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By Courtney Drake-McDonough

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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.

Saturday, December 6
Holiday light safari features 38 acres of lights and more than 150 animated animal sculptures. Zoo Lights at the Denver Zoo runs every night from December 5, 2014 to January 4, 2015. The building is 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 allies 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 allies, intersections and major pedestrian paths. Alley work will be limited to the removal of enough snow from the allies 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.

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 shoveling!

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.

FESTIVE HOLIDAY SUNDAY
Friends of Haute Cuisine! Just ask poor Sam Peliczowski who is manning the reservation lines at a ritzy restaurant on Christmas Eve.

Saturday Night Live…for kids only!
Mark your calendars for our winter SNL series above, please Contact the MCA at 720.865.0325. See p. 32.

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.

January 29, 6:45-7:45pm WWII 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 Russian annexation of Crimea. Active Minds looks as we look at the triumphs and challenges of NATO and how it continues to adapt to the 21st-century landscape.

The 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 at

Front Porch
The Stapleton Front Porch is published by Stapleton Front Porch, LLC, 2566 Syracuse St., Denver, CO 80238. Almost 36,000 papers are printed. The free paper is distributed during the first week of each month to homes and businesses in Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair, Hale and East Colfax.
The New Saint Joseph Hospital Opens 12.13.14
19th Ave. & Downing St.

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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.
Share your opinion... view the most recent comments or the most-read articles...

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.

I can barely read the Front Porch lately knowing there will be something on this town center. What it sounds like to me is a "we can’t wait until 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.

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

Guide to Our Advertisers

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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Over 65 specialty shops and restaurants, including:

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, Breckinridge, 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 tips.

“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-Malpiede. “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@vride.com.

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.

Additional resources:
- CDOT website: http://www.colorado.gov/cdot
- DRCOG website: http://www.drcog.org
- vRide website: http://www.vride.com
- Northeast Transportation Connections website: http://www.neighborhoodconnections.org

Photo courtesy of Stapleton TMA
Celebrate New Year’s Eve at The Berkshire!

$40 PER PERSON:
4-course prix fixe New Year’s Eve dinner

$75 PER PERSON:
All you can drink starting at 10pm with a champagne toast & midnight food buffet

Regular dinner & bar menus will still be available. Purchasing specials is not required!
Drinks include house wines, well cocktails and draft beers. Prix Fixe dinner menu is available on our website www.TheBerkshireRestaurant.com. Tax and gratuity not included. Please party like a pro! The Berkshire encourages responsible fun!

The Berkshire will be open for NEW YEAR’S DAY BRUNCH starting a 9am with all your brunch favorites including Bacon Bloody Marys and Bottomless Mimosas!

RESERVE our backroom with 6-ft projector screen for holiday parties, playoff games, Super Bowl parties, or anything else you can imagine!
Contact Susan@TheBerkshireRestaurant.com for details!

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www.TheBerkshireRestaurant.com
Give the Gift of CO-OP!

How long have you been waiting for a natural grocer in your community? Why wait?

This holiday season, give yourself, your family, your friends and your neighbors the one gift that is truly unique and universally wanted: healthy living, good food, and community. Give the gift of a community-owned grocer in your community!

Gift certificates now available that can be applied toward a future membership!

Email thomas@northeastco-op.org or call 720-989-1065

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 zip code. 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 FirstBank, 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.

Some of our local charities

Children

Anchor Center for Blind Children—Teaches visually impaired infants, young children, and their families. (CC)
Dennar Children’s Home—Serves traumatized children and families. 1301 Albinon St. (CC)
Summer Scholar—Supports low-income, academically struggling young learners. (CC)

Homelessness & Poverty

Aurora Wears the Night—Serves men, women, and children facing homelessness. 1544 Elvis Street
The Crossing Denver Rescue Mission—Provides transitional housing and opportunities to help people attain self-sufficiency. 6095 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.

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.

Owned it today at www.northeastco-op.org
The be well Health and Wellness Initiative of the Stapleton Foundation aims to recognize residents who are local champions for “health” in the be well Zone neighborhoods!

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 his 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.

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/bewellawardnomination to access a nomination form, clip the nomination form from your neighborhood newspaper (Greater Park Hill News, the Montclarion, 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 you 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
○ Preventative Care Leadership Award
○ Service Award
○ Community Advocate(s) of the Year 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 joseph@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


By Courtney Drake-McDonough

B eing. 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 lighter 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, imagining 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.

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As a Financial Advisor, I assist individuals, families and businesses with a broad array of financial needs to include offering a full-service brokerage platform, recommending long-term investment strategies and developing customized financial plans with clear, easily understood explanations of financial products and services. This personalized program is a roadmap to working toward a more secure financial future.

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email: stremlett@wradvisors.com

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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 he may have a mental illness. The voices tell him the police are a threat and implements programs to make sure officers are properly trained to handle mental health crises. Back left to right: Michael Vogler, Jamie Brewer, Glenn West, Robin Eskey, Michele Guzman, Susan Gann. Sarah Chasion, from left to right: Sara Garrido and Shawn Knadler.

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

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. "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 restructured the department and beginning in June, required every officer to be CIT-certified. 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 weekend 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)
Talking About Race

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 participants 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.

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

(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, 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 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 (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 outbreaks in the U.S. and around the world that are specifically connected to vaccine hesitancy and delay.

“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

“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, the other children 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 prevent 6,500 child hospitalizations in Colorado in one year, averting nearly $400 million in hospital costs. World-wide, 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 

(Everyone can be affected. Anyone can help.)

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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; Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib); hepatitis B (HepB); hepatitis A (HepA); Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (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.

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.

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.

Infographic by Madeline Schroeder/Front Porch Newspaper

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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, young-er 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 provide 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/). The exhibit leaves Denver in January, the center will continue with the second half of its six-month program, FW2: 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.”

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, FW2: 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, she and her friend were 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.

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 their 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.
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, 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 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 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, $799 for a 71/2-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.modernchristmas.com.
New Spa Opens 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, microdermabrasion, waxing, chemical peel 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.
New Home Furnishings Store Offers Eclectic Selection

By Laurie Dunklee

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 the historic character of the house?' If we ask, 'Do you want to modernize, or keep the feel of the independent store," she said.

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).
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 Patterson 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 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.

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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.

Dr. Barone specializes in breast care reconstruction procedures and management of women with a high risk for breast cancer. She treats patients with both malignant and benign breast disease including those with a family history of breast cancer, abnormal biopsies and locally advanced disease.

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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 pseudoscorpions, 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. “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 Nathan, 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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Each month, the Indie Prof reviews a current film in the theater and a second film that is available on DVD or an instant-streaming service. Follow “Indie Prof” on Facebook for updates about film events and more reviews.

Food Chains (2014)

“It is so hot that some people don’t like it. Sometimes we feel the breeze from the pesticide spray. And it feels good.”

Such is the plight of migrant farm workers in the United States. These particular workers ply the fields in Florida and are paid $24 for the entire day. As one advocate says, many times the workers themselves do not eat because they live day-to-day. As he says, “This is not a dignified way to live.”

Food documentaries have become quite prevalent over the past decade—from Food Inc. to Super Size Me to Forks and Knives, the food industry has been chronicled from many different sides: the corporation, the consumer, the system and the environment. But few have looked at the people who work on the farms and pick the food. Food Chains does exactly that. We meet the workers, see the conditions in which they work and live, and follow them in political campaigns. Watching an activist group stage a hunger strike against the Publix corporate headquarters in Florida is both inspiring and laughable. Corporate workers take their lunch hour outside, watching the hunger strike as they eat and the company refuses a dialogue.

The film itself is informative, slick, well produced, and is chock full of stars and recognizable characters from the food doc world (such as Eric Schlosser). Politically, the film puts the onus on the end-of-the-line companies: the grocers, food service, and fast food. It is another in the long line of informative and heart-wrenching films that exposes the inequity in the system we buy into every day: our food.
Virunga (2014)

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. 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. As 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.
Just the Facts
The Story Behind Eisenhower Tunnel
by James Hagadorn

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 burgs 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 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.

Even today, the tunnels are not without risk. Some are mitigated by quickly clearing accidents or stalled cars, by diverting trucks carrying hazardous materials over Loveland Pass, and by using special lighting to help alleviate the exit-blinding that happens when motorists leave the tunnel. But others are less avoidable. Like when you’re stuck in tunnel traffic and your kid suddenly says “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,
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 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.
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DPS Answers Questions about School Choice

Q: What are the important dates of which I need to be aware?
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. Elliot 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.
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. 28 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, opened six years ago. “She really took a lot of time and effort into making it a really pretty 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 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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Don’t wait, these luxurious townhomes across from Central Park in Stapleton are ready to go now.

8904 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. $523,135
Bedford Plan
2,909 finished square feet with 3-bedrooms, 3.5-bathrooms, and a finished basement with bedroom, full bath and recreation area.

Special features include: wet bar on third level, open stair rail system, fireplace in the living room, air conditioning, gas line to patio, upgraded chef’s kitchen with espresso stained maple cabinets, surround sound prewire in basement, upgraded designer choices for countertops, backsplash and carpeting.

Central Park’s brand new Terrace Homes are designed to reflect the best of historic architectural styles blended with the modern conveniences you expect. Four unique home plans offer stunning exterior detailing alongside sought-after special features like loft levels and rooftop decks.

2 Move-In Ready Row Homes in Stapleton

9034 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. $520,533
Briarwood Plan
2,909 finished square feet with 3-bedrooms, 3.5-bathrooms, and a finished basement with bedroom, full bathroom, and a recreation area.

Special features include: fireplace in living room, open stair rail system, third story loft with wet bar, air conditioning, chef’s kitchen, upgraded maple cabinets with soft close doors, and surround sound pre-wiring in basement recreation area.

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Stapleton Front Porch 29 December 2014
SEASONAL/HOLIDAY EVENTS


Through 12/23—Dunver Christmas Market. Vendors from Germany and other countries, local artisans, carolers, traditional German food and drink. Skyline Park, 16th and Arapahoe. Hours vary www.denverchristmasmarket.com


December 6—Chanukah Menorah Lighting
At 5:30pm on Tues., Dec. 6, 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.

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

For more events, search our online event database
Also submit your event at FrontPorchStapleton.com > Events.
December 7—Station Wagon Sessions Family Holiday Show
Swallow Hill in Lowery will host the band Face out of Boulder. Cola. 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.

December 8—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 7:30pm at Booktale. 4250 Tennyson.https://facebook .com/AuthorDonnaBryson?ref=hl, http://booktaledenver.com/

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. Children 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.

DENVER METRO EVENTS
12/4 to 12/7—Denver Potter Association Show Features Castle Clay Artists and guest. Viscy, 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. www.denverarts.org
12/5 to 12/7—Colorado Symphony presents All Beethoven. 12/13 to 12/19—Governor’s Mansion Holiday Seatings at 1pm and 2:30pm. Traditional tea menu, $30/person, History Center 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 (GEEDP) at Children’s Hospital Colorado, says it’s fun, easy and good exercise.

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 (GEEDP) at Children’s Hospital Colorado, says it’s fun, easy and good exercise.

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December 7—Stanley Marketplace Community Holiday Open House
Stanley Marketplace will hold “The Season at Stanley,” a community holiday open house, Sunday, Dec. 7, from 2-4 p.m. 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: lam@flightlineventures.com.

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December 7—29th Annual Winter Solabration
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2501 Dallas St., Aurora. RSVP: lam@flightlineventures.com.
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 preserve foods to share. Vendors will sell handmade gifts and preserve foods. Live music and kids’ activities will be included. The Garden Events Center, 2743 Alderton St. in North Park Hill. www.thegardenparkhill.com. Hosted by the Sunshine Food Project (www.sunshinefoodproject.org) and Omorph-Spirit (www.omorph-spirit.org).

Through 12/1—She Loves Me. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada. www.arvadacenter.org

December 6—Second Annual Night at Hogwarts.
Sam Gary Branch Library will host the second annual Night at Hogwarts from 6–10pm 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, 2661 Roslyn St.

December 7—1st Annual Night at Hogwarts.
Sam Gary Branch Library will host the first annual Night at Hogwarts from 6–10pm 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, 2661 Roslyn St.

December 6—Viking Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org
12/5 to 2/1—Miss Saigon. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

December 6—Miracle on 34th Street.
Stage Theater, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, 2590 E. 17th Ave., Denver. www.denvercenter.org

December 6—The Interview; Gambler; Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb. www.harkinstheatres.com
www.harkinstheatres.com

December 5—8700 E. 21st Ave. www.stapletonchurch.com

December 6—Holy Day Service.
The Abbey Tavern, 5151 E. Colfax. www.theabbeytavern.com
2-4 pm. The Abbey Tavern, 5151 E. Colfax. www.theabbeytavern.com

December 6—Meet Santa at Abbey Tavern.
12/13 Saturday—Meet Santa at Abbey Tavern.
12/13 Saturday—Guitar and Ukulele Holiday Jam.
12/13 Saturday—Christmas Carol.
12/13 Saturday—Ukulele.
12/13 Saturday—For Christmas.
12/13 Saturday—Christmas Carol.

December 6—2nd Annual Night at Hogwarts.
Sam Gary Branch Library will host the second annual Night at Hogwarts from 6–10pm 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, 2661 Roslyn St.
GARDEN CLUBS. 3rd Thursday Grace, 303-455-0639
COLORADO SYMPHONY GUILD every 3rd Thursday at St. Luke’s Church, 13th & Quebec, 11am-12pm. All are welcome. macgracj@gmail.com
CYLETON BIKE REPAIR CLINIC 2nd Tuesday 6pm. E. 29th Ave. www.cyleton.com 303.377.0069
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. 3rd Saturday Adago Bed and Breakfast, 1460 Race St. Propective members welcome. rvp to Helen Strodel, 303-997-3788
DENVER COUNTY REPUBLICANS. HD7 Meeting. Go to www.dentrardsctcp.org for monthly meeting info, or call Captain Rebekah Keller at 720-219-4911.
LOWRY PEAK SPEAKERS TOASTMASTERS CLUB. 2nd and 3rd Tuesday noon. 1pm. Plus; 7551 E Lowry Blvd. Denver 80238. lowrypeaktoastmasters@gmail.com
STAPLETON WINE APPRECIATION GROUP. Presidents Circle 54th Ave. www.stapletonwine@yahoo.com
STAPLETON GROUPS PABKES ADVISORY GROUP 2nd Tuesday 810am. 7350 E 29th Avenue, Denver 80238. contemporaryrows@att.net.
STAPLETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. 3rd Tuesday Thursday, 7-930am. 7350 E 29th Ave, 3rd fl. correll@att.net.
SUN BOARD MTG. 4th Monday 730pm. Central Park Rec Center, 9651 MLK, Jr Blvd.

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SUN BOARD MTG. 4th Monday 730pm. Central Park Rec Center, 9651 MLK, Jr Blvd.

Support Groups
AA OPEN DISCUSSION MTG. Every Tuesday, 7:30pm. 2823 Raleigh St. Denver 80210. 303-930-5275
AA OPEN MEETING. Every Tuesday 6:30pm St Thomas Episcopal Church, 22nd and Dexter. Shirley 303-726-4298
ADOPTIVES IN SEARCH GENERAL MEETING. 4th Tuesday, 730-9pm. Montview Presby Church, Study Group Room. ASICTC.org 303-222-6302
ADOPTIVES IN SEARCH SUPPORT GROUP. 2nd Wednesday, 630-8pm. Williams Family Medicine Clinic, 2nd Floor. 303-726-4298
BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP. 1st Tuesday 930-11am. Af Williams Family Medicine Clinic, 2nd Floor. 303-726-4298
CANS - HD7 Meeting. Go to www.parkinsonrockies.org for monthly meeting info, or call Regina Jones 720-298-5760
DENVER PARKS HILL MS SELF-HELP AND SUPPORT GROUP. 3rd Saturday 1015-1145am. Dist 2 Police Station, 3821 Holly St. 303-329-0619
O A OPEN DISCUSSION MEETING. Every Monday 730pm, @ Hanger 61 8700 E 21st Ave Denver CO 80239 Party 720-291-2963 or Mie 303-325-6650
PARKINSON SUPPORT GROUP IN NORTHWEST DENVER. 4th Saturday 930am. Hiawatha Davis Recreation Center, 3344 Holly St. www.parkinsonrockies.org Regina Jones 720-296-5760

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.

What would you do with $300 in your pocket every month?
Ten years in a New Town Builders Z.E.N. home means $36,000 saved in energy bills! Finely crafted and energy-saving - at a price you can afford. That’s The Power of Zero!
Adult Fiction: Landline by Rainbow Rowell

Georige 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. George is supposed to go to Omaha with her family for Christmas, but has to stay behind in LA for work. Over the holiday George finds an odd way to commu- nicate 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 room- mates. They had a lot in common: brilliant, lonely and pompous. They start researching powers? They go to experimenting, 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 power of love to transform 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 Glass Sentence (The Mapmakers Trilogy) by S.E. Grove

Sophie lives in Boston after the great disrup- tion. For some unknown reason, past, present and future ages have become jumbled together. Her parents are missing in a differ- ent 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 re- turn the world to a known or- der. 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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Thank you for inviting us into your home this year—Warm wishes from Your Distinctive Agents

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Come in for your New Patient Gift!

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December 2014

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Stapleton Front Porch

S t a p l e t o n  F r o n t  P o r c h

The Book Worm

The Forte Punch 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

Georige 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. George is supposed to go to Omaha with her family for Christmas, but has to stay behind in LA for work. Over the holiday George finds an odd way to commu- nicate 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 room- mates. They had a lot in common: brilliant, lonely and pompous. They start researching how adrenaline affects near-death experienc- es—is it possible such a thing causes some-
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 Washington 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 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 4:30–7:30 pm on Friday, Dec. 5. DAVA, 1405 Florence Way, Aurora. For more information, visit davarts.org.
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 parents recall that in 2012 planning meetings for 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 other considerations are working together to ensure a January 2015 start.

Westerly Creek North Construction Expected to Start in January

By Carol Roberts

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.
Stapleton is now 62% complete

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

Although the schools and most of the city facilities are completed, 38% of the roads, parks and drainage work still remains. The remaining regional infrastructure is projected to 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 forward. 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  | Projected cost $30.5M** |
| Central Park Blvd. from 46th to 50th for high school access  | Projected cost $29.7M** |
| Grading and infrastructure north of Conservatory Green  | Projected cost $83.7M** |
| Parks north of I-70  | Projected cost $19.7M** |

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 $55.3M***

| Central Park Blvd. 36th to 49th (widened bridge)  | Projected cost $22.5M*** |
| Parks maintenance facility  | Projected cost $9.5M*** |
| Section 10 drainage (north of 56th)  | Projected cost $7.5M*** |
| Smith Rd. Extension (from Quebec to Havana)  | Projected cost $8.5M*** |
| Southwest entry park  | Projected cost $6.5M*** |
| Gallery Park (east of Central Park Blvd)  | Projected cost $5.5M*** |
| Prairie Park north of 56th  | Projected cost $4.5M*** |
| Fire station north of I-70  | Projected cost $3.5M*** |
| General grading  | Projected cost $2.5M*** |
| North sports complex  | Projected cost $1.5M*** |

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  | Projected cost $10.5M*** |
| Havana from Florence to Smith  | Projected cost $9.5M*** |

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.

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).
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.

Percent of Stapleton’s TIF revenue paid to the city for services

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

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.
Crime Prevention Starts With Us

By Mark Mehringer

A

r 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. Another, until they find an area that is an easy target. 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. Please help ensure Stapleton is not seen as an easy target for crime.

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 sun@sunspotcolorado.org or see our website at www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com for more information.

Your garage remote in your car parked on the street can increase your risk as it allows criminals easy access to your garage.

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.

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

During this holiday season and every day of the year, we wish you all the best. During this holiday season and every day of the year, we wish you all the best.

Season’s Greetings

During this holiday season and every day of the year, we wish you all the best.

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Main Inclusion:

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Main Exclusion:

• Non-smokers

• Volunteers should NOT currently be taking Birth Control or Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) or receiving estrogen replacement (more than 2 days per week)

Main Procedures Involved:

• Physician supervised exercise stress test

• Ultrasound of the blood vessels and heart

• Blood cholesterol profile

• Comprehensive dietary analysis

• Measurements of bone mineral density and body composition

Compensation Provided:

If you are interested in participating please contact Lila Sisbarro at 720-848-6419 or shape.study@ucdenver.edu

Letters to

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 banking 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.

—Jill Pearson, steering committee member and EastBridge Resident
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.

—Marcy Eastman

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-270/176 route 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 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 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

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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.

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

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 silkworms, their cocoons and the moths they become to show the lifecycle of the makers of the all-important silk strands.

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