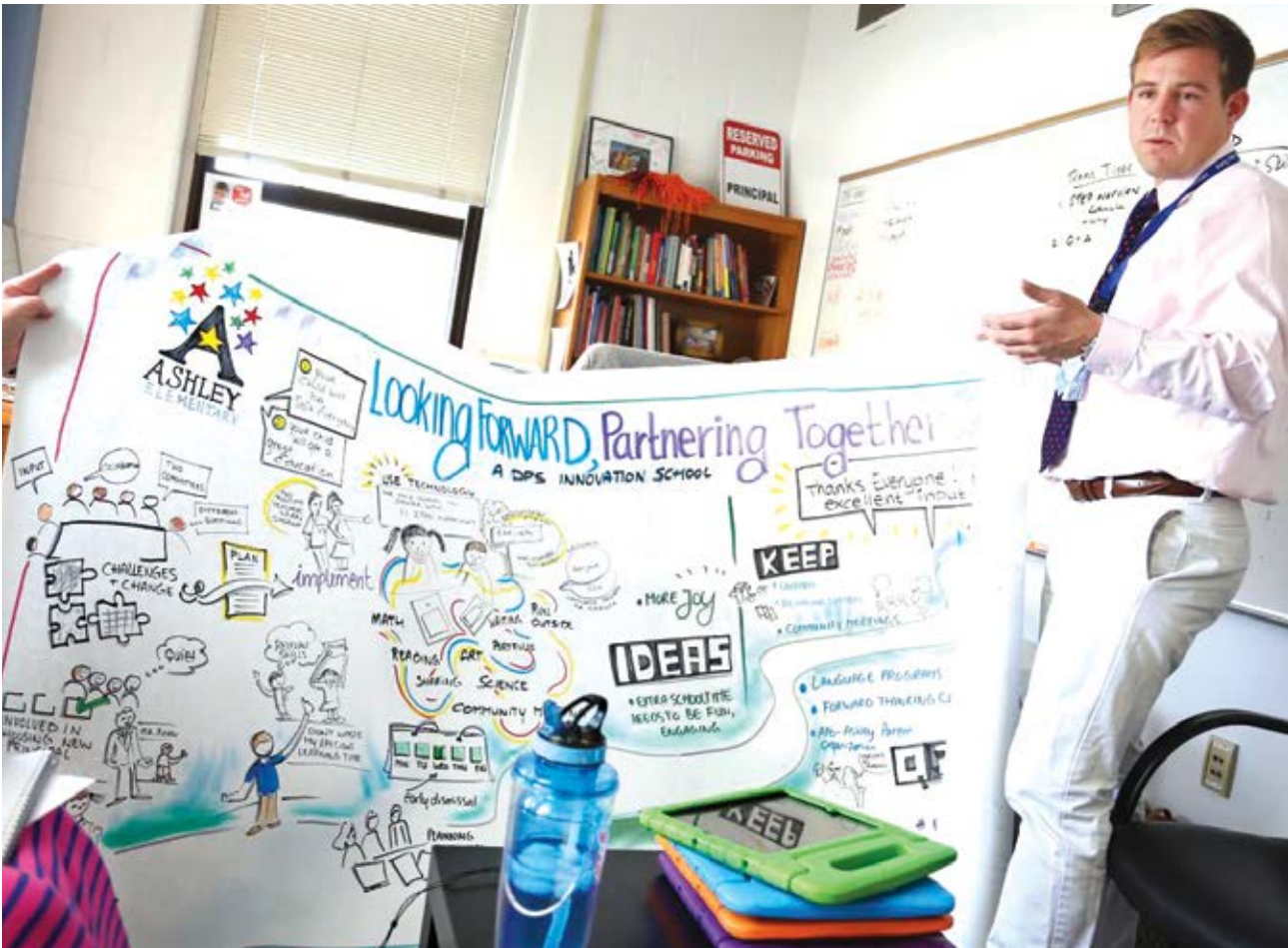
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Ashley Turnaround

(continued from page 9)

School Collaborative Committee in past years. His observations of the turnaround: “The parents and students overwhelmingly loved the teachers,” and he questions whether the high turnover of staff was good for the school. And he thinks the teachers didn’t really understand what they were agreeing to when they voted for the plan.

But Rahn and his boss Alyssa Whitehead Bust, head of academics and innovation at DPS believe the teachers, to their credit, were voting for what they believed was best for the kids and the school, even if it wasn’t a perfect match for them personally. Whitehead Bust pointed out that so many aspects of the school are fundamentally different, “it doesn’t surprise me that some folks would find that those aren’t the right matches for them. I know that startup is such an intense period that it can create this incredible energy but you can also create a real sense of exhaustion, so you have to wonder how much of that played out as well.”



Ashley principal Zach Rahn shows the graphic image of what was discussed at a parents meeting last spring. Rahn plans to continue having such meetings to talk about vision, goals and challenges as the program evolves.

pious hours of additional work at night and on the weekends. And for some, professionally, I don’t think that’s where they saw their future.”

The teachers consider last year “year 0” and this year “year 1” for Ashley. “Last year was awful,” says Michael Cammilleri, who teaches ECE and is responsible for Student Community Engagement (aka Dean of Fun) and is the Blended Learning Coach. He is in his 6th year at Ashley and had been pushing for changes in the school for years. Cammilleri, who served on the Strategic School Design team, says the atmosphere was very negative between the teachers

Jessica Langford, a kindergarten teacher, who moved from Florida to be part of the new Ashley after hearing the buzz about it in the academic world says, “It’s challenging. We’re transforming education right here, right now. We all put in co-

who knew they weren’t going to stay and those who wanted to stay and be part of the turnaround. “Lots of people...had only worked at Ashley so when you bring in a new model, a new regime, it’s really easy to blame that new structure. The community feel was

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- Who:** Women and couples seeking information about healthy pregnancy
- Date:** Tuesday, November 11, 2014
- Time:** 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
- Where:** Anschutz Inpatient Pavilion 2 Conference Center Auditorium 12605 E. 16th Ave. Aurora, CO 80045
- Cost:** \$10 per person (light dinner included, 100% of the registration fee donated to Fetal Health Foundation)
- Parking:** Free valet parking will be available and information will be emailed to you closer to the event.
- RSVP:** Space is limited; please RSVP by November 3, 2014 at uchealth.org/BuildingHealthyFamilies or call Talia Kay at 720-848-7378

Agenda

- 5:15pm//** Registration, Light Dinner, Information Fair
- 6:00pm//** Introduction by Mary Beth Martin, Executive Director, Colorado Institute for Maternal & Fetal Health
- 6:10pm//** Being Proactive About Your Fertility by Nanette Santoro, MD
- 6:30pm//** The Roadmap to a Normal, Healthy Pregnancy by Joe Hurt, MD and Patient
- 6:50pm//** Origins of Health: Long-Term Impacts of Pregnancy Experiences By Paul Rozance, MD
- 7:10pm//** Expecting Twins? An Inside Look at What You Should Know to Help Achieve the Best Possible Outcomes By Timothy Crombleholme, MD and Patient
- 7:30pm//** Questions/Answers and Panel Discussion
- 8:30pm//** Adjourn



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pretty ugly for the majority of last year.” “These are people we still know and still see and it’s hard not to sympathize with that,” Camilleri adds. “When they’re going through this awful period in their lives, when they’re breaking with something they’ve been with for 5, 6, 10 years, it puts you in a really difficult spot because you’re trying to hold true to the new administration and hold true to these relationships and friendships you’ve had for years.”

Mathis Santella, fourth grade teacher, adds, “But at the same time, it was made clear that if this isn’t for you, administration would do what they could to help you land on your feet somewhere else.” He adds, “The adult culture last year was terrible because of what was happening. This year, I can say the adult culture is awesome. I mean just the energy, you can feel people are invested and on board.”

Cammilleri agrees. “We had a new administrative team and they were subjected to people who were not ready for the change they got. Now that we’ve assembled the people who are ready to make it happen, it’s

not figuring out who can do this or who even wants to do this. It’s more of how are we going to do this together now.” He adds, “These people are ready for something new, to put in the work.” Ann Flanagan, P.E. teacher, adds “They (new teachers) were given the expectations ahead of time before they ever signed their contract. They knew what the plan was so it wasn’t a surprise. They chose it.”

Rahn wasn’t surprised that the turnaround for Ashley has been difficult. He cites research done on highly successful organizations showing that when a change process occurs, certain steps inevitably follow: an initial honeymoon phase of being excited about something new;

“storming,” in which things become tumultuous; “norming,” when things start to work; and “performing,” when things are going really well. Rahn says Ashley went through that process “to a T” last year and he talked openly about the journey. Mid-year, after systems and structures in the building had been in place for a while, Rahn put a timeline on the wall, listing key events such as the first day teachers came to work, the first day of school and the days they implemented new structures in the school. Then, Rahn listed how he felt at each of those times. For instance, on the first day of school, Rahn overheard someone saying

they weren’t sure the new school plan was going to work. He put that he felt “defeated” on that first day and noted his feelings at each of the key events.

After the staff added their feelings, Rahn pointed out that they had, indeed, gone through the steps from being excited about the school, to being unsure, to staff members bickering over methods, to seeing that it was working and improving. “We realized it was normal to feel this way, to have gone through

this really hard process and that the kids are better off today than when we started. That feeling was unanimous across the school,” says Rahn.

Rahn says the next steps will focus on sustainability, looking several years into the future for plans and funding. Rahn feels the idea is to “create the environment for rapid change and then have the perseverance to hold steadfast through that grueling change process,” adding, “I think the next two years in DPS will be really interesting. I think we’ll see more examples of success and more change that we know works. I feel like it’s getting better.”



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Lift-off for Stanley Marketplace

By Carol Roberts

Stanley Marketplace held a groundbreaking ceremony on October 2. The guests of honor were Karen Stanley and Judi and Jack Ryan, whose families started Stanley Aviation 60 years ago. In honor of the aviation theme, a “jetpack guy” flew off the roof with a deafening roar as the speeches ended—he landed at the hangar door and opened it for guests to tour the immense interior.

Mark Shaker started the event by saying, “This is not a traditional development project. This is a movement. It’s about bringing like-minded businesses together who believe in more than the bottom line, about creating a sense of community, about tearing down fences and building bridges and about doing something very special. We look forward to the challenge and we encourage you to jump along for the ride.

“This is also about Aurora. We are proud that this project’s in Aurora. Aurora has vision and they have courage and there’s no better place for Stanley Marketplace to come to life than in Aurora.”

Karen Stanley, whose father and brothers were killed in a plane crash said what astonished her most was that the new marketplace would keep the Stanley logo. “I grew up on this logo. It was imprinted on me from the moment it went up on the side of the building. I have no idea who designed it or where. I don’t suppose that the logo existed back in Buffalo when Bob Stanley and Jerry Ryan decided to leave Bell

Far left—top, middle and bottom: To acknowledge and continue the history of the Stanley Aviation property, a man with a jet-pack “flew” off the roof of Stanley Aviation at their groundbreaking ceremony, landed in front of the huge sliding doors to what used to be a hangar, and opened them to let attendees view the huge facility.

Left: Mark Shaker, one of three Flightline owners, welcomes attendees to the Stanley Marketplace “ground-breaking” ceremony.

Left: Flightline owners and honored guests gather in front of the hangar doors. From left: Flightline partner Lorin Ting, “the jetpack guy,” Karen Stanley (whose father Robert Stanley founded Stanley Aviation), Aurora mayor Steve Hogan, Flightline partners Megan Von Wald and Mark Shaker, and Judi and Jack Ryan, representing the Ryan family’s ties to Stanley Aviation.



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Aircraft. Back in 1954, that impulse led them here, to a cow town at the foot of the Rockies, where skies and opportunities beckoned...No scenario could please me more than this vision of a multi-faceted marketplace with its promise to satisfy the needs and enrich the life of the surrounding community...I now look on this familiar Stanley logo with renewed pride and very real comfort. To have my family's name still here is the fulfillment of a dream I didn't even know I had. And if my dad were flying over right now, I think he would tip his wing in approval."

Shaker closed his remarks saying their business wants to pay tribute to the Stanley and Ryan families and celebrate the entrepreneurial spirit that arrived there 60 years earlier.

In mid-October, Shaker made a presentation about Stanley Marketplace to the Stapleton Community Advisory Board saying, "What I love about this project is that it's the bridge between two distinctive communities that sometimes has a hard edge to it. So I like this as a cultural opportunity to bring people together from all four sides. It's not window dressing. It's something that we spend a lot of time talking about..."

"There's a larger picture at play here. We're really looking at building a dynamic community that isn't separated by zip codes. It's something special that Aurora's proud of, that NE Denver is proud of, and it has real regional implications if executed correctly. Those are some of our grand ambitions, and sometimes we get accused of being Pollyannish, but it's going to happen."

Shaker says they have 47 letters of intent from businesses and are getting started with the bigger leases. The interior core of the building will offer smaller spaces, so businesses don't have to pay for more space than they need. There will be three lunch and dinner restaurants and one breakfast restaurant. They plan to be open 18 hours a day, with activities and businesses open from early in the morning until night.

The original team of three partners, Shaker, Ting and Von Wald, has now grown to five with the addition of Kevin Taylor, in charge of food and event space, and Tim White with White construction group, which co-developed The Source.

Shaker presented the following timeline for development:

The sale on the 140,000 square foot building closed August 21.

In September, the Aurora Planning Commission unanimously approved their plan.

In early October city council unanimously approved their rezoning request.

They will submit their site plan by early November.

Interior demolition is planned for November and December.

Full on-site construction is expected to start in January.

Stanley Marketplace is located at 2501 Dallas Street in Northwest Aurora.

Right: Mark Shaker displayed this Stanley site plan at the October Citizen's Advisory Board meeting.

Below: Flightline's principles are written on one of the interior walls of Stanley Marketplace.



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East Rail



Photos courtesy of Denver Transit Partners.

The pilot cars (the first four cars of the Eagle P3 order) have undergone testing (shown above) and are ready for shipment from Philadelphia to Denver. RTD hopes to have an open house for the public to tour one of the trains by the end of the year.

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Open Futsal Night U13-U14 Boys & Girls	Nov. 14, 21, 28 and Dec 5, 12 & 19	\$75
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Cars Now in Test Mode

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

To riders, the East Rail Line will just be a fast, convenient way to get to Denver International Airport (and other destinations). But to Denver Transit Partners (DTP), the RTD contractor in charge of three new commuter lines, it means years of planning, testing and training to provide a safe and enjoyable ride.

Under the Eagle P3 (public-private partnership) contract, DTP will build, operate and maintain the East Rail Line to DIA as well as the Gold Line to Arvada and Wheat Ridge, the Northwest Rail Line to Westminster and the Commuter Rail Maintenance Facility. Per their contract with RTD, DTP will, for 29 years, manage the lines that carry the heavier commuter trains. RTD oversees the existing light rail lines, marketing and ridership for all lines.

Although the commuter train and Amtrak lines are not shared, they do physically connect to the National Rail Network at Denver Union Station, putting them under the jurisdiction of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the main regulators for railroads in the country. "The FRA puts a very stringent set of requirements on us in terms of safety, craft worthiness of the vehicle, how well the braking systems work and many other kinds of requirements," says Peter Strange, system integration manager for Denver Transit Partners.

Convenience features for the trains were influenced by future riders. In 2011, a mock-up of a representative, one-third-size car was put up in front of Denver Union Station. The public was invited to try it out, ask questions and give feedback. Based on those suggestions, a number of modifications were made including increased space for luggage, bikes and skis; interior spaciousness; and a larger doorway for wheelchair users. Riders will be able to get on and off the trains seamlessly, even with a wheelchair or stroller because the trains are flush with the station platforms. While convenient, that is also one of the trains' many safety features.

The cars themselves are designed to meet crash worthiness. "They are a very strong steel structure people are going to be inside of with materials and equipment that pose a very low fire and toxicity risk," says Strange.

Trains and train platforms will be monitored and recorded on closed circuit TV with the train operator able to see who is getting on and off the train. The operator is the main staff member responsible for safety of passengers, but there will also be uniformed inspectors and security people roaming the trains at all times.

There are several backup systems in place throughout the commuter trains. "Lights are backed up multiple times over,

so if there's a loss of power, the lights stay on," says Strange. The trains are also fitted with a system that shows the operator the maximum allowable speed and all upcoming stops, even unexpected ones. If the operator doesn't adhere to the correct speed or stops, the system kicks in and does it for them. The stringent safety systems are all part of Positive Train Control (PTC), nationwide requirements that fall under FRA regulations.

Trains will be placed on tracks by early summer 2015 for initial testing. Regulations require each of the 50 trains on all three lines to have 1,000 miles of testing and training time before they can go into service, which is expected to start early summer 2016, with the East Line first, followed by the other two lines



The car body shells were fabricated by Hyundai Rotem in S. Korea, then shipped via ocean liner to Philadelphia for outfitting. There is no U.S.-based company with a car fabrication operation.

over the course of the summer.

To encourage public safety, the DTP will implement Operation Lifesaver next year, a community outreach campaign

to school children who live within one-half mile of the tracks in each direction to teach them about the dangers of playing around the tracks and how to cross tracks safely. Prior to initial testing of trains, they will also reach out to neighborhood associations, senior centers and other groups who could potentially be pedestrians in the area of the tracks.

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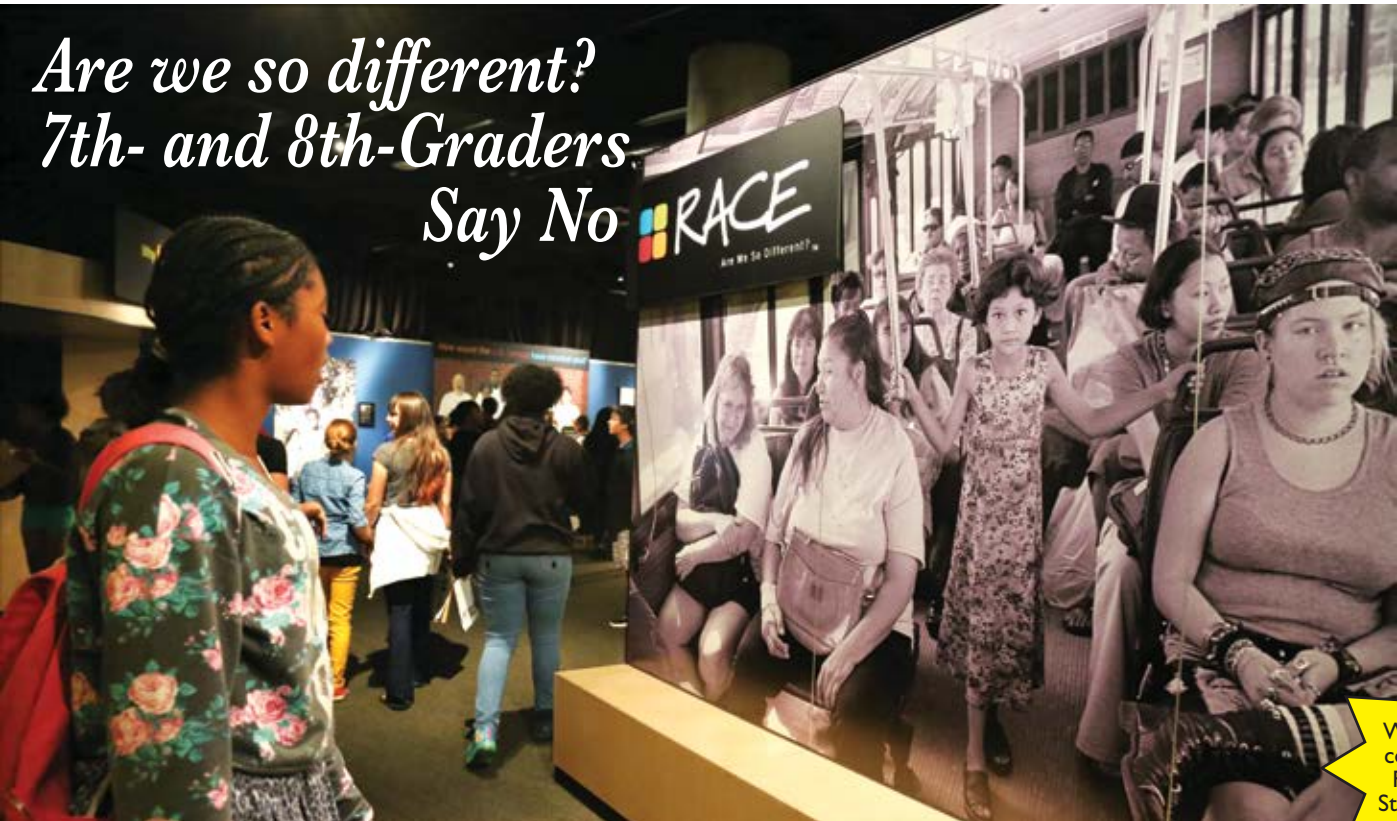
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Meet the Kids



A student from Odyssey School of Denver stops to look at a photo at the History Colorado Center exhibit, *RACE: Are we so different?*

The exhibit moves through history and examines how race has played out in work, science, life experience, and more.

We welcome comments at FrontPorchStapleton.com

By Madeline Schroeder

Students in the seventh- and eighth-grade classes at Odyssey School of Denver have features of many multiracial backgrounds: large and thin eye shapes, course and fine hair, the whole spectrum of light to dark skin colorings. Plus they wear all types of clothes, including one kid in a blue furry hat shaped like an alien with an eyeball hanging from the end. The many differences, quirks and ambiguous ethnic features blend into one diverse group.

“At my old schools you were Hispanic, black or white. It was those three categories and nothing else, and that’s how you would determine who you hung out with. But at Odyssey, they make sure race is not a thing,” Najah Johnson says.

“We looked around and everybody was just kind of mixing in with each other,” says Najah’s twin brother, Amir. The Johnson twins like to celebrate all of their races—Native American, white and African American.

Discussing race can be sensitive and challenging, but Odyssey students seem very comfortable and discuss thoughtfully how it’s

played a part in their life.

To celebrate race and consider how our society thinks and talks about it, the seventh- and eighth-grade classes recently visited the History Colorado Center exhibit, *RACE: Are we so different?*

The traveling exhibit began in the early 2000s and is visiting Denver for the first time. Differences among people are cause for joy and sorrow, an introduction to the exhibit explains. These differences are the basis to celebrate personal identity—our family background, country, and language. But, those differences are also the basis for discrimination and oppression. The exhibit moves through history and how race has played out in science, life experience, and more.

“I like the exhibit a lot because it touches on a lot more than just black and white,” Najah says. She thinks that’s one of the main problems in discussing race.

Odyssey students considered how they define race. Is it based on skin color? *No, skin color shouldn’t matter.* What about culture? *Culture is like who you are and race is what you look like or where you’re from.* So then does skin color matter? *Well, it’s more the*

meaning of your skin color that matters. Do you at times automatically make assumptions based on skin color?

“It’s something I’ve done before where I’ll be walking and my brain just clicks in and starts thinking these stereotypes about who a person is or what a person is,” Kohana Reiva says. “I’m not proud of that. It’s not something I like to do.” He has light-colored zig-zag hair, which he gets from his mom.

Other students nod in agreement. “I think it’s something that everybody has in common. No matter the personality, what race you are or what you look like, you’re always going to make assumptions of other people, even if you don’t mean to,” Najah says. “They



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Odyssey students discuss whether it's relevant to have race included on census surveys.



A group of Odyssey 7th- and 8th-graders share their thoughts about race after visiting the exhibit. Left to right: Najah Johnson, Amir Johnson, Francesa Cecchini, and Kohana Reiva.

could be good or bad.”

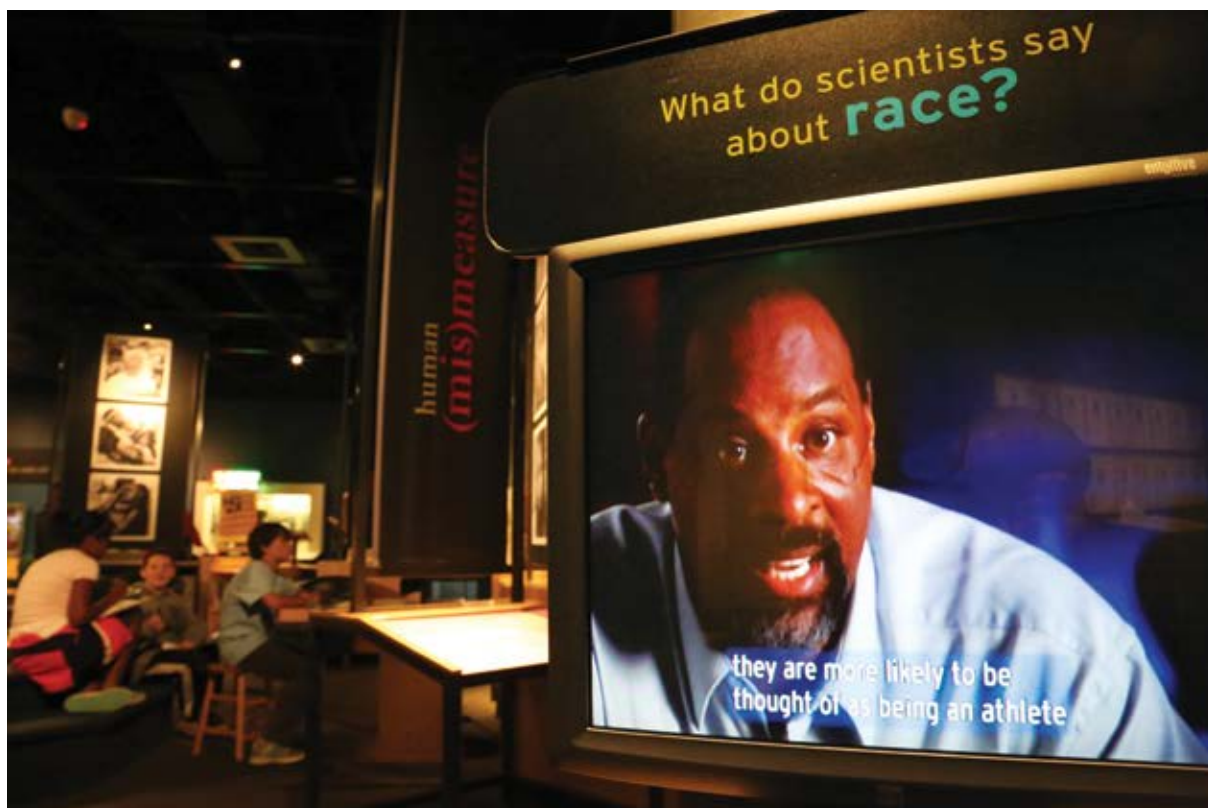
They say making assumptions doesn't make you a bad person, but what matters is being OK with being wrong about those assumptions. “It's like very first glance you think something, but then you kind of try to correct yourself because

you know there is more to that person. If you stick to that one mindset and ‘Oh I'm not going to talk to them or interact with them because they're different,’ that's bad because they could be a really good person,” Francesa Cecchini says. She has grown up around a variety of races and personalities, and hates when people categorize

anyone based on one thing.

One part of the exhibit displays head shots of people of many different backgrounds. Below they write how they define themselves. Some said “human,” others listed all of their races, some wrote the race they identify with most, and then some wrote what they like to do. Some of the answers are surprising and challenge first impressions.

Like the display, the students have been surprised how wrong they have been about people at Odyssey. “It's not even just about race. It's just general appearance or personalities you don't think you can click with, but I've made some surprising friendships,” Najah says. “It just shows you how alike you are to a person, like what different kinds of things you like or the same things you like to do.”



Above: Evolutionary biologist Joseph Graves discusses the science of race and how American society has created a mythology about African American males being more likely to be athletes than intellectuals.



Left: Piles of cash represent the average net worth of families based on race. The net worth of whites is much higher, showing the wealth gap is related to race.

Now through January 4, 2015—History Colorado Center **RACE: Are we so different?**

History Colorado Center offers many ways to experience the RACE exhibit, including discussion circles for businesses or government groups, field trips, teacher professional development workshops, and family workshops. 9:30am to 11:30am on December 6, the exhibit will lead a workshop on how to talk to your kids about race for adoptive families. History Colorado Center is located at 1200 Broadway and open daily 10am to 5pm. For more information visit historycoloradocenter.org.

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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. This month's column is a bit different, however.

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

Once again, the Denver International Film Festival (DIFF) is upon us: this year's festival runs from November 12–23, and it will feature over 200 films and 150 guests. I have chosen a few films to preview here, and I hope it helps in wading through the program. Enjoy!

Stations of the Cross (2014)

This German film from director Dietrich Brüggerman does not tread lightly. The story follows a 14-year-old Fundamentalist Catholic girl named Maria who wishes to follow Jesus' footsteps in the stations of the cross on her way

to ending her life. She believes she can prove her love and devotion to God, and in the process, help her younger, mute brother. It is all very heavy material, and the film treats its themes with patience and reverence. There is no condemnation of organized religion; rather, the film takes a hard look at the people populating the religion and how they can twist everything around for their benefit. It is also an exercise in style: the film is broken into 14 chapters—one for every station—and each chapter is shot in a single take. The net effect is that we get to sit with the film for long periods of time, making our own judgments about the action and the people. The great realist films (such as the Italian Neorealists) employed this technique to allow us time to observe life, without the weight of editing and the possibility of manipulation. *Stations of the Cross* delivers realism and intelligence in a way that is both wonderfully simple and deliciously complicated.

Viva La Libertà (2013)

This political satire from director Roberto Ando stars Toni Servillo (from last year's Oscar Winner for Best Foreign Language Film, *The Great Beauty*) as Enrico Olivieri, the leader of Italy's main opposition party.



Scene from *Stations of the Cross*



Scene from *Viva La Libertà*

When Enrico goes AWOL in Paris after a particularly bitter defeat, his party installs Enrico's twin brother in the post. The problem is that Enrico's twin brother is borderline mad, and he takes to the post with vigor and a dash of insanity. It all adds up to madcap comedy, a biting satire on the state of politics in Italy, and a statement about political parties everywhere. While the film can border on the absurd at times, the performance of Servillo, playing both brothers, carries the day. After *Stations of the Cross*, you might enjoy some lighter fare!

Cows Wearing Glasses (2014)

When respected artist and professor Marso is told he is about to go blind, he begins

to re-examine his life—a life that was full of professional successes but bereft of personal connections. He tries to reconnect with his estranged daughter and find some meaning in his new life, and he does so with humor and wit. This Puerto Rican film from first-time writer/director Alex Santiago Perez is quirky, witty, touching, and very human. Daniel Lugo stars as the cranky and thoughtful Marso, and he delivers a touching performance in this very well-written and smart film. Puerto Rico does not have a particularly virile film industry of its own, so it is encouraging to see such a solid film come from the island. We hope to see more such promising films.

El Critico (2013)

Tellez is a respected film critic who hates most films, especially romantic comedies. He

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Get to Know Dr. Maryam Guiahi

Maryam Guiahi completed her undergraduate work at Cornell University and trained at Loyola University in Chicago. She did sub-specialty training in contraception and family planning at Columbia University where she also received a Master's of Science in Epidemiology. She has a special interest in contraception for women with complex medical conditions. Maryam lives in Cheesman Park with her husband and son.



We welcome
comments at
FrontPorch
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believes the cinema is dying and most films are too formulaic and shallow. Then, after a chance encounter with a beautiful young woman, art and life begin to bleed into one another and his life becomes the romantic comedy he so despises. This is a clever and thoughtful film and a special treat for the cinephile. Yet another film from a first-time writer/director in Argentina, Hernán Guerschuny, it displays the steady hand of



Scene from *El Critico*

a seasoned, veteran director and includes excellent performances from the major players as well as the secondary roles. The mark of a good film/filmmaker can be found in the secondary performances, and the players here are all very good. The film also presents a unique style to accompany the substance. It all adds up to an interesting, thoughtful, and thoroughly watchable romantic comedy.

When Under Fire: Shoot Back! (2014)

This fascinating German documentary tells the story of the famous "Bang Bang Club," four young photographers who went into the black townships of South Africa during apartheid. They wished to chronicle the widespread violence, and they were very successful in doing so. Their pictures became famous and were featured in magazines all around the world, thus putting pressure on the South African regime to end their institutionalized racist policies. Their work came at great cost, however, as one of the four was killed and another took his own life. The film is quite economical and tells the story in the past tense with the help of interviews and the actual photographs. It is a compelling story and a worthwhile documentary.

For all show times, consult the entire schedule at www.denverfilm.org.

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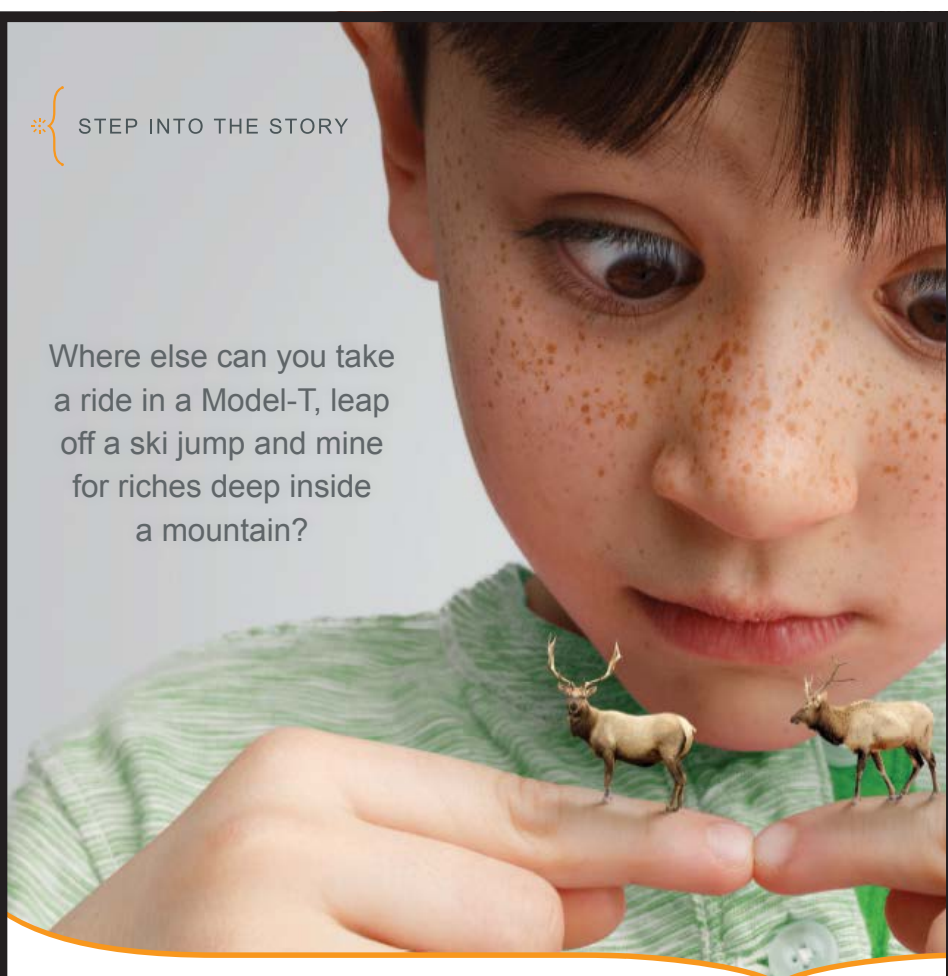
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New Northfield Hotel Offers Homelike Environment

By Nancy Burkhardt

Stapleton is growing, as are both old and new businesses in the area—and the growth led Staybridge Suites to open a Denver-Stapleton extended-stay hotel on Northfield Blvd.

The 102-room hotel offers studios, one-bedroom suites and two-bedroom, two-bath suites in a homelike environment with fully stocked kitchens and complimentary breakfasts. Guests also enjoy free laundry, free Wi-Fi, a fitness room, indoor pool and 24-hour business center, as well as social evening receptions with complimentary beer and wine Tuesdays through Thursdays.

Staybridge Suites has a 400-sq.-ft. meeting space for up to 36 people. Although the hotel doesn't have a restaurant, management does arrange for catering by local area restaurants for meetings.

The hotel boasts a backyard that is in the Stapleton Conservatory Green backyard. Thus, plans are for Staybridge Suites Denver-Stapleton to sponsor neighborhood events, such as a bike race and battle of the bands.

General Manager John Deyne and Assistant General Manager David Schiltz had a harmonious working relationship before they joined forces to open the Stapleton hotel.

"I had the pleasure of opening another hotel last year, and met David while interviewing," Deyne explained. "Through that year of working together, we worked well as a team. When I learned that I was going to open this hotel, I called David right away."

Schiltz currently is studying hospitality, tourism and events with a concentration on hotel management at Metropolitan State University of Denver.

"I'm looking into moving to the Stapleton neighborhood," Schiltz said. "Stapleton is calling my name. There's a lot of energy in the neighborhood."

Schiltz, who is single, says he is looking forward to traversing Stapleton's trails with his 6-year-old border collie, Molly.

Deyne and his wife, Kayle, also are nature lovers with their children, 7-year-old Jonathan (known as Bubba) and 6-year-old Caitlynn (called Lala). They also have a furry friend called Grayce, a medium-sized, short-

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Above: Elizabeth Miranda, Front Desk and David Schiltz, Asst. Manager, talk business while sitting near the fire pit on the back patio, which also features several grills for guests.

Left: General Manager John Deyne and Assistant General Manager David Schiltz sit in the Staybridge's main lounge, which features a two-story fireplace.

haired dog that is an American Bully breed, which recently was AKC recognized, according to Deyne.

"Our family really enjoys the outdoors," Deyne said. "We go camping, fishing and hiking in the summer, and in the winter, I really enjoy getting out and hunting."

Staybridge Suites is a pet-friendly hotel. "I'm a huge pet guy who probably couldn't work for a hotel that didn't allow pets," Schiltz said. "Your furry friend is just as welcome at Staybridge as anyone else."

"Housing our guests' pets is part of mak-

ing everyone feel at home," Deyne added. "David and I try to spend as much time with the guests and employees as possible. I spend five days a week in the breakfast area greeting guests, and David meets with guests in the afternoon. The social hours are fun. We have a chance to chit-chat with the guests and learn how their day went. We get to know about their lives. It's nice being able to make connections with people."

"We really do specialize in taking care of our customers, whether they are staying one night or are looking to stay for one month or several months at a time," he said. "People are coming in on projects and are relocating to the Stapleton area. And,

there are so many businesses opening in the area that bring in more people. It's great being part of all the growth at Stapleton."

Staybridge Suites Denver-Stapleton offers a Stapleton rate for neighbors who are bringing in their families or friends for a visit. Tours of the hotel are available for neighbors who want to check out accommodations.

For information about Staybridge Suites Denver-Stapleton, located at 8101 E. Northfield Blvd., or to make reservations, call 303.227.3000 or go to www.staybridge-suites.com/stapletonco. Or email General Manager John Deyne at jdeyne@thmc.biz.

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Matisse and Friends

Left and below: The exhibit was designed with comfortable seating areas throughout to invite viewers to spend time with the painting, becoming absorbed in the scene. Albert Marquet's "Posters at Trouville" (seen in detail below) can be seen in one of the boldly colored rooms of the "Matisse and Friends" exhibit at the Denver Art Museum. Matisse, Marquet and others were called "wild beasts" by French art critics of the early 1900's for their bold use of color and daring lines.

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Looking at the pleasing colors and understandable subject matter of the paintings in the Denver Art Museum's latest exhibit, "Matisse and Friends: Selected Masterworks from the National Gallery of Art," on display through Feb. 8, 2015, it's hard to imagine that the artists were called "wild beasts" ("les fauves") by Parisian art critics. Their bold use of colors and loose brush strokes were startling to the art world in the early 1900s. In their own bold fashion, the Denver Art Museum (DAM) has chosen to design "Matisse and Friends" in creative ways that make the most of the size and tone of the exhibition.

Fourteen paintings by Matisse and some of his contemporaries tell of a time when Impressionism "was becoming pedestrian, losing its power" because everyone was doing it, according to Dr. Christoph Heinrich, who holds the position of Frederick and Jan Mayer Director of the Denver Art Museum. "A new generation took it on, believing in the power of color and the immediacy

of the scene." He describes the paintings as ranking among the most important works in museums today, urging visitors to "Have an encounter with these exquisite paintings that you can have a dialogue with."

The exhibit is on loan from the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., while they remodel. At the Gallery, the paintings are displayed on white walls but Danielle St. Peter, master teacher for modern and contemporary art at the DAM and the exhibit's designer, placed them on walls colored purple, green and other colors found in each of the paintings. The effect accentuates the paintings and creates differentiated "rooms" the viewer can visit.

Multiple seating areas on ornate rugs provided by Shaver-Ramsey and props borrowed from the Denver Center Theatre Company invite museum-goers to linger at each painting. This design was inspired by a quote from Matisse painted on the entry wall of the exhibit:

"What I want is an art of purity and tranquility..."



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Far left: Henri Matisse's "Open Window, Collioure," one of his most famous paintings, shows a view out of his French studio apartment. The audio tour encourages the viewer to fully explore and experience this, and each of the paintings, imagining smells, sounds and other sights.

Left and below: "Regatta at Cowes" is by Raoul Dufy, a contemporary of Matisse's and one of the artists featured in the exhibit. It is seen in detail, left, and in an exhibit room, below.

so that all those who work with their brains... will look on it as something soothing, a kind of cerebral sedative, as relaxing in its way as a comfortable armchair."

On the tables next to each seating area is a book of photographs, sketches and brief text about the artist whose painting is in that area.

In addition to bold-colored walls and opportunities to sit in front of each painting, St. Peter also created a different kind of audio tour experience. Usually, the tours offer historical references and explanations about the artist and that particular work. But St. Peter wanted to create more of a sensory experience. The viewer is encouraged to breathe deeply and relax; visually explore the painting with eyes open and then eyes closed, from memory; to imagine being in the scene, taking note of what is heard, smelled, felt and seen. Although the audio devices are housed next to Matisse's famous "Open Window, Collioure" painting, the recording is not specific to that work. The idea is for people to go through the audio exercises with multiple paintings in the exhibit to enjoy each on a deeper level.

Although "Matisse and Friends" doesn't have activities specifically geared toward children, the smaller size of the exhibit, bright colors, understandable subject matter and opportunities to curl up to view each work of art makes the exhibit more family-friendly.

"Matisse and Friends" is on view in the Gallagher Family Gallery on level one of the Hamilton Building and is included in Denver Art Museum admission. www.denverartmuseum.org.



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"Classic, Creative" Fare in Renovated Cafeteria

By Laurie Dunklee

The neighborhood of the new Grubbery Restaurant gives off an old industrial Denver vibe—with good reason. The building at 4880 Havana housed the employee cafeteria for Scott's Liquid Gold, a wood cleaner and preservative manufactured there since 1951 and still in business next door.

"It's an industrial area, so we serve lots of businesses breakfasts and lunches," said Roger Kerns, who manages The Grubbery with partners Melissa Miedecke, assistant general manager, and Sean O'Grady, chef. "We're at the border of Northfield, so Stapleton families come for dinner and brunch on the weekends. The brand new houses being built in Northfield will be great for us. This part of Stapleton is beginning to boom."

The Grubbery—a restaurant, bar and coffee shop—celebrated its one year anniversary last month. EXDO Properties owns the building, formerly Scott's Liquid Gold's office tower. The 3,500-square-foot restaurant, on the ground floor, was redeveloped from the former cafeteria.

Because it had been a kitchen and

food-serving space, most of the plumbing was already there, as were the electric and gas, Kerns said. "We brought in new kitchen equipment. Then the task was to make it look like a restaurant and not a cafeteria. We made a direct front entrance into the restaurant because it had been accessed through the lobby. We built the bar, replaced the ceiling, moved walls around and installed the TVs and sound system. The construction took about three and a half months. Then we built an outdoor patio with a fire pit, which took another month."

Kerns moved from California to Denver 10 years ago to work for EXDO. He managed several EXDO properties, including Tracks Nightclub and the EXDO Event Center. He was hired to manage The Grubbery when construction started. "It's been interesting, managing everything from the design to the menu, to get it off the ground. We've gotten to know the area, our neighbors and guests."

Kerns described the menu as "approachable, classic items like burgers and sandwiches. Our food is classic with a modern twist and a fun take. For example, our French toast

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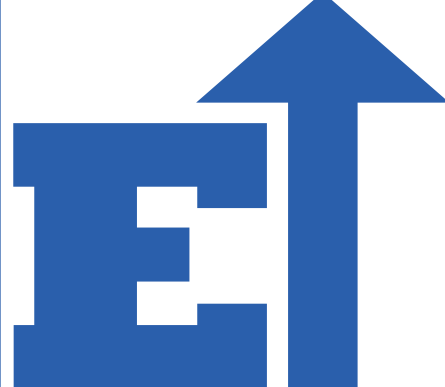
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Rodger Kerns, manager, and Melissa Miedecke, assistant general manager, stop for a picture after the lunch rush at The Grubbery, a new restaurant, bar and coffee shop.

is made with a crème brûlée batter. The texture is familiar but it has an amazing flavor.”

He said food is bought locally when possible and almost everything is made from scratch. “It allows us to be more flexible with the menu. If a group wants something special, we can make it, and we can accommodate dietary restrictions like gluten intolerance. Whatever the limitations, we give really good food without sacrificing flavor or quality.”

Kerns said people are surprised when they find The Grubbery. “We’re in kind of a weird industrial area, so people driving

by don’t know the restaurant is so nice. They are surprised that we’re not a chain, that we serve breakfast every day, and that we offer the full Starbucks line of beverages.”

The Grubbery is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., with brunch from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Happy hour is Monday through Friday, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. A party area accommodates groups of up to 60.

For more information call 303-407-9040 or see www.grubberydenver.com.

Just the Facts

From Sand to Glass

by James Hagadorn



Twisted black and yellow glass by Chihuly, displayed at the Denver Botanic Gardens, appears like it might even belong in nature next to black and yellow flowers.

In the spirit of Halloween, the Denver Botanic Gardens is in full costume. Seuss-like silica spikes, crazy crystalline citadels and psychedelic petals ooze from the landscape. Rather than being tropical plants gone wild, these features are made of glass.

Glass is all around us, although typically less conspicuously than in the Gardens' Dale Chihuly exhibition. It's on our faces, our phones and our homes. But where does it come from?

Glass comes from sand. Some of that sand begins its journey in the Rocky Mountains.

Up on mountain-tops like Pikes Peak, rocks such as granite are broken down by snow, wind, rain, plants and microbes. Bits and pieces of broken-up rock roll down the mountain into streams and rivers, where they're carried out to the



plains or to mountain-bound parks.

Translation: A "park" is what Coloradans call a "basin" or "valley." The most famous one has its own TV show—South Park.

As particles make their downhill journey, they're broken down into sand and dust-sized sediments. This mix includes minerals like shiny mica, pink feldspar, and if you're lucky, a bit of gold. However the most common constituent of sediments is the mineral quartz—the key ingredient in glass.

Such sand is everywhere, but to produce sand needed for glass, something special must happen. Nature first has to break sediments down and get rid of all the stuff that isn't quartz. This happens naturally in lakes, beaches, rivers and streams. Deposits from these environments dominate Colorado's

lower elevation landscapes.

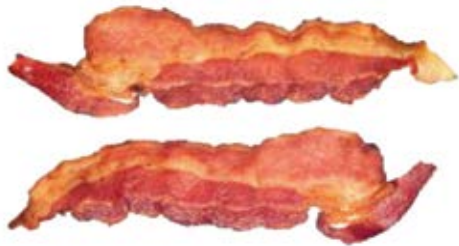
Wind is the most important cook in the kitchen, though. Because air isn't very syrupy and doesn't have much mass, wind can only pick up tiny particles.

It whisks away most of the dust-sized mineral grains, carrying them far, far away. Such miniscule grains can be blown clear over mountaintops. Sometimes this process is visible from outerspace—just Google a satellite image of the Saharan dust cloud off western Africa.

Heavier, bigger mineral fragments get left behind.

But the "middle-sized" grains, like quartz, get rolled, bounced, and sometimes picked up by the wind. These grains can't be

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blown far or high, so they tend to pile up over millennia at the feet of mountain ranges, or where wind regularly slows or becomes turbulent. In our very own San Luis Valley, giant quartz-rich dunes have formed by these very processes. If the dunes weren't in a national park, they'd make good glass sand!

The best glass sands, though, are underfoot. There, thousands of ancient dune fields have become petrified as vast layers of sandstone. A great example is Colorado's Lyons Sandstone, which represents a 265 million-year-old dune field that stretched from Mexico to Canada. You've seen this rock before—cladding buildings at the University of Colorado, as sidewalks in Old Denver, or perhaps even in your garden pavers. Sandstones like this are mined around the world for glass sand—largely because Mother Nature has already sorted the quartz grains and broken down all the other mineral constituents. Quartz sand from such rocks is also the key ingredient in fracking fluids.

In its purest form, quartz sand ought to make clear glass. But even the best dune sand has some impurities in it. A common one is iron, the same element that helps give Red Rocks Amphitheatre its vivid colors. To quell the effects of such contaminants, powdered mineral compounds can be added to



Photos by Kyle Schroeder.

Brilliantly colored and imaginative glass forms, like these by Chihuly, derive from mineral additives blended into melted sand. Such compounds help impart color to the glass, make it easier to melt, and give it better structural properties.



clarify glass. One of the most common historical additives was the mineral pyrolusite, whose manganese helped neutralize the effects of iron impurities. But it had a side effect—the manganese caused the glass to turn purple after long exposure in sunlight. Once viewed as an unfortunate flaw, this purple window glass is now a sought-after mark of authenticity for antique windows and bottles.

And those fabulous colors used by Dale Chihuly? Most of them derive from mineral additives blended into melted sand.

Such compounds help impart color to the glass, make it easier to melt, and give it better structural properties.

Even metals are added—like the silver compounds that help prescription glasses darken when exposed to sunlight. But my favorite is red glass. To give glass a red color you've got to add gold to it. And I'll bet some of it comes from Colorado.

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

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Sushi is Focus at New Northfield Restaurant

By Laurie Dunklee

Sushi is more than food, it's about tradition and beautiful presentation, says Aaron Deng, master chef and co-owner of the new Zen Asian Sushi Bar & Grill in Northfield.

"The presentation must be artistic, beautiful. Diners feast first with their eyes," he said.

Deng opened Zen Asian Sushi, 8354 Northfield Blvd. in the Northfield mall, with partner Kelly Chuong this summer. They took over the space from Ling and Louie's. The 7,500-square-foot restaurant seats 200, with a party area for 50.

"We liked this space because there was no good sushi around here and we wanted to bring it. Northfield is great for us because of all the new development," Deng said.

Deng and Chuong are changing the Ling & Louie's menu bit by bit, while keeping their own version of former menu items. They plan to segue to specializing in sushi.

The centerpiece of the large restaurant will be the new sushi bar, to be completed by the first part of November. The existing water-wall fountain will remain behind the sushi bar. "It's a fantastic backdrop," said Richard



Morse, general manager.

Deng came to Denver from China in 2004. Members of his family have owned Chinese restaurants here since 1977. "I'm the first sushi chef in my family," he said.

He learned the art of sushi from working at Sushi Den, one of Denver's first sushi

restaurants, and from television's "Iron Chef," Morimoto Masaharu. At 28, Deng hopes to make his mark in the world of sushi. He said a good sushi chef has his signature recipes and sauces—he doesn't copy anyone else's.

Since freshness of the food is most important to good sushi, Deng has his own fish

Aaron Deng, co-owner and master chef, stands in the former Ling & Louie's now called Zen Asian Sushi & Grill in Northfield.

supplier. "Part of being a good sushi chef is having an intuition to pick good fish," he said.

Sushi is also about tradition and hierarchy. The traditional sushi bar places the master chef on the far right,

with progressively less-experienced chefs to his left. Each chef has his or her specific role in creating the plate, with the master at the end to finish the work of art. The master chef hires his own team. "We want passion, care and concern going into every plate," Deng said.

Morse said people are surprised to find high-quality sushi in a mall restaurant. "Even sushi snobs love it," he said.

Zen Sushi serves mainly the business crowd for lunch and local families for dinner. The family friendly restaurant's front counter displays artwork done by child patrons.

"We serve stuff kids like too, because many kids don't go for sushi," said Morse.

Zen Asian Sushi is open from 11am–10pm Monday through Saturday; and 11am–9pm on Sunday. Zen's entrees range from \$11 for lunch to \$75 for the sushi sashimi dinner for two. For more information, call 303.371.4644.

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Denver Hospitals Confident They Could Safely Treat Ebola

By Madeline Schroeder

What if a case of Ebola were to show up in Denver? Who would treat the patient? What would the treatment look like? Would it spread?

Denver health officials say they are prepared to safely treat a case of Ebola if that were to happen. "We've actually been preparing for some time," says Dr. Michelle Baron, associate professor of medicine at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Center and medical director for the Division of Infectious Diseases.

Denver hospitals are operating under the assumption that it is possible for Ebola to show up. They have created a concrete plan for how to treat Ebola. At University of Colorado Hospital, a group of volunteers

across the whole health care spectrum have agreed to treat an Ebola patient if that person came to the hospital.

Contrary to the media hype, Ebola is very treatable and well researched since the first outbreak in the 1960s, according to Baron.

She says it is unfortunate the general public is so fearful and has many misconceptions. A person has to be very sick to transmit the virus, and it cannot become airborne—a new myth going around. Measles is far more contagious but unlikely because the U.S. is a highly vaccinated population. Although Ebola is put in the same category as HIV, it is potentially less infectious. Unlike Ebola where a patient gets sick right away, a person with HIV can be infected and transmit the disease for a longer time without knowing.

One Ebola patient requires at least four or five health care workers: a nurse for one-on-one care; a physician to monitor the patient's health; relief staff when either of those needs a break; and "buddies" or observers to keep an eye on the process and make sure checklists are followed.

"There were many people who were happy to volunteer and said, 'It's a part of my job, a part of what I do, I just want to make sure I'm safe.'"

The tricky part is many health care workers are not used to wearing that degree of protective wear for that long.

Beginning in mid-October, the health care team at University Hospital has gone through formal training. They practice wearing the full protective suit and do step-by-step treat-

ment on fake patients.

Baron says the training refines your mindset. People in health care are taught "universal precautions," or the assumption that every person may potentially harbor an infectious disease and to always be protective. Treating Ebola refines that mindset down to every detail, like exposing an inch of skin on the wrist.

University of Colorado Hospital continues to revise its plan and communicate with other hospitals in the system. "It's a Magic 8 Ball. Would we have thought Dallas? I don't know... it really could be anywhere just because of where somebody who's traveling ends up."

We welcome comments at FrontPorchStapleton.com

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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

11/5 to 11/9—Denver Assistance League Holiday Boutique. Bosworth House, 1400 Josephine St. Hours/admission varies by day. 303.338.1014 or www.denver.assistanceleague.org

11/13 to 11/15—Botanic Gardens Holiday Sale. Preview party Thurs. 5-8pm. Tickets \$15. Free admission Fri. and Sat. 9am-5pm. www.botanicgardens.org

11/14 to 11/15—L'Esprit de Noel Home Tour. Glenmoor Country Club neighborhood, 10am-4pm. Holiday Boutique at Glenmoor clubhouse. Tickets: www.lesprithometour.com

11/14 to 11/16—Junior League Holiday Mart. Denver Marriott DTC. Hours vary. www.JDL.org

11/21 to 11/23—28th Annual Holiday Food and Gift Festival. Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th St, downtown Denver. Adults \$10; seniors \$9; 12 and under free. www.hfgf.com

11/21 to 12/23—Denver Christkindl Market. Vendors from Germany and other countries, local artisans, carolers, traditional German food and drink. Skyline Park, 16th and Arapahoe. Hours vary. www.denverchristkindlmarket.com

11/21 to 12/28—Colorado Railroad Museum's Polar Express. Performances/train rides weekends and select days. Tickets from \$30 adult; \$20 kids 11 and under. www.coloradorailroadmuseum.org

11/22 to 11/23—Sugar Plum Bazaar. Handmade vintage boutique holiday market, McNichols Building, 144 W. Colfax. Sat. 10am-7pm, Sun. 10am-4pm. www.sugarplumbazaar.com

11/22 to 11/23—World Gift Market. World Gift Market, presented by 1st Plymouth and 1st Universalist churches, Hampden and Colorado. Fair trade, eco-friendly gifts handmade by artisans from developing countries and local non-profits. Fri. 5-8pm First Universal only. Sat. 9am-4pm, Sun. 9am-2pm both churches. Free admission. www.firstplymouthchurch.org

11/25 to 2/16—Southwest Rink at Skyline Park. FREE ice skating in down-

town Denver; bring skates or rent: \$2/pair. www.downtowndenver.com

11/26 Wednesday—Thanksgiving Tea. At Molly Brown House. Sittings: 1pm and 3pm. Holiday High Teas begin 12/5. jwilms@mollybrown.org or 303.832.4092x17. www.mollybrown.org

11/28 Friday—9News Light the Lights, City and County Building. 6:30pm. www.downtowndenver.com

11/28 Friday—Downtown Denver's Grand Illumination. Kick off holidays with lighting of downtown. FREE. 5:30pm. Union Station and 16th Street Mall. 720.865.3500, www.downtowndenver.com

11/29 to 12/21—Olde Golden Christmas. Historic Downtown Golden, Washington Ave. Weekends only. Santa, Christmas parades, carriage rides, dog cart rides, carolers and more. www.visitgolden.com

11/29 to 12/27—The Nutcracker. Presented by Colorado Ballet. Tickets: www.coloradoballet.org

12/5 to 12/6—9News Parade of Lights. Marching bands, giant balloons, floats. Fri. 8pm and Sat. 6pm. FREE. Parade info: www.downtowndenver.com

12/5 to 12/6—Colorado Choir Christmas Concert. Augustana Lutheran Church. Tickets: www.augustanaarts.org

12/5 to 1/1—Blossoms of Light. 5:30-9:00pm. Denver Botanic Gardens. 1007 York St. 720.865.3514, www.botanicgardens.org

12/5 to 1/4—Zoo Lights. 5:30-9pm. Denver Zoo. 720.337.1400, www.denverzoo.org

12/6 to 12/14—54th Annual Georgetown Christmas Market. European-type

market: handcrafted gifts, carolers, horse-drawn wagon rides, roasted chestnuts and St. Nicholas. First 2 Dec. weekends. 10am-6pm. FREE. www.historicgeorgetown.org/Christmas_Market

DENVER METRO EVENTS

Through 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

Through 11/30—Chihuly Nights. 5:30-8pm. Denver Botanic Gardens. Chihuly sculptures illuminated at night. Members \$10; nonmembers \$15. Tickets available only online. www.botanicgardens.org

11/1 Saturday—Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Celebration. Mexican celebration to remember loved ones who have passed. Traditional Aztec dancing, crafts, face painting (\$5) and more. 9am-3pm. Free with admission. Denver Botanic Gardens. www.botanicgardens.org

11/7 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Santa Fe Arts District, Tennyson Art Walk, River North (RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Museum District, Navajo Street Art District. www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

11/7 to 11/8—Colorado Women's Chorale. Featuring music of Gwyneth Walker. Augustana Lutheran Church. Tickets: www.augustanaarts.org

11/7 to 11/9—Colorado Ski and Snowboard Expo. Tickets \$15, under 12 free. Coupon on website. Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th St, downtown Denver. Tickets: www.bewisports.com/expos/denver

11/7 to 11/15—Denver Arts Week. Celebrate Denver-area cultural scene and vibrant arts with over 200 events. Art walks; 12+ museums host extra hours. FREE admission Sat. night, 11/8; weeklong deals, Film Festival, discounts and special performances. www.denver.org/DenverArtsWeek

11/8 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. Free with admission. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-2pm. www.wingsmuseum.org

11/8 Saturday—Denver Veterans Day Parade and Festival. 10am. Civic Center Park. Broadway and Colfax Ave, followed by Veterans Day Festival at Civic Center Park. 12-6pm. www.denerveteransday.com

11/8 Saturday—Open House, New St. Joseph Hospital. 9am-1pm, 19th and Lafayette. Activities for the whole family, giveaways, behind-the-scenes tours and refreshments. RSVP: www.SaintJosephDenver.org/open-house

11/13 to 11/15—Castle Clay Show. Features Castle Clay Artists and guests. Wood, clay, ceramics, glass jewelry, more. Jefferson Unitarian Church, 14350 W. 32nd Ave, Golden. www.castleclayartists.net

11/14 Friday—Meet Here: An Evening of Idea Brewing and Creative Cross. Community open house about DAM seeking local creatives to co-produce

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11/15 Saturday—Wings over the Rockies 2014 Spreading Wings Gala. Cocktails, dinner, an awards program, and silent and live auctions. www.wingsmuseum.org

11/15 Saturday—Deck the Mall Holiday Craft Fair. 16th Street Mall, Holiday Craft Fair. 11am-6pm. www.coloradoevents.net

11/15 Saturday—Merry Band of Brass. With the Lamont Brass Ensemble. 7:30pm. Bethany Lutheran Church. Tickets from \$20. www.denverbrass.org

11/16 to 3/15—Brilliant: Cartier in the 20th Century. Special exhibit, Denver Art Museum. Ticket purchase extra. www.denverartmuseum.org

11/17 Sunday—Athena Festival 18. Creativity, spiritual sciences, women's issues. www.athenafestival.com

11/19 to 11/21—Denver International Wine Fest. 3-day wine/food celebration; wines from around the world. 303.664.5700, www.denverwinefest.com

11/28 to 11/30—Rocky Mountain Auto Show. Colorado Convention Center. Adults \$12, kids 6-12 \$3. Tickets: www.cremedelachrome.com

11/29 to 11/30—Rocky Mountain Toy Train Show. Denver Merchandise Mart 1-25 and 58th Ave. \$9 kids under 12, military and scouts in uniform free. 10am-5pm. www.rockymountaintrainshow.com

11/30 Sunday—Colorado Symphony Drums of the World. \$13-\$25. www.coloradosymphony.org

12/4 to 12/7—Denver Potters Association Show. Features Castle Clay Artists and guests. Wood, clay, ceramics, glass jewelry, more. 6th Ave. United Church, 6th and Adams. www.castleclayartists.net



Front Porch photo by Madeline Schroeder

Westerly Creek Elementary was pretty in pink on Thursday, Oct. 23. All 700 students wore pink to support those fighting cancer and to celebrate those who have survived, including principal Jill Corcoran and ECE paraprofessional Alberta Burg. Students' cheering as they released balloons could be heard from the school's rooftop, where this photo was taken.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS


11/1 Saturday—Home for the Holidays 5K. 9am. Denver City Park. Benefits Colorado Coalition for the Homeless. www.coloradocoalition.org/events

11/1 Saturday—Puppy Up! Denver walk and festival to promote canine cancer awareness. Stapleton Central Park. 10am. www.puppyupdenver.kintera.org

11/2 Sunday—11th Annual Denver Gorilla Run. Benefits Mountain Gorilla Conservation Fund. 11am. City Park. www.denvergorillarun.com


11/2 to 11/30—Re-Boot, The Endorphin Experience at Stanley. Sunday fitness classes for ages 5 and up. 8am. Bring water bottle and gloves; prepare to get dirty. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas St. Suggested donation \$10. www.myendorphin.com

(continued on p. 32)




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(continued from p. 31)

11/3 Monday—Free Meditation Group. Learn new meditation techniques or practice your own. RSVP: www.stressintel.com under Events.

11/8 Saturday—Denver Veterans Day Run. 7am. 5K and 10K. Begins on Auraria Campus and ends at Civic Center Park. www.denerveteransday.com

11/22 Saturday—Mustache Dache 5K. City Park. Benefits "Movember" men's charities. \$20-\$40. 9am. www.mustachedache.com

11/27 Thursday—41st Annual Mile High United Way Turkey Trot. Washington Park. 10am. Competitive and fun runs. www.unitedwaydenver.org

KIDS AND FAMILIES

Through 11/16—Denver Puppet Theater. Baba Yaga. 3156 W. 38th Ave. www.denverpuppettheater.com

11/1 Saturday—Four Mile Historic Park Hay Bales and Tall Tales. 12-1pm. Free with admission. 715 S. Forest St. www.fourmilepark.org

11/4 to 11/18—Tuesdays in November Four Mile Historic Park Small Settlers. Ages 2-5 accompanied by parent/caregiver. No session 11/25. 9-10am. \$5/child adults free, members free. 7150D. Forest St. Advance register:

720.865.0814 or education@fourmilepark.org www.fourmilepark.org

November 12-23—37th Starz Denver Film Festival

More than 200 films and 150 film industry guests attending will be at the 37th Starz Denver Film Festival this November. There are many different ticket packages. Tickets are available at Sie FilmCenter box office 2pm-8pm Nov 1-Nov 11 and 10am-3pm on Nov 12. Visit denverfilm.org.

11/5 Wednesday—Preschool Story Time. 9:30 am. Ages 2-5 with caregiver. History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway. www.historycolorado.org

11/5 Wednesday—Wands and Wishes Character Story Time. 10:30am. Stories, songs and character meet and greet first Wed. of month. \$11.50 price includes a book. 2208 Kearney St. 720.612.4363, www.wandsandwishesoccasions.com

11/6 to 11/20—Star K Kids. Thursdays, 9:30 and 11am; kids 5 and under. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. www.auroragov.org/nature

11/7 Friday—Bluff Lake Buds. 10-11am. For kids ages 2-5 accompanied by adult. \$5/child if advance registered; adults free. Bluff Lake Nature Center, 3400 Havana Way. Register: keith@blufflake.org, www.blufflake.org

11/8 Saturday—Home Depot Kids Workshop. 9am-12pm. FREE how-to clinics first Sat. monthly, ages 5-12. Get Home Depot apron, wooden project and project pin. Metro-area Home Depot stores. www.homedepot.com

11/8 to 11/9—Forney Transportation Museum Moffat Modelers Toy Train Layout. Scale toy train layout open first weekend monthly. Free with museum admission. 4303 Brighton Blvd. www.forneymuseum.org

11/14 to 11/28—Lowe's Build and Grow Kids Clinics. Bring kids to Lowe's

stores to build FREE wood project: Monthly, 2nd and 4th Saturdays. Free apron, goggles, project-themed patch, merit certificate on completion. 10am. www.lowesbuildandgrow.com

11/15 Saturday—Teen Art Show. Museum of Contemporary Art. Featuring artworks by Denver-area high school students. 6-9pm. 18 and under free. Free snacks, drinks and entertainment. 1485 Delgany St. www.mcadenver.org

LECTURES AND CLASSES

11/4 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—The Panama Canal. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. 303.316.6359. www.ActiveMinds.com

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

11/11 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—Scotland. 12:30-1:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727. www.ActiveMinds.com

11/13 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)—China's Human Rights Struggle. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325. www.ActiveMinds.com

11/18 Tuesday—League of Women Voters Affordable Housing discussion. 5:30pm. Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St. www.lvvdenver.org

11/25 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—Iraq. 5-6pm. Tattered Cover 2526 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727. www.ActiveMinds.com

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LISTINGS

12/2 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—William Shakespeare. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. 303.316.6359. [www.ActiveMinds.com](#)

12/4 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)—Pearl Harbor:The Day That Lives in Infamy. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325. [www.ActiveMinds.com](#)

MUSEUMS—DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE

11/20 Thursday—Science Lounge- Speakeasy. Science Lounge heads to the Savoy at Curtis Park. Celebrate the 1920s by learning the Lindy Hop and science of distilling. 6:30-9:30pm. \$10/members; \$12/nonmembers. [www.dmns.org](#)

11/21 to 5/3—Traveling the Silk Road. Separate ticket required for exhibit. [www.dmns.org](#)

MUSEUMS—FREE DAYS

11/1 Saturday Denver Art Museum. SCFD Free Day. [www.denverartmuseum.org](#)

11/3 Monday—Denver Zoo Free Day. SCFD Free Day. Other zoo free days: 11/14 and 11/20. [www.denverzoo.org](#)

11/4 Tuesday- Children's Museum. Target Free First Tuesday. [www.mychildsmuseum.org](#)

11/7 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park. SCFD Free Day. [www.fourmilepark.org](#)

11/8 Saturday- Denver Botanic Gardens SCFD Free Day. 11/14 and 11/15 are also Gardens SCFD Free Days. [www.botanicgardens.org](#)

12/1 Denver Museum of Nature and Science. SCFD Free Day. [www.dmns.org](#)

12/3 Wednesday—Molly Brown House Free Day. SCFD Free Day. [www.mollybrown.org](#)

NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS

11/1 to 11/7—Kim Robards Dance—3D: Dance, Drinks and Desserts. Dance company opens 28th season. 6:30pm. Light hors d'oeuvres, drinks and desserts served; dance performance at 7:30pm. 9900 E. Colfax. tickets@kimrobardsdance.org or 303.825.4847. [www.kimrobardsdance.org](#)

11/7 to 11/9—Park Hill Art Club Semiannual Art Show and Sale. 1200+ framed/unframed original art pieces by Park Hill Art Club members. Park Hill United Methodist Church, 5209 Montview Blvd. Fri. 4:30-8pm (reception), Sat. 10am-6pm and Sun. 9:30am-4pm. [parkhillartclub.org](#)

11/8 Saturday—Aurora Potters' Guild Fall Show and Sale. 9am-4pm. Aurora Center for Active Adults, 30 Del Mar Circle. [www.auroragov.org/pottery](#)

11/16 Sunday—Economic Update with Thrivent Financial. After Bronco Game, 3pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. Refreshments served. RSVP: Ted Kouba, 303.994.3894 or Theodore.Kouba@thrivent.com

11/22 Saturday—Craft Fair. Blessed Sacrament Altar and Rosary Society Annual Craft Fair, 10am-3pm Sat. and after Sun. masses. 6-ft. vendor tables available: \$60. 4900 E. Montview Blvd in Campbell Hall. [saralange@msn.com](#) or 303.375.8745

11/29 Saturday—100 Men Who Cook Charity Gala. 6pm-12am. Crowne Plaza Denver, 15500 E. 40th Ave. Gentlemen chefs

including Mayor Hancock cook to benefit J.A.Z.Z. Cafe. [www.100menwhocook.com](#)

11/30 Sunday—Glorious Music of the Season. 5pm. Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St. [www.montview.org](#)

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

11/7 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Big Hero 6; Interstellar; Awake: The Life of Yogananda [www.harkinstheatres.com](#)

11/14 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Beyond the Lights; Dumb and Dumber To; Kirk and Cameron's Saving Christmas; The Theory of Everything; The Way He Looks. [www.harkinstheatres.com](#)

11/21 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. The Hunger Games Mockingjay: Part 1. [www.harkinstheatres.com](#)

11/25 Tuesday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. TNC Love Actually. [www.harkinstheatres.com](#)

11/26 Wednesday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Horrible Bosses 2. [www.harkinstheatres.com](#)

11/28 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. The Overnighters. [www.harkinstheatres.com](#)

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

11/1 to 11/30—Refuge Amateur Photo Contest. Vote at Visitors Center for 3 favorite photos till 11/30. Winning photos announced early Dec.

11/2 Sunday—Wildlife Viewing Tours. 9:30-11:30am, Free 2-hour bus tour of refuge. Repeats 11/7, 14, 22, 23. RSVP required. [www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/](#)

11/8 Saturday—Birding for Beginners. 8:30-11:30 am. RSVP required. [www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/](#)

11/15 Saturday—Awesome Antlers. 8:30am-12pm. Learn about seasonal behaviors, then explore their habitat. RSVP required. [www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/](#)

11/28 to 11/29—Holiday Tours. 9:30-11:30am each day. Bus tour of bison, deer, coyotes, waterfowl, fall colors, plus make craft. RSVP required. [www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/](#)

SCHOOLS & EDUCATION

11/4 Tuesday—St. Elizabeth's K-8 Episcopal School Open Houses. Tour and learn about mission, program and admissions process. 2350 Gaylord St. Lower School, 9am-1pm (drop-in basis), Middle School 6:30-8pm. RSVP: 303.322.4209 or [admissions@sesden.org](#). [www.stelizabethsdenver.org](#), [www.stelizabethsdenver.org](#)

11/5 Wednesday—How to Pick an Elementary School and Montview Kindergarten Open House. Host/guest speaker Lisi Stephens, kindergarten teacher.

6:30-8:30pm, Montview Preschool and Kindergarten Rm. 115. 1980 Dahlia St. [www.montviewpreschool.org](#)

11/5 Wednesday—International School of Denver Open House. Preschool to 5th grade. Repeats 12/5. IB MYP Middle School, 12/10. RSVP: [admissions@isdenver.org](#), [www.isdenver.org](#)

11/15 Saturday—Stanley British Primary Open House. K-8. Childcare provided. 350 Quebec St. 303.360.0803 ext.192, [admission@stanleybps.org](#), [www.stanleybps.org](#)

THEATRE

Through 11/2—I Do! I Do! Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. [www.vintagetheatre.org](#)

Through 11/8—Harold and Maude. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District.

Through 11/8—The Outgoing Tide. John Hand Theater, 7653 E. 1st Place in Lowry. [www.firehousetheatercompany.com](#)

Through 11/2—Dracula. Presented by the Colorado Ballet. Ellie Caulkins Opera House. [www.coloradoballet.org](#)

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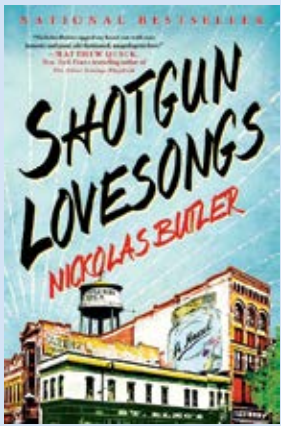
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The Book Worm

The Front Porch prints book reviews by local librarians, rotating to a different library each month. November book reviews are by Amy DelPo from the Schlessman Family Branch Library. Amy hosts a book group at Schlessman 1:30-3:30pm the third Thursday of every month.



Shotgun Lovesongs
by Nickolas Butler

Set in rural Wisconsin, *Shotgun Lovesongs* is a meditation on friendship, love, and the power of community.

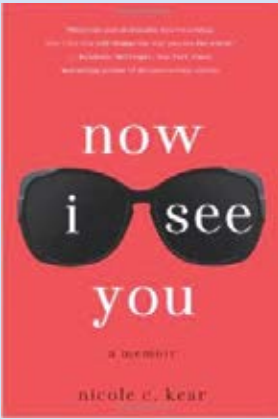
The book focuses on four men and a woman who grew up together in the fictitious farming town of Little Wing. The action takes place both in the present and the past, and the book examines how their friendship influences the trajectory of these people's lives. The point of view shifts among all of the friends—from the world famous rock star who always returns home to the poor struggling farmer who is his best friend to the woman who loves them both. The book is big-hearted and romantic, but also rugged

and spare with a strong sense of place. There is something here for everyone. This is a compelling read—well written with a good plot, and much of the sensibility feels very western, very Colorado, even though it is set in the East.

Now I See You by Nicole C. Kear

Nicole C. Kear is a 19-year-old drama student at Yale when she finds out that she has a degenerative eye disease that will eventually leave her blind.

While giving her the bad news, the doctor tells her she has maybe 10 years of sight left and advises her to change the way she lives. Instead of preparing for her blindness, she pushes the diagnosis to the back of her mind and lives life to the fullest.



But she can't hide forever. In this memoir, which at times is poignant and other times laugh-out-loud funny, she recounts the arc of her coming to accept and ultimately live with her diagnosis.

Earth Girl by Janet Edwards

In the year 2789, humanity has colonized many different planets and only the unlucky "handicapped" actually live on shabby old Earth. People from other worlds come back to study humanity's history in archeological digs, but otherwise, they stay away. Enter Jarra, an Earth dweller who decides to teach the off worlders that their negative impressions of Earth and her inhabitants have no foundation in the truth. This book has a sweet tone, and Jarra is a smart, brave, and defiant heroine—a girl any



teen would love to hang out with. The world we see is believable and interesting and, comfortingly, not so bad. There's a touch of romance in the plot, but mostly there is adventure and discovery of an Earth 700 years from now.

The Story Starts Here by Caroline Merola

Read this book from back to front because Little Wolf says so! And so begins a story in which contrarian Little Wolf gets to decide how to do things on this day, from playing the piano with his toes to wearing



his pants on his head. Kids will delight in a book in which a little one rules the day and silliness ensues.

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Please RSVP to Ted Kouba at **303-941-3894** or theodore.kouba@thrivent.com to reserve your spot. Refreshments will be served.

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Bluff Lake Nature Center Raising Funds to Restore, Preserve Lake Habitat

By Laurie Dunklee

Nine-acre Bluff Lake, the centerpiece of Bluff Lake Nature Center, is home to a wide variety of wildlife—and to nature lovers of all ages. The 128-year-old lake in Stapleton needs help.

“The lake is fed only by rainwater, and in dry years it is dry and wildlife suffers,” said Erika Walker, president of the board of Bluff Lake Nature Center.

The dam that created Bluff Lake, built around 1886, is leaking. “If we don’t repair it, at some point it might breach—and then we’d lose the lake altogether,” Walker said.

In addition to dam leakage and evaporation, water is also lost through permeable soil at the bottom of the lake.

“We’re mandated to be a nature center offering a range of education programs, which we can’t do if the lake is dry. If it’s dry for extended periods, it’s not Bluff Lake Nature Center,” said Jeff Lamontagne, executive director of Bluff Lake.

The nature center plans three phases to save the lake: first, reinforce the dam; second, line the bottom of the lake with clay; and finally, bring more water to the lake by tapping into Denver’s recycled water.

The nature center, a nonprofit organization, is securing grants totaling \$1.1 million from the State of Colorado, but needs to raise \$375,000 in matching

funds. The first \$80,000 raised will release enough grant money to complete Phase 1. Additional contributions of \$295,000 will allow the completion of Phases 2 and 3.

“We hope to wrap up the fundraising by next summer,” said Lamontagne.

To reinforce the dam, a slurry wall will be built against the old stone structure on the north side of the lake, as wide and tall as the old dam and going 7 to 8 feet below ground. In Phase 2, the lake will be dredged and lined in places with 12”-thick clay. Step pools of different depths will be installed.

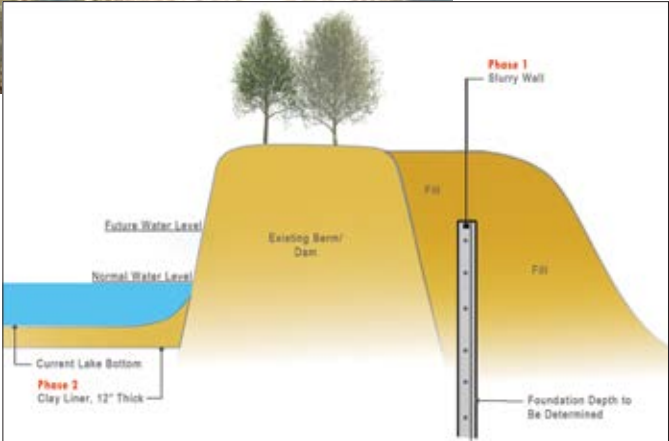
“The step pools will attract a wider variety of wildlife, including amphibians and more varieties of ducks,” Lamontagne said.

Phase 3 will tap into the Denver recycled water line, west of the lake at Havana St.

“All these things put together will make it so that only during extra dry times will the lake dry out, but it won’t stay dry for multiple years,” said Lamontagne. “This project will secure the lake for a couple hundred more years.”



Bluff Lake is fed only by rainwater and in dry years the lake and wildlife suffers. The nature center has planned three phases of construction to save the lake, as shown in the graphic below.



Donations can be made by sending a check to Bluff Lake Nature Center, 4755 Paris St. #190, Denver, CO 80239, or online at coloradogives.org (search Bluff Lake Nature Center and designate the donation for the lake campaign). Bluff Lake Nature Center is a State of Colorado Enterprise Zone Charity. In addition to the usual federal tax deductions for a charitable contribution, there is an additional 25 percent tax *credit* on Colorado state tax returns for donations of \$100 or more.”

“Bluff Lake makes it possible to experience

wildness right here in our neighborhood,” said Walker. “With Colorado’s population growing—and open space shrinking—places like Bluff Lake are more important than ever.”

For more information, see www.blufflake.org.

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Denver Discovery School Wins National Environmental Contest



Representatives from National Office Furniture, left to right, Terri Vagi, Coco Koch and Jenn Vitella congratulate Denver Discovery School

By Madeline Schroeder

Denver Discovery School (DDS) has big plans for its garden after winning \$4,000 and first place in the Nation Office Furniture Green4Green Video Contest.

Schools and universities of all levels nationwide entered a video describing how \$4,000 could enhance the school's environmental efforts. The contest ran for two months and was voted on by the community.

A few DDS students and parents made a video explaining the school's small budget and need for extra funding to support the garden, which was built with donations from local businesses.

"I'm super proud of the kids and super impressed with the kids who were a part of the video and the parents who have spearheaded so many amazing projects here at DDS," says Principal Kristen Atwood.

In the video, students enthusiastically explained the goals of the garden, including growing vegetables for the school cafeteria and having a salsa party with ingredients from the garden.

Parent Terri Vagi spearheaded the contest. She

students for winning \$4,000 in the Green4Green video contest at a farmer's market hosted by the school to celebrate the win.

calls herself more of an enthusiast than a gardener. "Not to toot my own horn, but I'm very passionate and competitive," she says. She suspects Facebook friends may have gotten sick of seeing the video on social media.

"It was the craziest last 7 minutes. It was a whirlwind. We won by five votes," she says, the excitement of the final minutes still lingering in her voice. She wants the garden to be a calm sanctuary for kids to learn and have fun.

The \$4,000 allows the school to consider new possibilities with the garden, which they refer to as a community instructional garden. Students use the garden in science class, in social studies to learn about service learning, and art class for landscape projects. "We have a reflection time, meditation, and DEAR (drop everything and read). The students are really making it their home," Atwood says.

As part of Language Arts class, kids wrote how they think the \$4,000 should be used. The school is considering more seating and a shaded area. To learn more about the school's garden, visit denverdiscoveryschool.dpsk12.org.

McAuliffe Girls Finish Good Run in 2014 Season

By Madeline Schroeder

Although being a new program, the McAuliffe Middle School girl's cross-country team had an impressive 2014 season. They competed in the DPS championship on October 7 and then went on to state on October 18.

"We've got incredible talent on the team," coach Lizzie Mara says. "Not only that but this year was a lot of the girls' first time running cross country."

Sixth-grader Christina Doolan won the DPS championship out of nearly 700 runners. She ran 1.8 miles in 12:20.

This was her first year running cross-country, on top of her other big commitment, Irish Step Dancing. "She is very humble and low key about how awesome she is," Mara says. "She shows up with a smile on her face and never rolls her eyes. She loves the work of it just as much as she loves the reward."



Photo courtesy of Maricris Doolan.

Sixth-grader Christina Doolan celebrates with the McAuliffe girls cross-country team after winning the DPS championship in October.

She's probably exceptional for her age in all ways."

Maisie Maskowitz, Lily Martin, Anna Buddenhagen, and Grace Staberg also had exceptional seasons. Mara is excited a lot of the girls are in sixth or seventh grades and will return next year. "We're going to have a powerhouse of a team. They'll return as veterans and know what to expect."

15-Year-Old Makes Final Ascent to Eagle Rank

By Madeline Schroeder

Becoming an Eagle Scout, the highest rank of Boy Scouts, is a rank few achieve. Stapleton resident Bryce Bauer, 15, guesses about 5 percent of America's population are Eagle Scouts.

The young men have to go through multiple ranks in Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts to become an Eagle. For their final ascent to Eagle, they must complete a service project for the community, excluding schools, Scouts, and religious and non-charitable organizations.

Bauer, who attends DSST Stapleton and is a member of Troop 62, recently became an Eagle Scout by completing a service project for the Bluff Lake Nature Center. With the intent of becoming an engineer, Bauer chose to design, plan and build a bike and footbridge, which is located down the main trail to the right. It took him two months to complete the project. Bauer is proud of the bridge, which will have a plaque in his honor.

Many Scouts do not reach Eagle rank, which Bauer thinks is because of negative or nerdy por-



Photo courtesy of Eva Bauer.

Bryce Bauer sits on the bridge he designed and built at Bluff Lake Nature Center.

trays of Scouts. He refutes that image.

Each month the Scouts go on a camping trip. During his time in Scouts, Bauer has gone on canoe, backpacking and snow cave trips. His favorite was a canoe trip in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota.

"I feel like I've become a better leader and learned a lot of life experiences like how to manage money and survive in the wild."

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Author Completes Third Book in Series



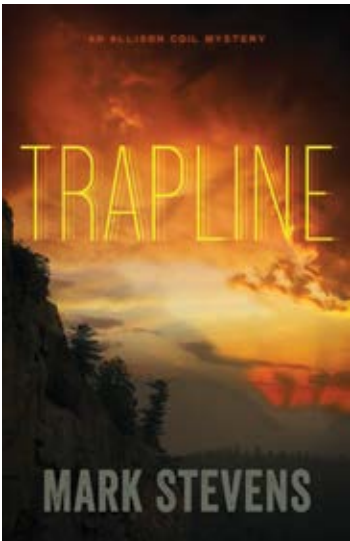
By Madeline Schroeder
Politics, suspense and the Colorado outdoors collide in Stapleton resident Mark Stevens' third book in the Allison Coil series, *Trapline*, to be released on November 8.

The main protagonist is Allison Coil, a female hunting guide whose character is inspired by a "young bright energetic outdoorsy" guide Stevens and his wife met years ago on a horse backpacking trip. Coil finds a chewed-up corpse in the Flat Tops Wilderness while leading a trip. Some of the hikers think the person was killed by a mountain lion, but based on her wilderness knowledge, Coil knows otherwise.

Meanwhile in Denver, U.S. Senate candidate Tom Lamott is shot during a campaign speech. Reporter Duncan Bloom, inspired by an old reporter friend of Stevens', covers the event and falls into a political mystery. The two plots intertwine.

"It's not a cozy read. It's pretty action packed and it mostly

happens in the Colorado outdoors," Stevens says. The book incorporates two major political issues— for-profit prisons and immigration. Stevens is enamored with taking a current issue and making it into a narrative. A previous book involved natural gas development. Stevens was a reporter at The Denver Post and the Rocky Mountain News. He has been writing fiction since the '80s and first got published in 2007. "It took me 23 years in between starting to write and getting published," he says and laughs. Throughout his years of writing he has accumulated a stock of fiction stories that are ready to be revised. He plans to continue the Allison Coil series, rework other stories from his shelf, and contemplate the big question of how one book can make it big. "Of course there is the little thought in the back of your head of what could take this to the next level,"



he says. He thinks it's a combination of the right people talking about it and a matter of the times. Would *Hunger Games* have received the same phenomenal response if it were published in six years? Other than writing, Stevens enjoys playing the bass guitar, cooking and traveling. He has two daughters and has lived in Stapleton for four years. The lower downtown Tattered Cover, 1628 16th Street, will host a *Trapline* book launch on Friday, Nov. 21. For details visit www.writermark-stevens.com.

Stapleton Foundation Awarded Grant for a Healthier NE Denver

By Madeline Schroeder

"Oh, my gosh, am I excited. I am ecstatic," says Alisha Brown, vice president of the Stapleton Foundation and director of be well Health and Wellness Initiative.

Be well recently received a \$484,635 grant to increase access to physical activity in Northeast Denver. "The overall goal for the fund is geared toward increasing physical activity with a focus on the African-American community because it's one of the communities higher in health disparities," Brown says.

Be well was among 49 organizations awarded a grant by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to support public health efforts. Be well received basic funding, meaning they have time to decide how to spend the money. It will be administered by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and run for three years.

Be well is focusing on lower-income African-American communities and determining the barriers to physical activity. Brown cannot attribute any one reason why health disparities exist among certain populations but thinks it is important to acknowledge the problem and figure out how to prevent it. "I think it's an opportunity for us to work together."

Be well is currently in the financial planning phase and will work with residents, recreation centers, RTD FasTracks, the CDC and the City and County of Denver to decide how to spend the money. "These are tax dollars and we know we have to be very responsible for these funds and make sure they are a key investment for the populations we are serving," Brown says. She thinks the grant will help make a better, healthier Denver. To learn more about the project, visit bewell-connect.org.

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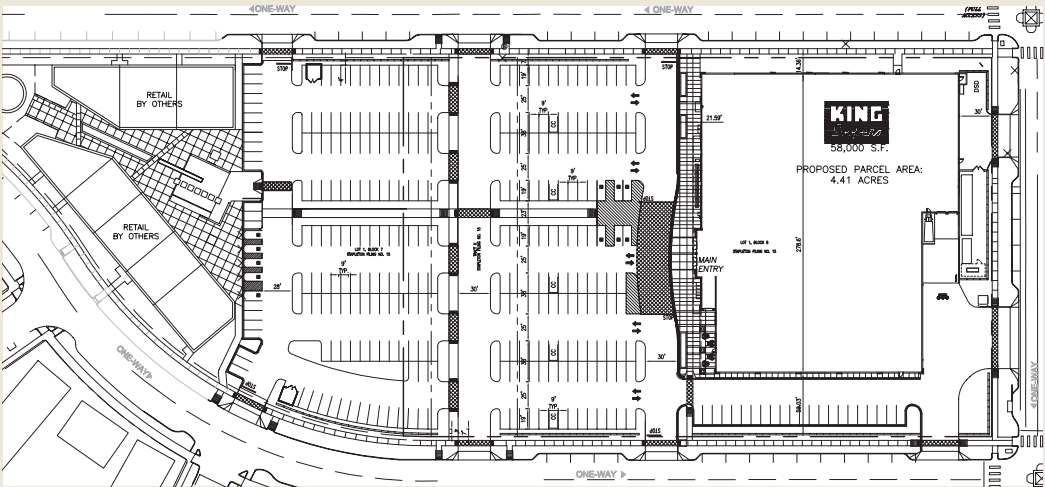
Eastbridge Plans Evolve

By Carol Roberts

Evergreen Development has obtained feedback on their Eastbridge retail plans through numerous formal and informal community meetings and they have had a pre-application concept meeting with the City of Denver. Tyler Carlson, at the October Zoning and Planning (ZAP) meeting, said after getting ZAP input they will “aggregate the feedback and create a 2.0 version of their plan.” They will take that plan to the Stapleton Design Review committee in November for an informal “sketch level” discussion. He explained this step will “catch them up with King Soopers,” which had a comparable session with Design Review in April.

Evergreen’s plans remain as previously described, with two one-story structures that face inward toward a public plaza, but with attractive architecture facing the street. The development will have about eight businesses—a combination of lifestyle and service—in 23,000 square feet.

Carlson is soliciting suggestions for possible tenants and says he is pursuing many of the ideas suggested by the community. Amenities requested have included a water feature and bike/stroller parking. One of the biggest concerns expressed by the community has been safe pedestrian access. Carlson says at their concept meeting with the city of Denver, “the City expressed an openness to considering a signalized pedestrian crossing. It



is going to be subject to a traffic study. That’s not yet resolved, but the fact that Denver is willing to look at it is great for a first step.”

Joel Starbuck, from King Soopers’ real estate division, reviewed their plans for the ZAP committee, pointing out the larger pedestrian area they created at the front and the separate entry to the indoor public sitting area (similar to the page 1 photo taken at the Leetsdale store) that opens to an outdoor sitting/eating area. “You don’t have to buy our products to sit there,” he says. The store is not planned to be open 24 hours—it will probably be closed from

Top left: At the October Zoning and Planning meeting, Joel Starbuck from King Soopers talked about the latest ideas being considered for their development at Eastbridge (located at MLK Blvd. and Havana). Tyler Carlson, center front in the photo, also made a presentation about Evergreen Development’s plans.

Left: To maintain the city’s street grid, Denver asked King Soopers to look at a plan that makes Geneva Court a through street. The plan at left shows the street bisecting the parking lot. Starbuck says parking was changed from diagonal to right angle and the total amount of parking is now 3.9 spaces per thousand.

about midnight to 5 or 6am. He also added that the loading dock is designed so that trucks will not be passing through pedestrian or customer vehicle areas and walls will be tall enough to screen the view of the loading area from the adjoining street (Havana).

Safe pedestrian access and traffic flow are being analyzed in each version of the plan. In the above concept currently being considered, Geneva Court, at 30 feet wide, bisects the parking lot; the east-west sidewalk was widened to 8 feet and landscaping was added along it. The north-south sidewalk is six feet wide; bike traffic would be on the street. Starbuck points out that the reduction in parking to 192 spaces (3.9 spaces per thousand square feet) has not been submitted to their corporate office for approval and is much lower than their usual guidelines. In order to make these changes, parking spaces are narrower and have changed from diagonal to right angle.

ZAP chair David Netz said one of their committee’s recommendations for calming traffic and improving access would be that the city consider adding bike lanes, where feasible, during the construction process. ZAP had previously discussed diagonal parking as a traffic calming measure, but, “if not diagonal parking, at least a narrowing through the site with a bike path is something we’d love to see,” he said.

When questioned about the gas station, Starbuck confirmed it is still in the plan, adding, “There’s always a problem when you have commercial property up against residential. If you have vacant commercial property across from your house, you are taking an (continued on p. 41)

On the bench?

The 2014 real estate season is not over and there is no reason to stay on the bench. Interest rates are still low, there is more fall inventory to choose from, and there are lots of buyers still out there waiting for a home like yours. Give me a shout if you’d like to see some different plays mapped out.

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Kristen Atwood, Denver Discovery MS principal; background, Sonny Zinn, Isabella Bird ele. principal



Kurt Dennis, McAuliffe MS principal



Avi Tropper, Northfield High School principal talks to 8th grader Cornell Allen, Jr., who hopes to choice in to Northfield High School.

By Carol Roberts
Northeast Denver families turned out at the Conservatory Green Campus on October 7 to meet representatives from almost 50 different local schools, whose information booths filled all four walls of the gym.

Before meeting the school representatives, Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) Education Committee Chair Rebecca Loy showed the DPS charts at right with projected population, existing capacity, and future capacity needs for elementary, middle and high schools for Stapleton students.

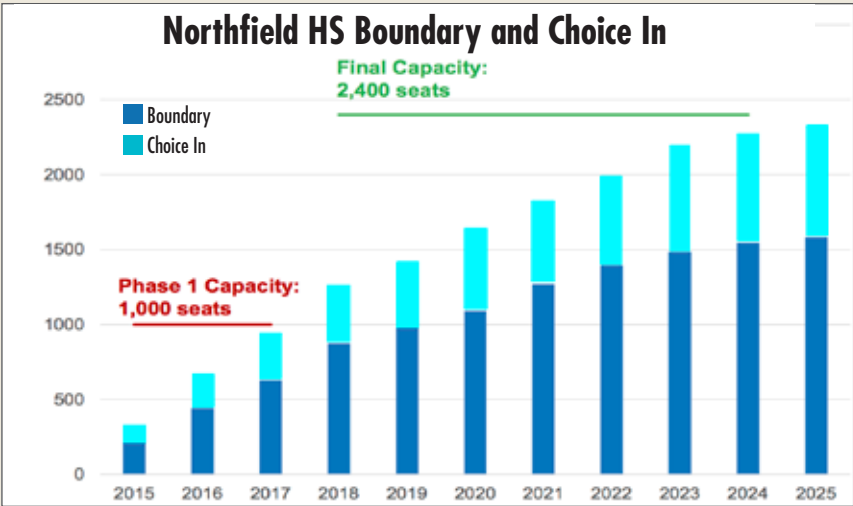
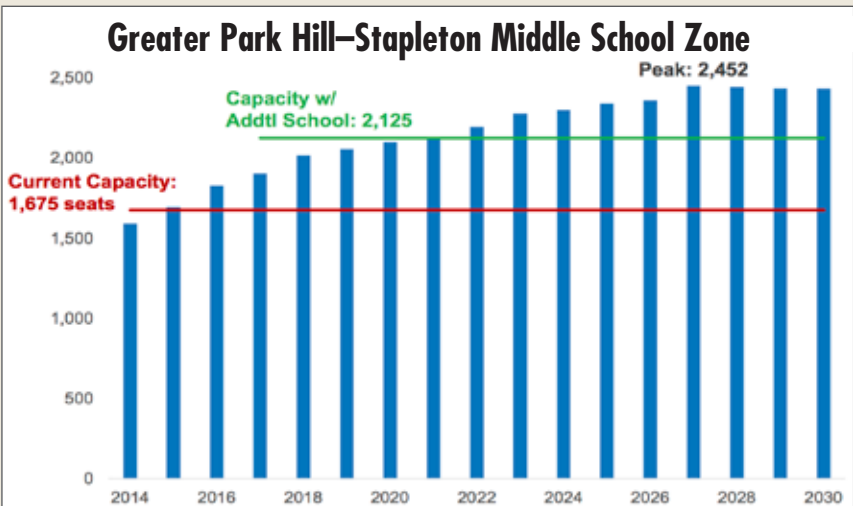
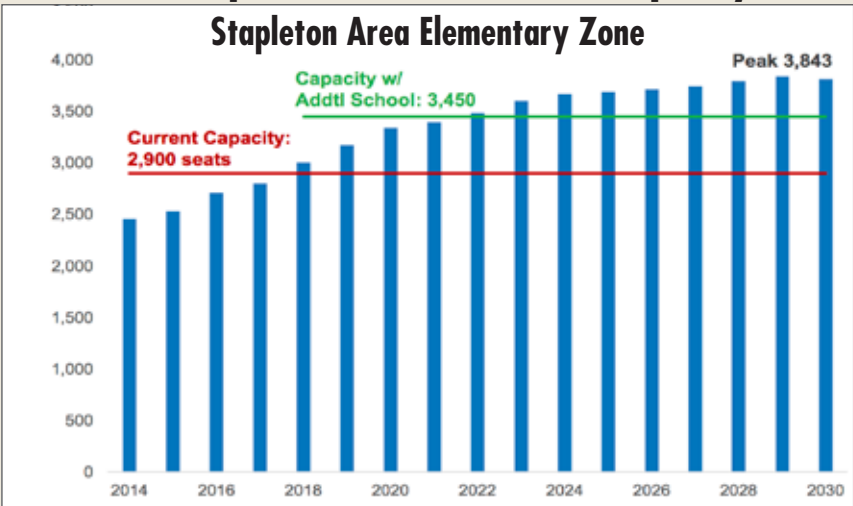
The 2016 DPS bond is expected to include funds for a new K-5 or K-8 elementary school on 10 acres north of 56th Ave. SUN is soliciting programming preferences for that future school. As shown on the elementary chart, the population is expected to exceed capacity in 2018 and again in 2022. At present, Loy says, there is no plan for an additional elementary school in 2022, adding that DPS reminds her these projections are for “homes that are not yet built and children that are not yet born,” and it is too early to plan for that school. SUN, however, advocates for setting aside land for that additional elementary school.

Loy then pointed out, as shown on the middle school chart, that the existing middle schools start to go over capacity in 2015 and will be more than 100 over in 2016—calling those numbers “really concerning.” She says DPS is planning to ask for money on the 2016 bond to build another middle school. One of the possibilities is to expand Isabella Bird to a K-8. Since the infrastructure is already in place, that expansion would be less costly than a new building elsewhere. Although Loy suggested other possible options for accommodating middle school students, DPS says they have not discussed them as of this time.

In the bottom chart, the dark blue bars show DPS’ projections for in-boundary high school students, who are guaranteed a seat. The turquoise bars, added by SUN, show DPS’ commitment to have 35% of seats available for choice-in students to ensure a diverse student body. Loy points out that the projections don’t factor in any growth in the size of the existing 4th grade class that will start high school in 2019. She says data for the 2009 kindergarten class shows that class increased 25% by the time they were fourth graders. She also says the projections assume new families moving in will have younger children, as they have in the past, but she points out that demographic may change now that there is a high school. Finally, she says the projections assume over 100 students will go to DSST high school, but it is actually unknown whether all those students will stay at DSST if they have the choice of a comprehensive high school. She says SUN is concerned about high school capacity starting in 2018, since they believe there will be more students than are shown by DPS projections.

For more information visit www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com.

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The SUN Spot

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



SUN Letter Re: Eastbridge Town Center Development

The following letter was sent by the SUN board to the Stapleton Design Review Committee and also to Joel Starbuck, Assistant Director of Real Estate and Russell Dispense, President of King Soopers, Inc.

October 20, 2014

Eastbridge Design Stakeholders:

Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) is the registered neighborhood association for Denver's Stapleton neighborhood. SUN is charged with representing Stapleton residents on important matters and serving as a voice for their concerns. Given the strongly negative response in our community generated by the proposed King Soopers store at Eastbridge Town Center, we have taken an official position on this project.

The most recent design shared with the public by King Soopers, during a Zoning and Planning (ZAP) meeting on October 14, 2014, includes a 58,000-square-foot store, 192 parking spaces (in addition to the 114 parking spaces for retail development on the west end of the property), and a 14-pump gas station at the northwest corner of the intersection of 29th Drive and Havana Street. In the most recent community survey conducted by SUN, 74% of all residents and 98.5% of Eastbridge residents said the plan does not fit their vision of a town center. Only 38% of all residents and 32% of Eastbridge residents strongly or somewhat support the plan, but many of those supporters expressed serious reservations.

48% of all residents and 83% of Eastbridge residents are opposed to the inclusion of a gas station in the project. It is also important to note that 89% of all residents say a gas station should be at least 300 feet away from any homes or daycares. The gas station proposed by King Soopers would be situated directly across the street (less than 100 feet) from the 29th Drive Rowhomes, and diagonal from the Botanical Apartments. The noise, light, and traffic generated by the gas station would pose a major threat to the quality of living for the hundreds of residents who live there, and will without doubt negatively affect their property values. Credible concerns about the safety and potential health risks of locating a gas station so close to people's homes have also been raised, including a 2011 report suggesting an increased risk of cancer among children who live in close proximity to gas stations. SUN is firmly against the inclusion of a gas station in the town center plan.

An earlier concept plan, introduced by King Soopers during the September 9, 2014 ZAP meeting, eliminated Geneva Court. SUN is pleased to see that the October 14 concept plan reintroduced Geneva Court because that street is the only north-south connection between 29th Drive and

Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Removing Geneva Court would seriously reduce circulation in the neighborhood by creating a stretch of roadway more than a quarter mile long with no north/south access, thus forcing more traffic onto Havana, Iola, and Fulton.

Eastbridge is not an isolated exurban or suburban environment, where strip malls and their vast expanses of surface parking are standard practice. Perhaps the most obvious feature in all the concept plans that have been shown to the community is the large surface parking lot. Only 18% of all Stapleton residents surveyed say the parking lot is not too big. The parking lot design conflicts with several provisions of the *Stapleton Rules and Regulations*. Section 4.4.1 states: "Sites requiring large areas of surface parking should attempt to distribute parking into smaller areas broken up by intervening areas of landscaping, open space, and buildings wherever possible, rather than aggregating parking into continuous street facing strips." Section 4.4.2 states: "No more than 120 parking spaces shall be permitted without interruption by a landscaped median no less than 12 feet wide." Finally, Section 4.4.1 states: "The maximum allowable length of the parking area in front of retail buildings is 125 feet." In the concept plans released to date, the parking lot measures roughly 200 feet by 200 feet and is largely uninterrupted.

The parking lot also poses a significant barrier for anyone not driving a motor vehicle. Section 2.2 of the *Rules and Regulations* states: "Walkways shall be provided to separate pedestrians and vehicles, and shall link ground level uses.... Clear and safe pedestrian routes shall be defined through parking areas to provide pedestrian access between buildings with minimum conflicts with vehicles. Where walks cross drive aisles, they should be clearly marked with signage, special paving, landscaping, or similar methods." The proposed parking lot precludes safe and convenient pedestrian and bicycle access between the King Soopers store and the retail development to be constructed on the western end of the site. Even the inclusion of a path like the one in the September and October 2014 plans will place pedestrians and bicyclists in direct conflict with vehicular traffic during their entire journey.

The problems arising from the size and layout of the parking lot are a direct product of the size of the proposed King Soopers store. Only 20% of all residents surveyed say the store is not too big. At over 58,000 square feet, the store is completely out of context with the surrounding land uses, and too large for the project site. One major consequence is that the building cannot fit on the project site without being oriented such that the rear of the building, with its accompanying loading docks, utilities, and trash receptacles,

directly abuts Havana Street. That layout conflicts with Section 4.2 of the *Rules and Regulations*, which states: "No development shall be permitted to place or orient buildings, parking, circulation, or service facilities on a lot in such a way to treat primary street frontage(s) as a rear lot line." It also conflicts with Section 5.1.4, which states: "Service areas and storage areas shall not front onto streets and open spaces. Such areas shall be located to the rear or side of buildings, screened from view from the street and/or open space."

Ideally, the rear of the King Soopers store should be faced by the rear of another building, which is exactly how the existing Stapleton King Soopers is situated. In fact, a smaller grocery store would fit very well on the Eastbridge project site. But because King Soopers is attempting to squeeze an oversized store into such a small space, the design runs afoul of the *Stapleton Rules and Regulations*.

Finally, the only safe street crossings to the site from either the north or south side are at Havana Street. But because it is likely that far more people will prefer to access the site from farther west, it is vital that signalized street crossings be placed on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and 29th Drive. While we realize this is a matter that is subject to City approval, we believe it has a much higher chance of receiving that approval if the developers actively advocate for it and perhaps even offer to help fund it. Without signalized street crossings, it will be impossible for the project to provide "convenient access for all modes of transportation" as set forth in the *Rules and Regulations*.

It is not the intention of SUN to try to inhibit appropriate development in Stapleton. However, the current plan for the Eastbridge Town Center is severely substandard and out of context with the neighborhood. SUN therefore encourages King Soopers to rethink its approach by offering a more creative proposal that hews more closely to the applicable design standards. We believe doing so will result in enthusiastic support from the community. SUN also respectfully encourages the Stapleton Design Review Committee to reject any design that does not resolve the issues outlined above.

Sincerely,
Mark Mehninger,
President, Stapleton United Neighbors

Copies of the letter were sent to Jim Chrisman, Forest City; Tyler Carlson, Evergreen Development; and City Councilman Chris Herndon



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Respiratory Virus Tapers, Muscle Weakness Improving

By Madeline Schroeder

Fewer cases are popping up of the Enterovirus-D68 (EV-D68), a cousin to the common cold that first appeared in August and causes wheezing in children. “Enteroviruses taper down as the weather gets cooler,” says Teri Schreiner, pediatric neurologist at Children’s Hospital Colorado.

A new twist appeared when kids started having muscle weakness related to the virus. From August 1 until October 20, there were 37 cases nationwide of muscle weakness with a preceding respiratory illness. Fourteen of those were in Colorado and 13 treated at Children’s Colorado.

The weakness sometimes referred to as “paresis” or “paralysis-like” can affect the arms, legs, face, eye muscles or throat.

The worst muscle case was a child who had to be intubated because he could not breathe on his own. He can now walk but doesn’t have strength in his arm.

It’s unclear how the weakness is related to the virus. Five of the 13 cases at Children’s Colorado

tested positive for EV-D68. Schreiner suspects more of the kids had the virus but came in weeks after their respiratory symptoms.

“We see kids improving but they’re not totally back to normal,” says Schreiner, who specializes in how the immune system affects the nervous system. The virus is not showing up in the cerebral spinal fluid or blood. MRIs show inflamed anterior horn cells, or the part of the spinal cord that controls motor nerves.

Schreiner is part of a task force coming up with guidelines for treatment for the Centers for Disease Control. Medicine has shown little effectiveness and time has proven the best treatment. Some kids have come in with mild conditions. Most kids take at least a month to start recovering. Three patients are still in the hospital and 10 have been discharged. Two to three months after being released they will come back into the clinic for a checkup.

There is no way of knowing whether there is any permanent neurological damage from the weakness. Schreiner hopes with the fewer cases of EV-D68 they will see fewer kids with muscle weakness.

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Eastbridge

(continued from page 38) inherent risk.” Representatives from the city confirmed that as long as uses are allowed under the zoning, the city has to let the property owner have those uses. City regulations say 51% of the owners of the property would have to sign to say they agree to the rezoning. The property is currently owned by Forest City.

The plan was also presented at the October Stapleton Development Corporation meeting. SDC board member Stephen Miller commented on the importance of a controlled pedestrian crossing.

Bar Chadwick, who represents the city in many areas of the Stapleton development process, said, “If Geneva Court goes through, which is a huge issue for the City Planning office and the community (they both want it), you have a better position for the city to get a controlled intersection (on both the north and south sides).” Tom Gleason said at this time it is unknown whether Geneva Court will remain owned by Park Creek Metro District.

CAB chair Lucia Correll told the SDC board that the greatest area of community concern is that the gas station is so close to residential, and the very closest homes (approximately 80 feet) are affordable homes. Tom Gleason responded that the possibility of moving the gas station to the north side of the lot (further from homes) is under review now. When asked, he confirmed, “It’s a possibility.”

A comment from SDC member Chris Cramer from Commerce City, who works with their planning department, added an outside perspective from someone who works on these kinds of projects. “This is pretty shocking. The parking ratios? I’m pulling my jaw off the floor over what King Soopers is will-

ing to do. The reason I say that is I understand the desire by the community and this board and the planning staff to continue to try and push, but it would be a little disingenuous not to recognize what they’ve done so far. Hats off to King Soopers, frankly. And hats off to you for coming up with a plan that doesn’t fit their formulas. We hear this all the time. They have formulas that work to make money and you all need them to make money. They are breaking so many of their formulas for successful business I can’t believe it. I would encourage you to acknowledge how far this has come. We haven’t been this successful at getting these kinds of concessions.”

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Whales

Left: Two sperm whale skeletons—the largest 50 feet long—greet visitors to the exhibit.

Right: A replica of the heart of a blue whale is six feet wide. The largest animal that ever lived, it is up to 100 feet long and weighs upward of 160 tons. The heart pumps about 80 gallons of blood with each beat. Today's blue whale population is 10,000-25,000, compared to around 300,000 before targeted whaling began in the late 1800s.



(continued from page 1)

song, soothing and wild, accompanies the exhibition's tour of whale evolution, behaviors and biology—which is surprisingly similar to humans—as well as a culture strongly connected to whales.

“Whales share characteristics with humans because they're mammals,” said Jill Katzenberger, on-site coordinator for museum programs. “They have digits in their flippers like we have fingers because they evolved from land animals. The articulated digits allow them to maneuver well in the water.”



Whales' brain anatomy—especially dolphins, which are also whales—is quite similar to humans'. “The part of our brain we use to think, reason, problem-solve, dream and feel emotions is similar to dolphin brains,” said Katzenberger. “They are able to process infor-

mation at a high level. Toothed whales have the most developed brains so they can strategize when hunting.”

Whales use echolocation, a clicking sound, to locate food and communicate with other whales as far as 1,000 meters away. An immersive sound chamber allows visitors to hear the

songs and sounds of different whales.

“It's an ‘ah-ha’ thing for visitors to hear the diversity and variety of sounds,” said Maura O’Neal, communications and media relations manager.

Humpbacks have the most recognizable songs. “The long crooning sounds are the

males calling to the ladies,” Katzenberger said.

“Humpbacks have unique songs that evolve over their lifetime. Also humpbacks influence each other's songs and cause them to change over time.”

Whales can learn new sounds from other animals and even humans. Orcas in captivity have learned sounds made by nearby sea lions and

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Far left: Whales are among only a few animals that evolved from land-dwelling ancestors. Whales became aquatic about 50 million years ago.

Left: Whales use echolocation, a clicking sound, to target their prey within a range of about 200-325 feet.

Below: The roofline of a Maori meeting house features Maori ancestor Paikea riding a whale.



Left: A mother and child watch a video of a sperm whale with her baby hunting a giant squid. Whales can dive deep—3,000 to 7,000 feet—without their body cavities exploding, and surface without getting the bends (decompression sickness) like humans do. Special breathing adaptations allow them to release the air in their lungs before they dive down, preventing pressure, and use the oxygen in their blood for prolonged dives.



The display shows spears and harpoons used by commercial/industrialized Western whalers in the 1840s-1860s. Also on display are Maori cultural objects, including weapons made from large whale bones and delicate ornaments fashioned from whale teeth.

human trainers.

“Exploration stations” throughout the exhibit include interactive videos, models and high-tech games. Visitors can crawl through a life-size replica of a blue whale heart, identify different types of whales, and catch food like whales do.

A fun fact is that whales evolved from hooved land-dwelling ancestors and became aquatic about 50 million years ago. The whales’ earliest ancestor looked something like a wolf. A video shows the feet becoming flippers and the back legs finally disappearing. “They became large and their bones became less dense, so they can’t support their body weight on land,” Katzenberger said.

Whales can become beached or stranded for many reasons, Katzenberger said. “Especially in New Zealand, they become stranded in coves where the tide recedes quickly and they can’t get

out. Disease or disorientation can cause stranding. Scientists speculate that the sonar used on ships can interfere with their echolocation and cause disorientation.”

An estimated 300,000 whales die each year because of commercial fishing operations. “Many get caught in fishing nets deep down, or get hit by boats,” Katzenberger said.

Fortunately, some whales in trouble can be saved, she said. A model shows a pilot whale being boosted onto pontoons. “Folks come together to rescue whales and try to get them back into the water. In a mass-stranding, all the whales have to be moved into the water at once. Because those in the water will come right back up on shore when they hear a distress call from others in their pod.”

Most whale populations are endangered, Katzenberger said. “The Atlantic right whale has only about 300–500 individuals left. Some populations have seen an increase since whaling was banned in 1986. Today’s blue whale population is 10,000–25,000, compared to around 300,000 before targeted whaling

began in the late 1800s. Some dolphins are endangered and some are extinct.”

The final part of the exhibit explores the Maori whaling culture in New Zealand. The Maori origin legend tells the story of the ancestor Paikea, who gets stranded at sea and is rescued by a whale. He rides to the coast of New Zealand on the whale.

The exhibit began at the Te Papa Tongarewa museum in New Zealand in 2006. Representatives from the Te Papa helped install the Denver exhibit. “The 20 real specimens in the exhibit, which came from whales that stranded in New Zealand, are believed to be imbued with the spirit of the animal, so the representatives act as caretakers to bless the bones and transfer their guardianship to us temporarily,” said Katzenberger.

Exhibit entry is included with general admission: \$8–\$13; children under 3 free. For more information, call 303.370.6000 or see dmns.org.



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