Distributed to the Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair, Hale and East Colfax neighborhoods DENVER, COLORADO **JULY 2015**



Troy Guard (left) and Tyler Carlson, developer of the Eastbridge property, hold a rendering of Guard's Los Chingones restaurant that will be built on the site where they are standing.

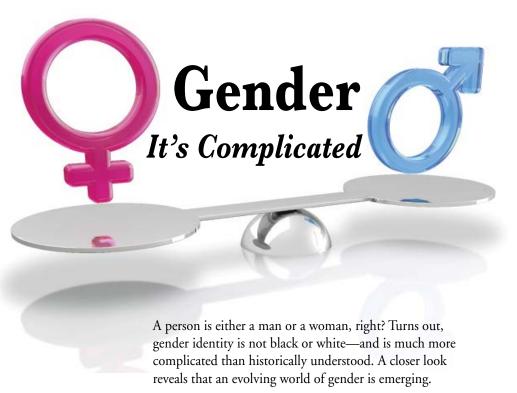
By Courtney Drake-McDonough

s the saying goes, "Good things come to those who wait." And it's what the developers, leasing agents and tenants of the new Eastbridge Town Center in Stapleton plan to deliver, literally banking on their years of success bringing neighborhoods what they want and need.

After a decade-long wait, the Eastbridge Town Center is expected to start construction in early 2016, after the sale closes

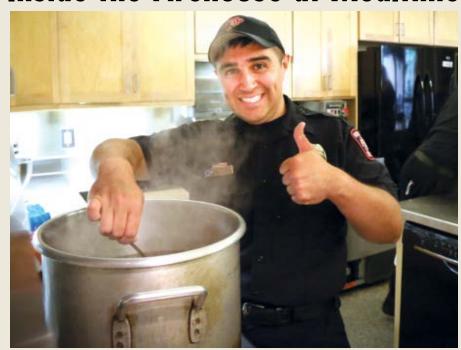
in November. The development will have two retail buildings adjoining a plaza on the west end and a King Soopers on the east end, at MLK and Havana.

The grocery and the retail will be (continued on page 8)



Get to know gender on page 6.

Inside the Firehouse at Mealtime



Fireman Mike Trujillo, helps cook the mid-day meal at Stapleton's Station 26. The story about our local firemen/chefs is on page 38.

Illustration by Claudio Ventrella-iStock photo

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





Most of the events listed below are FREE or support nonprofits. (Pools require a pass or entry fee.) All are open to the public. Aditional events are listed on pages 29-31.

JULY

Every Sunday
Farmers Market, 8:30am-12:30pm. Founders Green*

Thursdays in July

MoJaBlu Concert Series 6:30-9pm, Conservatory

7/2: Biff Gore and Dotsero

7/9: What's Cookin' Big Band and SuCh 7/16: Jack Hadley Blues and Tunisia Motown Review

7/23: Delta Sonic and Hazel Miller 7/30: Eef & Blues Express and Hot Lunch

Through July 30

Weekly Family Fun Nights at Stapleton Pools, 6-8pm Mondays - Jet Stream* Tuesdays - Puddle Jumper* Wednesdays - F15* and Maverick* Thursdays - Aviator*

Thursday, July 9

**Daily use fee or pool passes apply

joint happy hour for all business networkers. 5:30-8pm. 7350 East 29th Ave. 3rd Floor. stapletonbusiness.com > event calendar. See page 29.

Thursday, July 9

Active Minds. ISIS, 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325. www.activeminds

Friday, July 10

Seussical the Musical, Founders Green* 7pm. See page 4.

Saturday, July 11

Consignment Crawl for International Resale Day, including Plum Consignment at 2372 Central Park. 12-6pm. consignmentcolorado.com/colorado-consignment-events/ See page 30.

Saturday, July 11

Wildlife Viewing Tours, Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge* 9:30-11:30am. Repeats July 12 and 25. RSVP required. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

Saturday, July 18 Annual Stapleton Beer Festival. 4-8pm, Founders Green,* craft beer and food trucks. Tickets available at stapletoncommunity.com. See page 30.

Saturday, July 18

Kids fishing clinic, Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge* Bring a pole and join other kids. Kids 6 and older. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_ar-

Tuesday, July 21 Cinema in the Park "Cinema Paradiso" Starts at

dark, Founders Green*

JULY

Thursday, July 23

Active Minds. The Civil War: Causes and Effects, 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325. www.activeminds.com

Thursday, July 23
Bluff Lake Fireside Chat-Edible Bugs. 6:30-8pm. All ages welcome. \$1 suggested donation. Bluff Lake Nature Center, 3400 Havana Way. keith@blufflake org. www.blufflakenaturecenter.org

Friday, July 24

Movie on The Green "Raiders of the Lost Ark" Starts at dark, Founders Green*

Saturday, July 25

Sweet William Market. Last Saturday of the month through Sept. 9am-2pm, Founders Green*

Saturday, July 25

Aurora Symphony 5–7pm, The Green*

Sunday, July 26

Wings Over the Rockies Kids Day. Aerospace-themed activities. www.wingsmuseum.org 303.360.5360

Sunday, July 26

4th Annual Dash for Smiles Walk/Run. Stapleton Central Park* www.dashforsmiles.org

AUGUST

Saturday, August 1

Concert on The Green "RETRO" 7–9pm, Founders

Saturday, August 29

Sweet William Market. Last Saturday of the month through Sept. 9am-2pm, Founders Green*

More information at Events@stapletoncommunity.com The Green: 8700 E. 21st Ave.
Conservatory Green: Valentia & E. 49th Place
Sam Gary Library: 2961 Roslyn St.
Central Park Rec Center: 9651 E. MLK Blvd.
Bluff Lake Nature Center: 4755 Paris Aviator pool: 8054 E. 28th Ave. Puddle Jumper pool: 2401 Xenia St.

let Stream pool: 3574 Alton St. Runway 35 pool: 8863 E. 47th Ave Maverick pool: 8822 Beekman Pl.

CORRECTION

Dr. Shelly Sandel is the veterinerian who will be moving her practice, Northfield Veterinary Hospital, to the new professional building on Northfield Blvd. Her name was listed incorrectly on page 34 of the June issue.

Events & Announcements at Stapleton



4th of July Pancake Breakfast & Parade

The Annual Pancake Breakfast will begin at 9am at the Fountain Pavilion in Central Park. Tickets will be sold for the pancake breakfast at the event. Tickets are \$5 per adult, \$3 per child or you can purchase a family 4-pack (2 adults/2 kids) for \$12. All donations will benefit the Stapleton Stingrays Swim Teams.

The annual community parade will begin at the fountain area of Central Park at 10:30am. Bicycles will lead the parade and we will conclude with the traditional red, white and blue bomb pop at the end!

Following the parade, the pools will open at noon. There will be a DJ at each pool from noon until 4pm and all pools will close at 6pm.

Theatre on The Green

The MCA is excited to have the Three Leaches return this month to bring you a weekend full of theatrical performances and entertainment. Theatre on The Green will be presenting Seussical the Musical. Seussical is a musical based on the books of Dr. Seuss that debuted on Broadway in 2000. The play's story is a rather complex amalgamation of many of Seuss' most famous books. Join us on The Green (29th Ave. & Roslyn St.) July 10 and 11 at 7pm for a taste of Green Eggs and Ham, Broadway style!

Stapleton Beer Festival

SBF tickets are now on sale! Mark your calendars for the Sixth Annual Stapleton Beer Festival. This event will be held on Sat., July 18 on The Green. VIP will run from 4-5pm and the general admission will be from 5-8pm. VIP tickets will include an extra hour of beer tasting (includes specialty craft beers), souvenir glass, tasting glass and food truck vouchers.

General admission will include a tasting glass, food truck vouchers and tastings during the event. Residents may register for this event through their online ActiveNet account. Nonresidents must complete a "Nonresident Registration Form" (available on our website, www. stapletoncommunity.com) to register for the event. This is a ticketed event. Tickets may be picked up in the MCA office on Mon.–Fri., 9am–5pm prior to the event.

Concert on The Green

The MCA is excited to bring you a special performance this year of the Aurora Symphony on The Green. We are thrilled to bring the symphony to Stapleton and hope you will bring your picnic, friends and chairs to The Green on Sat., July 25 from 5–7pm for our first symphony performance.

Movies on The Green

Raiders of the Lost Ark will be our movie presentation this month. Bring your blankets and chairs to The Green on Fri., July 24. All outdoor movies are free and open to the public. Movies will begin at dark.

Friday Night Flights-Wine Tastings

Find a sitter and come enjoy a wonderful evening sampling wines under the stars. This year will feature a live jazz trio performing while the wines are being poured. Whole Foods will provide cheese and meat tastings while the Grape Leaf will provide the wine from a variety of regions. This fun evening will be on Fri., July 24 from 7–9pm. Tickets are \$15 each for residents and \$20 each for nonresidents.

Participants must be 21 and will need tickets for this event. To register, visit www.stapletoncommunity.com or call 303.388.0724. You may pick up your tickets at the MCA office Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm each week. Space is limited.

Cinema in the Park

The film this month will be Cinema Paradiso. Young Salvatore Di Vita discovers the perfect escape from life in his war-torn Sicilian village, the Cinema Paradiso movie house, where projectionist Alfredo instills in the boy a deep love of films.

This event is free and open to anyone eager to explore thought-provoking interpretations in the world of film. Our own 'Indie Prof," Dr. Vincent Piturro, will lead a discussion about the movie beginning at 8:30pm.

Active Minds

Join Active Minds as we trace the rise of this group and seek to understand the challenge it represents to the region and world. This seminar will be held Thurs., July 23, from 6:45-7:45 pm.

The Civil War: Cause & Effect During the 150th anniversary the Civil War's end, join Active Minds for a look at what caused the war and how our country was changed. This seminar will be held Thurs. July 23, from 6:45–7:45 pm.

These events are free and everyone is welcome. For more information, visit www.ActiveMindsForLife.com. Location: Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St.

The Exchange

The MCA is pleased to partner with Mo' Betta Green for an evening market on Thursdays from 5–8pm, beginning Aug. 6. Bring your extra produce to swap or just come and shop at the vendors featuring a variety of local produce and goods. It will be a perfect place to put down your blanket and plan to have dinner on Thursday nights. There will be food demonstrations, music, activities and food trucks. We look forward to seeing you on Conservatory Green (North Green).

If you have any questions or comments about the information above, feel free to contact ddeeter@stapletoncommunity.com or call the MCA office at 303.388.0724.

Diane Deeter Community Director ddeeter@stapletoncommunity.com

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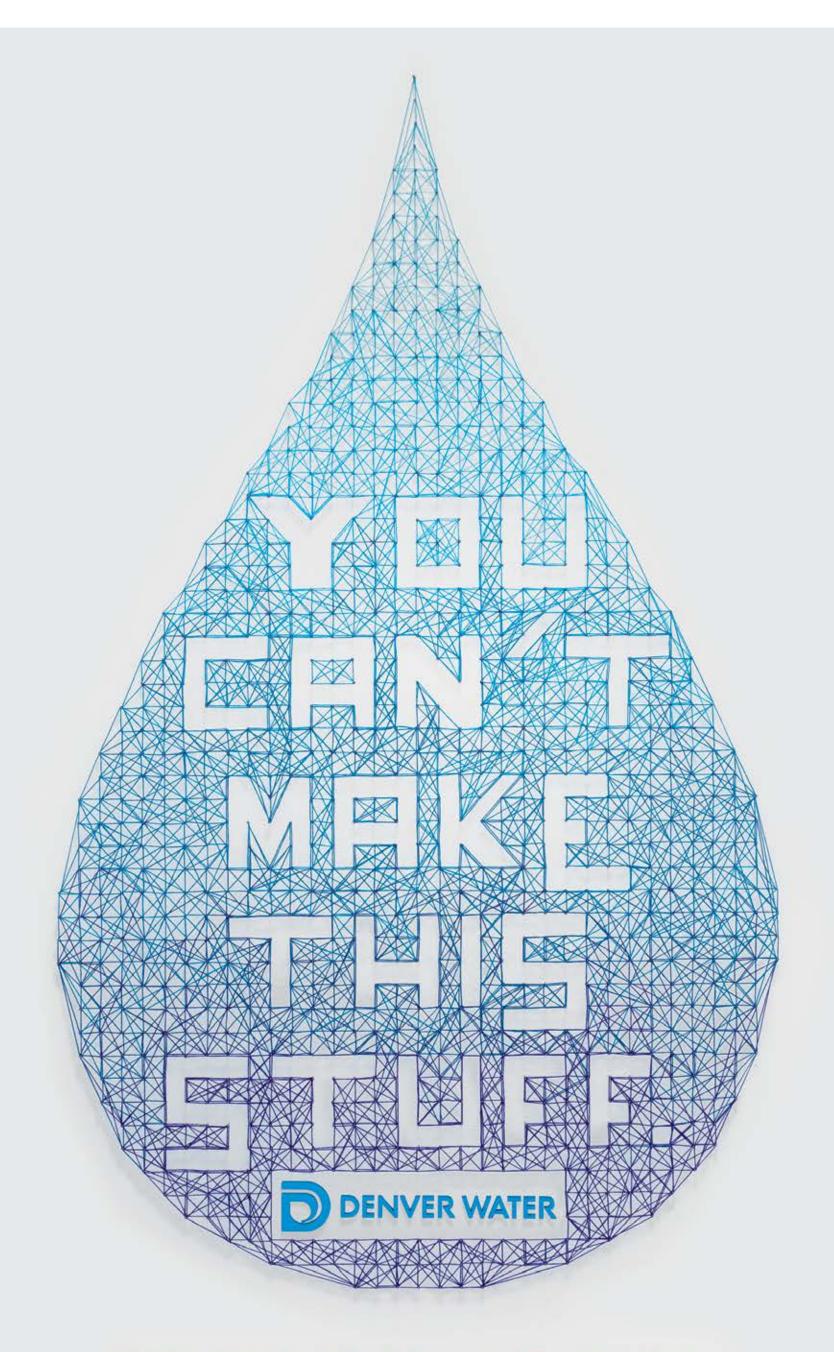
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Local Kids Perform in Charming Dr. Seuss Musical

By Laurie Dunklee

eggs and ham chuckle at the eggs and ham chuckle at the antics of the outrageous Dr. Seuss characters. Those characters, from 15 favorite Dr. Seuss books, will entertain audiences at Founders Green in the 29th Ave. Town Center when Seussical the Musical is performed July 10 and 11 at 7pm.

"Seussical is my favorite play," said director Eric Peterson, a Stapleton resident. "It's clever and the music is lovely. It's suitable for all ages—sophisticated enough for adults but also easy to follow. Everyone reads Dr. Seuss. This play bridges the gap between audiences."

Seussical the Musical stars a large cast—35 children and 16 adults—mostly from the Stapleton area. "It's an opportunity for more kids to participate," Peterson said.

"The story is 15 books woven together," he continued. "The main characters are the Cat in the Hat and Horton the elephant. Kids will also rec-

ognize Gertrude McFuzz and the Grinch. The cat is the master of ceremonies. Horton, who takes care of the microscopic Whos, gets tricked into sitting on Mayzie La Bird's egg.

"There's so much music—29 songs—that it's really like an opera. It's quite charming."

Peterson said the set is comprised of giant Dr. Seuss books, from which the characters emerge. The rhyming dialogue and outrageous costumes remain true to the books. "The costumes are flamboyant and colorful—just what you'd expect from Dr. Seuss. Audiences will love the costumes on Mayzie La Bird and



her bird-girl backup singers."

He said the full two-act play will be presented in under two hours, including the intermission. "We plan to end before dark."

Dr. Seuss—Theodor Seuss Geisel—published 46 children's books, many of which reflected his political views. According to Ron Lamothe, producer of the PBS film *The Political Dr. Seuss, Horton Hears a Who* was not just about an elephant hearing tiny voices, but an allegory for America's treatment of post-war Japan. The small country needed the support of a large country to get back on its feet after the devastation of the war, and Seuss wrote

about Horton's plight with the Who after a trip to war-torn Hiroshima. The book was dedicated to a friend of his in Japan.

Peterson's 7-year-old twins will play Whos in the production. "The tiny young kids play the Whos because they are tiny in the books. It's a fun visual thing."

Abby Douglas and Maggie Rubenstein of Stapleton, both 9, are also cast as Whos. Rubenstein, a fourth-grader at Bill Roberts K-8 School, plays a cadet in the Who marching band. "We play these big weird instruments that look goofy," she said. "I like being a cadet because most of my friends are cadets with me."

Douglas, a fourth-grader at Swigert International School, plays Cindy Lou Who. "I've read a lot of the Dr. Seuss books and I watch *Horton Hears a Who* and *The Grinch* at Christmastime," she said. "I love it because it's so

creative and fun, with lots of colors and the characters are funny."

Seussical the Musical is Kids Theatre West's only production this year due to Peterson's career commitments. "I was promoted to administrator at the school where I teach [the Aspen Academy in Greenwood Village] so there isn't as much time for KTW."

The show is co-produced by MCA and The Three Leaches. "The Three Leaches helps with money and publicity. They do good quality stuff all over town," Peterson said.

For more information, see the MCA Stapleton event calendar at stapletoncommunity.com

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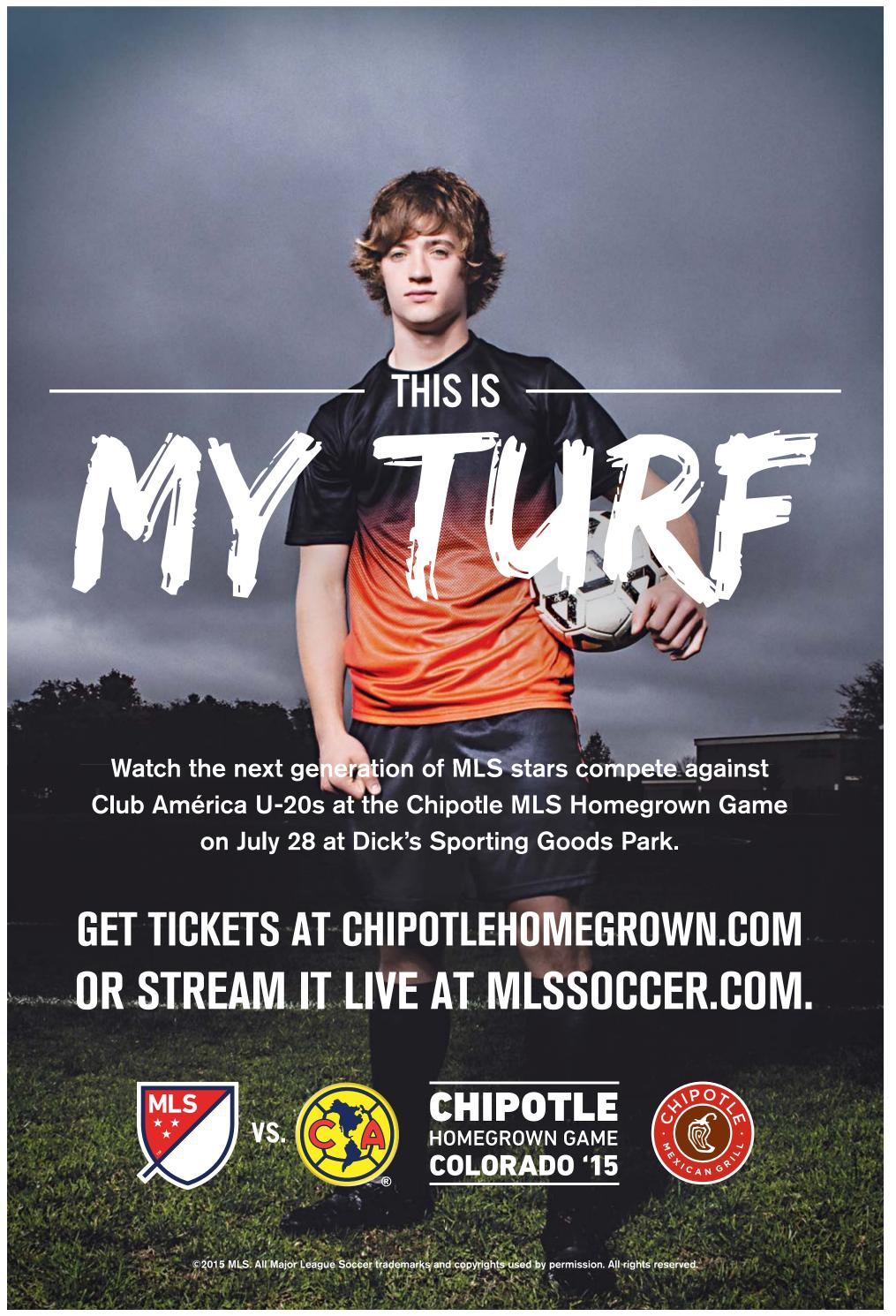
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July 2015 4 Stapleton Front Porch





By Madeline Schroeder

mericans love binaries—placing things into one of two categories. A person is either rich or poor, black or white, man or woman. These categories make sense to the people who fit into them, where they are naturally more comfortable than in the gray areas of the unknown. But it turns out, many binaries are not really binaries. Many people do not clearly fit into one category or another. The people in-between, though often invisible, need and want to be understood. These gray areas have always existed, but have taken longer to make it into the

public sphere and become accepted. In the past couple years, an intriguing, complicated world has emerged from the gray: gender identity.

"Everybody gets afraid when tradition changes. There is a thing in all humans when we allow ourselves to think this is the way we should be and how humans should always be, but things should change. As time goes on, we should continually reexamine things," says Alexis Gray, north Denver resident.

Gray, having an ironic last name, lives in one of the gray areas. Here is a snapshot of her life and just how complicated gender (and gender vocabulary) is: She lives in the non-binary and is a trans woman from a cisgender family. She presents femme but doesn't try too hard to pass. She is dating Hana Low. Like Gray, they are also transgender, but gender queer and chooses to present mostly femme...

Did that all make sense? Did it sound grammatically incorrect? It's accurate and real for Gray and Low

People have typically understood or even been taught that if a person is male, he is a man, acts masculine, and is typically attracted to women, just as a female is a woman who acts feminine and likes men. This type of thinking lumps gender, sex and sexuality into one category, yet these are aspects of

identity that are independent of one another.

Chromosomes, hormones, body shape and hair, gonads, internal organs and genitalia determine a person's biologic sex. It is assigned at birth and is either male or female, unless a baby has a disorder of sex development, previously called intersex, when something unusual occurs during the sex development phase in the fetus. These babies can have missing or extra sex chromosomes, hormone abnormalities and ambiguous genitalia. A person's gender or gender identity is how a person identifies—as either a man or woman. Gender expression is how a person chooses to show that gender, whether it's with clothes, voice, interests, whatever.

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Tuesday July 21, 6:30-7:30p.m. Naturally Defined Fitness-Strength & Conditioning Circuit

Tuesday July 28, 6:30-7:30p.m. Jionni Page-Tabata (Cardio)

Tuesday August 4, 6:30-7:30p.m. Camp Gladiator-Fitness Obstacle Course



Founders Green, 7601 East 29th Avenue, Denver, CO 80238

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Sexuality is who a person is attracted to. Each of these is a separate continuum in which people can fall at any point. Making the distinctions can be puzzling, even for the most curious and sympathetic bystander.

Most people are cisgender, or identify with the sex assigned at birth. Transgender is an umbrella term for anyone whose sex at birth is different than how they know themselves to be. A person born male may really feel he is a woman, or vice versa. Transsexual is pretty out of date but generally refers to someone who has had surgery or hormones to align his or her body with the gender he/she identifies with. Trans is the most common term. A trans woman was born as a male but identifies as a woman. A trans man was born a female but identifies as a man. A person may show signs of transgender as early as three or four, or a person can figure it out at 65. It's different for every individual, and when they choose to share their identity with others will be different for each person.

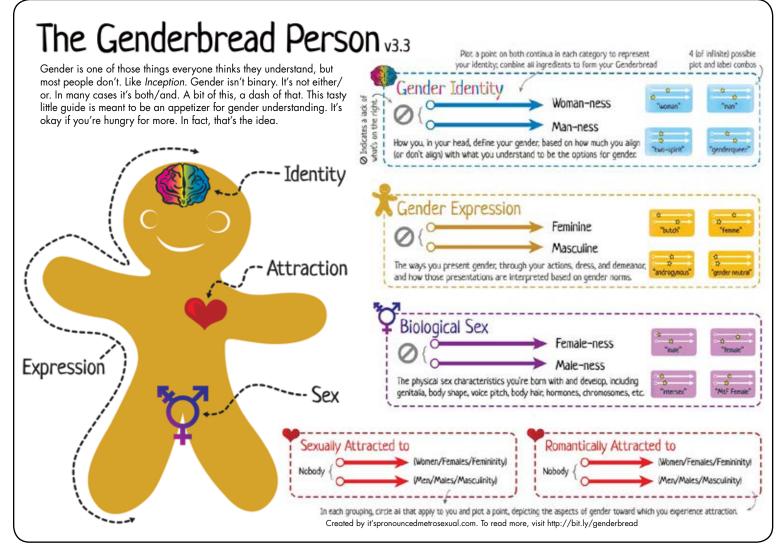
But also—another layer in the mix—a person may identify as neither male nor female, known as *gender queer*, *agender* or *gender fluid*, like Gray's partner, Hana. They prefer the pronouns "they/them/theirs," even if it doesn't sound right to others. Again, gender: it's complicated.

The trouble is, the American world is built on the binary, so things are currently out of whack. Can a trans man serve in the military? Should women's colleges accept trans women? Can a trans woman play in a sport generally identified for women, even though she may inherently be stronger and faster? Americans grapple with what it all means and how to even talk about it. Some think trans people have mental disorders and believe in conversion therapy to "help" them identify with their birth sex. President Obama has called for a

President Obama has called ban on these therapies.

Trans people are susceptible to harassment, violence and attacks in public spaces, and murder, with trans women of color facing the highest rate, according to Shanna Katz, PhD student and adjunct professor at University of Denver. Nine trans women have been murdered in the U.S. this year. The rate of attempted

suicide among trans people is shocking—41 percent.



Katz advocates for LGBTQIA, the ever-growing acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, intersex and asexual. She will be teaching a course about transgender studies at Metropolitan State University this fall. She explains many trans

"I hope someday people

will assume first, 'Hey, this

person is trying to get by in

the best way that they can,'

rather than, 'This person

is the enemy and a pervert

away from our children."

and we must keep them

-Alexis Gray

people cannot get jobs or access to healthcare, but one of the biggest and most basic concerns is using a public bathroom. Colorado State Senator Pat Steadman helped push the successful 2008 Public Accommodations Bill to allow people to use the bathroom of the gender they identify with. The bill faced huge criticism, with

opponents claiming that trans women would go into the bathroom to go after little girls. "The

fear mongering that goes on to perpetuate the ability to discriminate is astonishing," Steadman says.

There is judgment even within the trans community, particularly about how a person chooses to pass or fit into the gender they identify with. For some, transitioning means changing pronouns and dressing differently. For others, it means top and/or bottom surgeries, although bottom surgery is relatively uncommon due to lack of access. It is often not covered by insurance and costs many thousands of dollars out of pocket. Some also choose hormone replacement therapy. Collin Eagen describes that harrowing time. "You'll be this ugly, chubby person and nobody can tell what gender you are and treat you so weird." Then there are some trans people who choose not to transition at all—some can't afford it,

some don't want to.

For those who do transition, some are happy that they are lucky enough to pass; others do not respond as well to hormone therapy or prefer to live in the gray area. Caitlyn Jenner passes very well. She loves the glamour and sultry outfits and talks about the joy of painting her nails. Many feminists have criticized her overly girly presentation of what it means to be a woman. But if Jenner transitioned and wore grungy clothes and unkempt hair, she would likely be criticized for not being womanly enough. Trans people have to fit in the perfect area of that gender—and many don't.

Collin Eagen is a trans man and gender queer, meaning he was born a female and transitioned, now presenting as a male. But he doesn't totally identify as being a man. Although he passes very well with *(continued on page 10)*





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Developer Tyler Carlson says plans for the town center include a fire pit on the west end and maybe a water feature on the east end.

(continued from page 1) owned, built and operated by separate entities. What the projects share is a parking lot (divided by Geneva Court) and a completion schedule of fall 2016.

"The vision of Eastbridge Town Center will be a place where people can walk or bike, literally go there for any meal of the day, see their neighbors, and enjoy the Colorado outside lifestyle," says Stapleton resident Tyler Carlson, principal at Evergreen Development. The company is responsible for the design, permits, construction and financing. They are partnering with City Street Investors and, together, are co-developers and co-owners. City Street Investors is also the long-term leasing and property manager, procuring tenants.

Plans for the plaza include a fire pit on the west end, where some of the nighttime restaurants will be, says Carlson, and maybe a water feature on the east end where more of the daytime businesses will be. There will also be designated stroller and bike parking and landscaping.

Chef Troy Guard, who is a Stapleton res-

ident, is the first tenant to come on board, anchoring the center with two restaurants: his second Los Chingones Mexican restaurant (the first is downtown), which will have a rooftop patio, and a yet-unnamed breakfast/brunch place. Los Chingones' offerings will include tacos, burritos, nachos and tamales. The breakfast restaurant will serve omelets, pancakes, Benedicts and a breakfast burrito. These locations will bring Guard's collection of restaurants to 12-among them are Guard & Grace, bubu, Sugar Mill and TAG Burger Bar. The father of two and Stapleton resident is excited to have businesses on his home turf. "I think it's good for the neighborhood. It's underserved and I think it's even more special that I live a few blocks away," says Guard. "But it's really for them, it's for the neighborhood."

Additional restaurants will include a coffee shop, an Asian-focused restaurant, a lunchtime soup and sandwich place, and boutique retailers. "We're trying to be intentional about our leasing so there's always a reason to be here," says Carlson.

Soon after Evergreen Development con-

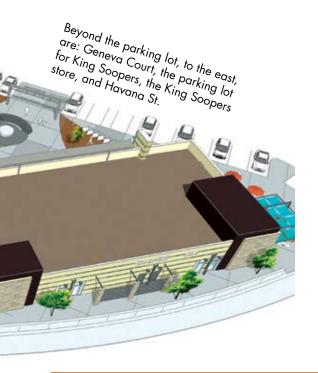




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DENVER

July 2015 8 Stapleton Front Porch



tracted with Forest City for the project, conversations began with City Street. "We found there was a match there," says Joe Vostrejs, Lowry resident and principal at City Street with partners Pat McHenry and Rod Wagner. "Evergreen was interested in developing the site (they are good at ground-up construction) whereas we do a lot of renovation work. Evergreen really liked the idea of partnering with us and creating a retail collection for Stapleton that was primarily local tenants, as opposed to the predictable collection of chain tenants that you so often see in neighborhood retail projects. We came to be involved through this sort of marriage of two groups sharing a similar vision for creating something special," explains

Vostreis.

Carlson knows it will require a change in mindset for people from throughout Stapleton and surrounding areas to start thinking of the Eastbridge Town Center as a destination. "We've got 12-15 years' worth of Stapleton shopping patterns that always goes west to Quebec and south to Colfax and Cherry Creek and we've got to reorient that paradigm to now go east. King Soopers (as an anchor store) is a really critical part of that for us. It's helping redefine where people shop and eat in Stapleton," he says.

"I really do believe this will be a transformational project for Eastbridge, particularly because it has been a

vacant, dirt lot for a decade now," says Carlson. "I think it will be impactful for the immediate neighborhood but I hope that our town center also proves to other local mom-and-pop restaurants and retailers that they can be successful in Stapleton so we can attract more high-caliber chefs like Troy."

Vostrejs agrees. "Bringing some great, local, mainstream tenants should be something not just good for Stapleton but good for the surrounding communities. If a project is done really well, the locals love it, but it's so good that people from outside the neighborhood will be drawn to it as well. And that's the sign of a really successful project."

King Soopers to Open in Eastbridge Fall 2016



This rendering of the King Soopers to be built in Eastbridge is viewed from the northwest corner.

The store will have windows all the way across the front, with the same style windows wrapping around the corners on the north and south sides.

The rest of the north and south sides and the east side will have decorative art panels with corrugated metal as shown at right.

The walk-up pharmacy is on the front of the building toward the north end.

The southwest corner has an outdoor seating area covered by an awning that will wrap around on the south side.

A single door near the southwest corner opens directly to Starbucks.

Lockers will accommodate bikes including those with trailers attached.

The store will have skylights for energy efficiency and to bring more natural light into the store.

This design is currently being reviewed by the City of Denver. It has not yet been approved by the Stapleton Design Review Committee, so it could still have minor changes.

The latest plan shows Geneva court as a through street, but that final decision is up to the city.

Construction is projected to start early 2016, with opening in fall 2016.

Information provided by Kelli McGannon, King Soopers director of public affairs.



The north, south sides and east sides will have decorative art panels with corrugated metal.

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Sam Bullington

As a women and gender studies professor at CU, Sam Bullington gets to share with his students his view of society as both a woman and a man. He identifies as transsexual, meaning he was born as a female and transitioned to present himself as a man. His transition has had cruel companions. He lost many close friends and has been very lonely as a man. "I'm a very touchy feely person. That's a really big part of my connection with other people and my sense of self. As a guy now, nobody touches me. I don't touch women because that feels creepy and I don't touch guys because I don't want to get beat up." Despite the challenges, he does not regret his transition. Besides teaching, Bullington is also studying to become a shaman, or spiritual healer.

Gender: It's Complicated

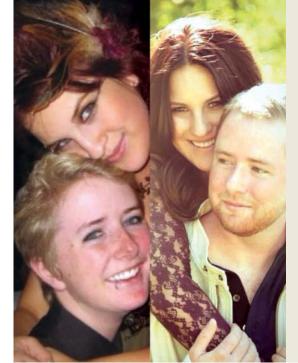
(continued from page 6) a lot of body hair, he likes his feminine side and actively brings that out with brightly colored clothes and a higher tone of voice, which has caused him to be ostracized within the trans community. Many ask, why would you transition if you are going to act like a gay man? Upon first meeting Eagen and his partner, Ariel whom he met as a lesbian at 17 (and they stayed together through his transition), people think they are a heterosexual couple. Then after hearing Eagen's feminine speech, people think Ariel is dumb for marrying a gay man.

Clearly, things are not as obvious as they appear. The world of gender is not black or



Leo Kattari

As the Health Policy Manager at One Colorado, Leo Kattari, who identifies as a trans man, makes sure LGBTQIA people have access to affordable and adequate health care. "Because we've seen progress pretty quickly, who knows how much longer until we become more accepting of transgender people, where the gender marker will no longer be included on driver's licenses."



Collin Eagen and Ariel

The right panel is a current photo of Collin Eagen and his partner, Ariel. Collin identifies as a trans man and gender queer and Ariel is cisgender and gender queer. The two met as teenagers, when Eagen still presented as a female. For the first part of their lives together they were in a lesbian relationship; they married last summer. "Before my transition I never wanted for anything. I had privilege—a car, education, financial support. I went to the bottom of the food chain and have had to fight for everything. As difficult and heartbreaking as it has been, I am so much better for it. I am happier and have more self-worth and know myself better than most people lying on their deathbeds—and I'm 25.

Eagen is currently a marketing intern and competes in a dangerous equestrian sport called Three Day Eventing.

white—and it is getting increasingly complicated. With recent magazine covers featuring trans women Laverne Cox and Caitlyn Jenner, more and more people living outside the gender binary want to share their stories because, while any conversation about transgender is good, the trans community wants people to know there are immense differences from one person's story to another. Laverne Cox and Caitlyn Jenner are different, and different than other trans people. Most trans people want to be heard and open up when asked about their lives. Scheduled half hour phone calls for

this article turned into one- and two-hour conversations. Although people living in the non-binary world are all different, when they speak, they touch on many similar subjects: their family and perhaps losing them, their powerful bond with a partner, trouble with health care, fear of going to the bathroom, and searching for doctors. Their sexuality and gender identity may confuse or disturb some, but their values are familiar—to not be afraid to be themselves, to have a sense of belonging, and to live their lives free of judgment.





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Embracing Math

By Mark Koester

ath in the United States is surrounded by myths. Consider the following:

- You are either a "math" person or you are not.
- Boys are better at math than girls.
- You need to do math quickly.You must know your times tables before you

can do algebra.
The truth is:

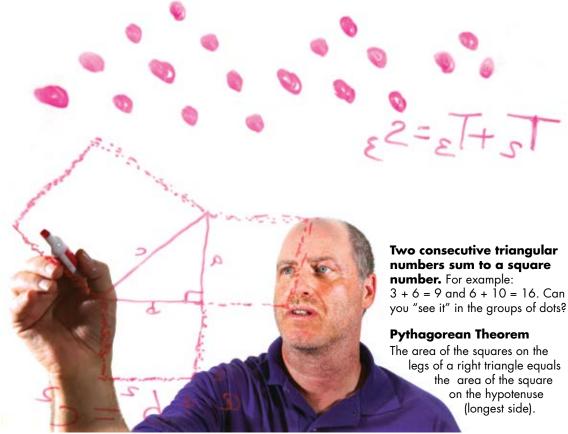
- There is no "math" gene. With hard work, everyone can be good at math.
- There is no evidence that boys are better than girls at math.
- Some of the best mathematicians are not fast at calculations—they take a long time to think about problems.
- Just as students starting music lessons play simple songs at the same time they are learning the scales, they can learn the concepts of algebra even if they don't yet know all their times tables.

The rapid rate of technological change means many of the jobs that will exist in 20 years have not yet been created—so our children need to be prepared for a future that is largely unknown today. As a result, instruction is shifting from rote memorization to reasoning and problem solving that helps students make sense of complex concepts. This is especially true in mathematics education.

Brain Research Sheds Light on Learning

Just as you would not take your child

to a physician who was using only knowledge from 30 years ago, you would not want your child's teacher utilizing outdated instructional methods. Brain research is helping us develop better ways of teaching. We have learned the brain is very good at recognizing patterns and that it connects new knowledge to previously learned knowledge. An amazing discovery made using MRIs shows that the brain forms new synapses when we make mistakes. Research has



Mark Koester demonstrates how it is possible to "see" mathematical relationships.

also shown that when we demonstrate how math is relevant to our lives, there is greater engagement—making learning both easier and longer lasting.

Have a Growth Mindset

Social psychology research strongly suggests that one's mindset is crucial for success

in learning, especially math. In many Asian countries, the belief is anyone can succeed in math through hard work and effort. In

the United States, people are very willing to say, "I am not a math person." Productive struggle is helpful in learning. Just as one gets stronger by lifting successively heavier weights, one gets smarter working out ever-more challenging math problems. Parents can help their children by praising their efforts rather than saying, "Look how smart you are."

Teaching and Learning Look Different Now

Math class is very different now than when today's parents were in school. Students talk more as they explain how they got their answers. Elementary school students may be using algorithms that their parents were never taught.

What it means to be good at mathematics has expanded from an emphasis on rote skills and memorization to include problem solving, communicating ideas, and making sense of mathematics. Students still work alone at times, but they also share ideas with a partner or a group. Students are asked to write much more in math class to help them make sense of their ideas. Teachers don't tell students how to solve problems; instead, they ask questions that guide the students toward understanding.

The new exams will be testing students' reasoning skills and their ability to think quantitatively. Curricula have been developed to promote this method of teaching math. Research has shown that students learn just as much and do just as well in college as students

using more traditional curricula. More importantly, many more students using the new curricula say they like math, feel successful, and remember what they've learned, even years later.

Tips for Parents

Parents often ask how they can support their children to be confident, successful math students. Here are some tips for guiding your children.

Ask your children what they struggled with that day. When asking your kids what mistakes they made, remind them their brains grow when mistakes are made.

Don't say you weren't good at math; it sends the message that your child does not have to be good at math.

When children claim they haven't learned something, tell them, "You just have not learned it yet." Create the mindset that

it *yet*." Create the mindset that learning takes time and results come with

effort.

If students say they don't know how to do a homework problem, ask them these questions:

What is the question asking you to do? What do

What is the question asking you to do? What do you already know? How are you going to start?
Where are you stuck?
Have the kids keep up their thinking about

Have the kids keep up their thinking abou math by playing games with dice, doing puzzles and riddles, measuring, and fair sharing (for example dividing six cookies among four people).

Mark Koester is a Stapleton resident, parent of two school-aged public school students, professor of mathematics at MSU Denver, a former math teacher, and a former director of mathematics in Denver Public Schools. Please send comments and questions to markkoester62@gmail.com.

Resources:

Jo Boaler – What's Math Got to Do with It? Hans Magnus Enzensberger – The Number Devil Carol Dweck – Mindset

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Learning math should make you

wonder, think and say "wow."

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"Changing Education as We Know It"

By Carol Roberts

tate Sen. Mike Johnston joined a group of well-known and influential leaders in the world of education when he was recently named one of the "Top 10 People Changing Education As We Know It." Education Top Ten listed "some of the major players in education around the world, whose contributions may change education for decades to come."

Johnston was recognized for his work as a state legislator and as a policy adviser to New Leaders for New Schools, a nonprofit for education reform. He was also named to Forbes Magazine's list of Most Influential Educators for his work on Colorado's Great Teachers and Leaders Law. Among the other top 10 leaders were Diane Ravitch (a leading advocate for public education), Geoffrey Canada (renowned for his work helping children and families in Harlem), Malala Yousafzai (a Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest-ever Nobel Prize laureate) and Joshua Wong (founder of Scholarism, the group that defended Hong Kong's education policy from China's interference).

Johnston says the group of 10 is just an informal network, "but we do all try to lean on each other when you hit rough spots so we can try to solve our problems together."

Education will always be his first passion, says Johnston, and he believes that it is a tool to fix the major problem of inequality. But, he adds, education is influenced by many other factors: housing, health care, access to healthy food. "Education is inextricably bound to a number of other really important social issues that I get the chance to work at in the legislature."

Johnston has one more term in the legislature and is thinking about issues he might tackle. The capital construction fund for school facilities is empty

now, so no more new schools can be built without funding this program, presenting a significant problem for smaller rural school districts with a low tax base. In higher education, Johnston says access to and completion of college are a big challenge for low-income kids. He's pondering possible ways young people could commit to service



State Sen. Mike Johnston

for the state—civil, military or disaster relief—as a way to help finance college in the same way the G.I. Bill did."

Johnston talks about how the Stapleton-Park Hill enrollment zone brings diverse people together. "That's a really bold idea. But if you look at northeast Denver, you have the makings of a perfectly integrated school district. I think that's a profound issue and one that we actually have a real chance of making an impact on in Denver, and one we're making good strides on. Because that's where relationships are formed, right? That's the 4-year-old birthday parties you go to, the 7-year-old football teams kids play on, and all those things."

Johnston believes strongly in the value of interconnectedness. The night of the

Charleston shooting he couldn't sleep. "I felt this deep sense of not wanting to leave that as the last word for all my friends in the black community who were going to wake up tomorrow morning to that image of, 'We opened our church to a white stranger who walked in, and the result was he murdered nine of our members.' It was really important to me that black churches around the country woke up the next day and felt like they had an overwhelming show of support from their white neighbors and white communities and white faith leaders."

Johnston says he thought specifically of Rev. Tyler at the Shorter AME Church and how difficult that night must be for him. He stayed up and wrote his thoughts, drove to the church in the night, and taped it to the door so the first thing Rev. Tyler would see in the morning was a note that said, "We love you, we're with you, we won't stand for this." News coverage of Johnston's note was followed by similar actions all around the country.

At a service at the Shorter AME Church after the Charleston shooting, Johnston observed, "There were probably 500 people there—every faith and domination, from the Sikhs to Jewish and Christian faiths. You sort of had everybody in the room there—hundreds of kids and families. Those kids are never going to be able to grow up with misperceptions."

"The solution to this to me seems we have to all pull each other closer because the more of a personal relationship you have, the harder it is to be able to do something so unimaginable like that. I think the real hope here is we have to all work a little harder to knit these communities together because that's the real way you avoid this. Once you know people in the flesh, it's much harder to hate."

Development at DIA Denver / Adams

By Carol Roberts

he vision of turning DIA into an "economic powerhouse" is close to being realized—but it rests on the outcome of a vote this fall by Denver and Adams County residents.

In January 2012, the *Front Porch* interviewed John Kasarda, known as the developer of the aerotropolis concept, who has said:

"The U.S. and Western Europe often view airports as nuisances and environmental threats rather than as critical infrastructure to compete and prosper. This has resulted in their maligning and neglecting airports while Asia and the Middle East invest heavily to leverage them. Such neglect comes at the long-term economic peril of the West."

The recent agreement between Denver and Adams counties came after three years of discussions about an equitable distribution of the profits that could come from development at DIA. Evan Dreyer, deputy chief of staff for Mayor Hancock and one of the negotiators for Denver throughout the process, says right now the annual economic benefit of DIA to the entire region is \$26.3 billion a year. "It's the region's number one economic driver—and that has been the subject of very detailed analysis how they arrived at that number."

The original agreement under which Denver annexed 53 square miles of Adams County land to build DIA had specific clauses to protect Adams County's economic interests. These clauses initially were the basis of disagreements between the parties. But both parties understood that benefitting from this vast economic potential hinged on a cooperative agreement—and that kept them talking, "week after week, month after month," says Dreyer.

Under the new agreement, Denver will make a one-time payment of \$10 million to Adams County and the two entities will have a 50-50 split of tax revenue from development of 1,500 acres in a pilot project (out of a total airport area of 34,000 acres). Dreyer says that agreement came early on in the talks. The primary reason it took three years was "so many different parties and so many different interests that needed to be heard, that needed to have their specific issues addressed." Adams County Commissioner Erik

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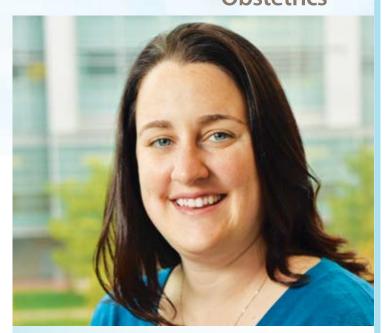
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Get to Know Dr. Christine Conageski

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

County Find Common Ground

mercial use on

the 1,500 acres

is projected to

be in the range

million over 30

be split in half.

The FAA

is making the determination

whether the

airport can be

the source. If it

comes from the general fund,

city council will

have to vote to

approve it. If the

years, which will

of \$150-270

Hansen concurs, and adds that many aspects of the discussion and agreement were very complex and had to be thoroughly researched and analyzed.

Denver's \$10 million payment will either come from the city's general fund or from DIA. The total tax revenue to be generated from com-



Evan Dreyer makes a presentation about the "airport city" concept at a Stapleton meeting in February 2013.

pilot project is successful, it may be expanded, but no additional payments from Denver will be required.

The negotiations were between Denver and the Airport Coordinating Committee (ACC), which is composed of Adams County Commissioners and representatives from Aurora, Commerce City, Thornton, Brighton, and Federal Heights. Hansen, who chaired the negotiations for the ACC, explained that group has been in existence for 25 years, since the original airport agreement was signed. Their role has been, and will continue to be, to enforce the agreement with Denver about the airport.

A new entity at DIA called DEN Real Estate will guide the development of the 1,500 acres, which will not be contiguous; they will be wherever the airport decides are the best locations. The projected income of \$95-185 million from land leases will go to DIA for

infrastructure and development costs. Dreyer says, "One of the driving reasons for doing this deal is because airports all around the country are looking for ways to diversify their revenue portfolios in order to keep costs to airlines as low as possible. When you're able to keep costs low, you are allowing airlines to maintain their existing flight routes, you are allowing airlines to look at expanding domestic routes, and, for us, perhaps most importantly, we are able to encourage airlines to look at new international flights, nonstop flights in particular, to and from DIA. That's what a diverse revenue portfolio allows an airport like DIA to do."

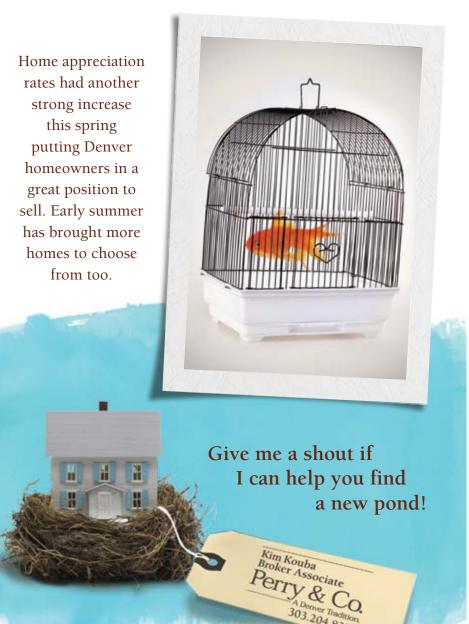
The new DIA agreement also calls for the creation of a second new entity composed of Denver and Adams County representatives with responsibility for joint regional marketing of this 1,500-acre pilot project. Their job will be to send new businesses to DEN Real Estate to develop projects at DIA.

What kinds of businesses might DIA attract? Dreyer says office users or additional light industrial users with supporting businesses such as retail, food and beverage, and other services to support employees and patrons. Panasonic Enterprise Solutions is already under contract to locate their operations base and assembly facility in the new transit-oriented development (TOD) along the East Rail at 61st and Peña Blvd. Dreyer says, "We estimate, at full buildout of those 1,500 acres, there would be an additional 12,300 direct jobs—and there's the multiplier for indirect jobs."

Hansen says 90 percent of the current Adams County voters were not active registered voters when the original airport vote was taken. "This is a different group of people than years ago. I really think that what people want is the communities of the Denver metro area to work together to try to accomplish something good. I think that's how they'll see this vote, and I'm optimistic that they'll



Fish Out of Water?



Kim Kouba is one of your neighbors and owner of the Sweet William Market.



July 2015 Stapleton Front Porch 13



By Laurie Dunklee

eed to get away from it all? Maybe you needn't go any farther than your own backyard. Richard Patterson turned an 8-foot strip between the wall of his house and the fence into a grand entry to his favorite backyard spot. David and Marilyn Jensen transformed their 26-by-58-foot backyard into a mountain stream environment. Both created private outdoor spaces that help them connect with nature.

Patterson, a middle school principal, says he rests in the garden to lose the demands of a busy life. "My work days are long and very draining-emotionally, physically and mentally. When I'm home I want privacy and green, to turn it all off."

Patterson's creation is a 45-foot-long path lined with trees and flowers. "The path is a place to walk where different flowers bloom



in succession, with large enough trees to block the neighbors' view. It meanders to my secret garden with a fountain, where I sit and drink tea, coffee or wine."

He designed the garden with the help of



a landscape architect. "We incorporated the plants I love. I wanted a great variety of colors and textures. It's well-planned but it appears

In front of his house, Patterson planted



Richard Patterson sits in his "secret garden" where he gets away from the stresses of his job.

Oasis in the City: **Garden Transformations**

Top left: Richard Patterson stands at the entry to his garden. Left: Plants include hollies, oaks, columbine, daylilies, magnolias, lilacs, iris, clematis, ferns, coral bells and wooly thyme for a carpet between the stones

Bosnian pines and columnar oaks. "From the house you see only trees. It cocoons you from the close proximity of neighbors."

David Jensen, a golf course communities planner with his wife, Marilyn, said they planned their yard to create several small spaces for seating."We wanted 'nooks and crannies' to sit and think about things, or read, with the stream chuckling and the pattering of a waterfall. It's a background sound that is soothing."

The Jensens used native Colorado plants. "In choosing the mountain meadow concept, we were able to use indigenous plants to screen us from the surrounding environment and provide variety," said David Jensen. The Jensens' "mountain stream" re-circulates 800 to 1,000 gallons of water. "We don't use any







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Stapleton Front Porch July 2015 14



David and Marilyn Jensen sit in the large covered patio where they entertain. They also have a smaller table and sitting area right by their back door.

toxic chemicals to keep it clean; instead, we use a beneficial bacteria product to add oxygen and digest the detritus," Jensen said. "We are responsible to the smallest insects, which can pass toxins up the food chain. Birds, squirrels and dogs can safely drink the water."

Both Patterson and the Jensens moved to Stapleton from homes with big yards. "The upkeep was continuous and it demanded time," said Patterson. "Here I get to take care of nature in a space that is just right."

Advantages of a small yard include cost savings, Jensen said. "Fewer plants are required, and less water. A smaller budget goes farther and less vegetation fills the area faster to create interesting views and spaces. It's also more intimate."

The Jensens were among Stapleton's first residents, arriving in 2005. Patterson has



been in his current house since 2009. Both said it took about five years for their gardens to fill in and become lush.

Jensen and Patterson offered some bits of advice for people thinking of transforming their yards. "Have a vision for the use of your space and start from there," said Patterson. "What do you want the space to be? It's not



just plants; it's part of your ers or a bed of flowers. You could have a

Above: The Jensens' mountain stream is bordered by nearly all indigenous plants, including native alder, aspens, dogwood, alpine willow and river birch. They also have columbines, ferns,

service berry, raspberry, arrowroot plants and cattails. The mon-

Left: David Jensen sits in one of the "nooks and crannies" they

created "to sit and think about things, or read, with the stream

eywort ground cover is not native.

chuckling and the pattering of a waterfall."

house. What extension of yourself will you use the space for? Also, when you have a narrow space, keep things in columnar fashion, so they grow tall and not wide. Finally, phase your plan because landscaping can be expensive."

Jensen said, "There are many solutions for a small garden, like a strip of raked gravel,

buffalo grass, a composition of groundcovpond with a bubbler to get that murmuring water sound."

Jensen appreciates the ever-changing landscape. "In the garden, something is changing every day and the views are different, from the columbines blooming to catkins appearing on the aspens. It keeps me watching."





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Just the Facts

Made in Colorado: Home-Brewed Bricks, from Coors Field to Harvard

by James Hagadorn

ver notice those fin-like walls of sandstone along the Front Range? They parallel the mountain foothills like our very own Great Wall of China. These fins are hallmarks of one of Colorado's most distinctive locally grown industries—clay mining for bricks, ceramics, and china.

The clay-mining industry has existed since we were still part of the Kansas Territory, and not only fuels our local economy to the tune of 100 million bucks per year, but has impacts locally and nationwide. It even saved a brewery from bankruptcy.

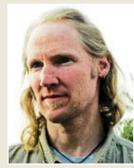
Its story begins in mud. And not just any old mud, but ancient mud dominated by clay minerals that have special chemical and physical qualities. These clays settled out of the water in stagnant lakes and swamps that covered much of Colorado 65 to 100 million years ago, when dinosaurs roamed the landscape. Periodically, river sands emptied into these bays and swamps. After burial, these sediments hardened into claystone and sandstone.

Millions of years later, the Rocky Mountains began to rise, tilting these sedimentary rocks like the upturned edge of a taco shell. The strata were now vertical—so clearly undressed by nature that early settlers could see that they held vast seams of sandstone, coal, and slippery claystone. These deposits were

fortuitously located near areas where miners gathered supplies en route to the Rockies in search of gold and silver.

Residents of the newly formed hamlets of Golden, Denver, and Cañon City began to mine these clays to make brick for buildings. Deep trenches were excavated in between the uplifted sandstones, where men and machines dug long grooves in the earth to remove the clays.

The great Denver fire of 1863 kicked the clay mining business into high gear. That year, much of the city burned to the ground, owing to closely spaced wooden buildings and a poorly equipped fire department. Legislators enacted an ordinance requiring



all buildings to be built with brick or stone. Brick was faster, cheaper, and more uniform than stone, and for the next century, nearly every home was constructed of brick.

By 1900, there were more than 200 brick-making factories in Colorado. The clay here was so exceptional that vast numbers of bricks were exported, even lining the walls of buildings at Harvard University. Locally-made bricks were used to build Larimer Square, much of the Auraria campus, and later, Coors Field.

What makes these ancient clays such ideal building materials? Our clays include rare ones that are high in silica or are high in aluminum compounds. When baked at about twice the maximum temperature of your oven, these mineral ingredients melt into a crystalline mass, which helps glue the brick together. Depending on the composition of the clays that are used, and the temperature at which they are baked, one can produce red bricks, brown bricks, or even ones with distinctive purple and black specks.

World War I was the pivot point for Colorado's special clays, especially those like kaolinite, which could be used to make white porcelain and other ceramics. Prior to the war, most laboratory



Historically, brickmakers put newly molded bricks in the sun prior to firing them in the kiln. This process helped the wet bricks stiffen so that they could be handled without risking deforming the bricks.

and industrial ceramics, not to mention domestic bakeware, were imported from European countries such as Germany. Colorado clays helped fill the gap when the Great War began, and the Herold China and Pottery Company began to flourish. Backed by, and later owned by Adolph Coors, this company grew into one of the world's largest porcelain and ceramic businesses. Indeed, during Prohibition (from 1920–1933), sales of clay-based products kept the Coors Company afloat, as beer sales were illegal. Coors' ceramics company, Coors'Tek, still flourishes today.

Today, four brickmakers remain in Colorado. And they thrive—over 60 percent of their products are exported out of state. Their ingredients? They're still sourced right here—in your backyard. Their clay quarries are active and can be seen as you drive across Rocky Flats north of Golden or near Lockheed-Martin south of the Denver metro area.

For an up-close look at Colorado clay, take a walk along the Front Range. Hike Dinosaur Ridge, amble down the Triceratops Trail, or play a round at the Fossil Trace Golf Club. Here the easy-to-reach clays have been mostly mined out, leaving behind the fins of river-borne sand that were deposited above and below them. The footprints of dinosaurs that walked in the clay-rich muds are still there, like sentinels guarding a deep reserve of some of the best clay in the world.

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



A giant steam shovel sits atop the sandstone fins in the now-defunct Rockwell Clay Mine. After mining most of the easy-to-get clay from between the sandstone rock, the mine closed and was repurposed into the Fossil Trace Golf Club of Golden.

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July 2015 Stapleton Front Porch



ach month, the Indie Prof reviews a current film in the theater and a second film that is available at Redbox or VOD. Follow "Indie Prof" on Facebook for updates about film events and more reviews.

Cartel Land (2015)

A group of masked men are cooking meth in a desert in the middle of nowhere. "We sell our drugs all over the U.S.," one man says, "and we'll make more tomorrow." "Ours is the best quality and we have the most quantity. We know that it does not do good, but what are we supposed to do?" No, this is not an episode of *Breaking Bad*; this is a documentary. This is real.

The new documentary *Cartel Land*, produced and directed by Matthew Heineman, gives us an up-close, in-depth, and sometimes much-too-intimate look at the murderous Mexican drug cartels from both sides of the border. On the American side of the border, we have former American military veteran Tim "Nailer" Foley, who has started a paramilitary group to police the border. On the Mexican side, the film follows a small-town physician known as "El Doctor," leader of a group called the *Autodefensas*, a citizen group that is fighting against their local cartel.

As the film begins, we may have certain assumptions about both of these men based on their own comments, our own political stands, and the preponderance of news coverage surrounding such characters.

Nailer lost his construction job to illegal immigrants, became a drug abuser, and then found refuge in policing the border on his own. Gruff, honest, and (perhaps) racist, Nailer leads the film into the very heart of the battle. "Technically, we're vigilantes upholding

the law where there is no law," he says "but the phrase 'vigilante' has been given a bad name by the media." On the other side of the border, "El Doctor" is smoother, more charismatic, and much more diplomatic in his own quest to fight the cartels. But our



initial assumptions may change.

Documentaries work best when they arrange themselves much like a fictional story may. This is one such powerful film that is beautifully shot, wonderfully edited, and serves as a textbook in fiery documentary filmmaking—the art of which has increased so dramatically in the past few decades that documentaries are sometimes nominated in Best Picture categories at film festivals and awards ceremonies. I have no doubt this film will be in heavy rotation as the awards season heats up later this year. Don't miss it on the big screen.

Starts at the Chez Artiste on July 10.

Scene from

Cartel Land

You will enjoy this film if you liked The Cove, The Thin Blue

Line, and/or Last Days in Vietnam.

Daredevil

A Netflix Original Series
This is a slight departure
from my typical review, but I
think it merits notice. The recent spate of cable TV series that
have gone beyond the limiting
confines of traditional broadcast
TV shows continue to improve.
Shows such as *Breaking Bad* or

The Walking Dead have moved TV in a new direction, shows I call "cinematic TV." Perhaps one of the best is the Netflix original series *Daredevil*. Finally, we get a superhero that is not remotely appropriate for our children. And that is a good thing.

The recent glut of superhero iterations have all been missing

one thing that *Daredevil* delivers: an edge. Based on one of the more interesting and complicated Marvel characters, the Daredevil was blinded as a young boy but was taught how to use his other, heightened senses to his advantage. He grows to become a lawyer, shunning a corporate job for a fledgling private practice with a close friend. By day. By night, he is a masked vigilante, helping the people of his home turf, Hell's Kitchen in NYC.

We've heard, read, and seen this before. What changes here is the style: this is brutal, violent, *film noir* that is closer to Tarantino than *Ironman*. The visuals promote the dark, dirty, and shadowy above the clean and pretty. There are no hightech bat-caves or labs with super-geniuses; here we see dank apartments, alleys, and streets that are more *Taxi Driver* than *Spider-Man*. And most of all, blood: people get hit, they break bones, they suffer, and they bleed.

TV veteran Vincent D'Onofrio brilliantly plays the villain in the first season. He is not your ordinary, crazed baddie. He is smart, sophisticated, and enjoys postmodern art and opera. He is the gentlemanly villain of Hitchcock and not a maniac. Except of course, when he brutally kills a man with his bare hands, severing the head off the man's body. And that unexpected brutality and real violence is just what makes this show special—it dares to go places few shows have gone.

Season one is on Netflix now. Let the binge begin! You will like this series if you enjoyed *Reservoir Dogs*, *Taxi Driver*, and/or *Breaking Bad*.

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

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(L to R) Matthew Young, CJ Cage, Josiah Peters, and Carla Cobos enter the jail.

By Madeline Schroeder

any working adults may wish they would've had the opportunity to explore different careers before deciding what to pursue. The Northeast Denver Leadership Week (NDLW) gives high school students this opportunity.

Founded in 2011 by District 11 City Councilman Chris Herndon, the program aims to grow the next generation of leaders by introducing them to a variety of careers. It is an annual five-day program for kids throughout Denver.

"I've definitely gotten to see jobs I wouldn't have the chance to otherwise," says Erin Clark, Stapleton resident and sophomore at DSST: Stapleton.

"I'm having the time of my life with every single event," says Rebekah Amaro, a senior at South High School. The two girls became friends in the first five minutes, and by day three were having dinner together after camp. They laugh that they're moving quickly. "I love every single part of networking and meeting new people and communicating with all the staff and hearing their stories of coming from a very small town or not having success, but eventually hooked up with the right people to become successful and become leaders," Amaro says.

Each day of the program, three buses of students traveled to different sites: Monday they went to Kaiser Permanente and Denver Interna-



An officer explains to a group of students the sad reality that many inmates get out of jail and go right back in. He has seen multiple generations of some families. Many inmates, he says, do better in the structured environment of the jail than in real life.

Northeast Denver Leadership Week

High Schoolers Visit the Jail



(L to R): Carla Cobos, Julia Martin, and Fatima Bouayad observe the male inmates through the glass.

tional Airport; Tuesday the Denver Police Academy, Rocky Mountain Fire Academy and Denver Sheriff Department; Wednesday the Pepsi Center and FBI; Thursday The Urban Farm, Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, Johnson & Wales University, RK Mechanical and Forest City Stapleton; and Friday the University of Colorado Denver.

Many students were particularly struck by the visit to the Smith Road jail, where they toured the male and female units and different levels of security based on the crime an inmate commits. "I hope I never have to go back there. It was eye-opening and scary at points," Clark says. At times, inmates hooted and hollered to get students' attention, which they had been warned of by police officers. Many students felt bad for the inmates, despite whatever reason they went to jail. Some of the women were pregnant. With only one psychiatrist to serve the entire inmate population, services for inmates with mental disabilities were limited.

At the police department later that day, students went in a simulator with a fake gun to see how they react in situations cops experience regularly. Afterward they discussed making difficult decisions in high-adrenaline situations. The experience convinced Clark she may want to become a police officer; Amaro is now interested in advertising and marketing

At the end of the week, both Clark and Amaro say they have a better idea of how to become a leader in whatever industry they decide to pursue—networking skills, confidence, and the power to stand out. "If you have confidence no matter what background you have, people are going to respect you and enjoy your company," Amaro says.

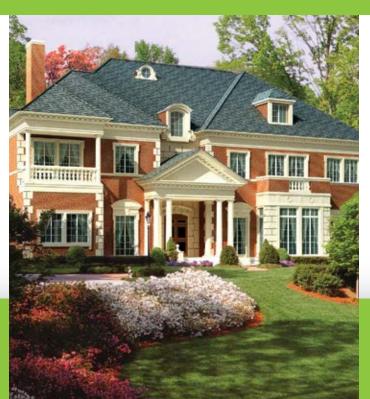
To learn more about the Northeast Denver Leadership Week, visit northeastdenverleadershipweek.org or call Councilman Chris Herndon's aide Amanda Schoultz at 720-337-7711.

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July 2015 18 Stapleton Front Porch

Schools Get More Independence from Central DPS Decisions

Landri Taylor

By Carol Roberts

he board of Denver Public Schools in May voted unanimously to give more discretion to principals in choosing curriculum, choosing assessments to monitor progress, and training teachers. On the surface, it seems surprising that such a sudden dramatic change came with a unanimous vote and hap-

pened at the end of the school year. But board member Landri Taylor says it wasn't an overnight decision and it wasn't surprising that it was unanimous.

"We've been talking around the edges and we finally just said, you know what? In order to really get there, we're going to have to do something very dramatic and very, what's the right word, earth-shattering. Because for where we want to go with the 2020 plan [goals

DPS has set to achieve by 2020], what we're doing now will not get us there. Something has to change. Either we have to change the plan or we have to change how we are going to achieve the plan," said Taylor.

Both Susanna Cordova, DPS chief academic officer and Taylor talked about the need to accelerate the pace of achievement. Cordova says, "One of the things that we do know is the more bought into a plan a school is—the teachers, the leaders—the more bought in they are to the work that they're doing, the more investment they make in the work, and the greater the results."

"The authority to have control of your outcome is so important for a school leader and staff," says Taylor. "When you don't have control of the outcome that you seek, it can just be awfully frustrating. This is an opportunity for school leaders and staff to actually say, okay, the things we really think we can do better, let's go and do those things better than what may be in the central office to get us there. This is exciting. I'm awfully excited for the fact that teachers can do this.

"You'll find teachers being very creative in classrooms. Man, this really just confirms the

fact that their individual creativeness and innovation in classrooms is going to be rewarded at a system-wide level now with the ability for their school to have more control," adds Taylor.

Cordova says DPS staff are excited about this too, and DPS had already started cutting staff from the central office and putting more teachers and more money into the classroom. "The

biggest shift that we're trying to achieve is to have more staff on-site in schools who work as both teachers and coaches ... coaching is now from somebody who in the morning is doing the exact same job you're doing and in the afternoon, is observing you and giving you feedback."

In the past, a district curriculum committee selected a program for districtwide use. All schools would have that material purchased for them

says Cordova, and the district ran the professional development sessions for teachers. Principals who wanted to use a different curriculum could do so only by applying for an innovation waiver dealing with curriculum.

Now principals can choose the best curriculum for their school and the DPS Academic Office will review curriculum selections to be sure they align with the Colorado Academic Standards. Principals may contract with providers for training, they may do it themselves, or they can opt into the district-provided trainings.

How did the teachers union respond to this board decision to decentralize? Taylor says he hasn't heard anything from them. "The union is really more interested, in my mind, on representing their teachers, and making sure their teachers have jobs. This opt in and opt out doesn't really have anything to do with a job function of teachers ... The union has never, since I've been on the board, brought up the issue of curriculum."

Following the decision, about 20%, many of which were innovation schools, opted for alternative curricula for the 2016 school year.



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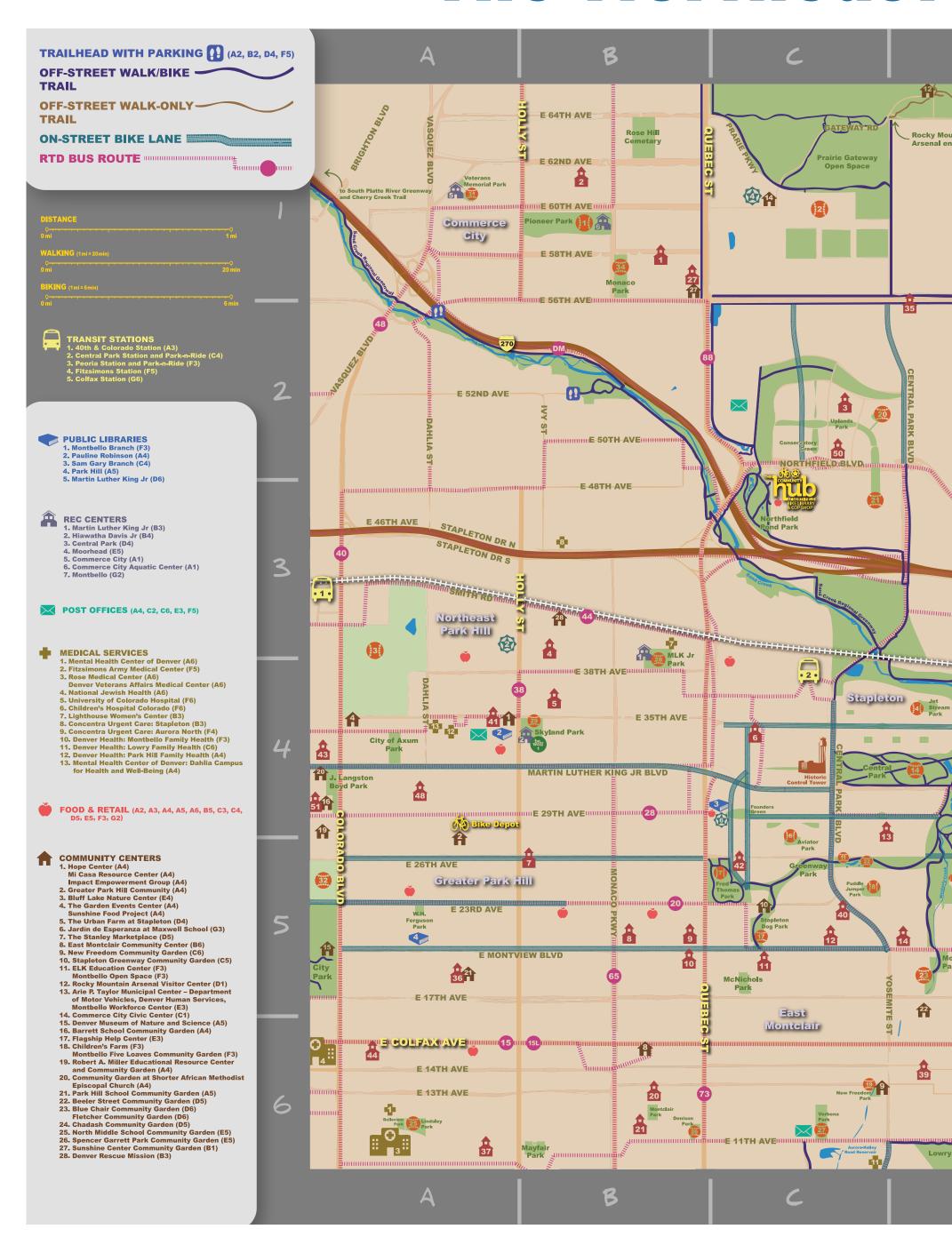
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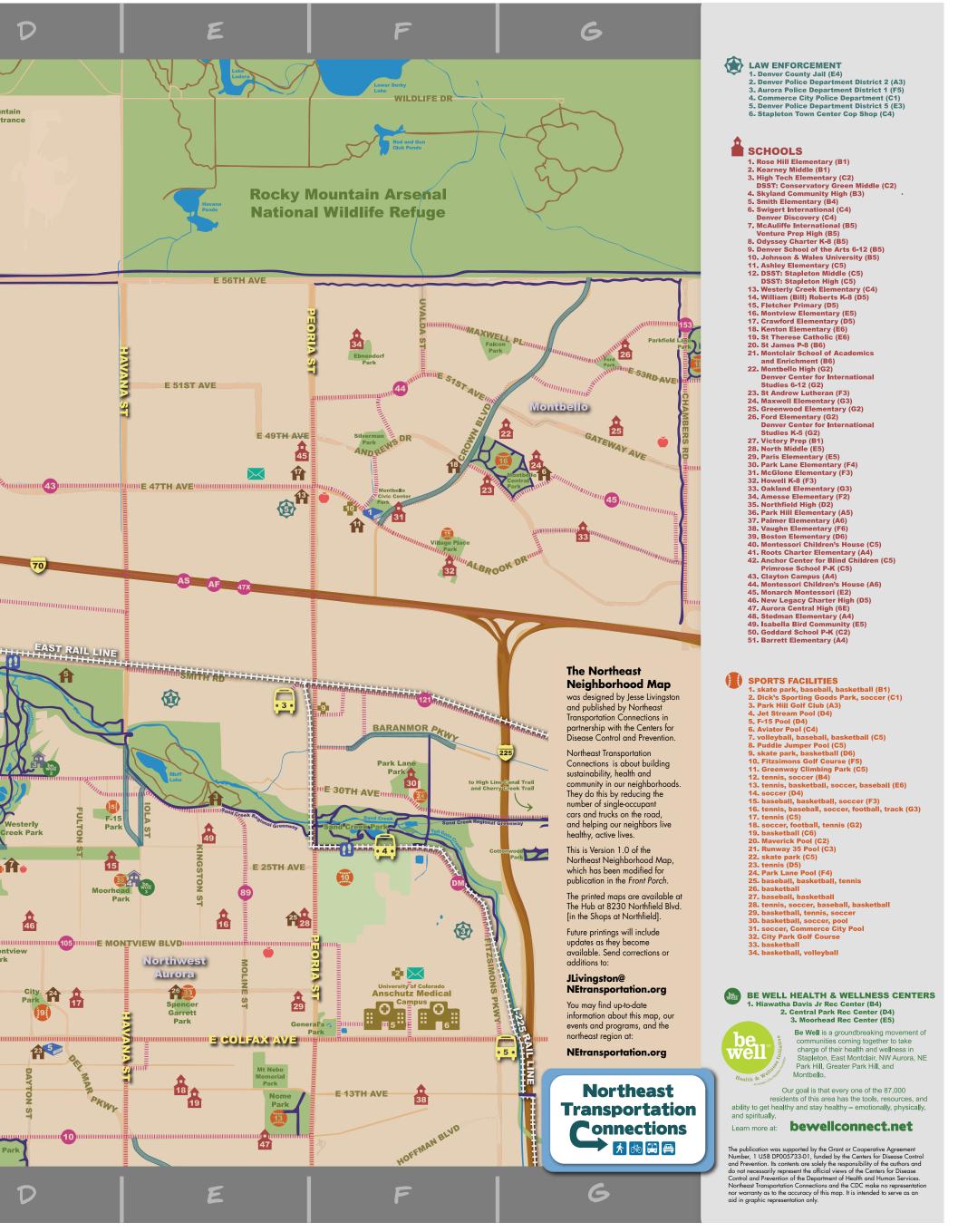
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The Northeast



Neighborhood





The Hub Migrates North

The Community Hub

Northeast Transportation Connections

8230 Northfield Blvd, in the Shops at Northfield

"Sit, relax, enjoy a cup of coffee, and

get to know your community."

at Northfield

• District 5 Cop Shop

Bike library

be well Initiative

By Madeline Schroeder

he Hub at Stapleton, a community resource center with information for visiting and living in Northeast Denver, outgrew its space several years ago. It's a small location tucked in the 29th Avenue Town Center, but serves the entire northeast Denver region.

Lt. Bob Wyckoff from District 5 remembers his first meeting at the location. "I sat down and the room was barely large enough for six adults," he says. Granted, Wyckoff is 6'6", but the space was inadequate regardless. "I told them then, you people do great work, but we need a bigger, better, more sophisticated venue for the services we

provide."

The Hub houses
Northeast Transportation Connections,
the Denver Police
Department District
5 Cop Shop, and a
bike library.

To better fit the work they do, The Hub is currently transitioning to a new location at 8230 Northfield

Blvd. and will don a new name, The Community Hub at Northfield, which opens July 1. The new 3,100-square-foot space will have free Wi-Fi and coffee. Visitors can sit and hang out at comfortable chairs or counters provided by Starbucks.

"We are very excited. It's going to afford us the opportunity to expand the programs we do in that we will be able to open this up for the community to utilize," says Angie Malpiede, who oversees Northeast Transportation Connections, which works to get people out of their cars and using alternative ways to get around

Also joining the new location is *be well* Health and Wellness Initiative, a group focused on healthy living. They will offer classes for kids and adults to learn about healthy shopping, finding doctors and clinics, and more. *be well* currently works out of the Stapleton Foundation offices in the 29th Ave. Town Center. All of the groups at the community center will work together to plan programs.

Wyckoff believes the partnership with the other groups will make the new cop shop *the* premier cop shop in Denver. They will offer crime prevention information and safety classes, burglary prevention seminars, and traffic safety classes. "We recognize that accessibility to the police and positive

interaction leads to trust and confidence in the police department. We want to establish that in Stapleton and Northfield."

The Community Hub at Northfield will be open 11am–7pm Wednesday through Sunday. Call 720.885.2356 to learn more. Wyckoff invites everyone to come "sit, relax, enjoy a cup of coffee, and get to know your community."

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Free Courses Connect the Public with Medicine

By Madeline Schroeder

person goes to the doctor and gets an earful of information but doesn't know the right questions to ask. A **1** Imother is caring for her son who is sick and wishes she knew whether to take him to the doctor. A curious patient wants to demystify what doctors do.

These are all times when more familiarity with medicine would be helpful. Known as Mini Med School, it is a free eightweek course offered by the University of Colorado Denver that shares medical expertise with anyone wanting to know more. CU was the first university in the country to offer a Mini Med School. Now more than 21,000 people have completed the program.



Each Mini Med School includes demonstrations, like last year's demonstration of giving birth using a manikin during a lecture by Gerald Zarlingo (at left).

Professors and doctors give onehour lectures on Wednesday evenings starting Sept. 2, followed by a question-and-answer session. Lectures are often interactive and include demonstrations. There are no assignments or tests.

"It helps people engage in their own health and learn more about their own health care, what

health care is like, and I think anyone can relate to the topics we're talking about," says Dennis Boyle, associate professor of medicine at CU and co-director of Mini Med School.

Professors touch on a variety of subjects that change every eight-week session. The upcoming session includes: the art of medicine; a day in the life of an ob/gyn; understanding your sleep; revealing genetics; caring for seriously ill and dying patients; a day in the life of a pediatrician; hypertension; and thyroid disorders.

The lectures are open to people of all ages and attract everyone from stay-at-home parents to lawyers to college students. The lecture holds up to 700 people and it streams online to people throughout Colorado.

Dennis Boyle is an associate professor of medicine and co-director of Mini Med School. He will give the opening lecture of the September 2015 program.

Professors hope the lectures help people advocate for their own health and also understand the medical profession, which is not always viewed kindly. "We have a section about the art of medicine and it goes on about how a doctor talks to you and how you talk to your doctors," Boyle says, noting that CU focuses on building transparency between doctors and patients.

At the end of the program, participants receive a certificate (not a medical degree). Registration is required for Mini Med School. There is currently still space in the first summer session, which began June 8, for those interested in only attending a few lectures. The next session begins in September and registration opens July 1. Visit medschool.ucdenver.edu/minimed, email som.minimed@ucdenver.edu or call 303.724.0348.



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The Latest at Stanley

By Carol Roberts

tanley Marketplace, in northwest Aurora, is nearing the end of the demolition J stage and projecting an early 2016 opening for 35 tenants, which will include five restaurants, a brewery, and two fitness operations. "We programmed it into different neighborhoods," explained Mark Shaker, one of the Stanley owners, at the May Stapleton Development Corporation meeting. The southeast area, by the main entrance, has a morning focus with a breakfast restaurant, an independent coffee shop and "daytime" retail along that corridor. A variety of noncompeting businesses were selected and, in keeping with the Stanley philosophy (the Stanifesto), owners are asked to find ways to collaborate and support each other. A health and beauty corridor will be located on the second floor, with nail and hair salons, waxing and massage businesses, a chiropractor and a dentist, said Shaker. In addition, there is 15,000 square feet of office space.

A daycare center in the northeast corner has its own entry and parking area in a cul-de-sac, totally separate from the bars and restaurants on the opposite side of the 100,000+-square-foot building. On the west side of the building is a 10,000-square-foot event space that will be managed by Kevin Taylor, who will also operate a German-style

The property includes a seven-acre park to the west, across Westerly Creek. "It's our intention to have it morph into the Westerly Creek plan so it will be easy to tie in from the north, south and west. About three or four acres will be sports fields that can be used by the community," said Shaker. Patio space and landscaped areas on both sides of the creek will be accessible for families to picnic. Shaker says Stanley is planning to have festivals there in September and October.

Working with the Aurora Historical Society, Stanley obtained landmark status based on keeping the color scheme, restoring the signs, keeping the hangar doors and not changing

Stanley Marketplace is in a designated

urban renewal area and Aurora City Council will be voting on tax increment financing for the project.

Stapleton Dental

Dr. Carrie Dougherty understands that sitting in a dental chair is not high on the list of her clients' favorite activities. "I try to make going to the dentist as much about visiting and catching up and watching their families grow as it is about 'now let's focus on your teeth." She says locating in a fun and pleasant atmosphere like Stanley Marketplace fits with her goal of making dentistry a pleasant experience.

Dougherty, who opened her current practice in 2007, says, "I am very interested in collaborating with other business owners in kind of unconventional

ways. A lot of that is to be determined once we're in there—but the idea behind this smart, vibrant mixed-use place incorporates a lot of different aspects of well-being." She believes meeting with neighbors is a part of health and wellness, as is going to the gym. She's interested in "making dentistry fit into this kind of joyful experience of being in a place where people come together."

Dougherty is looking forward to working with her architect on the design of her new space where she can grow her full-service family dentistry business—and says her staff of five is excited about the upcoming move. Contact: 303.399.1488303.399.1488 or www. stapletondental.com.



Karla Rehring and Nicole Landeck deliver flowers to one of Poppy and Pine's business customers, Mici.

Poppy and Pine

Four and a half years ago, Nicole Landeck started arranging and delivering flowers for friends "for fun" and to keep herself surrounded by what she loves. After learning about Stanley Marketplace (in a Front Porch article), she launched into an analysis of whether she could turn her passion into a viable business. She discovered she would need a business partner to make it all work—and joined forces with her good friend Karla Rehring. Together they are creating a full-service floral business, Poppy and Pine, that will have its unveiling in early 2016 at Stanley Marketplace.

"We'll have somewhat of a French market feel. We'll have small arrangements at price points from \$15 to \$45 where you can grab a bunch and we'll wrap it. We will also have tradition-

al floral, placing orders and having them delivered around metro Denver, including an e-commerce website. Seasonally we'll do live plants. This spring we did hanging plants and patio arrangements—customized based on colors and what direction the house faces." Landeck and Rehring will also "carefully curate" a selection of gift and home items for their store, based on feedback from people in the community who will be shopping there.

From the Hip Photo

Rather than a one-shot deal, From the Hip Photo believes in photographing events throughout their clients' lives. The company does a wide variety of photography projects, from headshots to weddings to babies, and extends its business throughout Colorado and beyond.

Danny de Zayas and his wife, Nina Barry, started From the Hip when they had the ah-ha moment that photography is the key to both their interests. They both have art degrees and wanted to collaborate professionally for a long time.

"It was a serendipitous organic beginning. We started in the wedding realm but when clients came back for the next event in their lives we grew. We call ourselves 'photographers for life," de Zayas says.

The couple, along with their three coworkers, has been operating out of their Stapleton home. Once they heard the initial murmurs about Stanley Marketplace, they jumped on the opportunity, considering they had outgrown their space years ago. They are thrilled to have secured a spot.

From the Hip has been photographing the demolition and build-out of Stanley Marketplace, and plans to do more collaboration with the fellow businesses. "We're so excited to be apart of that community and provide assistance," de Zayas says. They will also host photography workshops, curate film screenings and collaborate with other artists. Contact From the Hip Photo at fromthehipphoto.com or call Danny directly at 720-



Dr. Fuller is a Harvard trained triple board certified physician.



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New Kids' Play Center at Northfield

By Laurie Dunklee

hildren have a new place to bring their imaginations to life in a 3,000-square-foot play center called Eddie and Bella's Playhouse in Northfield. There is a life-size doll village, gaming room and Lego car racing.

Children bring their 18-inch doll, or borrow one from Eddie and Bella's, to play in the doll village, which includes a residential neighborhood, shopping area, disco, fashion show catwalk, horse stables and island resort. The game zone includes a gaming room equipped with multiple flat screens and gaming consoles with the latest Xbox and Wii games. Children can also create Lego cars and race them on a ramp.

"We have almost all of the American Girl doll accessories, including some they don't make anymore that I found on eBay," said Penny Villacres, a Stapleton resident and co-owner of Eddie and Bella's with her husband, Edward. The business opened June

Penny Villacres, owner of the new Eddie and Bella's Playhouse in Northfield, watches (L to R) Bella Villacres, Ella Masoudi, and Serene Meredith play in the doll village.

6 on Main Street in the Shops at Northfield near Charming Charlie.

"Our daughter, Bella, loves American Girl dolls and she gets this beautiful catalog of accessories every month, but they are expensive," said Villacres. "We realized that lots of kids have a passion for these dolls, so we got the idea it would be great to give them an

entire village

to play in. Parents won't have to invest in accessories, and it's an opportunity for the kids to come together."

Eddie and Bella's Playhouse, named after the couple's children Bella, 10, and Eddie, 12, welcomes children ages 5 and up. It's open Monday through Friday and Sunday for open play, and Saturday for doll-themed birthday parties. Children must be supervised by parents except for Saturday Kids Night Out, when parents can drop off the kids for pizza and playtime from 6 to 9pm.

Penny Villacres decided to start Eddie and Bella's Playhouse after her husband, Edward, retired from the military. "He had been

deployed overseas, so when he came home I decided to start this new business concept," she said. "As far as I know, there's nothing else like it, where children can come together to engage in creative, imaginative play."

She hired a carpenter to build six village nooks mounted to the walls. "The space is perfect to accommodate my vision of the village areas," said Villacres.

The Playhouse also has seating for parents. "We have a 70-inch television for Broncos viewing parties, so parents can watch the game while the kids play. We'll provide pizza and drinks."

The on-site store sells handmade dresses and doll accessories, including furniture and bedding. "I want to add stuff for video game enthusiasts as well," Villacres said.

Eddie and Bella are consultants on the project. "Bella suggested the dance floor and the catwalk for fashion shows. She sewed all the Hawaiian-themed bedspreads for the resort. Eddie is a video game expert on Xbox and Wii. He picked out the age-appropriate games. He helped with the build-out too."

Villacres said she intends for Eddie and Bella's Playhouse to be a service to the Northeast Denver community. "We'll be able to use the space in many ways to host families. It's a space for children to play that they wouldn't have at home. I'm hearing from parents that they like the availability of video game consoles at our place instead of at home, where they have to regulate them."

Eddie and Bella's Playhouse is at 8246 Northfield Blvd,

#1415. For more information, hours and prices, see eddieandbellasplayhouse.com or call 303.815.0577.



Eddie Villacres plays a video game in the playhouse's

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MoJaBlu ¶he joint was jump-

ing on July 30 at Conservatory Green in North Stapleton. Motown, jazz and blues (Mo-JaBlu) is a weekly jazz series in Stapleton on Thursday evenings through July 30. The June 18 concert featuring the Ron Ivory Do Wop Show is pictured here.

The free and open to the public concerts starting at 6:30pm are held in Conservatory Green at 49th Place and Valentia St., just north of Macy's in Northfield.

See the page 2 calendar for summer events at Founders Green in the 29th Ave. Town Center.







Namesake for the band, Ron Ivory, had a contagious soulful energy the crowd couldn't resist.









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History Colorado Center's

Greatest Toys of the '50s, '60s & '70s

The boom of the U.S. toy industry can be tracked back to when soldiers returned home from World War II. The number of babies born drastically increased and homes became more focused on children, hence the emergence of toys. Children will marvel at the difference from today's toys, the older crowd will reminisce viewing icons of their past, and all will enjoy the often quirky story behind each toy. The toy exhibit was developed by the Minnesota History Center.

Greatest toys of the '50s, '60s and '70s will be on display through September 2. Visit History Colorado Center at 1200 Broadway, or call 303.447.8679.



ta created one of the most popular toy trucks in history, the Tonka Truck. At the time, the U.S. was booming—highways, skyscrapers, malls, suburbias. Tonka was a symbol of growth.



generations may remember this toy that has had a Íong lifespan. Lincoln Logs came to life when John Lloyd Wright visited Tokyo in 1916 with his father, architect Frank Lloyd Wright. John became inspired by the construction of his father's Imperial Hotel, which was built by stacking beams into place. Upon returning home, John used the concept to invent Lincoln Logs.

Even the younger

In 1953, Art Clokey, who studied film at the University of Southern California, created a three-minute film that featured moving and expanding lumps of clay set to the soundtrack of Disney's Fantasia. He named the movie Gambasia after the muddy clay at his grandparent's farm he called "gumbo." The film led to the famous Gumby, shown here outside of History Colorado Center.



when Herb Schaper created the Game of Cootie, played with a brightly colored plastic bug. Schaper wittled the first Cootie bug out of a wooden fishing lure. The bug reflected the lice-infested trenches World War I soldiers faced during the war. Surprisingly, kids loved the game and Dayton's

At the exhibit, kids can explore the different toys and play with hula-hoops in the '70s-style garage 'play zone.'

There's nothing like summer in Stapleton! Important sun/water safety tips at stapletonpeds.com Have fun and be safe!







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department store sold more than 5,000 games.

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Laura Boyer, MD (left), Katie Rustici, MD (center), Robin Fennimore, MD (right)



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LOCAL EVENT LISTINGS

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

SEASONAL/HOLIDAY EVENTS

7/2 Thursday—Old Fashioned July 4th Cele**bration.** 5-10pm. A modern take on an old-fashioned celebration! 715 S. Forest St. 720.865.0800. www.fourmilepark.org

7/3 Friday—Independence Day Eve Celebration in Civic Center Park. 8pm. FREE community concert with patriotic favorites by Colorado Symphony. Lightshow and fireworks show. Denver Civic Center Park. www.civiccenterconservancy.org

7/4 Saturday—2014 Freedom Run 5K. 8am. Race day registration opens 6:45am. Evergreen Middle School, Evergreen. www.mtevans.org

7/4 Saturday—4th Annual Park Hill 4th of July Parade. 1-3pm. Park Hill, 23rd Ave. from Dexter to Kearney. www.parkhillparade.org

7/4 Saturday—Aurora 4th of July Spectacular. www.auroragov.org

7/4 Saturday—Colorado Rapids vs. Vancouver.

Fireworks after game. Family fun zone 5pm; game 7:30pm www.coloradorapids.com

7/4 Saturday—Denver Outlaws vs. Boston Canons. 7pm. Sports Authority Field. Fireworks after game. www.denveroutlaws.com

7/4 Saturday—Elitch Gardens. Fireworks at dusk.

7/4 Saturday—Evergreen 4th of July Celebration. Evergreen Music Festival, art show, free kids' activities. 10am-7:30pm. Tickets \$10; 12 and under free. Evergreen Lakehouse. www.evergreenmusicfestival.org

7/4 Saturday—Liberty 4 Mile and Firecracker Kids Run. 8:30am. Washington Park. www.hallucinationsports.com

7/4 Saturday—Olde Town Arvada Spirit of America 4th of July Festival. Free family events. Fireworks at dusk. www.arvada.org

DENVER METRO EVENTS

Through 7/26—Cirque du Soleil Cirque Kurios. Pepsi Center www.cirquedusoleil.com

Through 7/29—Shady Grove Concert Series. At Four Mile Historic Park, 4-10pm. www.swallowhillmusic.org, www.fourmilepark.org

Through 8/8—Colorado Shakespeare Festival. University of Colorado Boulder, www.coloradoshakes.org

7/3 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Santa Fe Arts District, Tennyson Art Walk, River North (RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Museum, Navajo Street Art District. www.denver.org/ things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-dis-

7/3 to 7/5—Cherry Creek Arts Festival. www. cherryarts.org

July 9—Greater Stapleton

Business Association and

Lowry Joint Happy Hour

The Greater Stapleton Business

Association (GSBA), a network-

ing group, holds monthly happy

hours. The July happy hour from

5:30-8pm on Thursday, July

9 will also include the Lowry

business association. From the

weddings, events, etc. based out

of Stapleton, will take job-ready

coffee and Stapleton Roasters

head shots. Brew HaHa will serve

will have a keg of a special beer

brew. Appetizers, beer and wine

attend. For more information visit

will be provided. People do not

need to be GSBA members to

stapletonbusiness.com > event

calendar.

Hip Photo, photographers for

7/10 Friday—Mozart Under Moonlight. Presented by Colorado Symphony. www.arvadacenter.org

7/10 Friday—Summer **Concerts at Clyfford Still** Museum. Presented by Swallow Hill Music with Na'an Stop. 5:30pm. Free. www. clyffordstillmuseum.org

7/10 to 7/12—Colorado **Black Arts Festival.** City Park West. www. colbaf.org

7/10 to 7/12—Colorado Irish Festival. Largest Irish Celebration in Rocky Mountains. Traditional Irish music,

dancing, drama, storytelling, games, food/ drink. Littleton, Clement Park. www.coloradoirishfestival.org

7/11 Saturday—Cat Fest at Denver Dumb Friends League. 10am-3pm. Dumb Friends League, 2080 S. Quebec. 303.751.5772. www.

> 7/11 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. Free with admission. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-2pm. www.wingsmuseum.

7/11 Saturday—Drums Along the Rockies. 7pm. Sports Authority Field at Mile High. Tickets: www.bknights.org

7/13 Monday—Monday Movie Madness at Infinity Park. Free movies at Infinity Park in Glendale. 7/13: The Princess Bride, 7/27: How to Train Your Dragon. 8pm. www.infinityparkatglendale.com

7/18 Saturday—Loosen Your Stays: Tea and Conversation with Margaret Brown.

Molly Brown House. \$26.

(continued on pg. 30)

Stapleton's Real Estate Resource RE/MAX PREMIER MARKET PRESENCE RE/MAX **Denver County, Colorado** January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014 No one sells more 16.10% real estate than **RE/MAX!** 7.02% 6.76% 5.34% 5.09% Keller Williams **Metro Brokers** Note: This bar combines the "sold" listings of all office locations and independent offices of each multi-office or franchise organization identified, which listings were sold by such organization itself, or with the aid of a cooperating broker, according to data maintained by the Local Board or Multiple Listing Service for the geographic area indicated. The bar graph compares all those listings that were "sold" by each organization during the period January 1, 2014—December 31, 2014. This representation is based in whole or in part on data supplied by the Metro Denver Association of Realtors. Neither the Association nor its MLS guarantees or is in any way responsible for its accuracy. Data maintained by the Association may not reflect all real estate activity in a market. © 2012 RE/MAX, LLC. Each RE/MAX office is independently 303-321-0455 www.MomentumRealtyColorado.com 7505 E 35th Ave. Ste 360, Denver 80238







(continued from p. 29)

Sittings: 11:15am and 2:15pm. jwilms@mollybrown.org or 303.832.4092x17. www.mollybrown.org

7/18 to 7/19—Denver Dragon Boat Festival. 14th annual. At Denver's Sloan's Lake Park. www.cdbf.org

7/18 to 7/19—Evergreen Summerfest. www.evergreenarts.org

7/18 to 7/19—Pearl Street Arts Festival. Downtown Boulder, Pearl St. Mall. www.boulderdowntown.com

7/22 to 7/26—Buffalo Bill Days. Wild West show, car show, mutton bustin', arts/crafts. Parfet Park, downtown Golden. www. buffalobilldays.com

7/23 to 7/26—Arapahoe County Fair. Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, Aurora. www.arapahoecountyfair.com

7/23 to 7/26—Denver Post Underground Music Showcase. S. Broadway. 230-300 bands play in over 30 venues. www.theums.

7/24 to 7/26—Evergreen Jazz Festival. www.evergreenjazz.org

7/31 Friday—Film On the Rocks- Pretty Woman. 7 pm. Red Rocks Amphitheatre. Live music and movie on select Tuesdays all summer. Tickets from \$12. Schedule: www.redrocksonline.

7/31 to 8/2—Denver County Fair. National Western Complex. www. denvercountyfair.org

8/1 Saturday—Denver Beer Olympics. Civic Center Park. www. denverbeerolympics.com

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Through 9/30—Denver Bike Night. Wednesdays through Sept. 24. Evening bike rides through downtown Denver. 7pm. Various start points. www.denvercruis-

7/18 Saturday—Moonlight Classic. Charity bike ride thru Denver at night. Family wave 10:30 pm. www. moonlight-classic.com

7/26 Sunday—4th Annual Dash for Smiles Walk/Run. Stapleton Central Park. www.dashforsmiles.org

7/26 Sunday—Yoga Rocks the Park. Sunken Gardens Park, 1099 Speer Blvd. 9am. Fee info: www.yogarocksthepark.com

HISTORY COLORADO CENTER

6/13 to 10/4—Toys of the '50's,'60s and '70s. Free with museum admission. See special events for this exhibit: www.

7/1 Wednesday—Preschool Story Time. 9:30-10am. For kids 2-5 and their caretakers. Free with admission. www. Silver Cornet Band. Free with admission. 11:30am-2pm. www. historycolorado.org

7/9 Thursday—Comingle: Colorado Is Playful. 6-9pm. History Colorado Museum Adults Night Out series 2nd Thurs. of month.

July 11—Consignment Crawl

From 12-6pm on Saturday, July 11,

thirty-four resalers throughout Denver will

open their doors for the 2015 Consign-

Resale Day. Plum Consignment at 2373

Central Park will participate. For more

information visit consignment colorado.

com/colorado-consignment-events/

ment Crawl to celebrate International

\$10. Food, activities and cash bar. www.historycolorado.org

KIDS AND FAMILIES

Through 8/2—Colorado Renaissance Festival. Weekends, Larkspur. www.coloradorenaissance.com

Through 8/8—Denver Public Library Summer of Reading. Free activities, summer reading suggestions, incentives for

Denver kids, divided into 3 age groups. www.summerofread-

7/4 Saturday—Home Depot Kids Workshop. 9am-12pm. FREE how-to clinics first Sat. monthly, ages 5-12. Get Home Depot apron, wooden project and project pin. Metro-area Home Depot stores. www.homedepot.com

7/6 to 7/10—Vacation Bible School. Augustana Lutheran Church. \$35/student, \$60/household. 5000 E. Alameda Ave. www. augustanadenver.org

7/7 to 7/28—Tuesdays in July and August–Four Mile Historic Park Small Settlers. Ages 2-5 accompanied by parent/caregiver. 9-10am. \$5/child, adults free. Members free. 715 S. Forest St. Advance register: 720.865.0814 or education@fourmilepark. org. www.fourmilepark.org

7/11 to 7/25—Lowe's Build and Grow Kids Clinics. Bring kids to Lowe's stores to build FREE wood project: Monthly, 2nd and 4th Saturdays. Free apron, goggles, project-themed patch, merit certificate on completion. 10am. www.lowesbuildandgrow.com

7/12 Sunday—Junior Rangers- Reptiles and Amphibians. 1:30-3:30pm. Ages 6-12. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd., Aurora. Reservations required. 303.739.9428, www. auroragov.org/nature

7/17 Friday—Nature at Night- Raccoons. 8:15-9:15pm. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd., Aurora. 303.739.9428 www.auroragov.org/nature

7/18 Saturday—The Music of Harry Potter. Presented by Colorado Symphony. www.coloradosymphony.org

7/24 Friday—Denver Botanic Gardens Family Fun Night. 4th Fri. monthly explore nature at night in Mordecai Children's Garden. Monthly themes, snacks by campfire, other fun activities. www.botanicgardens.org

7/24 to 8/14—Passport to Dance-Session 2. Colorado Ballet at Montclair Recreation Center. 4-week sessions of ballet, creative movement, hip-hop, West African dance, etc. Level 1: Grades K-3, Ages 4-8; Level II: Grades 4-6, Ages 9-12; \$24 for 4 classes. Register: Samantha Hyde at 303.339.1619 or samantha.hyde@coloradoballet.org. Fridays 4-5pm. http:// coloradoballet.org/education/passport-to-dance

7/25 to 7/26—Rocky Mountain Train Show. Forney Transportation Museum. 80+ tables of trains, all scales and gauges. 4303 Brighton Blvd. www.forneymuseum.org

7/26 Sunday—Family Day at the Symphony: Inspired by Nature. Colorado Symphony at Boettcher Concert Hall, kids activities and more. 2pm. www.coloradosymphony.org

/26 Sunday—Wings Over the Rockies Kids Day. Aerospace-themed activities. Learn to fly a radio-controlled airplane, launch own rocket, sit in some of our planes, launch yourself skyward on a bungee trampoline, etc. www.wingsmuseum.org

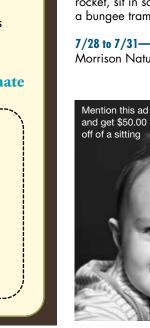
7/28 to 7/31—Star K Nature Camp. 9am-12pm day camp at Morrison Nature Center. \$50/child. Registration required.

> photographer katy tartakoff

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303-520-9587



July 18—Beer Festival

From 4-8pm on Saturday, July 18, the annual beer festival will take place at Founders Green (29th and Roslyn). The festival includes craft beer and food trucks, with varying ticket prices for more access to tastings and beer accessories. At 5pm, there will be a free concert open to the public. Tickets are available online and can be purchased at stapletoncommunity.com.

historycolorado.org

historycolorado.org

7/4 Saturday—Patriotic Sounds of Highline





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30 July 2015 Stapleton Front Porch www.auroragov.org/nature

Music Lingua Musical Spanish Lessons. Ages newborn-6. Learn Spanish with your child at a private Stapleton residence. Ongoing Saturday classes. Samantha Cox, samanthabensoncox@hotmail.com or Musiclingua.com.

LECTURES AND CLASSES

7/7 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)- Turkey. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. 303.316.6359. www.ActiveMinds.com

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

7/14 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)- Vietnam. 12:30-1:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727. www. ActiveMinds.com

7/22 Wednesday—Active Minds (Free)- Cuba: Past, Present and Future. 6:30-7:30pm. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview. www. ActiveMinds.com

7/23 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)- The Civil War: Causes and Effects. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325. www.ActiveMinds.

3/20 to 9/7—Mythic Creatures: Dragons, Unicorns and Mermaids.

5/25 to 9/7—FREE Admission for Military Families. Free general

admission for active military and up to 5 members of their

6/5 to 8/13—IMAX Movies. Humpback Whales 3D, Prehistoric Planet: Walking with Dinosaurs 3D, Hubble 3D, Tiny

6/5 to 8/13—Planetarium. Dream to Discovery. www.dmns.

7/8 to 8/5—Sci-Fi Film Series. Wednesdays, 7pm. Film sched-

7/16 Thursday—Science Lounge. Cocktails/entertainment 3rd Thurs. monthly. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/nonmem-

6/5 to 7/3—Clyfford Still Museum. SCFD Free day. Free ad-

7/7 Tuesday—Children's Museum Free Target Tuesday. 4-8pm.

7/11 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day. SCFD Free day.

7/21 Tuesday—Denver Botanic Gardens Free Day. SCFD Free day.

Museum closed 7/4; Free first Saturday postponed till 7/11. Repeats 8/1. www.denverartmuseum.org

mission every Friday 5-8pm. Free admission last Friday of every month all day. 1250 Bannock St www.clyffordstillmu-

7/28 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)- O' Canada. 5-6pm. Tattered Cover,
2526 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727.
www.ActiveMinds.com

8/1 Saturday—Active Minds (Free)- The Civil Rights Act. 1-2pm. Pauline Robinson Library, 5575 E. 33rd Ave.

MUSEUMS—DENVER MUSEUM OF

Exhibit free with admission. www.dmns.org

Giants 3D. www.dmns.org/imax/current-films

NATURE & SCIENCE

family. www.dmns.org

bers. www.dmns.org

www.cmdenver.org

www.botanicgardens.org

MUSEUMS—FREE DAYS

org/planetarium/current-show

ule: www.dmns.org/scififlmseries

July 28—Chipotle Homegrown Soccer Game

On Tuesday, July 28 at Dick's Sporting Goods Park, Major League Soccer will have its Homegrown Festival. The Homegrown players support the continuation and advancement of the sport. To purchase tickets visit chipotlehomegrown.com.

7/26 Sunday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.dmns.org

NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS

Through 8/1—The Art of Paul Sullivan. Art Gym, 1460 Leyden St. Thurs. and Fri. 12-6pm, Saturday 12-4pm. www.artgymdenver.com

7/9 to 8/29—Metropolitan Choral Festival. Non-audition chorus rehearses/performs major classical choral and orchestral works each summer with professional soloists and orchestra. This year J.S. Bach's Magnificat and R. Vaughan Williams' Dona Nobis Pacem. Rehearsals begin Thurs., July 9; performance Sat., 8/29 at 7:30pm. Rehearsals/performance at Park Hill United Methodist Church, 5209 Montview Blvd. www.metropolitanchoralfestival.org

7/23 Thursday—Bluff Lake Fireside Chat- Edible Bugs. 6:30-8pm. All ages welcome. \$1 suggested donation. Bluff Lake Nature Center, 3400 Havana Way. keith@blufflake.org. www. blufflakenaturecenter.org.

7/25 Saturday—100 Kids That Cook. Competition for ages 7-17. 11am-3 pm. New Hope Baptist Church Family Life Center, 3701 Colorado Blvd. Sign up your child and general admission tickets: www.eventbrite.com/100kidsthatcook.

\$20/adults, \$10/kids 7-18; \$5 for 4-7; kids under 4 free. All proceeds to benefit Watch Care Academy. 303.322.1791. www.100kidsthatcook. com, www.eventbrite. com/100kidsthatcook

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

7/3 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Heaven Knows That. www.harkinstheatres.com

7/10 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Amy; The Gallows; Minions; Self/Less; The Tribe. www.harkinstheatres.com

7/17 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Ant-Man; Batkid Begins; Mr. Holmes; Trainwreck. www.harkinstheatres.com

7/24 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Irrational Man;

Paper Towns; Pixels; Southpaw; Tangerine. www.harkinstheatres.com

7/31 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. A Lego Brickumentary; Impossible- Rogue Nation. www.harkinstheatres.com

8/1 Saturday- Horsefeathers Classic Car Show. www.northfieldstaple-

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

7/11 Saturday—Wildlife Viewing Tours. 9:30-11:30 (repeats Sun. 7/12 and Sat. 7/25). Naturalist-led bus tour through refuge to view bald eagles, bison, coyotes, deer, raptors, wildflowers in bloom and more. RSVP required. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

7/18 Saturday—Kids Fishing Clinic. Bring a pole and join anglers from Environmental Learning for Kids' Youth Urban Ranger Program to gain skills. Poles available for loan. Kids 6 and up. RSVP required. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

7/23 Thursday—Nature Tots-Let's Bee Friends! Explore what it's like to be a bee. Toddlers 3-5. RSVP required. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

7/25 Saturday—Steam Splashers. Get wet and search for mayflies, stoneflies, water striders and other critters in Refuge ponds with nets, magnifying glasses and bug jars. Wear closed-toe shoes. Kids 6 and up. RSVP required. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

THFATRE

6/3 to 7/5—Wicked. Buell Theater www.denvercenter.org

6/26 to 8/16—The Spitfire Grill. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

7/7 to 7/23—Revenge of the Space Pandas. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave., Aurora. www.aurorafoxartscenter.

7/16 to 8/9—Cabaret. Presented by Phamaly Theatre Company. Space Theater, Denver Center for Performing Arts. Sensory-friendly performance 8/6. www.phamaly.org

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Seventh grader Peter Fronczak (right) and 5th grader Cole Younoszai examine the first clue before heading out on the scavenger hunt. Participants got a card stamped at each stop to show they followed all the clues, and upon bringing back completed cards, they were eligible for prizes.



Kera Terwilliger (background), with 3-year-old Morgan in the buggy, waits as her husband Keith gets checked in at the stop near the 26th Ave. bridge. Stamping their card are McAuliffe 8th graders Alexis Mitzner (foreground) and Laine Draper.



At the Westerly Creek Elementary stop, Emma Atuire, a sophomore at Hastings College in Nebraska and Sandra Johnson, an 8th grader at McAuliffe check in Delaney Burke as her mom watches. Ella Kohler, right, waits to check in. Ella and Delaney are 5th graders at Westerly Creek.

By Carol Roberts

'n 1995, Denver City Council approved the Stapleton Development Plan (the Green Book) as part of Denver's Comprehensive Plan. The scavenger hunt on June 13 celebrated 20 years since the plan was adopted. The clues led participants to neighborhood sites and gave them an understanding of how those sites relate to the goals that guided the development.

A guiding principle for homes at Stapleton stated, "Facilitate the development of affordable housing as well as attraction or middle and upper income families to the northeast area." Following the clues took participants past "a broad mix of housing types, densities and price ranges," including homes and apartments in Denver's affordable homes program.

The Central Park Rec Center and Westerly Creek Park were among the destinations that

illustrate the plan's directive to "Insure that appropriate recreation facilities are provided on an equitable basis to meet community needs." An additional guiding principle for parks also called for the use of "natural features and the pre-existing environment as a basis for the design of the park system."

Other clues took participants to destinations that relate to quality neighborhood schools and the use of a



At The Eye on the Horizon (after Monet) along 29th Ave., Noorjahan Moloo (left), a 10th grader at DSST and Mackenzie Kilk, an 8th grader at Bill Roberts, check in 5th grader Maya Boley.

village concept in neighborhoods.

Fifth grader Maya Boley, who rode with her family, called it, "A lot of fun." Jeff Corley, pulling his 4- and 1-year olds in a buggy, and Keith Terwilliger, riding with his wife and 3-year-old, both commented that they liked seeing things they didn't notice from their cars.

The scavenger hunt was sponsored by the Stapleton Foundation. The clues can be downloaded at StapletonDenver.com/scavenger-hunt.

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Swigert's *Music Man* a Hit

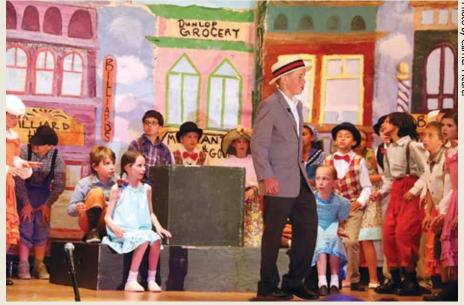
By Madeline Schroeder

ighty students in grades three–five at Swigert Elementary worked all year on *The Music Man*, which they performed two nights at the end of the school year. "I love the kids' enthusiasm and the pride they feel in themselves achieved from months of being part of a working ensemble," says director Jennifer Carabetta.

The production is part of the school's Exploration Program, Friday afternoon sessions led by parents on a variety of fun subjects for kids to participate in. Last year the students performed *Annie*, which was Carabetta's first time directing at the elementary level.

The Music Man is a musical about a con man, Harold Hill, who visits an Iowa town and poses as a band organizer. He plans to leave town without giving a single music lesson, but things do not go according to plan. It's a story about falling in love, community and of course, music.

Carabetta says the play is very difficult musically. "The rhythm and timing have to be perfect.



Eighty kids participated in Swigert's *Music Man*, featuring fifth-grader Elliot Guinness as the con man Harold Hill.

We had 10 mics going through the show, with 18 kids switching mics backstage, costume changes, so many scene changes and prop cues—there is so much to remember as an actor in this show."

Gabriella Meurer, a Stapleton resident who just finished fifth grade at Swigert, played a piccolo lady, a silly obnoxious woman who is always in other people's business. She practiced all week for tryouts. Her brother, Graham, who just finished third grade, had no intention to try out, but randomly showed up. He got a part as a band member.

By the end, the children's cast spent more than 40 hours rehearsing. "I went to all the rehearsals and did whatever I could to help—ran music, kept people focused, and then during the show a

RECOGNITIONS

few parents and I were backstage," says Carrie Meurer, Gabriella and Graham's mom.

The three agreed the first night had a few bumps, but the second went exceptionally well. "I think Elliot [the Music Man] did really good. I don't think he made one mistake, *at all*," Gabriella says.

Carrie almost forgot these were 8- to 10-year-olds. "They knew all their lines and remembered all their choreography. Plus, Jen was incredibly patient working with so many kids with so many different personalities."

Gabriella and Graham are on opposite ends of the spectrum regarding theatre performance. Gabriella was also a part of *Annie* last year and has attended theatre camps at DSA, with intentions to perform in more theatre productions next year at her new school, Denver Discovery. Graham, not so much. "It's way too hard. I'd rather play football," he says. Still, he is happy he participated and plans to continue taking music lessons at Neighborhood Music Stapleton.

"Being on stage isn't for everyone," Carabetta says. "My goal with doing the musicals at Swigert is to instill a life-long love of theatre in these kids, even if it's just as an audience member."

Fifth-Grader Has the "Write" Touch

By Madeline Schroeder

ikolas Mehan, a fifth-grader at Stanley British Primary, recently participated in an international handwriting contest and won first place in the male fifth-grade category.

"My style is different than other people's. The slant is different and it's really neat," Mehan says.

He started learning cursive in third grade at Stanley and continues to practice every day. He writes his homework in cursive, even



Nikolas Mehan practices cursive with the Pelikan pen he received for winning first-place in an international handwriting competition.

though it is not required because he wants to keep up his form. He sits with his back 90 degrees from the chair, meticulously holds the pen the way he's taught, and carefully writes each letter. His handwriting is even better than his mom's, he says.

A cursive competition is unheard of; cursive is beginning to fade in school curriculums across the country. Why practice cursive in an age driven by technology? Many classrooms are turning their focus to keyboards.

According to the Campaign for Cursive, which organizes the annual cursive competition and

I think cursive is cool, because I can write faster. Writing fast is important when you take notes and show you write a letter and do

receives submissions from around the world, the human brain connects more memory, creativity, and original thought processing through the written hand than using the keyboard or another electronic device.

"Kids should learn it because it helps with fine motor skills and it helps kids write stories and it's neater and more people appreciate it, and it helps the brain," Mehan says. Much like neat handwriting cleans up a page of his homework, it also cleans up his thoughts and gets him focused.

In honor of his first-place, Mehan received a blue (his favorite color) Pelikan pen and a smaller pen that erases. The ink is smooth and doesn't scratch the paper, he says. To learn more about the competition, visit campaignforcursive.com.





Acquiring Stapleton's Northernmost Land Has Been Complicated

The farthest north part of Stapleton, north of 56th, has faced uncertainties in its construction schedule due to the huge mounds of recycled asphalt and concrete pulled from the old airport and stored there. The market for these recycled products didn't pan out as expected and the company was unable to meet its obligation to clear the piles as scheduled—but a plan is in place and the material is gradually being removed.

However, another complication is now being addressed. The one square mile of land north of 56th and adjoining the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (referred to as Section 10) was deeded to the Stapleton airport in 1969 by the U.S. Government with the understanding that it would be used for airport purposes. The terms of the land transfer specified that if the

land was
not used by
the airport,
it would
revert back
to the U.S
Army. The
position of
the U.S.
Fish and
Wildlife
Service and
the U.S.
Army is that



the U.S. Recycled materials from Stapleton's runways are gradually Army is that being removed from the area north of 56th Ave.

not all the 640 acres in Section 10 that were deeded in 1969 were put to airport use. DIA disagrees with that. The FAA has jurisdiction over the property and will make the final determination.

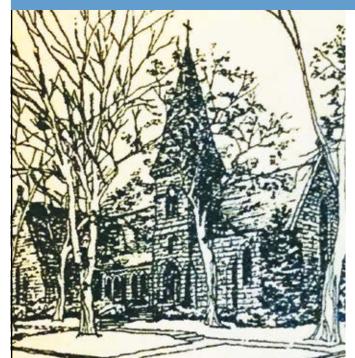
All property south of 56th and the center portion of Section 10 has been cleared by FAA for future acquisition and development, but two parcels are still being reviewed: a small parcel in the northwest

quadrant and east from where the railroad tracks were to Havana St.

Over a year ago Forest City submitted a General Development Plan (GDP) for Section 10. That process took months and included modifications based on feedback from the community and Rocky Mountain Arsenal. Forest City then addressed comments and modifications requested by the City. Finally, a public meeting and public comment period allowed a last opportunity for community feedback before the plan was approved. The GDP establishes the broad plan for major types of land use: drainage, parks, street grid and residential and commercial development.

Despite complications, Tom Gleason of Forest City says they expect to begin infrastructure development in Section 10 later this year.

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Top ten reasons to be an Episcopalian

— from the late comedian Robin Williams

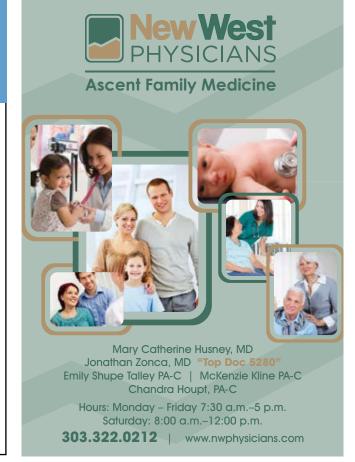
10. No snake handling.

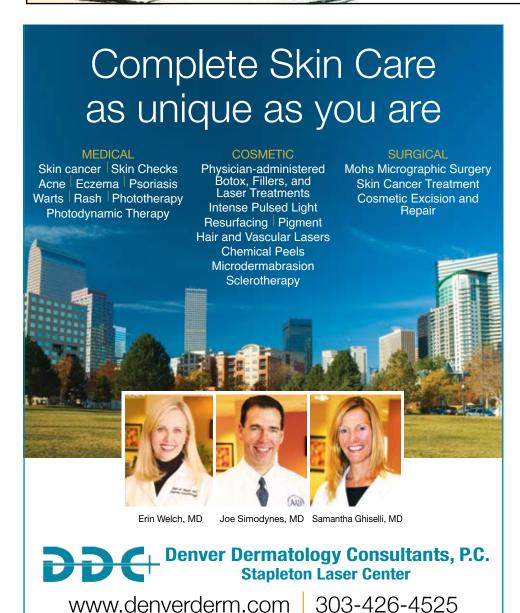
- 9. You can believe in Dinosaurs.
- 8. Male and female, God created them ...
- ... male and female, we ordain them.
- 7. You don't have to check your brains at the door.
- 6. (Aug)
- 5. (Sept)
- 4. (0ct)
- 3. (Nov)
- 2. (Dec) 1. (Jan)

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Articles by Carol Roberts

Stapleton 2013-15 **Residential Construction**



The first resident moved to Stapleton in mid-2002. By March 2004, 800 residences were occupied. Nine years later, on March 30, 2013, that number was 5,627; and by March 30, 2015 it was 7,168. At full buildout, Stapleton is expected to have 4,000 rental and 8,000 for sale. Data pulled from reports compiled by Forest City.

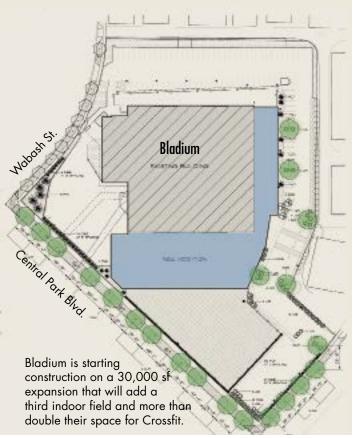
Bladium Expansion Underway

After years of planning, construction is starting on the Bladium's \$3 million expansion project to add a third indoor field and a dedicated CrossFit area. General Manager April Albertson says the 30,000 square foot addition will bring the total space to 83,000sf.

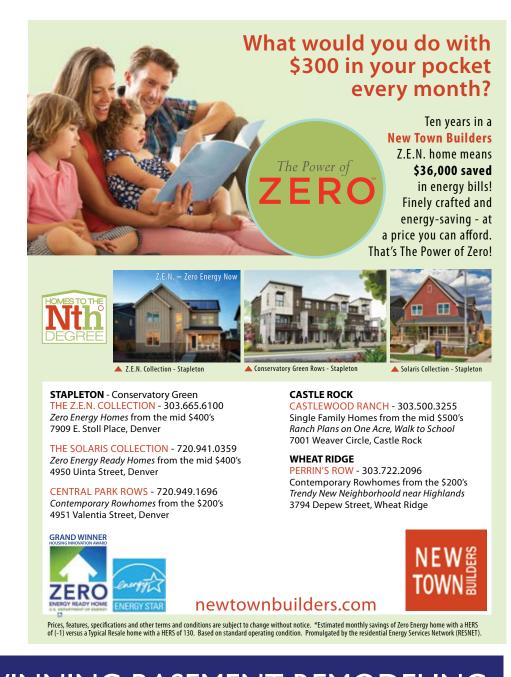
Albertson said their CrossFit program is currently filling their basketball court. The addition will double or triple their space for CrossFit and make the basketball court available again. The new Crossfit space on the east side will open to the north, where a new exterior athletic surface will accommodate outdoor CrossFit classes, as well as space for children's birthday parties.

The addition of a third indoor field will expand Bladium's field space by fifty percent. "We have adult leagues going on year round from 6pm til midnight, almost every night," says Albertson, adding that the third field will enable them to offer more youth leagues and expand the Lil' Kickers and Soccer Academy programs. Most of those classes are now full.

Bladium expects to continue their programming during construction, with the work being done from the outside in. Albertson says they hope to open the new facilities about the first of the year.









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

12th Annual Stapleton Kickball Tournament — August 8

By Erin Jones, Stapleton United Neighbors Board of Directors, Kickball Event Chairperson

he 12th Annual Stapleton Kickball Tournament, presented by SUN and the MCA, is scheduled for Sat., August 8 to occur during Mayor Hancock's Denver Days (August 1-9). The one-day tournament will be held on the east fields of Stapleton's Central Park, between 10am and 2pm. Players of all abilities are encouraged to sign up for this family-friendly community event.

Interested participants can sign up a team at www. stapletonunitedneighbors.com/SUNKickball. Participant age minimum is 16 and teams can have up to 20 people. On the field at any time each team needs at least four males and four females and 9 to 14 players. The tournament will have space for 20 teams. Registration for each team is \$125. Because SUN is a 501(c)(3), the registration fee is a tax-deductible donation.

This year all proceeds of the tournament will be used to support a local charity. Previous recipients have been the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at nearby University Hospital through the March of Dimes, Stapleton schools, and Station 26 firehouse. If you are part of a local charity or know of one that would like to be the recipient of the tournament funds, email stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com.

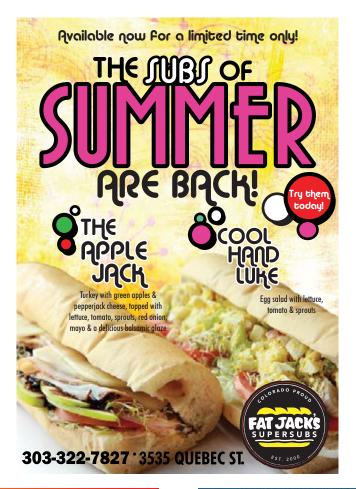
If you are interested in joining the MCA in sponsoring SUN's event, visit www.stapletonunitedneighbors. com/SUNKickball for additional information on the various sponsorship levels.

Spectators are encouraged to attend to cheer on the players, dance to the DJ, and meet neighbors from across the community.

The annual kickball tournament, one of the oldest traditions in the young Stapleton community, originated as an initiative of the Stapleton Foundation to encourage community-level physical activity. Participating in the

tournament remains a great way for Stapleton residents to get some exercise while enjoying the company of their neighbors and friends.

Denver Days, now in its third year, is a citywide tradition to help neighbors get to know each other and get involved with their communities. For more about Denver Days: www.denvergov.org/mayor/MayorsOffice/ProgramsInitiatives/DenverDays/tabid/444458/Default.aspx.



New SUN Board and Committees

After the May 2015 annual SUN election, the new board reassigned committee roles and elected officers for the next year. The executive board for 2015-2016 is:

Mark Mehringer, President

Damon Knop, Vice President

Amanda Allshouse, Secretary

Bryan Penny, Treasurer

The SUN Board also reconfirmed the following committees for the next year:

Transportation, Outreach/Block Captains, Safety/Neighborhood Watch, Education, Sustainability, Business Recruitment, and Kickball Tournament Organizing. Each committee helps fulfill SUN's threefold mission to provide a forum for our residents; to maintain a communication network between ourselves, our neighboring Denver residents, and the city of Denver; and to act on issues of importance to the community as a whole.

All Stapleton residents are welcome to participate in any of SUN's various committees. If you are interested in learning more about SUN or its committees, please contact us with questions at stapletonunitedneighbor@gmail.com.

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Letter to the Editor

New Roof Rip-off

We moved into our brand-new house in Central Park west not quite two years ago. In the last year my husband and I have noticed an astonishing number of new roofs going up in our neighborhood. We, of course, have had roof salesmen showing up at our house after the slightest storm offering to "inspect" our two-year-old roof. We politely decline and if they persist we not so politely slam the door. So when we noticed all of the "sales" these roofers where making off of our neighbors, we just shook our heads. How could these roofs, constructed only a few years ago, have so much damage? Of course they don't and insurance companies and homeowners are being ripped off along with our nearly new roofs!

We figured it wasn't really our problem until we got our home owners policy renewal last week and our premiums have increased by nearly 20% which is, at least in part, due to "increasing claims of storm damage" in our area. Now, it's personal. This is not to mention the environmental impact of tearing off and replacing a roof unnecessarily.

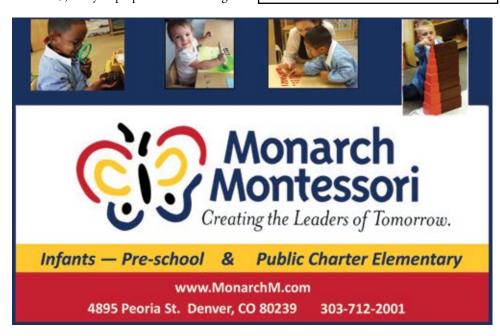
The scam works like this 1) someone knocks on your door offering to inspect your roof 2) they find hail damage 3) they offer to work with your insurance company to make the claim so you don't have to do anything 4) they may offer to pay your deductible... free roof! 5) They slap up a new roof using

cheap labor and make a fortune off of your insurance company. What goes on behind the scenes is that these people handling the claims process for you will make a case for the damage, some disreputable companies will even create damage with hammers that mimic hail damage, even "microscopic damage" can be claimed. The cost to insurance companies of fighting these claims is not worth it and so they will pay (http://www.claimsjournal.com/news/national/2014/05/02/248354.htm). But alas, somebody will have to bear the burden of the cost to the insurance company and guess who that is? All of us!

We have not had exceptionally bad hail storms in the last couple of years and I believe our homes were built with solid roofs. Will our neighbors be convinced to replace their roofs every few years? It's not that I blame my neighbors, I'm sure they believed they needed new roofs. I just thought we should get the word out. The Better Business Bureau (BBB) in Denver/Boulder closed 100 complaints against roofers in 2013. The BBB has tips on their website to help consumers avoid these scams (http://www.bbb.org/denver/news-events/news-releases/2014/05/bbb-warns-pof-untrustworthy-roofers-after-hail-storms/).

—Erica Murdock

Send Letters to the Editor to frontporch@frontporchstapleton.com.



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Teamwork Rules

Firefighting, Shopping and Cooking



Jose Reyes (left) and John Clasen chop vegetables and strawberries for the pasta salad.

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

hen the heat is on, the crew of eight firefighters from Station 26 has to work cohesively, drawing on their individual strengths to bring about as positive an end result as possible. That's true for when they are dealing with a fire, an auto accident, or a big batch of pork green chile.

The men and women of Station 26 on MLK Blvd. are a familiar sight around Stapleton. Not only are they seen at emergencies but they are seen daily in the grocery store, buying the ingredients for that day's lunch and dinner for the crews that work a 24-hour shift, starting at 7:30am.

Four firefighters are assigned to each of the station's two rigs: the engine, which has the primary function of getting water to the fire, and the truck, which has the ladder, for victim search and rescue and ventilation. Melissa Taylor, public information officer for the Denver Fire Department, says Stapleton is fortunate to have both rigs. Some firehouses have one or the other.

The two teams of firefighters alternate who has kitchen duty. Because they can be called to an emergency at any time, the firefighters have to go to the store together, with their rig, so they can leave at a moment's notice to make their 4-minute response time goal. If they have items in their cart, a store staffer will put it in the cooler so they can continue shopping when they get back.

If they get called out while cooking or eating (or showering,

using the bathroom, exercising or sleeping), they also have to drop everything and go. If the other crew isn't needed on the call, that group may take over meal preparation. But if they both go out, pots have been forgotten on the stove and more than one pot has had to be thrown away over the years.

Every morning, each of the eight firefighters puts \$10 on the counter to pay for the day's meals. Referred to as the "League," that's a budget of \$5 per person, per meal for the day. Sometimes,

as a perk, a higher-ranking firefighter might throw in some extra money so that the crew has something special like steak. Some people, mistakenly thinking the firefighters' meals are funded by the city, have asked in the store what their tax dollars are buying for dinner that night.

Mindful of their tight budget, the firefighters shop the sales and sometimes change their meal plan once they get to the store. One person generally decides the menu that day and he or she runs the show in the kitchen. At some stations, one or two people do most of the cooking, but at Station 26 they all take turns. The large kitchen has two refrigerators, a six-burner stove and large center island—and the crew that has kitchen duty chops, cooks and serves.

In true firehouse tradition, the cooks give each other grief about what's being prepared. Firefighter Tonya Kesterson says, "If you chop it one way, they'll say you should have chopped it that way. It's all brotherly and sisterly jiving." That extends to what's on the menu too. "We give them grief, no matter how good it is," says firefighter John Clasen. "Sometimes we'll say 'Oh, that dish again' or 'What's the number for Dominos?" Complaining can backfire. For instance, it is not advisable to say "I hate onions." Instead, say, "I prefer not to have onions" or else there will likely be French onion soup and other onion-centric dishes for days.

On the day the *Front Porch* visited, Clasen was the lead cook, making a lunch of pasta salad with pepperoni, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers and cheese, served with potato chips and strawberries with yogurt. The firefighters knew they were going to be training all morning and deliberately picked an easy meal to prepare. Ac-

commodations are made for firefighters with special dietary needs. Lt. John Padilla, who does a lot of the cooking at Station 26, says they'll try to leave certain things off or serve them on the side.

"A typical recipe isn't feeding eight people and *eight firefighters at that*, so that's something we have to alter in our menus," explains Padilla. Clasen reverently points to a slightly stained, well-used firefighters cookbook. "These are recipes from people who have been here and gone," he says. "But they stumbled across something that

Lt. John Padilla, left, cooks the pasta and John Clasen, right, mixes the pasta salad.





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ON-DUTY 24/7



The cooking crew drives their truck to the grocery store and shops together in their uniforms.



In the midst of selecting produce, Captain Brian Norton's phone rings, abruptly ending their grocery shopping.



Norton signals an employee to take their grocery cart and the crew runs to meet their goal of being in the truck within four minutes of receiving the call.

was good and put it in the book. Every firehouse should have that cookbook."

Taylor explains that many firehouses, including Station 26, have the tradition of making a big batch of scratch-made green chile on Saturday night for burritos or rellenos with the intention of having extra for the next day's shift to enjoy in huevos rancheros for Sunday brunch. Sunday dinner is always pasta, usually lasagna, manicotti or spaghetti with meat sauce—but never, ever from a jar.

The firefighters at Station 26 have fun bantering about their favorite dishes:

Padilla: What's your favorite meal to make? Trujillo: My teriyaki chicken.

Padilla: That's the one! That was outstanding. Which one of my dishes do you like best?

Trujillo: Joe's Ribs or your rellenos.

Padilla: How about the "footballs," the calzones?

Trujillo and others pipe in: Oh man, those are good. How about buffalo chicken sandwiches? Those were good. What was that pizza with shrimp and sauerkraut?

Padilla: That was an experiment. That won't make the books.

Sometimes no one wants to take the lead cooking. That's when they bring out their Shut-The-Box dice game. The loser has to cook.

When the meal is ready to serve, five rings of the firehouse bell signal "mealtime." That day's head cook eats first, sitting at the table that accommodates all eight firefighters. They pass dishes back and forth, talking and laughing. Table manners



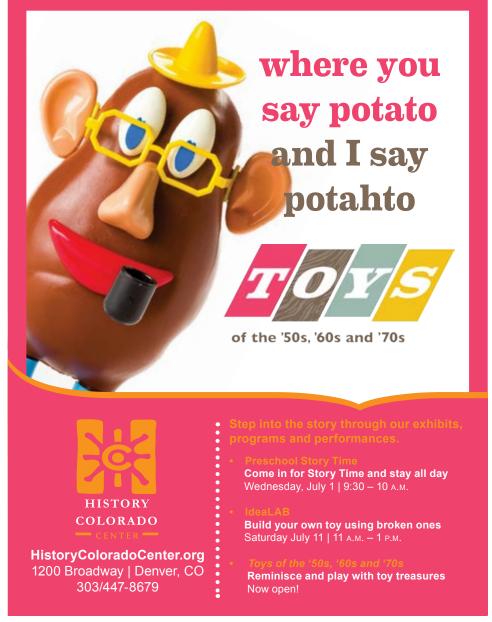
aren't an issue. "There are enough people to police those who get out of line," says Padilla. "So I don't think there has been a food fight in a long time. It's fun but nobody wants to clean it up."

Left: The crew of eight from Station 26 sit down to enjoy their meal.

Below: A historic photo hanging in the firehouse shows chow time in 1921, which looks remarkably similar to today's chow time.









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