

Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

DECEMBER 2014

2014 Winter Welcome



Front Porch photo by Laura Mahony

Elsa of Arendelle, the Disney princess from Frozen, embraces a crowd of young fans at the 2014 Winter Welcome on November 21 in the 29th Avenue Town Center. The annual event rings in the holidays with princesses, carolers, "dancing"

trees, s'mores, roasted almonds, face painting, a DJ booth and more. Moderate winter weather for the first time in years drew the largest crowd yet with 4-5,000 people. The line for the Spinning Prize Wheel continued all night.

Despite Vaccine Benefits, Colorado Opt Out Rate is High



Front Porch photo by Laura Mahony

Nicole Brody, a nurse at Children's Hospital Colorado health clinic, administers vaccines

to 9-month-old Nathaniel Batista as his dad, Sergio, comforts him.

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

In the early years of a child's life, many visits to the pediatrician include immunizations. For most parents, that means comforting a

crying child, knowing that a few moments of pain will protect them against uncomfortable and potentially fatal illnesses. Though most parents feel confident (continued on page 14)

Denver Police Front Line for Mental Crises

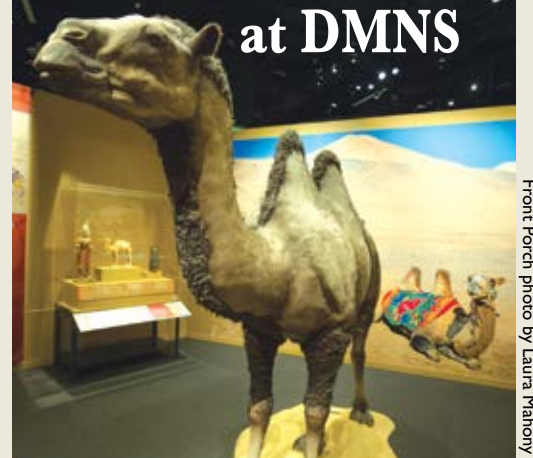
The Denver Police Department is leading the nation in training its officers to defuse otherwise volatile situations involving mental health crises. Read the story on page 11.

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Get ready to travel on a 5,700-mile journey over hot deserts and frigid mountain passes, through five cities along the most celebrated trade route in human history. But don't worry, no luggage is required, not even a carry-on. Instead, become immersed in foreign lands from the comfort of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science's "Traveling the Silk Road" exhibit, open through May 3, 2015.

Artifacts and recreations of the goods that defined the route are featured including gold, art, glass, fur, wine, spices, dyes and silk. The exhibit shows how they were used and traded in cities that flourished at the time: Xi'an, ancient (continued on page 42)

Travel the Silk Road at DMNS



Front Porch photo by Laura Mahony

Bactrian camels, with their ability to endure both hot sands and frigid temperatures, were an essential mode of transportation along the Silk Road.

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

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



Zoo Lights at the Denver Zoo runs every night from December 5, 2014 to January 4, 2015. The holiday light safari features 38 acres of lights and more than 150 animated animal sculptures.



Photo courtesy of Denver Zoo

Most of the events listed below are FREE or support nonprofits. All are open to the public (additional events are listed on pages 30-34).

DECEMBER

Thursday, December 4

Active Minds Seminar "Pearl Harbor: The Day That Lives in Infamy" 6:45-7:45pm, Sam Gary Library*

Friday, December 5

Winter Movie "Elf" 6pm, Stapleton South Green*

Saturday, December 6

Salida Circus Toy Workshop at Sam Gary Library.* 11am. Elves, juggling, unicyclists, and more. 720.865.0325. See p. 32

Saturday, December 6

2nd Annual Night at Hogwarts at Sam Gary.* 6:30-10pm. Teens only. Sorting hat, wizard banquet, House Cup, and movie surprise. To register, visit teens. denverlibrary.org/hogwarts.

Saturday, December 6

Holiday Trading & Gift Bazaar. 1-4pm. Holiday gifts, foods, vendors, music, kids' activities. Garden Events



Northfield High School Open Forums

Thursday, December 4, 6pm Green Valley Ranch Public Library, 4856 Andes Ct.

Thursday, December 11, 7pm Martin Luther King Recreation Center, 3880 Newport St.

Saturday, December 13, 2pm Montbello Public Library, 12955 Albrook Dr.

Monday, December 15, 6pm Students only—Bill Roberts School, 2100 Akron Way

Thursday, December 18, 6:30pm Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St.

The Northfield High School mascot shown above was chosen in an online vote by the community.

DECEMBER

Center, 3435 Albion St. www.thegarden-parkhill.com. See p. 33

Sunday, December 7

"Tis the Season at Stanley. 2-4 pm. Music, coffee, treats. 2501 Dallas St., Aurora. RSVP: kim@flightlineventures.com. stanleymarketplace.com. See p. 32.

Tuesday December 9

Colorado Gives Day—A statewide movement to increase philanthropy in a 24-hour period starting at 12am Dec. 9. Visit ColoradoGives.org. See p. 8.

Thursday, December 11

Active Minds Seminar "The Evolution of NATO" 6:45-7:45pm, Sam Gary Library*

Saturday, December 13

Northeast Community Cooperative Reuse, Recycle and Reduce Wrap Event. 1:30-2:30pm at Sam Gary Library.* Bring a gift to rap. See p. 33.

Tuesday, December 16

Chanukah Menorah Lighting on Stapleton South Green*. 5:30pm. Hot cocoa bar, treats, dreidel, gifts, fire show. See p. 30.

JANUARY

Thursday, January 8

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

Thursday, January 22

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

* More information at Events@stapletoncommunity.com
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.

Events & Announcements at Stapleton



Community DNA

With the early snow in November, it reminds us that we need to make sure our sidewalk is cleared of snow. Pay it forward this month and shovel your neighbor's sidewalk! Who knows, you might awaken the next snowfall to your sidewalk shoveled!

Winter Movie on The South Green

Friday, Dec. 5, 6:30pm, *Elf*

We are keeping our fingers crossed that the weather is nice enough this year to host our first winter movie on The South Green. Fire pits will be roaring, s'more makings will be available and we will have hot drinks for kids as well as some special hot drinks for adults. We plan to have a Colorado night if the temperature is above 20 degrees!

MCA Office Move

The MCA will be moving its offices in December. The new offices will be located on the third floor of 7350 E. 29th Ave. That is the building anchored by The Berkshire and The Grape Leaf. Our phone number will remain the same.

Snow Removal Policy

During Major Snow Events as defined by current Denver City & County standards, the Stapleton MCA will initiate its emergency snow removal plan for the alleys along with the city's plan for neighborhood streets. In the event of a major snow event, the snow removal plan will include the continuous use of heavy equipment, light equipment and hand work to remove snow from alleys, intersections and major pedestrian paths. Alley work will be limited to the removal of enough snow from the alleys so residents can access their garages. This emergency-only procedure involves attempting to open up a single drive lane through each alley in the community. The drive lanes will not be scraped down to pavement, to eliminate the need to truck any snow off-site.

This procedure does not negate individual property owners from participating in the snow removal during these types of storms. Although we are unable to address the complete removal of snow on the roads, it is our goal during major snow events to remove enough material to allow for some level of travel in and out of the alleys. Paths and parks are done to open up some level of pedestrian travel. We will continue to address all the pocket parks and pathways to ensure that they are as snow free as possible to promote pedestrian access throughout the community. For detailed information about the snow removal policy, visit our website at www.stapletoncommunity.com.

Neighborhood Caroling

Sunday, Dec. 7, 4-6pm

The staff and teachers of Neighborhood Music Stapleton will be spreading holiday cheer by taking neighbors caroling in Stapleton. Teachers will set up at each pool with cocoa, candy canes, music and jingle bells. Join us for

cookies and cocoa at 4pm at the studio or neighborhood pool closest to your home. Caroling begins at 4:15pm. This event is FREE and open to the public!
Aviator Pool: 8054 E. 28th Ave.
Puddle Jumper Pool: 2401 Xenia St.
F15 Pool: 2831 Hanover St.
Jet Stream Pool: 3574 Alton St.
Runway 35 Pool: 8863 E. 47th Ave.
Maverick Pool: 8822 Beekman Place
NMS Studio: 9000 E. 29th Ave.
Look for the red Santa hats! They will be the ones leading the carolers through the community. Please RSVP to skye@neighborhoodmusicstapleton.com or call 720.378.3668.

Saturday Night Live...for kids only!

Mark your calendars for our winter SNL series for kids at Central Park Recreation Center. Dates have been set for Feb. 14, March 21 and April 18. The MCA and Central Park Rec Center are partnering again to host a night of entertainment for children ages 7-12 at the rec center from 6-9pm. The event will include snacks, dinner, games, pool time, prizes and music. Registration will open after the first of the year.

Active Minds

Dec. 4, 6:45-7:45pm

Pearl Harbor: The Day That Lives in Infamy. Dec. 7, 1941, brought an attack upon the U.S. the likes of which had never been seen before. Join Active Minds as we tell the story from both the Japanese and U.S. perspectives. We will cover not only how the Japanese planned and executed such a bold attack, but how the U.S. could have been caught so completely unaware. We will also examine the impact this had on WWII and the American psyche.

Thursday, Dec. 11, 6:45-7:45pm
The Evolution of NATO. Created after WWII, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) played a pivotal role in fighting and ultimately winning the Cold War. Subsequently, NATO took on different roles in countries like Bosnia and Afghanistan. Recently, NATO's role in Europe has been revisited since Russia's annexation of Crimea. Join Active Minds as we look at the triumphs and challenges of NATO and how it continues to adapt to the 21st-century landscape.

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 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

A double dose of Christmas is coming to The Fox!

Red Ranger Came Calling by Berkeley Breathed

The musical tale of a grumpy young boy and a burnt out old Santa who help each other rediscover the magic of Christmas.

A guaranteed true Christmas story.

November 28 - December 21, 2014

Fully Committed by Becky Mode

It's not all glamour in the world of Haute Cuisine! Just ask poor Sam Peliczowski who is manning the reservation lines at a ritzy restaurant on Christmas Eve.

One actor, 40 cranky characters.

November 21 - December 28, 2014



303-739-1970
www.AuroraFox.org
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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



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- Advertising
- Classified Advertising
- More Info

Share your opinion...



Eastbridge Plans Evolve

Like many others, I'm hopeful that we get a better design without a 'giant parking lot' but if that can't happen I would propose a large pedestrian-only walkway running east-west.

We have seen King Sooper's "Fresh Fare" store concept elsewhere in the city and wish King's would consider that concept for this location. There is already a standard King's just of MLK/Quebec, and no "whole foods type" anywhere in the area, so why not fill the gap. I think this area would appreciate it more.

I can barely read the Front Porch lately knowing there will be something on this town center. What it sounds like to me- "waaa waa waa we want our town center!"... I'm looking forward to another supermarket, King Soopers is always busy and I'm sure we all know that gas station is backed up, but another one will be great.

view the most recent comments or the most-read articles...



I want to commend The Front Porch for its article on Ashley Middle School.

I recently had the honor of visiting Ashley Elementary. I was moved to a point of almost tears when I saw what was happening there.

Anatomy of A Turnaround



...or subscribe to conversations without commenting.

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

ALWAYS VERY MERRY...

...at the Shops at Northfield Stapleton.

❄️ Join us on Sunday, December 21st for holiday activities including:

- ~ Free Horse & Carriage rides, 1-9pm on Main Street
- ~ Family Chanukah Celebration and Menorah Lighting Event, 4:30pm on Main Street Plaza

❄️ Visit Santa's Wonderland at Bass Pro Shops – free photos with Santa, games, children's activities and much more!

❄️ Play Merry Tweetmas by following us on Twitter (@ShopNorthfield) for a chance to win prizes daily, December 1-19

❄️ For a complete list of stores and center hours, visit us online at NorthfieldStapleton.com.



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Macy's • Bass Pro Shops • Texas de Brazil • Improv Comedy Club • Off Broadway Shoes • SuperTarget • JCPenney • Harkins Theatres 18

Ski Pool Program Takes On I-70 and Metro Area Traffic

By Madeline Schroeder

Denver is stepping up its carpooling incentives to cut down congestion in the metro area and on I-70.

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) and various transportation associations across the city teamed up to create Ski Pool, a pilot program beginning Dec. 1.

Ski Pool gives commuters who travel 15 miles or more each way a 2014 Chevy Traverse to carpool to work and to the ski resorts on the weekends. Twenty-five cars are available—first come first served.

“If you have four or five people carpooling, that’s going to reduce traffic in Denver on a daily basis and then reduce ski traffic on I-70 on the weekends,” says Greg Anthony, business development executive for vRide, a private contractor of ridesharing cars that supplied the Chevy Traverses.

Ski Pool matches up people with similar commutes who register online at mywaytogo.org. Participants must be 18 or older and complete a driving background check. A monthly fee is based on mileage and can be an automatic payroll deduction. Anthony estimates \$50/month for a commute from Denver to Boulder. Participants maintain and submit a weekly mileage log.

Anyone who signs up for the daily carpool

program can also drive with at least four other Ski Pool members to Winter Park, Breckenridge, A-Basin or Keystone one day per week. DRCOG will pay for one round-trip of gas. The cars are fully insured. There is no contractual commitment but commuters are asked to give 30 days’ notice. If there is an unexpected emergency, DRCOG will pay for a taxi ride home up to 100 miles plus tip.

“You literally...ah, I get so excited, you literally get a brand-new black beautiful SUV, it’s got XM radio in it, ski racks, backup cameras, brand-new all-season tires. And you get to use it for your commute.”

Anthony, a Stapleton resident, thinks Ski Pool could be very effective in Stapleton where many people commute to similar areas. Northeast Transportation Connections, a Stapleton-based initiative to make Denver more sustainable, jumped on the opportunity to promote the program.

“We really are excited about the program,” says Director Angie Rivera-Malpie. “I think anytime we can add a resource that will fulfill the sustainability initiative is great for everybody.”

While the program cannot be the only solution to I-70 and metro area traffic, Anthony believes it will make a more enjoyable commute. “Until we have a light rail or hot air balloon

commute, this is the best we can do right now.”

To get started, talk to neighbors and friends with similar commutes, calculate potential savings in gas and car maintenance, and visit mywaytogo.org or email gregory.anthony@vrider.com.



Photo courtesy of Stapleton THA

To cut congestion in the metro area and on I-70 during ski weekends, Ski Pool will provide Chevy Traverses for carpooling commuters who drive at least 15 miles each way to work. Cars can also be used to go to ski resorts.

More than a shopping experience, a tradition.



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For a full list of holiday festivities, visit CherryCreekNorth.com



ROAD CONSTRUCTION IS ALL WRAPPED UP, JUST IN TIME FOR THE SEASON.

Christmas Eve Celebration

3 Services on Dec. 24th: 3:00, 4:15, & 5:30 PM

Join us for reflection on the Christmas season, great holiday music, and candle lighting.

HANGAR 61

Home Of Stapleton Fellowship Church

www.StapletonChurch.com
8700 E. 21st Ave. Denver, CO Sunday 9:00 & 10:45 AM. Tuesday 6:30 PM.

Celebrate New Year's Eve at The Berkshire!



\$40 PER PERSON:

4-course prix fixe New Year's Eve dinner



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All you can drink starting at 10pm with a champagne toast & midnight food buffet

**Regular dinner & bar menus will still be available.
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Holiday Giving

By Carol Roberts

For those considering end-of-year contributions, ColoradoGives.org offers a central location to find Colorado charities based on causes (arts, youth, housing, civil rights, etc), by charity name, keyword or zipcode. In addition it shows each organization's revenue and expenses, including amount spent on administration and fundraising. It also lists which organizations qualify for Colorado tax credits.

Dec. 9—Colorado Gives Day

The website can be used year round, but on December 9, Colorado Gives Day, all donations will be supplemented by a \$1 million incentive fund. The \$1 million fund, donated by Community First Foundation and First-Bank, will be distributed to Colorado charities proportionate to the donations they receive on December 9. To qualify for the incentive fund, donations must be made in the 24-hour period starting at 12am Dec. 9.

Now in its fifth year, the Colorado Gives Day program has distributed \$58.1 million to Colorado non-profits.

Colorado Tax Credits

For each charity listed at ColoradoGives.org, the "Financials" section shows whether the organization qualifies for tax credits. NOTE: On the screen where the donation amount is entered, donors must check the box at the bottom indicating you'd like the donation to be considered for a tax credit—and organizations set different minimum amounts to be eligible for the tax credits. If you do not receive the tax credit form in the mail, contact the organization to request it. Check with your accountant for more information about Colorado tax credits.

Enterprise Zone Tax Credits (EZ)—The State of Colorado offers a tax credit of 25% for donations to non-profits located in an Enterprise Zone.

Child Care Tax Credits (CC)—The State of Colorado offers a tax credit of 50% for donations to non-profits that are certified as providing child care. However, in 2014, only 75% of the credit may be taken, with the remaining 25% carried over and taken in 2015.

Some of our local charities

Children

Anchor Center for Blind Children—Teaches visually impaired infants, young children and their families. (CC)

Denver Children's Home—Serves traumatized children and families. 1501 Albion St. (CC)

Summer Scholars—Supports low-income, academically struggling young learners. (CC)

Homelessness & Poverty

Aurora Warms the Night—Serves men, women, and children facing homelessness. 1544 Elmira Street

The Crossing (Denver Rescue Mission)—Provides transitional housing and opportunities to help people to attain self-sufficiency. 6090 Smith Rd (EZ)

The Gathering Place—Daytime drop-in center for women, children, and transgender individuals experiencing poverty or homelessness. 1535 High St (EZ, CC)

Food Bank of the Rockies—Serves people who struggle to meet their basic food needs (almost half are children). Every dollar donated provides over five pounds of food.

Learning and Employment

Denver Public Library Friends Foundation—Assists and supports the library to enhance its services (call 720-865-2050 to ask about designating specific programs). (EZ)

Goodwill Industries of Denver—Provides education, career development and employment opportunities to help those in need achieve self-sufficiency. (EZ)

Nature and Outdoors

Bluff Lake Nature Center—Support ongoing environmental education programs; tax credit is available for a capital campaign to improve the lake. (EZ)

Urban Farm—Provides agricultural and environmental education to urban children on a 23-acre farm with more than 250 farm animals.

Sand Creek Regional Greenway (SCRG)—Maintains and improves SCRG trails; Next Generation Partners connects local, at-risk middle and high school students with careers in the natural resource and science fields.

www.urogyns.com

Here's to a
Better You!

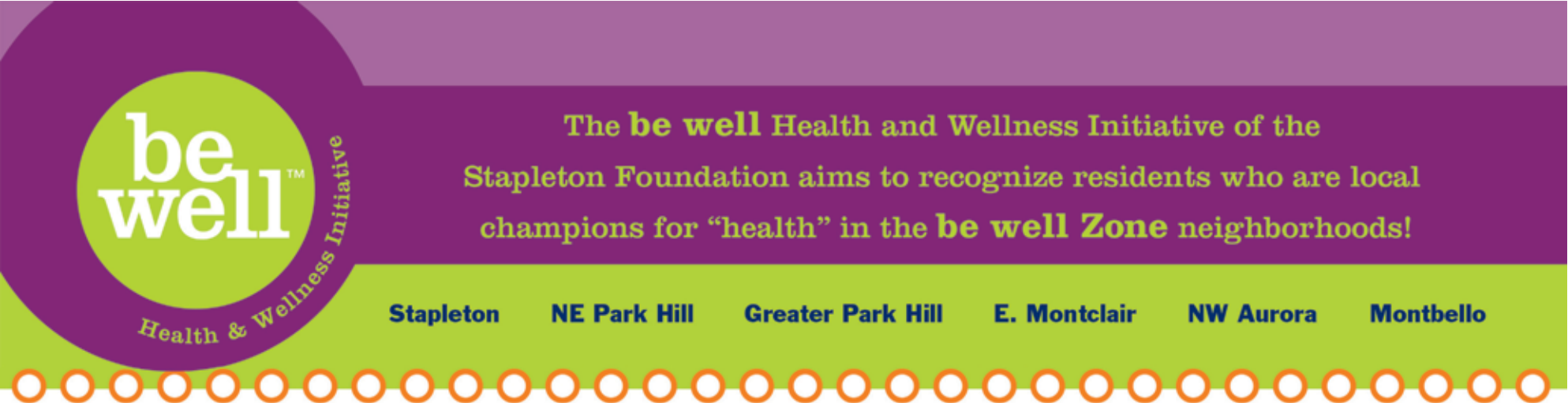
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Terry S. Dunn M.D., F.A.C.O.G.
Lois McLauchlan M.D., F.A.C.O.G.



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)

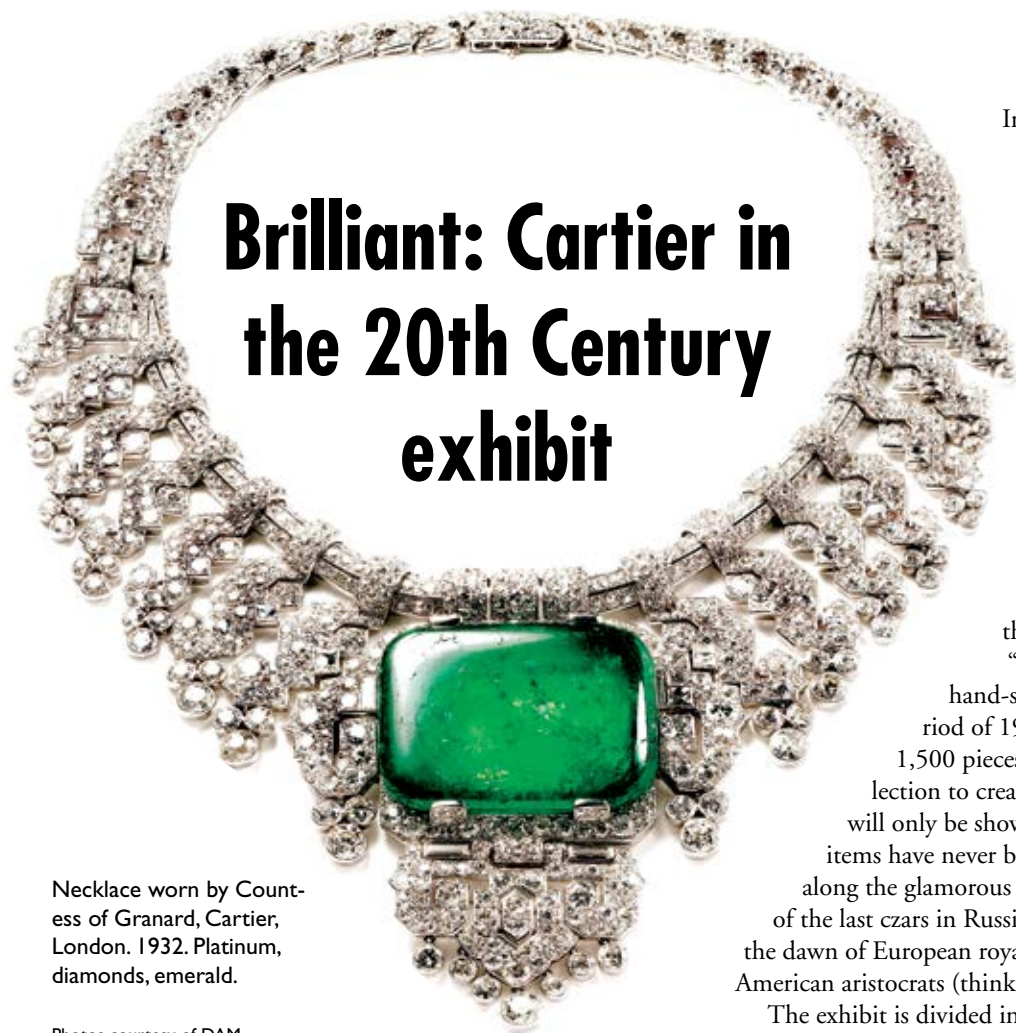
- ☐ Physical Activity Leadership Award
- ☐ Nutrition Leadership Award
- ☐ Community Advocate(s) of the Year Award
- ☐ Preventative Care Leadership Award
- ☐ Service Award

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.

Brilliant: Cartier in the 20th Century exhibit



Necklace worn by Countess of Granard, Cartier, London. 1932. Platinum, diamonds, emerald.

Photos courtesy of DAM

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Being. To say The Denver Art Museum's (DAM) latest exhibit, "Brilliant: Cartier in the 20th Century," is just about some fancy jewelry is a major understatement. Yes, there are jewels galore and sparkling gems at every turn. But the new exhibit, which runs through March 15, 2015, is also about craftsmanship, history, social mores and status, with elements for men, women and children.

"Jewelry is as old as humankind," says Christoph Heinrich, Frederick and Jan Mayer Director of the Denver Art Museum. "It's ingrained in our DNA to want to elevate ourselves and our status with jewelry."

The idea for the exhibit started with Margaret Young-Sanchez, the Frederick and Jan Mayer Curator of Pre-Columbian Art at the Denver Art Museum, more than four years ago during a staff meeting to discuss ideas for upcoming exhibits.

In addition to being able to work with a different time frame than she usually does, Young-Sanchez simply loves jewelry and has always been interested in its history. "The opportunity to work with the greatest jewelry house is a dream come true," she says. Young-Sanchez chose to narrow down the collection to items created by Cartier between 1900 and 1975 because it was a time of so much change in the world.

"Brilliant" takes more than 200 hand-selected items covering the period of 1900-1975 from the more than 1,500 pieces comprising The Cartier Collection to create a one-of-a-kind exhibit that will only be shown at the DAM. Many of the items have never been seen before. Visitors travel along the glamorous Cartier journey from the time of the last czars in Russia, to the Roaring 20s, through the dawn of European royalty willingly mingling with American aristocrats (think *Downton Abbey*).

The exhibit is divided into themed rooms that combine the jewelry with explanations of how world events were being reflected in Cartier designs. Images, music, wallpaper and mirrors all add to the exhibit experience, giving a sense of glamour and revealing something new around each corner.

To broaden audience appeal, there are men's jewelry and accessory items such as watches and commemorative pieces. There is also a section devoted to smoking including cigarette cases and lighters and an Egyptian line featuring ancient scarabs, of huge interest due to the discovery of King Tutankhamun's tomb. Both demonstrate how Cartier turned social trends into fashion.

A room devoted to icons of style is especially impressive with floor-to-ceiling images of Elizabeth Taylor, Grace Kelly and others with some of their most famous pieces of jewelry and memorabilia. A large screen in the corner plays classic film clips that featured

beautiful jewelry and the iconic women who wore it.

Part of the exhibit is devoted to the Cartier workshop. Tools and even the messy workspace of a jeweler are featured to impress upon visitors the intense level of expertise and precision required to work at Cartier.

An audio tour is included in the ticket price for adults and children. The kids' tour is led by fictional Master Jeweler Henri Lapine, who encourages kids to think like an apprentice, noticing tiny details, imaging how items were made and surmising what some unusual items were used for. Henri instructs kids to utter the secret words when turning in their audio devices at the end to receive his business card, a (fake) jewel and instructions for downloading jewelry templates to start their own jewelry-making career.

A variety of programs have been created to go along with the exhibit including tours, winter break activities, theatrical performances and the Jewelry Studio on the first floor. There, visitors can explore their creativity designing and making jewelry they can take home while also seeing demonstrations by professional jewelers. Visit www.denverartmuseum.org for a full listing of activities and member and nonmember ticket pricing. "Brilliant" is a timed-entry exhibition. Tickets include an audio tour available in adult and family-friendly versions in English and Spanish. General museum admission is included.



The Cartier Collection includes more than 1,500 pieces. Influenced by the Belle Epoque at the turn of the 20th century, the Cartier name established fame with dazzling creations, which were the most sought-after jewels of the European aristocracy and American bourgeoisie. Customers traveled to buy jewels, watches and precious objects. Above: Crocodile necklace commissioned by Maria Felix, Cartier; Bracelet (coral), Cartier, Paris 1922



Laurel leaf tiara worn by Marie Bonaparte, Cartier, Paris. 1907.

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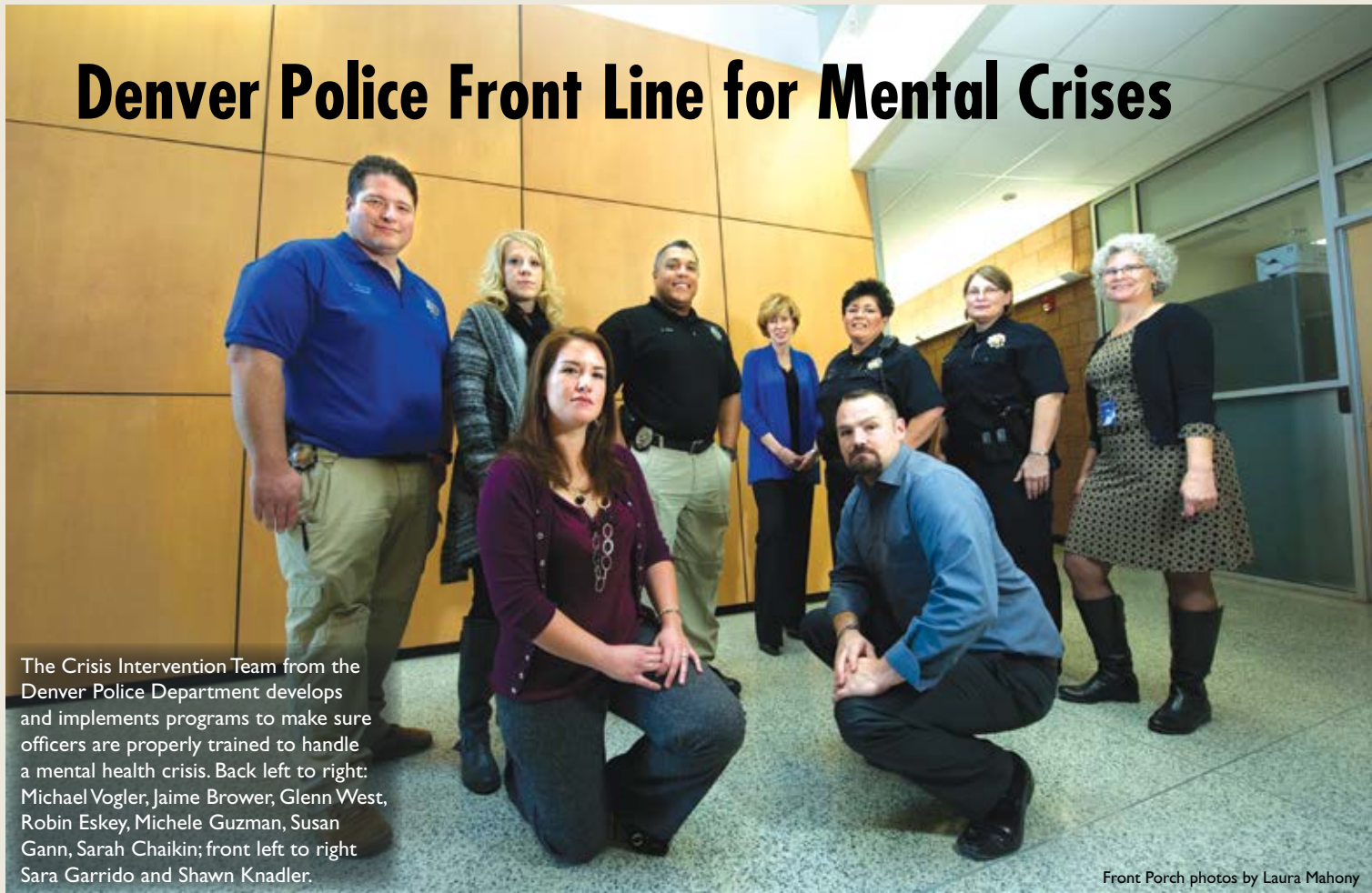
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Denver Police Front Line for Mental Crises



The Crisis Intervention Team from the Denver Police Department develops and implements programs to make sure officers are properly trained to handle a mental health crisis. Back left to right: Michael Vogler, Jaime Brower, Glenn West, Robin Eskey, Michele Guzman, Susan Gann, Sarah Chaikin; front left to right Sara Garrido and Shawn Knadler.

Front Porch photos by Laura Mahony

By Madeline Schroeder

A man is having a crisis and calls 911. The police arrive at his home and ask what the situation is. The problem is he is living in an altered reality where voices in his head tell him not to listen. He screams at the police. They notice he is muttering to himself and begin to understand he may have a mental illness. The voices tell him the police are a threat so he grabs a knife from the kitchen. Feeling at risk, the police command he put down the knife, but he still doesn't listen. They have limited time to figure out how best to

communicate. They tell him he must be feeling scared and alone. Suddenly like magic, he snaps back from the mental abyss and listens for the first time. They ask him more about how he feels and he begins to explain. Eventually he calms down and the voices subside, allowing him to put down the knife.



During a role play with a professional actor, DPD officer Michele Guzman (right) demonstrates how to deescalate a potentially dangerous situation involving marijuana edibles while social worker Robin Eskey (left) advises how to communicate. "High-fidelity" role plays, which are based on real experiences, prepare officers for mental health or drug and alcohol crises.

These types of situations happen every day. Police play dual roles as social workers and law enforcers. The Denver Police Department (DPD) is at the forefront of equipping its officers

with the skills to deescalate a mental health crisis through a program called Crisis Intervention Training (CIT).

"Since the day officers put on their badges, they've been dealing with mental crises. That's part of being an officer. We're identifying those skills of seasoned officers, labeling them, and packaging it up to teach younger officers," says Susan Gann, technician for the DPD Victim Assistance Unit. She's also a part of the Denver Assessment Response Team, which pairs an officer with a social worker to respond to mental health crises.

Gann has been a part of CIT since its inception in 2002. Twenty officers volunteered for the training. In 2004, the program became a requirement, but it ended shortly after due to lack of funding. Unfortunately, good training is expensive.

When Robert White became DPD Chief of Police in 2011, he brought a new philosophy with him—preventing crime through citizen-po-

lice relationships. He wants the community to trust and know the police care about them. One part of that philosophy is making sure police can effectively relate and communicate with a person in a mental crisis.

White's mission gained momentum after the 2012 Aurora movie theater shootings. He restructured the department and beginning in June, required every officer to be CIT-certified.

CIT is a 45-hour weeklong course including an overview of mental illness, lectures from experts, law policies and procedures, and presentations by people living with mental illnesses. Officers watch videos of parents of children with a mental illness and how they deal with situations, sometimes requiring physical restraint. One mom puts pillows on the ground and lies on top of her autistic son to calm him during a violent episode. One dad puts his son in a hammock that relaxes him during a delusional frenzy.

Officers go through high-fidelity role-plays with professional actors and get advice from CIT trainers and social workers on scene. An officer has four choices for intervention: talk, touch, talk with touch, or touch with talk.

An officer has to calmly figure out—usually with limited time—which intervention works best. They learn to recognize a type of mental illness, drugs and alcohol, or delirium, and know how to effectively defuse what could be a volatile situation. Most of the time, empathy is key.

(continued on page 18)

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By Maegan Parker Brooks

A grid showing a widely varied selection of faces appears on the screen. At the History Colorado Center's "How to Talk to Your Kids About Race" Workshop, participants choose a face from the grid and respond to a series of "yes" or "no" questions from their partner, who is trying to guess the chosen face.

When that activity ends, the workshop's facilitator, Dr. Dena Samuels, asks the participants if they had inquired about the race of the person in the photograph. Out of 57 partici-

pants at the Nov. 1 workshop, no more than five hands go up. Samuels, director of the Matrix Center for the Advancement of Social Equity and Inclusion, asks the group: why? Why were they so reluctant to mention race? The responses range from the fact that talking about race is uncomfortable to the confession that people fear talking about race might actually make them seem racist.

DPS recently invited the community to attend a showing of the documentary *I'm Not Racist... Am I?* and participate in their "Conversations on Race." DPS Superintendent

Tom Boasberg, in his invitation to the event wrote, "We need to take the fear out of discussing race," and that this fear must be overcome "in order to have the conversations our kids need us to be having to provide the most equitable education for every one of them." The film, which was shown at Denver School of the Arts on Oct. 28, was also shown throughout Denver.

As recent events like the DPS-sponsored "Conversations on Race," the History Colorado Center exhibit, *Race: Are We So Different?* and the accompanying workshop, "How to Talk to Your Kids About Race" suggest, organizations across Denver are confronting fears and fostering substantive discussions about race.

Conversations on Race

Students, teachers, community members, school board representatives and DPS administrators—over 150 people—gathered in the Denver School of the Arts' auditorium on Oct. 28 for the final showing of the documentary, *I'm Not Racist... Am I?* The film's director and George Washington High School alumna, Catherine Wigginton Greene, greeted the crowd and remarked with pride that this was her 10th screening of the film in Denver in 10 days.

I'm Not Racist... Am I? is part of the larger Deconstructing Race project, spearheaded by New York City's Calhoun School, an independent and progressive pre-K–12 institution. The Deconstructing Race project seeks to "create a multimedia platform to get

Talking A

young people, their teachers and their families talking—and doing something—about structural and systemic racism." Greene's film, in particular, explores the question of "how the next generation will confront racism." It brings a dozen New York City teenagers from a variety of racial, socioeconomic and

gendered backgrounds together to document their experiences in workshops, retreats and mediated conversations over the course of one year. During this time, the teenagers grapple with difficult topics like the dangerous stereotypes embedded in the n-word, white privilege, individual bigotry and systemic racism. The project required the participants to engage their families in discussions about race, as well; so the documentary also includes intergenerational conversations about these issues. The interactions are tense, sometimes painful. The conversations are imperfect, at times humorous, and at other points blatantly offensive (www.notracistmovie.com).

For a few of the teens in the film, moreover, the experience was transformative. Sacha, for example, hails from New York City's affluent

Go to FrontPorchStapleton.com to hear these kids' views on race or share your comments.



Shown above are three of the New York City teenagers (top to bottom Martha, Anna and Kahleek) who participated in a one-year project on racism that was the basis for the documentary, "I'm not a racist, am I?" Video clips from the film are on the Front Porch website and at www.notracistmovie.com.

Bonus footage from the film *I'm Not a Racist, Am I?* www.notracistmovie.com

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December 2014

12

Stapleton Front Porch

bout Race

Right: Middle school students from the Odyssey School participate in a discussion about race after visiting the History Colorado Center exhibit “Race: Are We so Different?”

Upper West Side and began by espousing a firm belief in the American meritocracy—the assumption that if people just work hard enough they can succeed. Over the course of the year, however, the film shows Sacha learning more about systemic forms of oppression and interrogating not only his previously held beliefs, but also his colloquial use of the n-word.

By the film’s end, there were more than a few tear-stained cheeks among the audience gathered at DSA. The director asked those in attendance to share one-word responses to the film. The words poured into the emotionally charged room: hopeful, disappointed, angry, challenged, unfinished, bold, annoyed, privileged, vindicated and frustrated were but a few.

This icebreaking exercise was followed by an invitation to share particular responses to the film with the group. A microphone was set up in the corner of the room and a dozen people soon lined the aisle. The audience’s responses varied widely but many linked issues from the film to their own racial experi-



ences in Denver, both in DPS and the greater community.

One Manual graduate, now a student at Regis University, said the part of the film that featured racial profiling made her think of her African American male friends who are “routinely stopped by police in Park Hill.” She characterized this all-too-common discriminatory practice as “dehumanizing,

humiliating,” and told the audience “it leaves its victims feeling like less of a person.” She also shared her experience as “a black student in DPS.” She remarked that she often “sold herself short”; that she “didn’t even consider attending DSA” because she “didn’t think she was smart enough.” And she implored the students of color in the audience not to make the same mistake: “you’re as smart as you want to be,” she told them; “you can do it, if you work hard,” she insisted to roaring applause.

Nearly two dozen community members spoke during the hour and a half discussion after the documentary. Some sincerely thanked DPS for sponsoring such an event and others staunchly criticized the district for its achievement and opportunity gaps, as well as for its inability to attract and retain faculty of color.

Boasberg; Bill de la Cruz, director of Equity and Inclusion for DPS; and the film’s director all stood on the stage and listened as the community responded. At the end of the evening, de la Cruz admitted how “hard” it was to “hear that we’re failing each other.” But he encouraged those in attendance to

“let [the pain] move you, let it drive you to do something different.” He advocated an “organizational approach to solving these community issues—stop blaming, shaming and judging,” and said, “Let’s move beyond talking to acknowledging how our biases affect how we treat each other.”

Race: Are We So Different?

The History Colorado Center shares de la Cruz’s community-based organizational approach to engaging race and confronting racism. It gathered over 50 community partners, including the AARP, The Denver Foundation, and Facing History and Ourselves to bring “the first exhibition that tells the stories of race from the biological, cultural and historical point of view” to Denver. This traveling exhibit, developed by the American Anthropological Association and the Science Museum of Minnesota, is running now through Jan. 4. Museumgoers are lead through the *Race* exhibit by broad questions posted around the room: Why talk about race? What is race? What’s race got to do with health, school and housing? How do you experience (continued on page 16)



Attendees line up to comment after the DPS-sponsored showing of “I’m not a racist, am?” Front Porch photo by Maegan Parker Brooks

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(continued from page 1) that vaccines are safe and essential to protecting their own children and the community as a whole, Colorado ranks high in the number of families delaying or not immunizing their children.

According to recent data, 20 percent of Colorado 2-year-olds are under- or unvaccinated against one or more vaccine-preventable diseases.* Currently, Colorado has the lowest Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine rate in the country at 86 percent, and we are in the third year of an epidemic of whooping cough (pertussis). Experts say these immunization figures aren't where they should be to provide protection for the most vulnerable—young children and the elderly.

"When I talk with parents, one thing that's clear is that most are not aware of just how much safety testing vaccines go through," says Sean O'Leary, MD, MPH, assistant professor, Pediatric Infectious Diseases and General Academic Pediatrics at Children's Outcomes Research and Children's Hospital Colorado. "Because vaccines are generally given to healthy people, they are held to a much higher safety standard than most drugs. They undergo extensive safety testing prior to approval, and then, if approved for use, they are continually monitored by a very extensive vaccine safety surveillance system. The vaccines we use today are incredibly safe." O'Leary also points out that a great deal of work goes into developing the recommended vaccine schedule. "Many scientists devote their entire careers to developing the science behind the recommended schedule. Based on that science, a large group of vaccine experts examines the evidence on an ongoing basis to develop and refine the recommended vaccine schedule," says O'Leary.

O'Leary, a Stapleton father of two,

Parental Hesitancy and Lack of Access Cause Low Vaccine Rate in Colorado

understands. "We're worried about everything that goes into our children's bodies, we have them wear bike helmets, feed them the right foods and send them to the right schools and make sure we're making the right decisions about immunizations. It can be hard to sort the good information from the bad." He adds, "A lot of the anti-vaccine literature is written at a very high educational level with leaps of logic that, if you're not in the field, you may miss so you can be easily convinced that maybe vaccines aren't the best idea. Trying to sort through all the available information on the Internet would be like me trying to make conclusions about some

(CCIC), says there are two main issues in Colorado regarding immunizations: The first is access—barriers to medical care due to changes in insurance status, finances and geographic location that result in children not being immunized or not completing all immunizations. The second issue is vaccine hesitancy, in which parents refuse, consider refusing, or delay the immunization schedule recommended by the Centers for Disease Control.

Wasserman notes recent whooping cough and measles outbreaks in the U.S. and around the world that are specifically connected to vaccine hesitancy and delay.



Front Porch photo by Laura Mahony.

"Virtually everyone within the field of immunizations is in complete agreement that the benefits of vaccines far outweigh the risks."

Sean O'Leary, MD, MPH

specialty in engineering based on reading the engineering literature. That's not something that I'm trained in or do all day every day. But I can tell you that virtually everyone within the field of immunizations is in complete agreement that the benefits of vaccines far outweigh the risks."

Stephanie Wasserman, executive director, Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition

"There's risk to children and their families and not just to the person who has delayed the vaccine—it's the community around that child, as small as a classroom or a whole city." In order for vaccines to be their most effective, there needs to be a threshold in the community above which everyone is vaccinated. Wasserman says that's generally about 90 percent. A high

threshold of immunity is the basis of what's termed "community immunity" or "herd immunity," so named because of the ways a herd of cattle or sheep use their sheer numbers to protect themselves from predators. The more people who are immune to a disease, the more protection is offered to the population as a whole. But when the numbers of immunized people are too low, those who are especially vulnerable for diseases are put at risk.

"If your child's in a classroom where only 60 percent of the kids are immunized and someone brings in measles, even the children who are immunized are at risk because vaccines aren't 100 percent," explains Wasserman. "There's an assumption that if you don't vaccinate your child, other people will, and your child will benefit from that 'herd immunity.'" Wasserman

adds, "But once herd immunity rates drop below the threshold level, the whole community is at risk, including infants too young to be fully immunized, senior citizens and others whose immune systems may be compromised."

In 2012, there were \$26.6 million in hospital charges for treating Colorado children for vaccine-preventable diseases. But vaccines prevented 6,500 child hospitalizations in Colorado in one year, averting nearly \$400 million in hospital costs. Worldwide, vaccines save 2–3 million lives per year.

The CCIC worked to get a bill passed to address the lack of immunizations among Colorado schoolchildren (House Bill 1288). The bill includes a requirement that schools and child care centers make the immunization and exemption rates of their students publicly available upon request, effective July 1, 2014. Wasserman feels this element of the bill will be a powerful tool for parents, especially when they are making decisions about (continued on page 16)

EVERYONE CAN BE AFFECTED. ANYONE CAN HELP.

One in five people face some kind of mental illness. That means someone you know likely needs help. The good news is you can. By donating your time, voice or financial support to the Mental Health Center of Denver, you can help those dealing with mental illness lead happier, more productive lives. Together, we can create a stronger community for all of us. Learn more at MHCD.org/community.



Mental Health Center of Denver



Colorado's Anti-Vaccine Problem

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends children get every vaccine. For children ages 0-6 that includes: measles, mumps and rubella (MMR); diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTaP); polio-virus (Polio); Haemophilus influenzae (Hib); hepatitis B (HepB); hepatitis A (HepA); Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV); Rotavirus (RV); varicella (Var); and the annual flu shot.

Vaccines have been proven to be highly effective, saving 2-3 million lives per year. Yet, many children are not vaccinated. Delayed or missed vaccines put not just one child, but the whole young population at risk for vaccine-preventable diseases (VPD) and hospitalization. **Colorado has one of the worst vaccination rates and is at high risk for a significant measles outbreak.**

1 IN 12

OF KIDS IN THE U.S. DOES NOT RECEIVE A FIRST DOSE OF MMR VACCINE ON TIME, ACCORDING TO THE CDC.

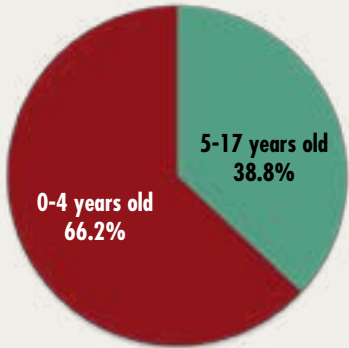
What are the consequences of not vaccinating?

Younger unvaccinated children are at the highest risk of vaccine-preventable diseases (VPD).

The CDC reported 288 cases of measles in the U.S. between Jan. 1 and May 23, 2014. **This is the largest number of measles cases reported in the U.S. in the first five months of a year since 1994.**

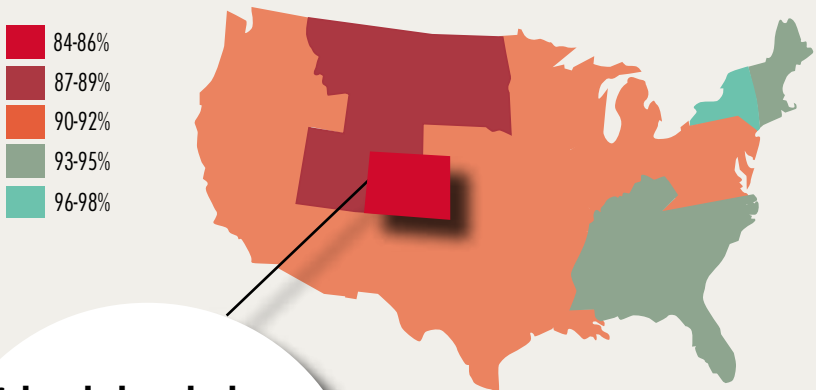
In 2012, four-hundred and fourteen Colorado children ages 0-19 were hospitalized with vaccine-preventable diseases with an estimated \$26.6 million in hospital charges.

Hospitalizations for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD), including influenza, of Colorado children in 2012



2013 MMR Vaccination Coverage Across the U.S.

The measles, mumps and rubella vaccine (MMR) is one of the most common vaccines. The CDC randomly surveyed parents of children ages 19-35 months, by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regions, to determine MMR coverage.



Colorado has the lowest MMR vaccination rate in the U.S. at 86%, compared to the highest of 96.3% in New Hampshire. Colorado is in the region of the country that has the overall lowest national rate for MMR vaccines.

*Colorado is in Region XIII (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming)

Currently in Colorado, parents provide a signature to obtain a Personal Belief Exemption (PBE) to exempt their child from a vaccine.

PBEs accounted for more than 90% of all exemptions from recommended vaccines for Colorado kindergarteners from 2003-2012. Some parents exempt out of convenience, rather than a strongly held personal belief.*

SO WHICH PARENTS ARE NOT VACCINATING THEIR KIDS?

This is a complex question. While some people choose not to vaccinate, others cannot access proper health care. Demographics play a part, but exact data is unclear and could not be confirmed by experts.

Infographic by Madeline Schroeder/Front Porch Newspaper
Sources: *Meredith Kersten, communications manager, Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition
"Neoliberal Mothering and Vaccine Refusal: Imagined Gated Communities and the Privilege of Choice" Sept. 17, 2014, Jennifer Reich, PhD, associate professor, University of Colorado-Denver
Centers for Disease Control 2013 National Immunization Survey (NIS)
"Vaccine-preventable Diseases in Colorado's Children," Dec. 2013, Carl Armon, PhD, James Todd, MD

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- Replace Carbon Monoxide alarms that are 10 years old or older.
- Make sure the Christmas tree is at least **3 feet** away from any heat source, like radiators, fireplaces and candles.
- Use holiday lights as directed, some are for indoor use only and some are for outdoor use only.

- Turn off all Christmas tree lights before leaving your home or going to bed.
- Make a family fire safety plan, with an escape route that's easy for everyone to remember.
- Make sure everyone knows your home address and how to dial **9-1-1**.
- When warming vehicles, make sure garage doors are open and the exhaust pipe is clear from snow and debris.

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Vaccines

(continued from page 14)

schools for their children. The bill also directs the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to create online education about benefits and risks of immunization; to change the rules on how often parents have to update immunization exemptions; and to develop policies on sharing immunization data. Complete details of the bill are available on the *Stapleton Front Porch* website.

"Vaccines are considered the greatest public health achievement of the 21st century," but, says Wasserman, younger parents aren't seeing the devastating diseases that earlier generations saw, such as polio. "Unless you travel to a developing country, you don't see the consequences so people think 'well, I don't have to worry about them anymore.'" Children who

aren't vaccinated benefit from those who are, says Wasserman, but parents who make that decision haven't considered the risk they are creating for those who, due to health issues or lack of access, aren't immunized.

*2013 Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in Colorado's Children Report

House Bill 1288 link: <http://www.childrensimmunization.org/index.php?s=16046&item=34868>

Editor's Note: While the Front Porch recognizes there are some parents who very strongly believe that vaccines are potentially harmful or not needed, these parents represent a very small, though vocal, minority. Experts in the field provided overwhelming evidence that vaccines are universally recognized as very safe and effective, which is reflected in the article. As always, the Front Porch welcomes any other perspectives. Letters to the Editor can be submitted to FrontPorch@FrontPorchStapleton.com.

Talking About Race

(continued from page 13)

race? And what accounts for different skin color? There are images, detailed explanations and interactive quizzes, in addition to videos playing, which feature leading scholars responding to the exhibit's core questions. The exhibit also invites participants to share their story on notecards that then become part of the display. What's more, *Race* enlists patrons to photograph their skin color, an image of which gets projected among a variety of hues captured by previous participants (<http://historycoloradocenter.org/exhibits/race/>).

How to Talk to Your Kids About Race

In connection with the *Race* exhibit, the History Colorado Center is offering a series of workshops to help all parents, and parents of adopted children, in particular, talk with their children about race. The two-hour workshops include a tour of the *Race* exhibit and conclude with a discussion led by Samuels. The sociologist provides several suggestions to parents, including: making time to start the conversation, acknowledging why the topic makes us uncomfortable, and being "hard on

the problem, but soft on the person." Samuels suggests, "The answer is not colorblindness. The answer really is talking more about this stuff."

Continuing the Conversation

The History Colorado Center and DPS plan to keep the conversation going. From 1-3pm on Dec. 6, History Colorado will offer another workshop on "How to Talk to Your Kids About Race." After the *Race* exhibit leaves Denver in January, the center will continue with the second half of its six-month program, *FWD: Race*. This lecture series features upcoming discussions about Chicano Identity and Social Movements of the 1960s and Early '70s (www.historycolorado.org/adult-visitors/fwd-history-and-science-race-0).

DPS characterizes conversations about race as inextricably woven into the district's fundamental vision of Every Child Succeeds. "As we work together toward our vision," Boasberg wrote to the community, "we must acknowledge how race impacts our students and how we can address those challenges and biases we have in our society and even in ourselves."

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Meet the Kids

Oddball, endearing and quirky answers to life's questions

By Madeline Schroeder

When 12-year-old Isabel Beckler was asked to go to the movies with a friend, she looked at the calendar on her iPhone and found an open date three months away. She created an event and set a reminder. When the date rolled around, the friend was too busy to see the movie. This is typical for Beckler's social life.

Faced with increasingly busy schedules, 12- to 14-year-olds experience a different adolescence than any generation before. They no longer have to balance just school, but sports, music lessons, homework, and if possible, time with friends.

"Sometimes I'm so busy I forget to eat," says Beckler, who takes acting, piano and singing lessons. From morning until night, she is constantly doing something.

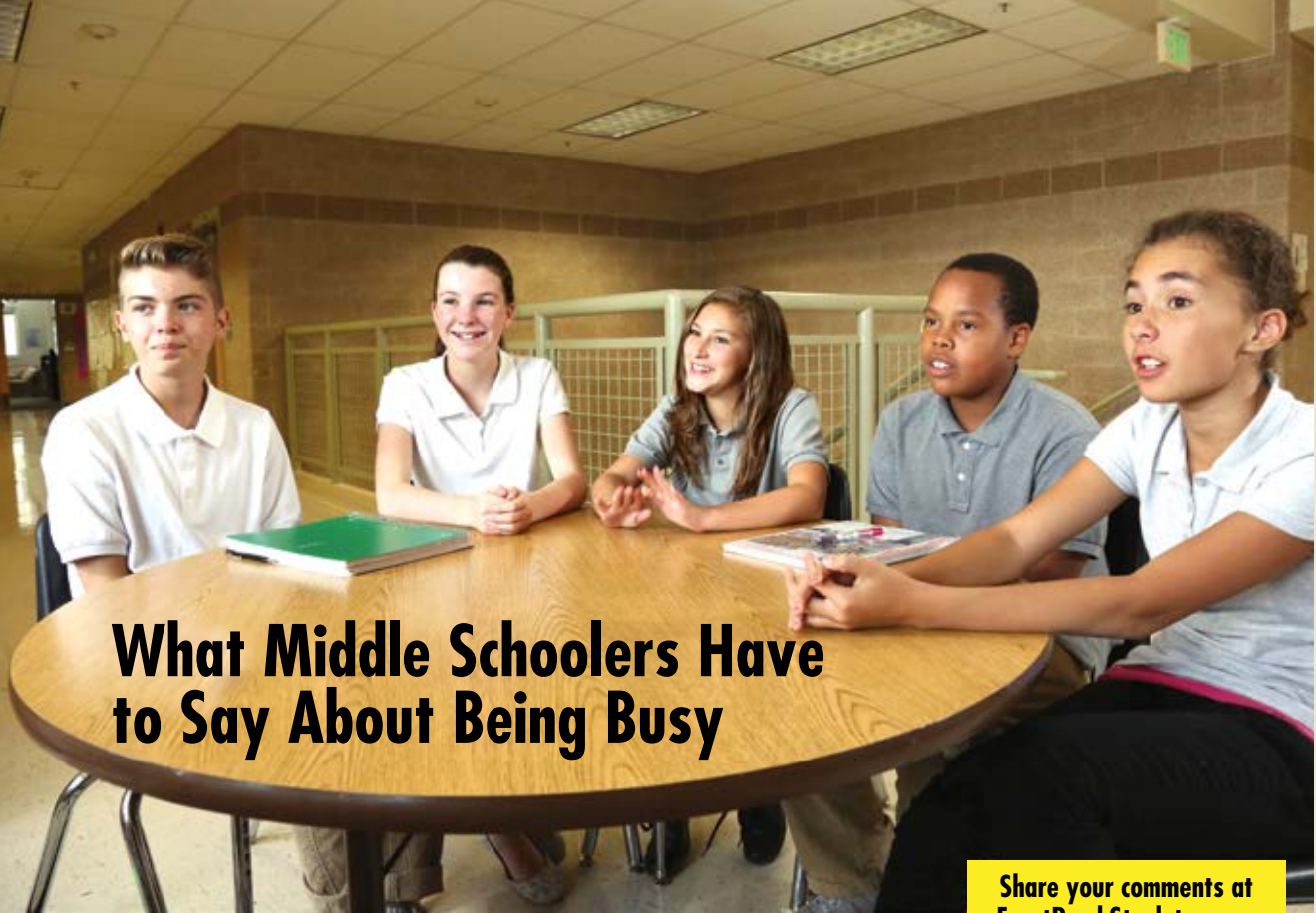
A group of five middle school students from Bill Roberts K-8 describe their days. They each wake up at 6am, start school at 8am, finish at 3:15pm and begin activities around 3:30pm. Garrison Clayton, 13, has to be outside and running for sports by 3:20. When asked how it's possible to be ready in 5 minutes, he's not sure.

Activities run until mid-evening. At this time they start homework or babysit, then dinner, and on some days more homework until 9:30 or 10pm. They each go to bed at about 11 to average 6-7 hours of sleep and then do it all again.

"Right now I get so stressed when I'm tired and start yelling at people. I don't mean to. I feel like in high school I'm going to be grumpy all the time," 12-year-old Sienna Adams says. With dance and sports, her weekdays are nonstop and she feels bad she doesn't see her parents more.

Each of the students depends on their phone to keep track of their schedules (writing in a planner is apparently out of date). At night they usually remind their parents of the next day's schedule. Clayton

Bill Roberts K-8 students discuss the challenges and benefits of their busy lives. Left to right Tristan Cordova, Claire Bovard, Isabel Beckler, Garrison Clayton, and Sienna Adams.



What Middle Schoolers Have to Say About Being Busy

Share your comments at FrontPorchStapleton.com

doesn't deny his exceptional time management skills. "I'm really good at knowing when I do and don't need to plan more things at one time."

While they do get stressed, the middle-schoolers like being busy and disregard their parents' suggestions for more free time.

"My parents say that my schedule is so busy it's okay if one day I want to take a break," says Claire Bavard, 12. She thinks she'd be more stressed with nothing to do.

"If I don't have something to do I'm usually sitting on the couch and eating and thinking, 'What am I doing?' But then I remember I was busy all week so it's fine, but I feel like it's not okay." All four other students in the group agree with this.

Relaxing can be difficult. Perhaps their parents would say differently, but they claim they don't watch TV or lie around the house much. "When I'm sitting around on the weekend and don't have homework, I'm sitting there thinking, 'I have homework, I have homework, what do I have to do? What do I have to do? And I'm freaking out,'" Sienna Adams says, covering her face with her hands.

The group says they'd feel lazy if they weren't busy because everyone has busy schedules at their age, except for that token friend who doesn't have back-to-back activities. This friend unsuccessfully tries to hang out with people.

But what happens to that friend? Are the

minority of kids without scheduled lives affected later in life? Do they lack organizational skills of their scheduling-savvy peers? Do they have any friends to hang out with? Comments welcome online or sent to Madeline@FrontPorchStapleton.com.

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(continued from page 11) “Humans don’t like to have somebody tell them how to feel,” says Dr. John Nicoletti, who specializes in police and public safety psychology. He has been a big part of forming CIT. “Even though a person with a mental illness is decoding information incorrectly, the feelings are the same so empathy is like magic. As soon as you can get that connection, they think ‘This person understands me,’ and they’re going to be a lot more receptive.”

By the end of CIT, officers gain 8–10 years of knowledge and experience, according to Gann. She wishes the training had existed when she was a young cop.

The other officer made up a word, which Gann can't recall now, that would stop the demons. "Do you have any of this?" the cop asked the woman. She shook her head. "Well, let me think what that might be in. I think it might be in Scotch tape." The woman eagerly listened. "Do you have any?" She excitedly scurried to grab tape, which the officer used to put a big X on the wall at the points she saw the arms. By the end, she was less frantic but still didn't feel safe. The officers left.

Gann believes with CIT training she would've handled the situation differently and made sure the woman got the help she needed.

DPD officers who have completed CIT report back the training helped in dealing with mental health incidents. Chief White hopes to have 100 percent of officers CIT trained. Only one 2013 Denver Police critical incident with mental illness or suspected mental illness involved no CIT-trained officers, according to a Sept. 10 letter White wrote to the Citizen Oversight Board.

DPD is currently working on a second level of CIT training. "We are stepping up the game," Gann says. "It goes from boots on the ground all the way to the top of the chain ... we want every officer to have real-life experience to relate the information they learn in CIT to work in the street."

By Laurie Dunklee

Christmas trees haven't changed much in the last 150 years. "The holidays have gone high-tech, like computer-controlled outside decorations, but Christmas tree design has stayed the same until now," said Matt Bliss, owner of Modern Christmas Trees.

Bliss's Modern Christmas Trees are space-age representations of the traditional holiday staple. They are concentric rings made of acrylic that hang from the ceiling, with a light inside that casts multicolored reflections on the walls and ceiling.

Bliss has made and sold the trees since 2011. This spring he quit his 13-year job as a loan officer to make Modern Christmas Trees his full-time business. "I wanted to dedicate my time to make it what it should be," he said.

The modern tree was designed in the early 1960s by Bliss's grandfather, Lawrence "Bud" Stoecker, an engineer who built A-frame cabins in Colorado mountain towns. "He knew about smart design and he understood the triangle shape," Bliss said. "The family was not rich, so he made things out of his engineer's brain. He didn't make the trees to sell, just to make something creative for the family."

Stoecker's design evolved in the 1970s and '80s. "Grandpa made the first trees out of industrial cardboard, then masonite,



Matt Bliss holds the logo for his business, Modern Christmas Trees. He has one of the space-age multicolored trees in his Stapleton home, where he fills the orders for the trees.

with a pole in the middle,” Bliss said. “When he changed to acrylic Plexiglas, they got lighter and more functional. They are beautiful, but his main goal was to build something to last.”

The trees have a modern look that fits with modern and mid-century modern houses, said Bliss. "Lots of my customers appreciate the modern design of the trees."

He said people are attracted to the design but appreciate the convenience. "The tree collapses into a flat box for storage," said Bliss. "It weighs 15 pounds decorated and it's simple to put up. I sell to people in high-rises because of their space challenge, and to commercial buildings because it's a simple alternative."

The Denver Art Museum purchased a tree to hang upside down in their gift shop and commissioned artists to design unique ornaments for it. One of the trees is also on display at the John Fielder Gallery, 833 Santa Fe Drive.

The tree comes in blue, red, green or pearl. It includes ornaments of various shapes: chandelier crystals, glass balls and "illusion discs." "The cool thing is you can change it up, put your own ornaments on it," Bliss said. Included is a light fixture, a mirror ball with re and instructions.

rotating device, installation hardware and instructions.

Bliss donates \$50 of each sale to the Alzheimer's Foundation in memory of his grandfather, who succumbed to the disease in 2012. He's sold 260 trees and donated about \$10,000 so far.

Trees range in price from \$299 for a half-tree that abuts a wall, to \$799 for a 7 1/2-foot-tall tree. Bliss has about 220 trees left in stock. “Grandpa would be happy that I’m preserving something of his,” Bliss said. For more information, see www.modernchristmastrees.com.

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New Spa Opens in Northfield



Front Porch photo by Laura Mahony

Libby and Scott Kolble, owners of Hand & Stone Massage and Facial Spa, are excited about their new business that opened on December 1 in Northfield.

By Nancy Burkhart

Newly opened Hand & Stone Massage and Facial Spa, located next to Victoria's Secret and Macy's at Northfield, offers different types of massage and facials to aid in the goal of good health and wellness. "The misconception is that massage is used only for healing," says Lowry resident Scott Kolble, who owns the spa with his wife, Libby. "Massage is used to add onto the health and wellness of every human."

Hand & Stone Massage has a signature hot stone massage, but offers all varieties of massage including deep tissue, Swedish, sports, reflexology, neuromuscular, Reiki, trigger points, pre-natal and cranial-sacral, plus facials, microderm abrasion, waxing, chemical peels and tinting. "A hot stone massage is a special type of massage," Scott explained. "We use different sizes of very smooth rocks like bedrock that are heated to a comfortable temperature. It allows the rocks to heat up the really tight muscles in the client before giving that really nice, deep tissue massage."

"Men think of a spa as being for women who want to be pampered. That's a misconception. Everybody spends money on gyms, but they never think about making sure that all those muscles they are working on recover."

Massages last 50 minutes, but are scheduled for an hour to allow clients time to talk to the therapist about what is going on with their body and make a decision about what to work on.

Scott says he got regular facials and massages when he was a vice president for a local software company. He became interested in the massage and facial spa business when he found a 'better' spa—and decided to buy it. Libby is a commercial property manager for a Denver high-rise downtown.

A massage and facial once a month makes people feel better and more relaxed, says Scott, so he offers a lifestyle program much like a gym membership. The monthly program gives the client one massage or one facial of their choice plus discounts on all other services and products. For clients who want to try their services before making a monthly commitment, a massage introductory price is \$49.95 and the facial is \$59.95. With his December grand opening special, the monthly membership is \$49.95.

For Northfield Hand & Stone Massage and Facial Spa information, go to www.handandstone.com, email Scott at skolble@handandstone.com or go to Facebook at www.facebook.com/HandandStoneNorthfieldStapleton. Book appointments online or call 303.574.0150.

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Tracy Adams, owner of Abode & Company, brought her love of home furnishings to Northfield. Her sales team is shown behind her (left to right): Juliet Tunks, Lisa Caranta and Nicole Makris.

By Laurie Dunklee
Zipped wine and martini glasses? Animal-faced clocks? A blue cowhide rug? “Unexpected items give a home its character,” says Tracy Adams, proprietor of the new Abode & Company home furnishings store in Northfield.

Abode, which opened in November, aims to please a wide variety of home-decorating tastes with 5,500 square feet of furniture, kitchen and bath items.

Abode & Company offers a casual atmosphere. “We aim for a relaxed feel,” said Adams. “Come in and sit on the couch you like, look at fabric swatches and we’ll make you an espresso. A young couple sat down to argue about fabric—she said, ‘Ooh, I like that one,’ and he said, ‘Nuh-UH!’—and that’s great. We want you to feel at home.”

Adams often advises and makes decorating suggestions for customers, depending on their needs. “If someone has an old house we ask, ‘Do you want to modernize, or keep with the historic character of the house?’ If it’s a house that’s just being built, they are starting from scratch. We’re working on a questionnaire for customers to help them define what they want.”

Adams said customers can customize every aspect of their home. “If you like a couch or a chair, you can select from hundreds of

fabrics to cover it with. The whole concept is making your house your home.”

She said most shoppers in her store live in Stapleton, Northfield, Park Hill or other surrounding neighborhoods. “We get referrals from all over though.”

Adams said she opened in Northfield because it’s growing and there are few home furnishing stores in the area. “People whose houses are being built are looking and planning. We’re here for them, as well as for the established neighborhoods,” she said.

Lisa Caranta, Abode’s store designer, said the store’s offerings fit with the residents of the area. “People here are educated and they are a fun group. They don’t take themselves too seriously. We’re a fun store.”

“People don’t want the same thing in their house that everyone else has. That’s why we’re eclectic and a little quirky.”

Abode’s selection covers a broad range of tastes, from rustic picture frames to modern-designed bookshelves, to animal prints. Hundreds of rugs are available, including

handmade wool and patterned varieties. Kitchen items include hammered and brushed ceramic dishes and stainless steel serving pieces. “We plan to offer cooking demonstrations in the future,” said Adams.

Signs throughout the store express its “do-your-own-thing” philosophy, including “Home is Where You Cut the Cheese” in the kitchen area. “Happy Hour is Every Hour” hangs near the living room display.

“Your home is where you make it,” said Adams. “It should be a living environment you want to spend time in.”

Adams plans to add an online store in the future, and possibly more brick-and-mortar stores as well. “Maybe we’ll expand but we’ll keep the feel of the independent store,” she said.

Abode is open from 11am to 8pm Mon. through Thurs.; 10am to 9pm Fri. and Sat.; and Sundays 11am to 6pm. The store is at 8210 Northfield Blvd. Call them at 303.574.3334 or visit AbodeandCompany.com (coming soon).



Front Porch photo by Laura Mahony

New Home Furnishings Store Offers Eclectic Selection

Organic Coffee At Your Door

By Nancy Burkhardt
Are you a coffee addict who thinks your coffee should be superb to earn a place in your cup?

Ryan Petterson and his wife, Sally, started a craft coffee business, Stapleton Roasters, in October. They roast organic coffee beans from Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic where they have a personal relationship with each of the farmers.

Petterson says, “Craft coffee is catching on. Once people try the product, most people really can tell the difference. Experts are predicting that there’s a huge trend coming here that will cause a migration from current grocery store coffees and Starbucks.”

“We will deliver half a pound at a time because we want people to experience all our coffees,” Ryan Petterson explained. “We currently roast six different coffees from different regions. Somewhere in that spectrum of coffees you’re going to find that perfect cup, and that perfect cup is differ-



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Front Porch photo by Laura Mahony

Ryan and Sally Petterson, shown at Stapleton's annual Winter Welcome event, brew and deliver organic coffee.

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"We sell whole beans only," he said. "We feel that fresh-roasted coffee is the best. The aromas and oils haven't started to break down yet. When you grind the coffee, that speeds up the process of losing the taste.

Ryan Petterson was researching the business of sourcing coffee directly from coffee farms around the world and roasting it at a Stapleton site when he and his wife, Sally, "had an awakening as a young family." Sally was the mother of a 5-year-old and a 5-year-old in 2012 when she was diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer. Today, after nine months of surgery and chemotherapy, Sally has been "cleared of cancer," Ryan said.

"We felt that the experience changed our perspective on life," he said. "I started home roasting coffee and got great feedback. We partnered with great coffee roasters in the country and got really great advice. I focus on the roasting, financial and strategic level. Sally is a natural people person. She's doing more of the

sales, deliveries and getting people involved. She gets our product out there."

Ryan, Sally and their sons, Brady, 8, and Nathan, 5, took a family trip last summer to meet the farmers who supply the coffee beans that they roast.

"We saw as a family what goes on in poor, rural areas where they don't have access to health care," Ryan said. "So, a significant portion of our profits goes into the community here and gives back to the communities where the coffee comes from."

Stapleton Roasters will deliver or ship coffee orders from half a pound up to hundreds of pounds. Half a pound of coffee is priced from \$7.25 to \$10.75, depending on its origin.

Although their office is located at 2373 Central Park Blvd., Stapleton Roasters is not a retail shop. To order coffee, go to www.stapletonroasters.com.

For more information, call 720.984.4604 or email sally@stapletonroasters.com.

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Andrew McBride, MD, FACOG, FPMRS

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Dr. McBride is board certified and fellowship trained in female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery (urogynecology). He specializes in the care of women with urinary incontinence, pelvic organ prolapse and most other gynecologic and pelvic floor disorders.



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New Daddy Longlegs Species Named After Spelunker Who Found it



Sclerobunus steinmanni is a new species of daddy longlegs discovered behind the flatirons in Boulder.

By Laurie Dunklee

Dave Steinmann's idea of fun is crawling around in a damp cave, looking for life.

"I look for anything alive: millipedes, tiny pseudo-scorpions, beetles and centipedes," said Steinmann, a volunteer biologist for Denver's Museum of Nature & Science.

Steinmann finds new, un-classified species—including a daddy longlegs that has been named for him. *Sclerobunus steinmanni* was found in 2008 in a rocky cave on City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks land, behind the flatirons. "It takes a while after they're found for them to be classified and named," Steinmann said. "It's an honor for me to have my contribution recognized like this."

In 2009, Steinmann identified a second new daddy longlegs species in the Cave of the Winds in Manitou Springs,

living deep underground in total darkness. This species was named *Sclerobunus speoventus*, derived from the Latin words for cave and wind. It lives in parts of the cave seldom visited by people.

"Every year I find about 10 more new species, right in our backyard," said Steinmann, who has been caving for about 20 years. "Right within view of the city are new species, yet no one ever noticed. I've found more than 100 new invertebrate species in 50 Colorado caves. As far as I know, I'm the only person in Colorado researching cave life."

Steinmann goes caving with his wife, Debbie, and son Nathaniel, 12. "He's smaller than we are, so if the space is tight we send him through to see what's on the other side."

Steinmann's equipment is basic. "I take a good, really bright headlamp. I turn over rocks in moist areas. I collect

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Photos courtesy of DPNIS

Dave Steinmann has been caving for 20 years and discovers about 10 species every year.

with tweezers, or with a small, moist paintbrush for the tiny ones, and put them into a vial. Another way is to set a pitfall trap, a buried funnel with a jar at the bottom. You have to check it in a few days. I get a permit to collect from the cave's owner or the Forest Service."

Colorado caves can be difficult to access and also to get out of. "Sometimes access requires climbing a rope, and some caves are gated to protect bats. The longest cave I was in had 12 miles of passages. It's completely dark and the Swiss cheese passageways connect, maze-like. It took 24 hours of constant moving to get in and out again."

Steinmann said cavers can go hundreds of feet to a thousand feet under rock. "Passageways can be so narrow you have to let out your breath to squeeze through, or as large as a high school gym. The underground streams and waterfalls, the formations are amazing. It's exciting to rappel into a pit and see a place no one else has ever been."

Does he get scared?

"I've gotten stuck in a corkscrew passage I had to wiggle and claw to get out of. But I try not to have scary stuff."

Steinmann brings the collected invertebrates back for study. "Some I send to experts around the world to identify them. I rely on the Denver Museum of Nature & Science for a lot."

The Denver Museum of Nature &

Science has added the two new daddy longlegs species to the Zoology Department's arachnid collections.

"Daddy longlegs are not spiders," said Paula Cushing, the museum's curator of invertebrate zoology. She said they are in the arachnid class, which also includes spiders, scorpions, ticks and mites.

Sclerobunus steinmanni is orange and yellow, and very different looking from the daddy longlegs most familiar to people. Its pea-sized body connects spiked legs up to an inch long. DNA studies show this species evolved for millions of years while slowly adapting to the underground environment.

Because it evolved separately from its out-of-cave cousins, *Sclerobunus steinmanni* developed its own genetic differences and anatomical characteristics.

"It's all about sex in arachnids," said Cushing, an evolutionary biologist. "The genitalia of those inside the cave are such that they can't mate with relatives outside the cave, only those inside. Cave systems are specific habitats. If a species can survive long enough, it can evolve separately from its relatives outside."

The more we know about life forms on Earth, the better, according to Cushing. "We have one planet we know about that harbors life. We have one home and we should know more about the biodiversity here. We are part of the natural order and we don't know how changes to the planet will impact our ability to survive."



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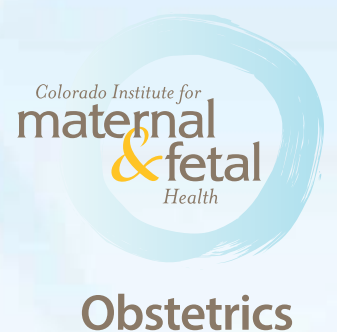
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Get to Know Dr. Stephen Rotholz

Steve has been in practice for more than 20 years with extensive experience in all aspects of obstetrics, as well as minimally invasive gynecologic surgery. He trained at the University of Arizona and George Washington University. He lives with his family in Stapleton and has active interests in photography and music.

A stylized map of Denver neighborhoods with a winding road. The road is grey with white dashed lines and runs from the bottom left towards the top right. Along the road, there are several signs and neighborhood labels:

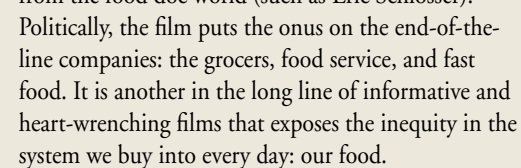
- Green Valley Ranch**: A red label at the top left.
- Aurora**: A red label in the upper middle.
- Stapleton**: A red label in the middle left.
- Lowry**: A red label in the middle right.
- Park Hill Montclair**: A red label in the lower middle left.
- Mayfair Hilltop**: A red label in the lower middle right.
- Highlands**: A red label at the bottom left.
- DU**: A red label at the bottom right.

Signs on the road include:

- A blue sign at the top right that says "Your Home Awaits..."
- A blue sign in the middle right that says "200+ Properties Managed with 99.3% Occupancy Rate".
- A blue sign at the bottom right that says "Buy. Sell. Rent. Invest."

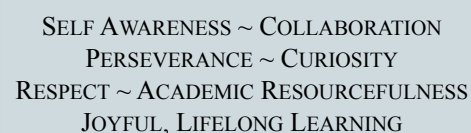
There are also three photographs of Denver neighborhoods: one of a street with purple flowers and parked cars, one of a modern brick building, and one of a street with a brick building and a tree.

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Scene from *Food Chains*.

Is there an answer to fixing the inequities along the line? You will like this film if you enjoyed *Food Inc.*, *Fast Food Nation*, and/or *Forks and Knives*.

Opened Nov. 28 at the Sie Film Center.

Virunga (2014)

The Virunga National Park is home to many different types of animals who live in the wild, particularly the endangered mountain gorillas. This large, geographically diverse park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a vast oasis that is also constantly under attack—from poachers, companies who wish to mine the park, and to oil companies. The only line of defense in this fragile country/region is the park rangers, a group of dedicated, if not undermanned and underfunded local men who have dedicated their lives to protecting the park. It is a constant war to keep a national park alive.

The new documentary *Virunga*, a Netflix original production, chronicles the history of the park and the more recent events that pit government troops against larger groups of well-armed rebels (backed by foreign oil interests), and pits the park rangers against those same rebels—and seemingly everyone else in the world. As their families flee, the rangers stay and fight against the rebels, trying to keep their fragile station from the hands of the rebels. And away from the gorillas.

The film is really two films—the first part gives a concise history of the Congo (and in the process, a history of European Imperialism in Africa) and the park. We meet the rangers and see their heroic efforts to protect the park and the animals in the park.



Scene from *Virunga*.

The second part plays out like a thriller, with the rebels attacking the villages (and advancing toward the park) while a sympathetic French journalist plays undercover agent to expose the link between the oil/mining interests and the rebels. Her report will expose the whole story.

The main antagonist in the film becomes SOCO International, a British oil and gas company. The film portrays them as money-mad pirates intent on drilling in the park at any cost. Their involvement with DRC leaders and the rebel groups is somewhat murky, and of course, always denied by the company. But what is clear is how even though institutionalized imperialism died some time ago, the practice continues in

economic form.

The cinematography is quite beautiful, the editing can be confusing at times because of the vastness of the geography and change in locales, but it is the melancholic score that holds the film together. At one point during the rebel attack, one of the rangers (who had been introduced as the gorilla caregiver) says “You must justify why you are on the Earth. Gorillas are why I’m here on this Earth.” The score highlights his plight.

You will like this film if you enjoy political documentaries. Available on Netflix.

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



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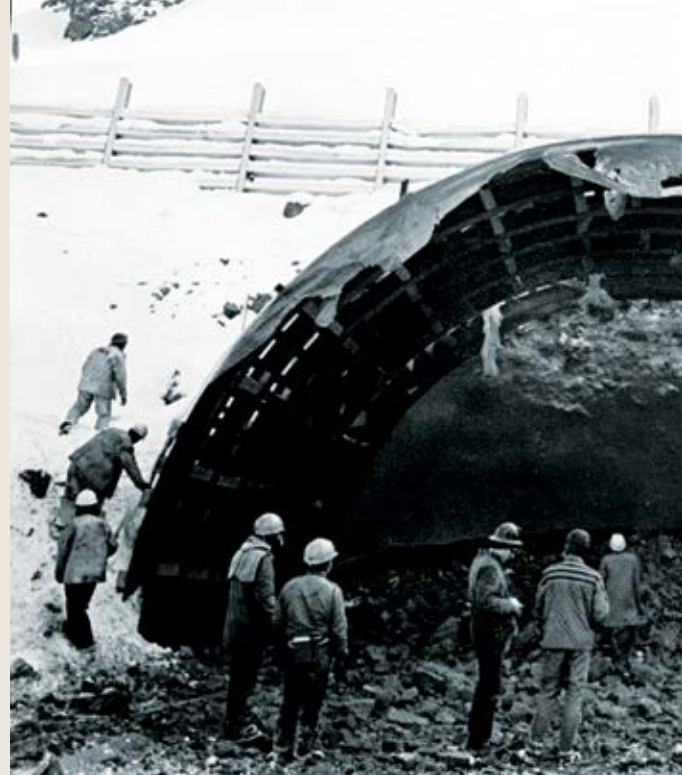
Just the Facts

The Story Behind Eisenhower Tunnel

by James Hagadorn



Bonnema to work on the tunnel, after misspelling her name and thinking she was a guy named "Jamet." Despite being told "a tunnel was no place for a woman," Janet wanted to work the tunnel project. After a year and a half of being relegated to outside-of-the-tunnel work, she was fed up and ready to collect her instrument readings in the tunnel, just like her male counterparts did. After she sued for equal treatment, the courts forced a change to state and national transportation workplace policies. Janet began work in the tunnels on Nov. 9, 1972. On the first day, 66 men walked off the job in protest. But she did her job well, and paved the way for other women to pursue careers in construction, mining and transportation.



Last weekend we cruised through one of our favorite stretches of I-70. All three kids shouted "tunnel!" as we approached the entrance, and the whoops and hollers continued all the way through. Yeah, you know the one. The Eisenhower-Johnson Memorial Tunnel system, or EJMT.

What's the story behind these tunnels? Initially opened in 1973, they're the highest in the world, whisking 11 million autos per year from one side of the Continental Divide to the other. They're one of Colorado's most iconic and impactful arteries and have a remarkable history.

Before digging into the tunnels, first a quiz: Who are they named after?

Presidents Eisenhower and Johnson? Actually, the Johnson Tunnel is named after Edwin "Big Ed" Johnson, our former

senator and governor, who was EJMT's most vociferous advocate.

Big Ed astutely argued that completion of the tunnels would catalyze the biggest boom in mountain towns since the Colorado gold rush. And boy did they. Suddenly meager ski burghs like Breckenridge were connected not just to Denver, but to the east. They flourished rather than decaying away like other former mining towns.

Building the tunnels did have downsides. Seven workers died while tunneling the Continental Divide, largely because they had to navigate a horde of geologic problems, ranging from groundwater-soaked schist to fractured and faulted granite.

The tunnels marked a national turning point in the fight for workplace equality. CDOT (then called the Division of Highways) accidentally hired engineer Janet

"Papa, I have to go to the bathroom really, really bad." And that's a bummer about the EJMT; there's no shoulder nor are there bathrooms there anymore because they were shut down after 9/11.

Compared to the roadways of the past, the tunnels are phenomenally safe. Not a single death in 40 years of operation. In part this is because the EJMT and its staff are evolving to keep pace with increased traffic demand and vehicular risks. For example,



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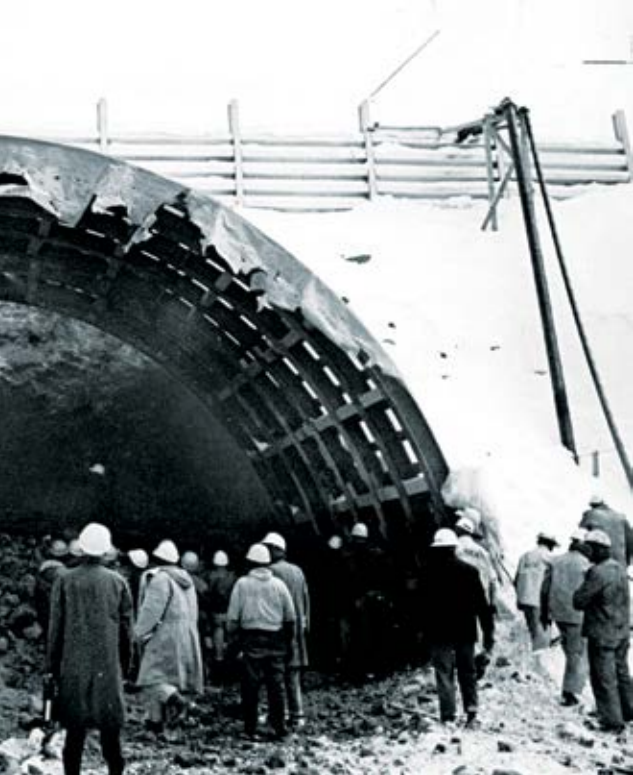
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On a snowy day in 1973, a crew looked at the pile of rocks after the first blasts on the west side of the Continental Divide. At the time, the project was the most ambitious federal-aid highway program in the nation. It was later named the Eisenhower Tunnel.

Photo by John G. White/Denver Post

accidents that occur each year in the tunnels. Although there are only a few fires per year in the tunnels, they're also a major concern. For comparison, California's 2007 Newhall Pass tunnel fire was triggered by a traffic accident and left 3 dead, 10 injured, 30 vehicles damaged, and the tunnel closed for 5 weeks. The good news is that an overhead fire suppression system is in the works to prevent such a disaster in the EJMT.

So what's next for the tunnels? No doubt they'll continue to evolve. I hope their future also includes a pit stop or a fun coat of paint.

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

the tunnels have their own war room, where staff monitor toxic gases from car exhaust, like carbon monoxide. Your car emits more of these gases at 11,000 feet than down in the Front Range, and they can accumulate quickly in a tunnel. Therefore tunnel air is circulated through ducts stashed above the road we drive on. Those ducts are nearly as tall and wide as the road itself.

War room workers also monitor and mitigate the hundreds of breakdowns and

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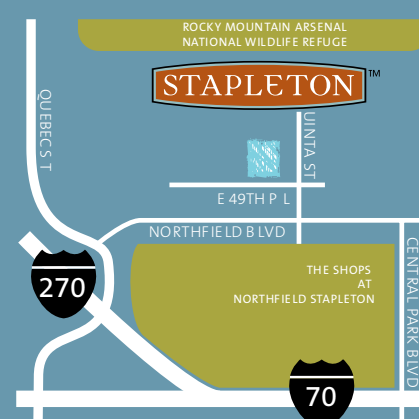


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DPS Answers Questions about School Choice

Q: What are the important dates of which I need to be aware?

A: December 15, 2014 – Round One of SchoolChoice opens and SchoolChoice form available at each school, on the SchoolChoice website: <http://schoolchoice.dpsk12.org/> and the Parent Portal website: <https://myportal.dpsk12.org/>

January 30, 2015 – SchoolChoice forms are due by 4:00pm

March 13, 2015 – Notification letters sent to families

Q: Where do we submit our SchoolChoice form?

A: We strongly recommend that families submit their SchoolChoice forms online. If you are unable to submit it online, you can submit it to any school office staff. All district schools will accept forms through January 30, 2015, at 4:00pm. SchoolChoice forms may also be submitted to the DPS Office of Choice and Enrollment at 3131 N. Eliot St., Denver, CO 80211 or to the Northeast Enrollment Center at 4800 Telluride St., Denver, CO 80249.

Q: How does the lottery work, and how will my child be enrolled in a school?

A: Students will be considered for enrollment at each school based on the preferences they list on the SchoolChoice form and the admissions priorities (i.e., siblings, Denver residents, etc.) established by each school. Admissions priorities for each school may be found at <http://schoolchoice.dpsk12.org/>.

Each student is assigned a random lottery number. Students are placed in lottery number order within the applicable priority group. This is balanced against the available seats to determine which students are awarded a seat.

Q: If my student only lists one school on the SchoolChoice form, will we have a higher chance of getting into that school?

A: No. The number of schools listed on a SchoolChoice form will not affect the likelihood of being assigned to any particular school. DPS strongly recommends that each student lists his/her top five preferred schools in preference order.

Q: After enrolling in a school other than my boundary school through SchoolChoice, am I still guaranteed a seat at my boundary school?

A: No. If you do not list your neighborhood school as your number-one preference and your child is enrolled at one of those high-preference non-boundary schools, you forfeit your seat at your boundary school. To return to your boundary school, you may submit a Round Two SchoolChoice form; however, if your boundary school is full after Round One, your child will be placed on the waitlist.

Q: Who should I contact if I have further questions?

A: The Office of Choice and Enrollment Services can be reached at 720.423.7627 or schoolchoice@dpsk12.org.

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Changes Ahead for Frame Shop

By Carol Roberts

Art & Framing at Stapleton, a much-loved locally owned store in the 29th Ave. Town Center, will be closing its doors on Dec. 20 since the store's lease ends this month. Lin Clark, who opened the framing business in 2005 with her brother Ron, founded and sponsored the Stapleton Open Studios tour for Stapleton artists and also supported local artists by showcasing their work in her store.

Clark's longtime customers are quick to talk about why they love doing business with her.

Shannon Levitt-Allen says she had previously only been to "generic" framing stores. She remembers her first visit to Clark's store, about six years ago. "She really took a lot of time and effort into making it a really pretty final piece and showed me what a frame can actually do for a picture or a piece of art. Even some posters I had that were mean-

ingful to me, she showed me ways that you can make them look really nice that I had never thought of ... I've even bought things in anticipation of getting them framed there. She's just a really great person and she does a lot to make something that's going to be in your house for a long time really beautiful and seem more special."

Stefanie Jones says she started getting things framed for her home, but quickly added framing for clients in her PR business. "Lin's pricing was very competitive, but it was really never about the price. It was about the level of service. Lin would

just bend over backwards to make it perfect ... to get it fast if needed. More than half the time she would drop the framed pieces off at my home on her way home. She was like the Nordstrom of framing with the thought and the care she put into running her business ... Lin really created an environment in that little store that doesn't really exist in the business world anymore."

Artist Kathy Skarvan, who will take over the annual Open Studios Tour, says "Lin is a lover of art and a lover of artists, so she has been helpful to the artists in Stapleton and other areas. She would help artists with



Lin Clark in her 29th Ave framing shop in 2005.

their websites or their marketing. She did a lot more than just framing." Skarvan says the artists will miss her, "I can't say enough good things about what she's done for the artist group in Stapleton."

But the good news for the community is she may have found at least a temporary home where she can keep her business going. Clark hopes to have periodic "framing expos" for 3-4 days at a time in some of the unfinished space at Stanley Marketplace where she would bring her frame and mat samples and meet with customers. She would then deliver the framed pieces directly to her customers' homes.

Although a store at Stanley isn't finalized, Clark says she loves the idea of being around like-minded businesses where everyone helps bring new visitors to their shared location. Check the website at www.ArtandFramingStapleton.com for upcoming expo dates.



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Through 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

Through 12/27—The Nutcracker. By Colorado Ballet. Tickets: www.colorado-ballet.org

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

Through 1/3—A Hudson Gardens Christmas. Holiday lights, wagon rides, Santa, music and more. Select dates. 5-8:30pm. www.hudsongardens.org

For more events, search our online event database
Also submit your event at FrontPorchStapleton.com > Events

Through 2/16—Southwest Rink at Skyline Park. FREE ice skating in downtown Denver; bring skates or rent: \$2/pair. www.downtowndenver.com

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

12/5 Friday—Denver Brass: I'll be Home for Christmas. Free/donation. Bethany Lutheran Church, 7:30pm. www.denverbrass.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 12/14—Butterfly Pavilion Living Lights. Lights illuminate rainforest and outdoor gardens. Weekends, 5:30-9pm nightly. Tickets: www.butterflies.org

12/5 to 12/21—Holiday High Tea. Molly Brown House. Fri./Sat./Sun. Sitings: 11am, 1pm and 3pm. jwilms@mollybrown.org or 303.832.4092x17. www.mollybrown.org

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

12/6 Saturday—Denver Brass Holiday Brass Fest. Anyone with a horn welcome to play in community concert. DPCA Galleria. 10:30am register/check in; 11am rehearsal; 1pm free concert. \$10 returning musicians w/books; \$20 if music book needed. Register: www.denverbrass.org

12/6 Saturday—Holiday Trading & Gift Bazaar. 1-4pm. The Garden Events Center (3435 Albion St., N. Park Hill, www.thegarden-parkhill.com). Bring a friend, favorite dish, holiday goodies, gifts or preserved foods to share. Vendors sell handmade gifts and artisan foods. Live music and kids' activities. Hosted by Sunshine Food Project and Oomph Spirit. www.sunshinefoodproject.org, www.oomph-spirit.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 weekends in Dec. 10am-6pm. FREE. www.historicgeorgetown.org

December 16—Chanukah Menorah Lighting

At 5:30pm on Tues., Dec. 16, the Stapleton Jewish Life Center will light the 12-foot menorah on the east side of the Stapleton 29th Ave. Green. The event will include a hot cocoa bar, donuts, a dreidel guessing competition, gifts for kids and a fire show. The event will honor Noah Makovsky from Stapleton Pediatrics and Commander Les Perry from Denver Police Department District 5. Admission is free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Stapleton MCA. Visit StapletonCommunity.com.



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historicgeorgetown.org/Christmas_Market

12/6 to 12/20—Tea at Byers-Evans House. Children's tea 12/20. Tour of home followed by traditional tea menu. 1:30pm on select dates. Adults \$25, children \$18, History Colorado members \$20. Reservations required: 303.866.6870, www.historycoloradocenter.org

12/12 to 12/13—Hammonds Candies Candy Cane Festival. Santa and Mrs. Claus, storytelling, caroling, cookie decorating, face painting, trolley rides, etc. 11am-4pm Fri.; 9am-4pm Sat. 5735 N. Washington St. www.hammondscandies.com

12/13 to 12/14—Colorado Symphony Presents Handel's Messiah. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. Tickets: www.coloradosymphony.org

12/13 to 12/14—Denver Handmade Homemade Holiday Market. 60+ vendors, 2 days, live music, clothing swap, vegan food buffet, \$2-\$5 suggested entry donation. 1-7pm. Denver Art Society, 734 Santa Fe Dr. www.denverhaho.org

12/13 to 12/14—Horseshoe Holiday Market. Upscale market sells vintage and homemade items, antiques, etc. 10am-5pm. Highlands Masonic Temple, 3550 Federal Blvd. www.horseshoemarket.com

12/13 to 12/20—Nutcracker 2014 By Ballet Ariel. 2pm shows Sat, 12/13 & 20; Sun, 12/14 & 21. 7pm shows Fri, 12/19 and Sat, 12/13 & 20. \$25-\$35 tickets. Box office: 303.987.7845. 470 S. Allison Pkwy. www.balletariel.org, www.lakewood.org/tickets



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12/14 Sunday—A Colorado Christmas. Four Mile Historic Park, Victorian-era Christmas, carols, sleigh rides, Father Christmas and more. www.fourmilepark.org

12/14 Sunday—Chancel Choir Festival Christmas. Free. Augusta Lutheran Church. www.augustanaarts.org

12/14 Sunday—Light Up Your Hanukkah! At darkest time of year, Jews celebrate Hanukkah, festival of lights! Join Judaism Your Way and CAJE Jewish Explorers for family-friendly afternoon of Hanukkah fun, live music, kids' crafts, and tasty latkes. <http://www.judaismyourway.org/holidays-events/hanukkah-2014/>

12/14 Sunday—Holiday Brass at Montview Blvd Presbyterian Church. Colorado Symphony Brass presents seasonal favorites. 5pm. www.coloradosymphony.org

12/15 Monday—Toys for Tots holiday toy drive. All day. Collection bins located at District 11 libraries & rec centers, Plum Consignment, 2373 Central Park Blvd. or Stapleton Visit Center, 4928 Uinta St.

12/14 to 12/28—Tea at Grant Humphries Mansion. Sundays; seatings at 1pm and 2:30pm. Traditional tea menu, \$30/person, History Colorado members \$25. Reservations required, 303.866.6870 or melis-samazany@kmssa.com www.historycoloradocenter.org

12/17 Wednesday—Celtic Woman: Home for Christmas, The Symphony Tour. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. Tickets: www.celticwoman.com

12/17 to 12/18—Denver Gay Men's Chorus Holiday Concert. Making Spirits Bright. Gates Concert Hall, Newman Center for Performing Arts, Univ. of Denver, 2344 E. Iliff. Tickets: www.rmarts.org

12/19 Friday—Colorado Women's Chorale Holiday Singalong. Augustana Lutheran Church. Tickets:

12/19 to 12/21—Colorado Symphony Presents A Colorado Christmas. With Colorado Children's Chorale. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. Tickets: \$22-\$84. www.coloradosymphony.org

12/20 to 12/21—Denver Brass: How the Brass Saved Christmas. Newman Center for Performing Arts, \$22-44. www.denverbrass.org

12/21 Sunday—Tuba Christmas Concert. 1pm. Skyline Park, 16th and Arapahoe. Register 9am; rehearsal 10am. Auraria Events Center. Free. 303.556.8123 or www.tubachristmas.com

12/27 to 12/28—Too Hot to Handel. Presented by Colorado Symphony. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. Tickets: www.coloradosymphony.org

12/31 Wednesday—A Night in Vienna. Presented by Colorado Symphony. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. Tickets: www.coloradosymphony.org

December 7—Station Wagon Sessions Family Holiday Show

Swallow Hill in Lowry will host the band Face out of Boulder, Colo., at a holiday show at 3pm on Sunday, Dec. 7. The band performed on the NBC series The Sing Off and America's Got Talent. The music is family friendly. Visit SwallowHillMusic.org for more info and tickets.

12/31 Wednesday—New Year's Eve Downtown Fireworks Display. 2 shows: 9pm and midnight. 16th St. Mall. www.downtowndenver.com

12/31 Wednesday—Noon Year's Eve at Denver Children's Museum. 9am-4pm. Ball drops on the hour from 10am-3pm. www.mychildsmuseum.org



GI Docs On Wheels

Getting from one spot to another on the Anschutz Medical Campus can be a trek. To quickly get back and forth across campus, Glenn T. Furuta (right) bought a Razor scooter. Furuta, pediatric gastroenterologist and director of the Gastrointestinal Eosinophilic Diseases Program (GEDP) at Children's Hospital Colorado, says it's fun, easy and good exercise. He attached Texas Longhorns to the handlebars for the University of Texas, where he attended undergraduate school.

After Furuta, fellow physician Cara Mack (left) bought a scooter. When Edwin de Zoeten (center) joined the Digestive Health Institute four years ago, they initiated him by giving him a scooter. The trio, aptly named the "Smooth Movers," scoot even into the colder months. "We can get anywhere in 7 minutes," Furuta says. "I can do it in 5," Mack says. "Oooh," de Zoeten says and laughs. "You should race."

DENVER METRO EVENTS

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

12/5 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Santa Fe Arts District, Tennyson Art Walk, River North (RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Museum, Navajo Street Art District. www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

12/5 to 12/7—Colorado Symphony presents All Beethoven. \$13-\$25 www.coloradosymphony.org

12/6 Saturday—Art on Monaco's Holiday Gallery Group Show. Free Holiday Gallery reception with artist Evelyn Valdez Martinez and 7 others. Paintings in oils, pastels and watercolors. 6450 E. Colfax, Suite 2A (at Monaco Pkwy, 2nd floor). Ignite holiday spirit through art. www.evelynvaldezmartinez.com

12/6 Saturday—Young Entrepreneurs Marketplace. 10am-2pm. Young Americans Center, 3550 E. 1st Ave. Repeats 12/13 Sat., 10am-2pm, Young Americans Center Belmar, 401 S. Pierce St. www.yacenter.org.

12/9 Tuesday—Colorado Gives Day. www.coloradogives.org

12/12 Friday—Author Reading. Montclair resident/journalist Donna Bryson reads from *It's a Black White Thing* about race relations among young South Africans and parallels in U.S. history. 7-8pm at BookBar, 4280 Tennyson. <https://www.facebook.com/AuthorDonnaBryson?ref=hl>, <http://bookbardenver.com/>

12/13 Saturday—Denver Beer Festivus. Beer festival showcasing Denver area breweries. McNichols Building at Civic Center Park. 144 W. Colfax. 2-6pm. Tickets \$40. www.denverbeerfestivus.com

12/13 to 12/19—Governor's Mansion Holiday (continued on p. 32)

December through May—Monthly Compassionate Communication Workshop

Isabella Bird Community School will host workshops 6-7:30pm every Thursday from December through May in the school library. Childcare will be provided. Compassionate Communication or "heart talk" is used at Isabella Bird and focuses on learning by connecting to the heart first. For more, visit www.centerforcompassionateconnections.org.

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(continued from p. 31)

Tours. Self-guided tours. www.colorado.gov/governor/residence

12/20 Saturday—29th Annual Winter Solabration. Celebration of Christmas and solstice customs, storytelling, dance, juggling, more. Sons of Italy Hall, 5925 W. 32nd Ave. 6-11:30pm. Tickets: www.wsolstice.org

12/27 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. Free with admission. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-2pm. www.wingsmuseum.org

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

12/14 Sunday—Denver Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis. 8am-12pm. Washington Park. www.jinglebellrun.com

12/20 Saturday—A Christmas Carol Classic 5K, 10K and Tiny Tim 1K. Benefits Denver's Children's Home. City Park. 9am. www.runningguru.com

12/20 Saturday—Denver Ugly Sweater Run. Downtown Denver, 20th and Market. 11am. www.theuglysweaterrun.com

12/20 Saturday—Santa's Stampede. 5K/10K and kids' race. www.winterdistanceseries.com

KIDS AND FAMILIES

11/20 to 1/4—Denver Puppet Theater. The Snow Queen. 3156 W. 38th Ave. www.denverpuppettheater.com

12/2 to 12/16—Tuesdays in December Four Mile Historic Park Small Settlers. Ages 2-5 accompanied by parent/caregiver. 9-10am. \$5/child, adults free, members free. 715 S. Forest St. Advance register: 720.865.0814 or education@fourmilepark.org

12/3 Wednesday—Preschool Story Time. 9:30am, ages 2-5 with caregiver. History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway. www.historycolorado.org

12/3 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

12/4 to 12/18—Star K Kids. Thursdays, 9:30 and 11am; kids 5 and under. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. www.auroragov.org/nature

12/6 Saturday—Four Mile Historic Park Hay Bales and Tall Tales. 12-1pm. Free with admission. 715 S. Forest St. www.fourmilepark.org

12/6 Saturday—Full Moon Hike. 4:45-5:45pm. Ages 5 and up. Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. www.auroragov.org/nature

12/6 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

12/6 Saturday—How to Talk to Children about Race. Family workshop, 9:30-11:30pm. History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway, 303.447.8769. Adults \$25, kids free. www.historycoloradocenter.org

12/6 Saturday—Salida Circus Presents Toy Workshop. 11am. Mini circus show includes unicyclist, acrobatics, knife juggling, jokes and more. <http://denverlibrary.org/event/salida-circus-presents-toy-workshop>

12/6 to 12/7—Forney Transportation Museum Moffat Modelers Toy Train Layout. Scale toy train layout open first weekend every month. Free with museum admission. 4303 Brighton Blvd. www.forneymuseum.org

12/6 Saturday—2nd Annual Night at Hogwarts. Sam Gary Branch Library, 6:30-10pm. Grades 6-12, limited to 50 participants. www.teens.denverlibrary.org/Hogwarts

12/8 Monday—Ballet Ariel Open House. 4:30-6:30pm. 7808 Cherry Creek Dr. S., Ste. 209. 303.945.4388, www.balletariel.org

12/10 Wednesday—3D Print Your Minecraft Creations. 4:15pm. See a 3D printer in action; learn how to turn what you build in Minecraft into a printable model. Free. Grades 4 and up. Registration required: 720.865.0325 x 2 or asksamgarylibrary@denverlibrary.org. <http://denverlibrary.org/event/3d-print-your-minecraft-creations>, <https://teens.denverlibrary.org/tween-teen-events-sam-gary-branch>

December 7—Stanley Marketplace Community Holiday Open House

Stanley Marketplace will hold "Tis the Season at Stanley," a community holiday open house, Sunday, Dec. 7, from 2-4 pm. Holiday-inspired treats and refreshments will be offered from Happy Cakes, Logan House Coffee and Mu Brewery, and music provided by the CU Buffoons. Free and open to the public, but there is a suggested donation of \$10. Each \$10 donation will purchase 25 lbs. of rice to be donated to Project Worthmore, a local nonprofit that supports refugees living in Colorado. 2501 Dallas St., Aurora. RSVP: kim@flightlineventures.com. stanleymarketplace.com

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December 6—Salida Circus Toy Workshop

At 11am on Saturday, Dec. 6, Sam Gary Library will host Salida Circus. Elves will do tricks with bucket stunts, juggling scarves and spinning plates. Unicyclists, acrobatics, knife juggling, jokes and more. For more info, contact Sam Gary Branch Library, 2961 Roslyn St., 720.865.0325.

12/13 to 12/27—Lowe's Build and Grow Workshops. 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.lowes-buildandgrow.com

12/21 Sunday—Winter Solstice Walk. 7-8am. Ages 5 and up. Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. www.auroragov.org/nature

LECTURES AND CLASSES

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

12/11 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)—The Evolution of NATO. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325. www.ActiveMinds.com

12/23 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—William Shakespeare. 5-6pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727. www.ActiveMinds.com

MUSEUMS

Through 2/8—Matisse and Friends. 14 paintings from National Gallery in Washington, DC. Exhibit included in general admission. www.denverartmuseum.org

MUSEUMS—FREE DAYS

12/1 Monday—Museum of Nature & Science Free Day. SCFD Free Day. www.dmnms.org

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CHRISTMAS EVE

Join us for a Christmas Eve Service at **4:00PM** on December 24 at **Smiley Middle School**
denverpres.org

LISTINGS

12/2 Tuesday—Children’s Museum Free Day. Free Target Tuesday Night. 4-6pm. www.mychildsmuseum.org

12/3 Wednesday—Molly Brown House Free Day. SCFD Free Day. www.mollybrown.org

12/5 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park. SCFD Free Day. www.fourmilepark.org

12/5 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Free Day. SCFD Free Day. www.fourmilepark.org

12/6 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day. SCFD Free Day. www.denverartmuseum.org

MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE

Through 5/3—Traveling the Silk Road. Separate ticket required for exhibit. www.dmns.org

NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS

12/1 to 12/20—Denver School of the Arts. Montview and Quebec. Dec. performances, tickets/complete listings: www.dsapresents.org, www.dsa.dpsk12.org/performances

12/6 Saturday—Aurora Symphony Presents Holiday Pops Concert. 7:30pm. Gateway Center for Performing Arts. Tickets: aurorasympphony.org

12/6 Saturday—Temple Micah’s 7th Annual Top Latke Taste-off and Hanukkah Party. 5pm. RSVP w/payment by 12/2. 303.388.4239 x1 or www.micahdenver.org

12/7 Sunday—Traditional Christmas Hymns. 5 pm. Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St. www.montview.org

12/10 Wednesday—Love Unbound. A service of remembrance at holidays. Montview Presbyterian Church, Montview and Dahlia. www.montview.org

12/12 Friday—Santa Claus at KidsTown. 13th and Krameria in King Soopers Plaza. 303.825.1455 www.kidstowncenters.com

12/12 Friday—St. Martin’s Chamber Choir Presents A Cambridge Christmas. 7:30 pm. Montview Presbyterian Church. Tickets: \$10-\$35. Repeats 12/19, St. John Cathedral. www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org

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12/13 Saturday—Guitar and Ukulele Holiday Jam. 4-6pm. Learn easy chords to play holiday songs. No experience necessary, all ages welcome. Guitars and ukes available or bring your own. \$10/person, RSVP: Skye@neighborhoodmusicstapleton.com www.neighborhoodmusicstapleton.com

12/13 Saturday—Meet Santa at Abbey Tavern. 2-4 pm. The Abbey Tavern, 5151 E. Colfax. www.theabbeytavern.com

12/20 Saturday—Lowry Home for the Holidays Festival. Santa, horse and carriage rides, crafts, gingerbread house, live music, mini train and more. www.lowry.org

12/24 Wednesday—Denver Presbyterian Christmas Eve Service. 4pm. Smiley Middle School. www.denverpres.org

December 13—Reuse, Recycle and Reduce Holiday Wrap

From 1:30–2:30pm on Saturday, Dec. 13 at Sam Gary Branch Library, Monica Jones will demonstrate how to use regular household items and recyclables to wrap Christmas gifts. Bring a gift to wrap. Free to co-op members; \$10 for nonmembers. Hosted by the NE Community Co-op.

12/24 Wednesday—Stapleton Fellowship Church Christmas Eve Service. 3pm, 4:15pm and 5:30pm. 8700 E. 21st Ave. www.stapletonchurch.com

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

12/21 Sunday—Chanukah Celebration and Menorah Lighting. Northfield, 4:30pm. Horse and carriage rides. 1-9pm. Free. www.northfield-stapleton.com

12/5 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. A Merry Friggin’ Christmas; The Pyramid; Remote Area Medical; Wild. www.harkinstheatres.com

12/12 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Comet; Exodus; Gods and Kings; Expelled from Paradise; The Imitation Game; Top Five. www.harkinstheatres.com

12/19 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Foxcatcher; The Gambler; Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb. www.harkinstheatres.com

12/25 Thursday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. The Interview; Into the Woods; Unbroken. www.harkinstheatres.com

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

12/6 Saturday—Awesome Antlers. 8:30am-12pm. Learn about seasonal behaviors, then explore their habitat. RSVP required. http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

12/13 to 12/14—Winter Raptors. 1-3pm. Learn to identify birds of prey

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12/20 to 12/21—Holiday Tours. 9:30am-12pm each day. Bus tour of bison, deer, coyotes, waterfowl, post tour craft to take home. RSVP required. http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal

THEATRE

Through 12/28—Lyle the Crocodile. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada. www.arvadacenter.org

Through 12/28—Fully Committed. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave, Aurora. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

December 6—Holiday Trading & Gift Bazaar

From 1–4pm on Saturday, Dec. 6, The Garden Events Center will host a holiday bazaar. Bring a friend, a favorite dish, holiday goodies, gifts or preserved foods to share. Vendors will sell handmade gifts and artisan foods. Live music and kids’ activities will be included. The Garden Events Center, 3435 Albion St. in North Park Hill. www.thegarden-parkhill.com. Hosted by the Sunshine Food Project (www.sunshinefoodproject.org) and Oomph-Spirit (www.oomph-spirit.org).

Through 12/20—Christmas Belles. Spotlight Theatre Company at John Hand Theater. www.johnhandtheater.com

Through 12/21—She Loves Me. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada. www.arvadacenter.org

Through 12/21—Red Ranger Came Calling. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave., Aurora. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

Through 12/23—Santa’s Big Red Sack. Avenue Theatre, 417 E. 17th Ave. www.avenuetheater.com

Through 12/28—A Christmas Carol. The Stage Theater, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

12/5 to 2/1—Miss Saigon. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

12/12 to 12/20—Miracle on 34th Street. Presented by Prairie Playhouse. The Armory at Brighton Performing Arts Center. Select dates. Brighton. www.prairieplayhouse.com/christmascarol

December 6—2nd Annual Night at Hogwarts

Sam Gary Branch Library will host the second annual Night at Hogwarts from 6:30–10pm on Saturday, Dec. 6. The event is only open for teens and will include a sorting hat, wizard banquet, House Cup, and movie surprise. Registration and a permission slip are required. Attendance is limited to 50. To register, visit teens.denverlibrary.org/hogwarts. Sam Gary Branch Library, 2961 Roslyn St.

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Stapleton Front Porch

33

December 2014

RECURRING MEETINGS

BUSINESS GROUPS

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

STAPLETON AND BEYOND NETWORKING GROUP. First Tuesday, 8:30-10am, 303-955-0861, Aaron.Ktafoya@farmersagency.com

WORK-FROM-HOME GROUP. 1st Wednesday, 12-1pm. Smartspace, 2373 Central Park Blvd #100. Brown bag or group order for lunch. www.stapletonhomebusiness.com

CIVIC GROUPS

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

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

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

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

INTEREST GROUPS

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

COLORADO FEDERATION OF

GARDEN CLUBS. 3rd Thursday. Grace, 303-455-0839 stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

STAPLETON GROUPS

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

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

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

SUN BOARD MTG. 4th Monday, 7:30pm. Central Park Rec Center, 9651 MLK Jr. Blvd.

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

OA OPEN DISCUSSION MEETING. Every Monday 7:00 pm, @ Hangar 61 8700 E 21st Ave Denver CO 80238 Mary 720-291-9065 or Mike 303-325-6650

PARKINSON SUPPORT GROUP IN NORTHEAST DENVER. 4th Saturday, 9:30am. Hiawatha Davis Recreation Center, 3334 Holly St. www.parkinsonrockies.org Regina Jones 720-298-5760



Photo courtesy of RTD

Tour the First East Rail Cars Dec. 3-6

The first cars that will operate on the new East Rail Line arrived in Denver on November 21. They traversed the country as part of a train from Philadelphia where they were assembled. The public can tour the new train cars from Wednesday, Dec. 3 through Saturday, Dec. 6 from 11am to 7pm at the Union Station commuter rail platform

(directly behind the historic building).

In addition to the East Line to DIA, the new commuter rail cars will also operate on the Gold Line to Arvada/Wheat Ridge and the Northwest Rail to Westminster, all opening in 2016, and on the North Metro Rail Line to Thornton, opening in 2018.

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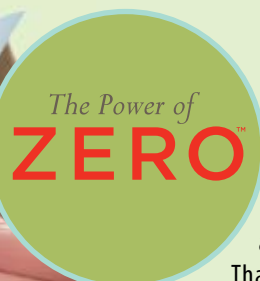


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The Book Worm

The Front Porch prints book reviews by local librarians, rotating to a different library each month. December book reviews are by Kristi Harder and Kelly Wright from the Sam Gary Family Branch Library. Librarians interested in writing book reviews can email Madeline@FrontPorchStapleton.com.



Adult Fiction:

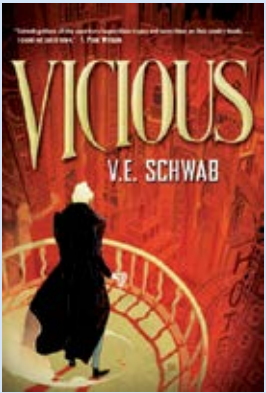
Landline by Rainbow Rowell

Georgie McCool has been so focused on her career that her marriage has taken a backseat. She still loves her husband, and he loves her, but they have still managed

to drift apart. Georgie is supposed to go to Omaha with her family for Christmas, but has to stay behind in L.A. for work. Over the holiday Georgie finds an odd way to communicate with Neal in the past. Can she fix her marriage? Or would it be better if it had never happened at all? A fun and heartwarming book for those who love romantic comedies.

Vicious by V.E. Schwab

Victor and Eli first met as college roommates. They had a lot in common: brilliant, lonely and pompous. They start researching how adrenaline affects near-death experiences—is it possible such a thing causes some-

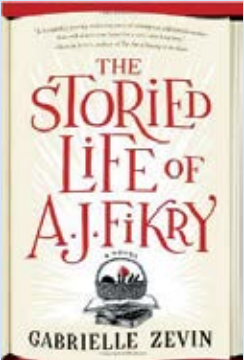


one to have super powers? They go from researching this phenomenon to experimenting, and something bad happens. Ten years later, Victor breaks out of prison, bent on revenge. This is a wonderful action-packed story about what it means

to be a superhero or a super villain.

The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin

The main character owns a small bookstore and has just lost his wife. Grief stricken he is nasty to everyone until one day a baby named Maya is left at the store. He ends up adopting her and his life changes completely. But there are secrets about Maya's past that are slowly revealed. This book explores



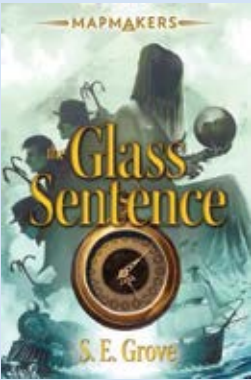
the questions of life, death and the power of love to transform and bring meaning to life in a realistic, non-gag-inducing manner. It is also a love story to the power of reading, books and the need for bookstores, and I would add libraries!

Young Adult:

The Glass Sentence (The Mapmakers Trilogy)

by S.E. Grove

Sophie lives in Boston after the great disruption. For some unknown reason, past, present and future ages have become jumbled together. Her parents are missing in a different age, and she lives with her famous mapmaker uncle. He's been kidnapped for his skills and Sophie teams up with Theo, a boy from another age, to try and find him. They are pursued by people searching for the map that can



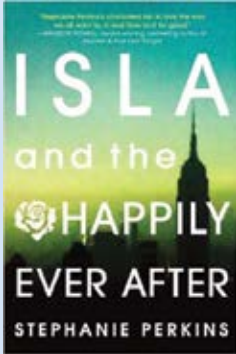
supposedly reset time and return the world to a known order. My favorite action-packed young adult read this year.

Isla and the Happily Ever After

by Stephanie Perkins

Isla attends the School of Americas in Paris and has had a crush on Josh since her first year. She runs into Josh over

their summer break in Manhattan, and it seems romance between the two is inevitable. Back in Paris we see Isla and Josh's relationship and love grow, along with all the trials that come with first love. This is a companion novel to *Anna and the French Kiss* and *Lola and the Boy Next Door*—a delightful trilogy filled with laughter, love and wit.



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White House Honors Aurora Art-Based Education Program

By Madeline Schroeder

A community cultural environment, Susan Jenson says. That's how she describes Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA), a nonprofit that strengthens the Aurora community through art education programs for youth ages 3–17.

"In urban communities where parents simply don't have the resources or access to the arts, DAVA is one of the leveling grounds where everybody gets together and communicates and learns," says Jenson, executive director.

DAVA was recently selected as one of the top 12 National Arts and Humanities Youth Programs. Jenson and 13-year-old student representative Boris Cochajil went to the White House to receive the award from First Lady Michelle Obama.

"It was a fantastic adventure going to Wash-

ington and it was just such an honor," Jenson says. Before joining DAVA 12 years ago, she worked in art galleries and pursued a painting career.

Every staff member at DAVA is a professional artist, as well as a teacher. Jenson says it is a co-learning environment. A youth advisory group meets four times a year to discuss what interests the students and decide a main theme for the year. The 2013–2014 theme is cultural connections, an important piece of DAVA.

"At DAVA, you are friends with everybody and that's a big goal here to make everybody understand that you're human and they're human so all of us should come together," Cochajil says.

Every year, nearly 1,000 kids—mostly from working immigrant families—come to DAVA. Ninety percent of the kids live in Aurora, but it also draws from Adams, Arapahoe and Denver counties.

DAVA offers two main programs—Open Studios and Job Training in the Arts.

Open Studios is an introduction for elementary students to the different mediums of art including painting, drawing, sculpture, watercolor, mural design and more. After completing Open Studios, kids can apply as middle-schoolers to



Photo courtesy of DAVA

Student representative Boris Cochajil, 13, and executive director Susan Jenson, cheerfully accept an award from Michelle Obama at the White House on behalf of Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA). DAVA was selected as one of the top 12 National Arts and Humanities Youth Programs.

be accepted into job training. DAVA received the award specifically for its Job Training in the Arts program, which focuses on art and technology. Students come up with an idea, research, pick a medium, produce artwork and show their work in the DAVA gallery. As part of the program this year, kids created Art Bots and worked with the Colorado Film

School to produce a robot-themed movie, complete with robot romance and robot attacks.

Although Cochajil does not intend to be an artist—he'd like to be a chemist or teacher—he says everything he's learned at DAVA transfers into his life.

"We're all going to be ready for the day when our bosses say, 'you did this wrong, now repeat. And we won't be like 'oh, I'll just leave it like that.' No, we'll be like, 'I'll repeat it and make it better,'" Cochajil says.

The DAVA gallery displays student art five times a year. The holiday showing is 4:30–7:30pm on Friday, Dec. 5. DAVA, 1405 Florence Way, Aurora. For more information, visit davarts.org.



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47 tables with city staff filled the Bill Roberts gym for the Cabinet in the City on Nov. 1. The mayor's entire cabinet was available for conversations with attendees.

By Carol Roberts

Safety was a big topic in the remarks before the crowd mingled with city and other officials in attendance. Mayor Hancock described doing a secret drive through with an officer when he was a councilman. They were looking for crimes of opportunity after a rash of burglaries in

Stapleton. "The number of crimes of opportunity we found in Stapleton...people who would park cars and leave windows down with ipads, ipods, iPhones laying on consoles. Garage doors up and nobody home. Front



Bill Roberts principal Trich Lea and Mayor Hancock applaud the students who performed to open the event. Following brief presentations, the large group adjourned and attendees talked one-on-one with city staff.

Stapleton Update

Cabinet in the City



Second graders from Westerly Creek School sang to open the event. In addition to city staff, RTD, DPS, and community organizations participated in the event. Below: Council President Chris Herndon, Police Chief White, Mayor Hancock.

doors open with people in the back yard. It was amazing.

"The reality is, when it comes to crimes against property, 90% of the prevention rests with us...to be more aware, to eliminate the false sense of security, to think about it...if you're in the back yard, shut the front door,

lock the door, shut the windows. Do the things around the house. All it takes is just a few seconds for someone to walk in your garage and steal hundreds or a thousand of dollars worth of tools. We just want to encourage. What the commanders were saying is we own a lot of this to prevent crime against ourselves."

DPS Proposes Additional Classrooms Rather than Commons Facility Now

By Carol Roberts

DPS, on Nov. 21, presented to the Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) their recommendations for use of \$33.4 million in reserves from the 2012 bond. The Northfield High School community was hoping to see funding adequate to complete the Commons building as described in the 2012 bond projects. But DPS, in weighing the Commons project with overall city needs, instead suggested a \$4 million addition to the gymnasium with two art and two music classrooms.

Karla Rehring, parent of a 2015 freshman, says that after a long process to establish priorities for the bond projects, only two of the current recommendations were on the original bond list—the rest are new. "They should put the voter approved projects as a priority...that's my understanding of the purpose of the reserve." (DPS literature about recommendations states that they created a reserve account "to support delivery of bond projects.") Rehring adds that failure to deliver voter approved projects erodes voter confidence, jeopardizing

passage of future bonds.

Rehring also points out that the current contractor's bid for the high school showed \$8.4 million for construction of the Commons building—but DPS' proposal shows a cost of \$14 million for future construction of the Commons. "They're saying let's spend \$4 million for a band-aid solution...This seems expensive for what they're doing. We want to do what's most cost effective. If the cost is really more like \$9 million, could we try to find another funding source for the \$5 million?" Rehring and other parents recall that in 2012 planning meetings for the high school, DPS said it would be most cost effective to build the common spaces in Phase 1.

Rehring is concerned that DPS' proposal leaves important questions unanswered. Will the future Commons building have art and music classrooms as originally planned? If so, what will happen to the additional classrooms built now? Is it cost effective to build a temporary solution and then retrofit that for another use in the future? (The Front Porch was not able to

get answers to these questions from DPS before going to print.)

Stapleton's DPS Board representative Landri Taylor says he still supports building the commons now. "I appreciate the initial work by the DPS staff to present criteria for how to use the premium reserves. Nevertheless, I will continue to push for full funding to build the Commons. I will advocate this position to the Bond Oversight Committee as they analyze the staff recommendations and begin the next phase in the process."

DPS' sketch of the addition, their proposal for use of reserve funds for the Sandoval campus, and their entire district recommendations are posted with this article at FrontPorchStapleton.com.

The BOC will hear public comments on December 3. To sign up to comment, call 720.423.3210 by Dec. 2 at 5 pm. Written comments can also be submitted to oversight@dpsk12.org. On December 12, DPS staff will give their response to issues raised during the public comments at the BOC meeting and the BOC will adopt their final recommendation to the Board. The Board is expected to take the final vote in January on projects to be funded with Bond Reserves.

Share your comments at FrontPorchStapleton.com

Westerly Creek North Construction Expected to Start in January

By Carol Roberts

City staff, Park Creek Metro District and other stakeholders have been meeting to finalize construction plans, budget and funding for Westerly Creek North and Uplands open space so that construction can start in January. Re-grading of the channel has to be done during the dry season (winter), so delays now could mean the project would be delayed for a year. All parties are working together to ensure a January 2015 start.

Although the area has been remediated, additional issues could be discovered during construction. A plan has been put in place that would allow immediate remediation to be done and checked during the construction process to avoid delays.

Search "Uplands Park" at FrontPorchStapleton.com to view a map and read about the plans.




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What’s the plan for financing and building upcoming projects?

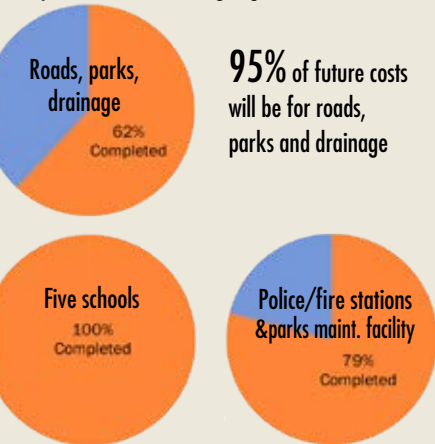
\$454.4 million has been spent so far on infrastructure & financing

By Carol Roberts

Of the \$454.4 million spent on Stapleton regional infrastructure so far, \$332 million came from Tax Increment Financing (TIF). Under TIF, tax revenue generated by improvements at Stapleton is used to finance and build the regional infrastructure for 25 years, from 2000 to 2025.

But TIF comes with an inherent challenge. The later years of the 25-year TIF plan generate the most TIF revenue—but funds are needed in the earlier years to build the infrastructure that generates the revenue. The faster development moves forward, the more revenue will be generated under TIF—and with that revenue more projects can be completed. The challenge is how to leverage future revenue to get current financing to forward as rapidly as possible.

Completed and remaining regional infrastructure



cost \$130 million (excluding financing costs)—and a funding plan for up to \$60 million of that is now in place.

A low interest loan for up to \$60 million

The City of Denver’s Finance Department, in partnership with Denver Urban Redevelopment Authority (DURA), the entity that issues bonds and manages Stapleton financing, has found a way to obtain a low interest rate on a bank loan. The proceeds of this loan will keep development moving as fast as possible and, with low financing

costs, more will go directly to projects. The plan is a line of credit type loan for up to \$60 million *if development continues as projected*. The key to the favorable interest rate is that the loan is secured by Stapleton’s “City Retained Taxes (CRT).” CRT refers to the portion of TIF paid to the city for services in Stapleton (see charts on next page).

An independent consultant assessed Stapleton’s TIF revenue history and growth projections. That information was used to evaluate risk at specific levels of debt service.

The city and DURA determined an initial draw of \$36 million can be taken. If revenue exceeds forecasts, DURA can borrow \$60 million for Stapleton’s regional infrastructure over the next few years. If growth falls short, CRT funds will be used to make loan payments; there will be no additional draws beyond the \$36M; and future TIF would be used to repay the city. A City Council committee has unanimously approved the plan and the full council is expected to vote on it in early December.

Projects Eligible for the \$60 million loan

Forest City, DURA, the City of Denver and the Park Creek Metro District jointly created and agreed on a list of projects eligible to be funded with loan proceeds—all projects were determined to be essential to keeping development moving forward. Most of the currently projected TIF revenue through 2025 will go toward the \$60 million loan payments. As additional TIF funds are available, more projects can be completed.

2014-15 projects—projected cost \$58.9M*

Infrastructure for Stapleton’s East Line transit station
Westerly Creek North and Uplands Open Space Park
Central Park Blvd. from 46th to 50th for high school access
Grading and infrastructure north of Conservatory Green
Parks north of I-70

Two additional projects were identified as “eligible” for the loan proceeds if funds from other sources become available for them: MLK extension to Peoria and widening the Central Park Blvd. bridge from 36th to 49th. If that happens, one or more of the projects listed above would likely be delayed and built with funds from another source.

Projects from 2016 to 2019

TIF revenue for 2016-19 is projected to be \$28.5 million (after debt service) and \$54.2 million of projects have been identified as priority for construction in this timeframe.

Projected cost \$54.2M**

Central Park Blvd. 36th to 49th (widen bridge)
Parks maintenance facility
Section 10 drainage (north of 56th)
Smith Rd. Extension (from Quebec to Havana)
Southwest entry park
Gallery Park (east of Central Park Blvd)
Prairie Park north of 56th
Fire station north of I-70
General grading
North sports complex

Projects from 2020 to 2025

TIF revenue for 2020-25 is estimated to be \$67.3 million (including bond reserves) with estimated construction costs of \$30.5 million.

Projected cost \$30.5M**

MLK extension to Peoria
Havana from Florence to Smith

TIF (Regional) vs. local projects

Stapleton infrastructure includes both regional (shown in the pie charts) and local (neighborhood streets, pocket parks, pools). Regional infrastructure is paid for with TIF revenue; local is paid for by the special district tax on Stapleton property. The amount of TIF spent to date is \$454.4 million—the amount spent on local infrastructure to date is \$275.6 million. A total of \$730 million has been spent on infrastructure to date.

Until 2014, all TIF revenue has been used to cover debt service on bonds. In 2014, for the first time, TIF is projected to exceed debt service payments—by approximately \$5 million.

*Cost shown excludes financing costs.

**Costs shown exclude financing costs and debt service on loans for these projects.

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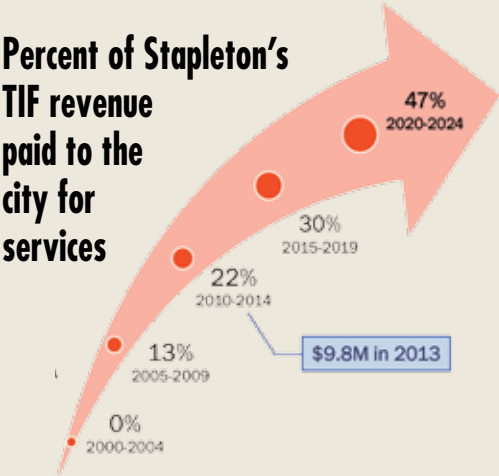
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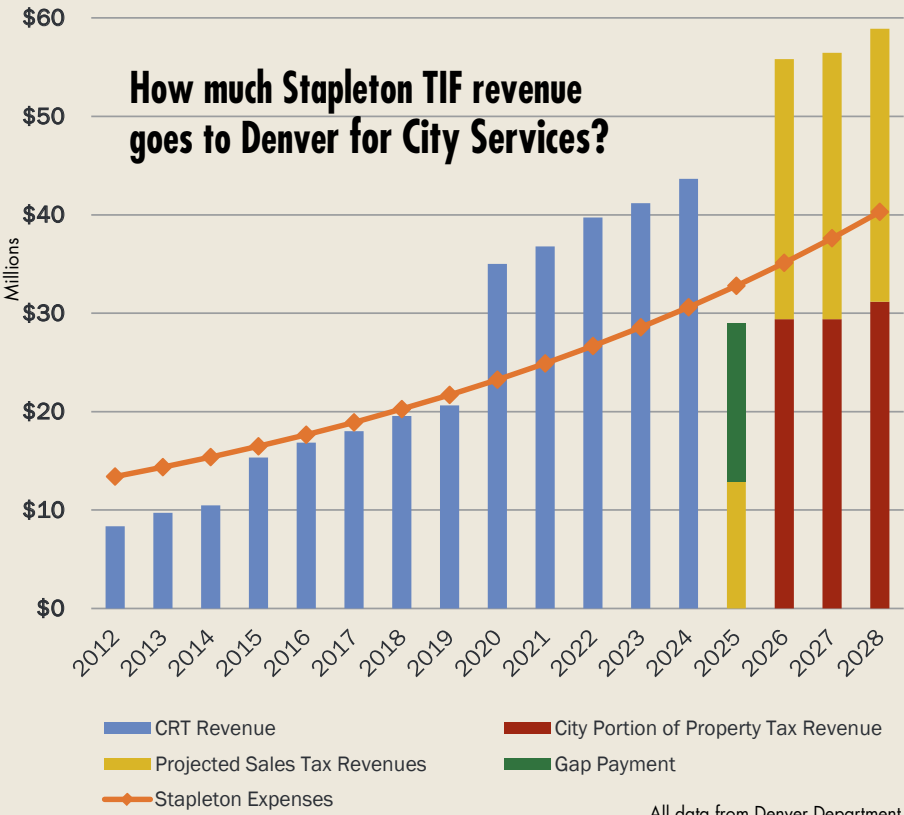
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More about City Retained Tax

In the early years of Stapleton development, there were few residents, businesses, or city amenities so city expenditures for police, fire, libraries, rec centers, etc. in Stapleton were low. But as more development occurs, the draw on city services increases, so, over time, a larger percent of the TIF revenue is transferred to the city to cover these costs. This is called the City Retained Tax. The graphic below shows how the CRT increases over the life of the TIF.



The chart at right shows how Stapleton's CRT payments compare with the estimated real cost to provide city services in Stapleton.



All data from Denver Department of Finance



Denver's CFO Gives Stapleton Overview

Denver's Chief Financial Officer Cary Kennedy, presented highlights of Denver and Stapleton at the mayor's "Cabinet in the City" on November 1. She said Denver has the highest credit rating, triple A, by all three credit rating agencies and, in a recent audit that compared Denver to seven other top rated cities, Denver ranks number one.

She said Stapleton is the largest infill development in the entire country and it now has 6,000 homes and over 1,000 apartments; there are 19,000 residents (about the population of Golden). A total of \$730 million in local and regional infrastructure improvements have been made. Current total property value is \$2.8 billion (more than Cherry Creek and more than Washington Park neighborhoods). There is over two million square feet of retail space and almost

two million square feet of industrial and office space—with almost 400,000 square feet of office space filled. A total of 917 acres of parks and open space have been developed. And last year there was \$520 million in taxable sales in Stapleton.

She explained that these improvements have been made with property and sales tax from Stapleton through Tax Increment Financing and through the Westerly Creek special district assessment (as shown on the projection behind her in the photo at left).

In 2025, Stapleton will have almost \$7 billion in property value and will generate over \$100 million a year in tax revenue. "Going from zero to \$7 billion in 25 years is probably unprecedented in the US," Kennedy said.

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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



Crime Prevention Starts With Us

By Mark Mehringer

At SUN's regular Outreach and Block Captain Meeting, SUN gets updates from the Denver Police Department about crime in Stapleton. There have been a couple of consistent themes from these updates over the years: violent crime in Stapleton is low, but preventable property crime remains a consistent problem. SUN suggests the following five keys to reducing crime in our neighborhood:

Always lock all of your doors—to your car, your garage, and your home. This year, the Denver Police have been especially explicit about why our property crime rate is higher than it needs to be: **some Stapleton residents do not lock their doors (garage, car and house), which makes our entire neighborhood a target.** When criminals find easy targets (i.e., unlocked cars, garages and homes), they come back and word spreads quickly.

Report streetlight outages. Xcel Energy allows reporting of outages on their website at XcelEnergy.com. Denver Police advise us to report streetlights that are out immediately to get them fixed as soon as possible. Research has found a 20 percent reduction in crime thanks to streetlights.

Store the Police Department non-emergency line on your cell phone. The number is 720.913.2000.

If you park your car on the street, don't leave valuables inside. That means no iPhones, iPods, iPads, money, jewelry, etc. Even leaving your garage remote in your car parked on the street can increase your risk as it allows criminals easy access to your garage.

If your block does not have a Block Captain, find one or become one. You can email sunoutreach@gmail.com to find out if your block needs a block captain, and if not, how easy of a job it is. SUN's Outreach/Block Captain committee can be a great resource in getting your block organized through Neighborhood Watch, to host a block party, and more. SUN's last survey showed that about half of us have a block captain and know who it is.

Stapleton is an urban neighborhood, which means that organized criminals can travel from one area to another, until they find an area that is an easy target. Please help ensure Stapleton is not seen as an easy target for crime.

Eat Good Food, Create Community, Take Care of the Earth, Keep It Local

I'm a proud member and owner of NCCM and am excited for an amazing, community-owned full-service natural grocer that is good for my family, our community and the planet. To do good you must DO something, Yvon Chouinard (owner of Patagonia) once said. Another wise mantra encourages us to be the change we want to see in this world. These mantras have inspired my participation over the past years: connecting with like-minded community members, recruiting natural grocers, meeting with developers and community leaders, presenting at community meetings, and surveying the community. Despite much community effort, we have not yet been able to recruit a natural grocer for various reasons. One traditional natural grocer told our steering committee that "no one will come close to Stapleton." He cited income levels in the 2-3 mile urban trade area (majority is low-to-moderate income) and density as two major factors. I feel NCCM, a community-owned natural grocer is a solution! Who better knows this community than we do. I first experienced how amazing co-ops are while in grad school at UNC Chapel Hill. Co-ops are more than a natural grocer, they are also unique community gathering places that give character to a community. NCCM has over 500 members and needs over 600 fully vested members to launch into our next phase (signing a lease, hire a General Manager and pursue bank financing, member loans, additional grants and other forms of financing). I feel the time to join is now, because this will allow this amazing amenity to open on its rapid timeline (who wants to wait?!). I'm inspired by this NE Denver/ NW Aurora community and the way WE are making this a reality together. To learn more: <http://www.northeastco-op.org/>. We the community has the power to make this happen.

—Juli Pearson, steering committee member and Eastbridge Resident



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the Editor

In Support of NE Community Co-op Market

For years we have been clamoring as a community for a natural grocer in our area. Hopefully you have heard that we finally have an opportunity to bring one: the Northeast Community Co-op Market. But we need to act to ensure it happens. Over 500 community members have joined the co-op, and I ask that you visit their website now and join, too. The website is <http://www.northeastco-op.org/>, and the lifetime membership fee is \$200 one time (not annually, like Costco).

This is our best change to bring exactly the kind of natural grocer to our area that we all want—but we all need to act to make that happen. Thank you in advance for joining in this effort and helping open the doors of the Northeast Community Co-op (hopefully next year!).

—Mark Mehringer

CDOT I-70 East EIS Project

The League of Women Voters of Denver has strongly recommended to the CDOT I-70 East EIS Project Team that all alternatives be addressed in the final Environmental Impact Statement, including the I-270/I-76 reroute option. We hope a full and accurate cost analysis will be provided that will reassure the public that all promising options are fairly considered. Comparative cost data, the sources of the funding and lifetime expected cash flows on all of the available options, and transparency on the part of CDOT are all a matter of great concern to League members. We also call for continued involvement of all stakeholders, as this is crucial to arrive at a decision that best serves current and future residents of the affected areas in Denver.

The League continually advocates for an open, responsive, and accountable government system. We also call for measures that ensure sound planning for Denver and for plans that meet the physical, social, educational, recreational, cultural, governmental, aesthetic, and economic needs of Denver's people, with strong citizen participation in the decision-making process. We call

Submit letters at FrontPorchStapleton.com or to FrontPorch@FrontPorchStapleton.com

now on the people of Denver and the city's media outlets to join us in asking for more information and transparency in the process for this important civic project.

—Pearlanne Zelarny, Director of Communications, League of Women Voters of Denver

Balloon Releases Are Littering and Kill Wildlife

I was disappointed to see the photo of Westerly Creek Elementary kids releasing helium balloons in support of those affected by breast cancer in the November Front Porch. Though it takes longer than throwing trash directly on the ground, releasing helium-filled balloons is littering plain and simple. Every balloon that rises eventually falls back to earth. And when they do fall back down, balloons pose a serious hazard to birds, fish and mammals that eat the colorful latex pieces and become entangled in the lengths of ribbon. Let's stop honoring important causes by littering and killing wildlife. There are great, harmless alternatives including having an indoor balloon drop, blowing bubbles, or simply donating the money that would have been spent on balloons directly to the charity.

—Sarah Tuneberg

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Left: The city of Xi'an is the first stop of the featured cities in "Traveling the Silk Road." Each city was 1000-1500 miles apart along this important trade route. **Far left:** DMNS displays and also tends to living silk worms, their cocoons and the moths they become to show the lifecycle of the makers of the all-important silk strands.



Silk Road

(continued from page 1)

capital of China; Turfan, a fertile oasis; Samarkand, a grand city of commerce; Baghdad, the scholarly center of the Islamic world; and Constantinople, eastern capital of the Roman Empire.

As visitors explore the exhibit, Jennifer Moss Logan, educator/coordinator for Nature & Culture Gallery Programs at the museum, says to keep in mind the distances people travelled along the Silk Road route. "You travelled 1,000-1,500 miles from each of the cities," she says. "And there is not a Costco along the way or a gas fill up or a nice little place to stay. This is harsh desert and high mountains! So it's an incredible landscape."

The exhibit covers the Silk Road's golden age from A.D. 600 to 1200, telling dramatic stories through

displays, hands-on activities and five costumed re-enactors who portray different roles, telling personal stories about life on the famous trade route. Don't even try to get them to break from character to address the modern day. They won't do it.

Visitors start their journey learning about the discovery that a cute caterpillar could lead to a beautiful gown (hint: it involves an ancient cup of tea). To explain the life cycle of silkworms, the museum has taken on daycare duties, displaying real silkworms, their cocoons and the moths they become. "We're raising them here so there's a lot of big work happening behind the scenes to provide these beautiful silkworms in their various forms," explains Logan. A giant Tang-era weaving loom and examples of colorful, patterned silk fabric show what can be done with the strands from those small, white caterpillars.

A variety of musical instruments are displayed with push buttons to play tunes made by each instrument. Play each individually or together to create a song. The exhibit calls it "Road Music" because travelers along the Silk Road route would meet but wouldn't necessarily know each other's language, so playing music together was their way of communicating.

communicating.

A full-scale re-creation of a night market in Turfan lets people see the various goods that would have been for sale including silks and other fabrics, food and animal skins for



An interactive touch screen shows the various locations of stops along the Silk Road including details about the art, religion, music and other aspects of life happening at the time.



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Front Porch photos by Laura Mahony

Jennifer Moss Logan, educator/coordinator for Nature & Culture Gallery Programs at the museum, examines items at a hands-on cart showing the type of merchandise that would be found at a market.

adornment and status. Sounds of market hub-bub can be heard. Large pots with swiveling lids let visitors smell fragrant essences of the market including rosewater and patchouli. A hands-on demonstration cart provides the chance to touch items that might have been sold in the market.

A large animated book tells three illustrated stories of the Silk Road. Nearby, an interactive touch screen shows a map of the Silk Road displaying the connections between cultures in areas such as technology, music, religion and geography. A model of a half-view of a 71-foot-long Arab ship reveals cargo of ceramics and other heavier items, illustrating how merchants could move heavier and more diverse goods by boat.

In the richly decorated Baghdad area of the exhibit, there is a tribute to 1,000 years of the House of Wisdom, a library and translation institute that was a major destination for intellectuals around A.D. 800. Scholars of all religions were being sent to gather the knowledge of the

world. “They were testing hypotheses and mathematics, thinking about chemistry, physics, thinking about the medicines and translating things from Latin into Arabic,” says Logan. “There was an appreciation of all that the world had to offer.”

“What I love about this exhibition is that when you visit these cities, you are seeing them in their ancient times but you are also seeing them today,” says Logan. “When you think about Baghdad, what do you think about today? We think about perhaps 10 years of angst. Visitors will have the chance to learn about the rich, diverse and all-encompassing wisdom of Baghdad and take away perhaps a counterpoint to what they may be seeing on the news.”

Tickets to “Traveling the Silk Road” include admission to the museum and range from \$4–\$7 for members and \$14.95–\$22.95 for nonmembers.



Slide open the lids of the large vessels in the night market to smell exotic essences typically found in the market such as rosewater, musk and patchouli.

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