

Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

NOVEMBER 2015

Arsenal New Home to Endangered Ferrets



A black-footed ferret peeks out of a prairie dog hole at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge after being released into the wild.

By Madeline Schroeder

In early October, the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge reintroduced a species that was once thought to be extinct: the black-footed ferret. The animal's release into the wild is a symbol of a stunning conservation success story.

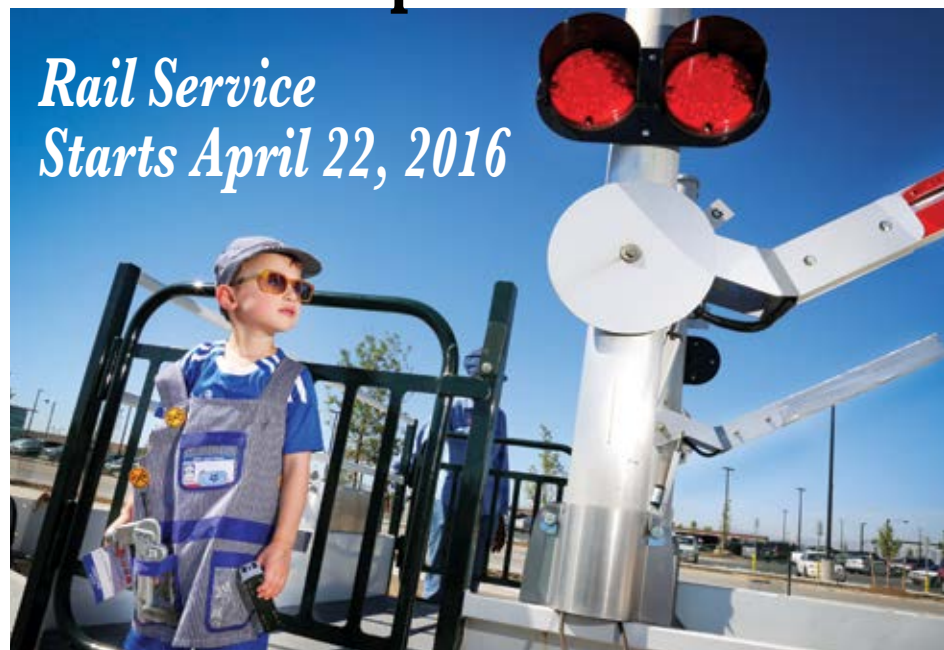
"This place [the refuge] shows that nature will recover and will thrive if it's given the chance. It also embodies hope of insurmountable odds," said Dan Walsh, director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, at the ferret release on October 5.

The black-footed ferret is an unusual critter. It is a part of the weasel family and the only ferret native to North America, according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. It has short legs and a long tan body (about 18 inches) with an adorable face that looks like it's wearing a black mask.

The ferret is native to prairie grasslands with its main food source the prairie dog.

Unlike prairie dogs that are stout and slow, ferrets' long, slender bodies make them agile. They also have strong jaws and long teeth meant for eating meat. A male ferret eats 100 prairie dogs a year and a female 150. Due to widespread prairie dog eradication programs, the ferrets' food source was massively cut down. Also, urban growth into grasslands destroyed their habitats. Both of these factors left the ferrets near extinction. In fact, the species was (continued on page 38)

Park-n-Ride Opens at Central Park



Rail Service Starts April 22, 2016

"Train fanatic," Cole Diedrich, 4, from Stapleton, waits at RTD's crossing gate simulator at a Sept. 26 event celebrating the opening of the new Central Park Park-n-Ride. RTD uses the simulator to educate children and others about waiting for the lights to stop flashing and the gate to raise fully before crossing the tracks. Read our tips for using the new park-n-ride on page 8.

Northfield Principal Tropper Resigns



Former principal Avi Tropper gives students a tour shortly before the start of school.

By Carol Roberts

Denver's newest high school, Northfield High School (NHS), has been in the news recently regarding a disciplinary incident and the subsequent resignation of the principal. The limited amount of information available on those subjects will be described later in this article. But the big-picture story is the vision (continued on page 5)

Submit your information for the Front Porch Guide to Churches in NE Denver

See page 2 for details.

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

Anti-bullying Protest 4

Effective Sex Ed 9

DSA Performs Like Pros 12

Navigating Sand Creek 20

Stapleton Update 34

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



The Denver Zoo celebrated the birth of a new zebra, Bosley. The newborn is now walking and can be visited at the zoo.

Photo courtesy of the Denver Zoo.



Most of the events listed below are FREE or support nonprofits. Additional events are listed on pages 31-33.)

NOVEMBER

Thursday, November 5

5th Annual Stapleton Education Expo. 6:15-9pm. Presentation from Denver Public School at 6:30pm, meet-and-greet open session 7-9pm. DSST: Conservatory Green, 8499 E. Stoll Place.

Sat., Nov. 7- Tues., Dec. 12

More than 20 Denver School of the Arts performances. 71111 Montview Blvd. <http://dsa.dpsk12.org/> See article on page 12.

Saturday, November 7

PuppyUp Denver Walk. Central Park. 10am-2pm. www.puppyupdenver.kintera.org

Saturday, November 7

Free estate planning at The Bistro at Stapleton, 2955 Ulster. Hosted by Oliver Cypers PLLC. Light breakfast and mimosas included. RSVP at admin@olivercypers.com or 720.295.6250.

Saturday, November 7

Denver Parks & Rec holiday craft show. 9am-3pm. Central Park Rec Center* denvergov.org/recreation

Saturday, November 7

Wildlife viewing tours. Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge* 9:30-11am. 2-hour bus tour. RSVP required. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

Tuesday, November 10

2015 DPS Great Schools Expo. Sports Authority Field at Mile High, 1701 Bryant. Teachers, prin-

Submit Info for the Guide to Churches in NE Denver

The *Front Porch* will run a directory of churches in January. To be in the printed directory please submit info by December 15: the church's name, denomination, 25 words describing the culture of the congregation/services, and contact information, including address, phone number or e-mail to front-porchevents@gmail.com.

NOVEMBER

cipals present about schools and explain choice system. www.dpsk12.org/expo/

Thursday, November 12

Active Minds—Sand Creek Massacre. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library* 720.865.0325

Thursday, November 12

Bill Roberts Middle School Open House. 6:30pm. 2100 Akron Way. Register at <http://billroberts.dpsk12.org/parents/take-a-tour/>

Saturday, November 14

Wild About Ferrets exhibit. Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge* 11:30am. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

Tuesday, November 17

Safety forum for SUN meeting. 6:30-7:30pm. Central Park Rec Center* See page 36.

Friday, November 20

Winter Welcome. 6-8pm. 29th Avenue Town Center. S'mores, dancing trees, carolers. <http://www.stapletoncommunity.com/>

Saturday, November 21

Denver Parks & Rec holiday craft show. 9am-3pm. Central Park Rec Center* denvergov.org/recreation

Thursday, November 26

Harvesting Hope inaugural 5K run/walk. 10:15am at Central Park* Proceeds benefit Prader-Willi Syndrome. <http://www.harvesting-hope5k.com/>

Sun., Nov. 22- Thurs., Dec. 3

Holiday art show. Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia. 303.355.1651.

* More information at Events@stapletoncommunity.com
Founders Green: E. 29th Ave. and Roslyn St.
Conservatory Green: Valencia & 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.
F15 pool: 2831 Hanover St.
Jet Stream pool: 3574 Alton St.
Runway 35 pool: 8863 E. 47th Ave.
Maverick pool: 8822 Beekman Pl.

Events & Announcements at Stapleton



Saturday Night Live...For Kids Only!

The Stapleton MCA and Central Park Recreation Center are partnering to host a night of fun for children ages 7-12 from 6-9pm on Saturday, Nov. 14 at the Central Park Rec Center. Join us for a night of fun with games, dinner, snacks and more! Registration is available online at www.stapletoncommunity.com.

Winter Welcome

Friday, Nov. 20, 6-8pm
Join the MCA at the West Crescent to kick off the holiday season! The MCA will host a night of festive traditions including the lighting of the trees and streets of the 29th Ave. Town Center. Holiday lights will be strung across 29th Ave. and we will have a Christmas tree on the West Crescent and a menorah on the East Crescent. Participating Town Center retail shops will be open and many will feature holiday specials. The streets will be lined with booths that will include a roasted almond vendor, fire pits complete with s'more makings, hot chocolate and much more. All event proceeds will benefit local nonprofits.

Active Minds Seminar

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

Thursday, Nov. 12, 6:45-7:45pm

Sand Creek Massacre

This November marks the 151st anniversary of the Sand Creek Massacre, a tragic event in which a 700-man force of the Colorado Territory militia attacked and destroyed a peaceful village of Native Americans in southeastern Colorado Territory, killing many innocent people.

Thursday, Nov. 19, 6:45-7:45pm

Thanksgiving

As we prepare for the Thanksgiving

holiday, join Active Minds for a program on the history and origins of the holiday and its associated traditions. We will have some fun as we undress the turkey, unpack the stuffing and peel back the mystery of the potatoes. We guarantee to satisfy your curiosity ... but not your appetite.

Santa's Best Christmas Trees

Visit your local tree lot for your 2015 Christmas tree! Santa's Best Christmas Trees will be located at each of the Greens starting the Friday after Thanksgiving. The Greens are located at 29th Avenue and Roslyn Street, and 49th Place and Valencia Street.

The Denver Police Department Reminds You to Keep Yourself Safe

The Denver Police Department would like to offer some helpful tips on keeping yourself safe. When walking, plan your walk in advance and choose a well-traveled route. Use discretion when talking or walking with unknown persons, even if they are offering you help. When you are at your home or apartment, close your garage door and secure your bicycle. Use a quality U-shaped lock to secure your frame to a bicycle rack. When away from your vehicle, roll up windows and lock your doors. Keep your valuables out of plain view and never leave anything visible!

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

Diane Deeter
Community Director
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Get the latest on

Master Community Association

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NOV. 8TH
10AM
HIGH TECH
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A NEW AND EXCITING CHURCH IN STAPLETON

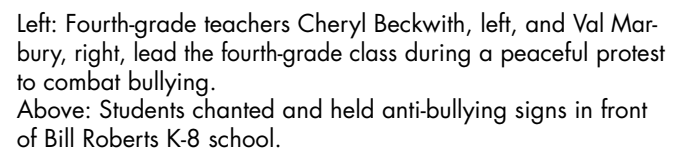
GOCHURCH.TODAY

YOUR LIFE, YOUR POTENTIAL, AND YOUR NEXT STEP IN KNOWING GOD IS WHY WE ARE LAUNCHING A NEW, EXCITING CHURCH IN STAPLETON. WHETHER YOU HAVE FOLLOWED GOD FOR YEARS, OR ARE ASKING QUESTIONS FOR THE FIRST TIME, THIS KIND OF JOURNEY HAPPENS BEST TOGETHER. WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU AT OUR FIRST WORSHIP EXPERIENCE NOV. 8TH! LET'S TAKE THE NEXT STEP TOGETHER.

- Nick & Becky Callaway



Oddball, endearing and quirky answers to life's questions. This month featuring the efforts against bullying.



Mean, angry, injures (continued on page 6)

Visit FrontPorchStapleton.com: Comment on or share current articles, search for past articles, find local businesses and community resources, post and find events, and find advertising info and rates.

Real Estate (continued)	Kim Davis @ Re/Max of Cherry Creek Inc	21
	Kim Kouba - Perry & Co	37
	New Perspective Real Estate, LLC	38
	RE/MAX Momentum Stapleton	35
	The Kearns Team, RE/MAX Alliance	33
	Tolan Real Estate	26
	Veritage Properties	24
	Wolfe & Epperson Real Estate	17
Rental	The Grove at Stapleton	26
Research Studies	IMAGE Research Group - University of Colorado School of Medicine	10
	IMAGE Research Group - Women's Health Research	27
Restaurants	Delectable Egg	26
	It's Brothers Bar & Grill	9
	Zen Asian Sushi Bar & Grill	22
Retail	Shops at Northfield Stapleton	40
Schools	DSST Public Schools	10
	International School of Denver	28
	Stanley British Primary School	8
Solar Energy	E Squared Solar	25
Sports	Cheyenne Fencing Society	20
Transportation	RTD	5
Window Coverings	Budget Blinds	34
	Rocky Mountain Shutters	27
Window Washing	Better View Window Cleaning	22
Service Directory & Classifieds	Service Directory & Classifieds	37

Stapleton Front Porch

Northfield High School

(continued from page 1) for the school, the conflict it generated in the community before it ever opened, and how the school is doing today.

The *Front Porch* attended many of the community meetings and talked to many people before the high school opened. We are presenting that information as background for understanding what's happening today. What it's like in the school today is presented primarily as direct quotes from teachers and parents. The resignation of a principal creates uncertainty in a school. Numerous people stated they didn't want their name used or spoke with the understanding that the article would present their statements in the context they were shared. With that in mind, this article will clearly note whether explanations or conclusions are from the *Front Porch* or from a person interviewed.

A conflict waiting to happen?

It's safe to say no new school (or existing school) has been without conflict. But it is also safe to say there were some competing goals from the start that set up this new school for many of the conflicts that have occurred.

Front Porch observation: The Stapleton community wanted a "comprehensive" school like Denver's East High School. DPS wanted the newest school in the district to be diverse and to not have the achievement gap problem that currently exists in Denver's comprehensive high schools.

Stapleton parents have participated in the development of new schools since the first families moved here in 2003. They have taken surveys on what type of school and curriculum will be developed and worked successfully with new principals to reach those goals.

As the child population at Stapleton aged, the community started having meetings about a new high school. At those meetings a strong desire was expressed to have a single large comprehensive high school, similar to East. When the plans showed individual buildings that could house smaller academy-style schools on the campus, the community reiterated their desire for a large comprehensive high school. The plans got redesigned to join two buildings to accommodate about 1,000 students.

In community meetings, Stapleton residents said a building for 1,000 wouldn't be big enough—they thought almost everyone would attend the new high school. After a March 2014 community meeting, DPS Board member Happy Haynes, an East High School alumna, told the

Front Porch "... there will be a guaranteed seat for every student at Stapleton who wants to be in this high school. I fully support that, and I support the idea of a comprehensive high school at the Northfield location, and further, I am, and I believe the other board members are as well, absolutely committed to that school being a diverse school ... That's a commitment the district has made."

Front Porch observation: Haynes was using the term "comprehensive" to refer to a school that would offer a broad range of classes and opportunities to students. To the community, the term comprehensive meant "like East."

DPS' intention to have multiple schools on the campus was reaffirmed in a statement from Will Jones, DPS director of media relations, after the September 2015 dedication of the Paul Sandoval Campus. DPS chose to have a campus name as well as a high school name because they "anticipate an additional school will be built on the Paul Sandoval Campus at some point and want to ensure each school is appropriately represented."

Former principal Avi Tropper says when DPS looked for a principal, they communicated that a high priority was to have an innovative plan for a diverse high school that ideally would not have an achievement gap. Tropper stated:

"Over the past year the team worked very hard to develop an innovative high school that would address the significant proficiency and opportunity gaps among Denver Public Schools students. The vision for Northfield High School has been to build a school that provides a superb education, grounded in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program, for a diverse community of all students. Our emphasis on diversity was based on understanding that we live in a diverse world with great value in learning from and with a diverse group. Significant outreach across communities in Northeast Denver and detracked, inclusive classes ensured that this vision become a reality."

Starting in June 2014, and up through DPS choice in January, Tropper held community meetings and met with students to share this vision.

Rumblings in the community

In March 2015, the outcome of school choice

showed that 93 students in the Stapleton boundary (just under 50%) chose Northfield (not the numbers the community expected); 315 students from far northeast chose Northfield. As the 2014-15 school year came to an end and families focused more closely on the details of the new program, the *Front Porch* began hearing concerns that the program and the principal were not meeting their expectations or their needs. The program was not the traditional comprehensive high school they asked for and expected. Some of the concerns parents expressed in June about



Northfield High School

the NHS program were: the math placement test; the lack of a traditional guidance counselor position; the lack of a traditional athletic director position and the need for a schedule that better fits with the athletic

programming at other schools; and that student council had less say about the dress code than they had expected.

In June, several parents told the Front Porch they and others had asked about such issues and Tropper was unwilling to compromise. The message they heard was that NHS may not be for everyone, and if it's not the right fit, they could use the Round 2 Choice process.

As it has turned out, parents and students have been very happy with the "advisory program." And the scheduling of all PE classes at the same time mid-day has given teachers time for planning, collaboration and professional development that history teacher Peter Wright says is "unique" and "huge, enormous" in its impact on the quality of teaching. (More later on "advisories" and why teachers say they're happy with their jobs at NHS.)

Front Porch observation: Tropper designed the program that DPS had asked for—one that would ensure all students in a diverse school would succeed. Traditional comprehensive high schools in Denver have not achieved that goal. Tropper believed the compromises parents were asking for would interfere with that goal. By June some parents in the community were saying he was uncompromising and unsympathetic to their concerns and they started transferring to other schools. (And some felt it didn't help that he's not very "Colorado"; he's blunt and talks fast like a true New Yorker.)

Parent and teacher feedback after two months of school

The final composition of the first class indeed created a diverse school—approximately 200 ninth-graders that are approximately one-third white, one-third Latino, and one-third black. "We have 40 schools with varying degrees of structure and academic success that feed into us," says history teacher Peter Wright. "Everyone and everything is new—there are no (upperclassmen) role models."

"Two months progress has been enormous. The biggest thing we're seeing is students are starting to take responsibility for each other. We're having to correct student behavior less and less. If a student is talking in class, other students might respectfully ask the student to be quiet ... I go through many days without any disciplinary issues ..."

Advisor Jamie Doak says, "I see students able to express themselves and respect others when they're speaking and able to handle conflicting opinions with respect and maturity. I definitely see that this model has benefitted our student interactions from the beginning of the year until now."

Literature teacher Katie Langlois talks about working with her fellow teachers at NHS. "For me one of the things that really stands out is this spirit and culture of collegiality, professionalism and growth as an educator. I'm really growing as an educator in a way that's safe and nurturing. I think it makes us teachers more comfortable to be ourselves with our teaching style and how we present lessons. We're not worried or scared that we're going to be reprimanded or chastised for being creative. And so we *are* creative ... It's more a culture of inquiry than of criticism."

In an attempt to get a broad impression of feelings about the school from parents, the *Front Porch* posted a brief (admittedly unscientific) survey in the Stapleton "NextDoor.com" chat room and on a Facebook page for NHS parents. Surprisingly, given that people in online chat rooms often express strong and conflicting opinions, there was 100 percent agreement among all 12 respondents on four out of 11 yes/no questions. Responses were received between Oct. 19 and 21.

- All said their child had never indicated feeling physically unsafe.
- All said their child had never been bullied. (Eight said their child had never witnessed bullying.)
- All said the teachers are approachable and helpful regarding (continued on page 13)



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Anti-bullying stomp

(continued on page 6) somebody, makes somebody feel bad: these are some of the phrases they use to describe a bully. “And maybe they have been bullied too and get angry and can’t control themselves,” Laila Blew says.

A couple of the students have stories of being bullied, including being punched on the school bus, where the bus driver is typically busy thinking about driving and can’t watch the kids.

“My brother and sister have also been bullied on the Internet because people say on their pictures ‘That’s not funny’ or ‘That’s not cool. Stop being on the Internet,’” Gakhi Clayton says.

Cyberbullying is particularly easy because there is little risk of being caught, they explain. “Cyberbullies are behind a computer screen, possibly wrapped up in a warm blanket, drinking hot cocoa. It doesn’t seem like bullying,” Gonzalez-Cruz says.

Some of the students give less obvious examples of bullying, like a person not taking good care of an animal, stealing someone’s work online, or firing an employee for no reason and with no explanation. “There can be super old bullies. It’s not just kids,” Spencer Caplan says. Sometimes bullies wear leather jackets and a lot of black like *Grease*, Lillian Moyer describes. Other times bullies



Fourth-graders left to right Laila Blew, Joey Thomas, Spencer Caplan, Lillian Moyer, Gakhi Clayton, and Isa Gonzalez-Cruz discuss how to stop bullying.

cannot be picked out from a crowd. Sometimes people can also be mistaken for bullies if they don’t have friends. “It’s possible for someone to be really nice and have no friends and sometimes if you’re picked on a lot, no one wants to be your friend,” Gonzalez-Cruz says. There is one student in their class who sits alone at lunch and a couple of the students have made an effort to include him.

Standing up to bullies can be intimidating, and thankfully the students report they don’t see much bullying at Bill Roberts. “If there is somebody getting bullied, I ask them to stop. They usually stop, but sometimes they don’t and if they don’t, I get a teacher or get someone to solve the problem,” Joey Thomas says. They do warn not to attempt confronting a gang of bullies, though, because that is

dangerous. After the protest, the students hung their signs throughout the school to remind everyone there is zero tolerance for bullying. The school has also installed RAKtivists stations around the school, which promote Random Acts of Kindness. A student can write an inspirational note and leave it at the station for a student who is having a bad day.

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Thursday Dec. 3 3:00 PM-7:00 PM
Friday Dec. 4 10:00 AM-7:00 PM
Saturday Dec. 5 9:00 AM-6:00 PM
Sunday Dec. 6 11:00 AM-3:00 PM
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November 2015

6

Stapleton Front Porch

ANNOUNCING SEASON 2016

Questions? Call Our Box Office @ 303.856.7830
or send an email to vintagetheatreproductions@gmail.com

Fri and Sat 7:30 pm Curtain
Sun 2:30 pm Curtain

(2) The Normal Heart
Jan 15 - Feb 21
Directed by Paul Jaquith

(1) One Man, Two Guvnors
Feb 5 - Mar 27
Directed by Linda Suttle
In Collaboration w/Spotlight Theatre Company

(2) Rabbit Hole
Mar 11 - Apr 17
Directed by Bernie Cardell

(1) Sunset Boulevard
Apr 29 - July 3
Directed by Craig A Bond & Evgueni Miodik

(2) Intimate Apparel
June 3 - July 10
Directed by Seth Rossman

(1) Ghost the Musical
July 22 - Aug 28
Directed by Clay White

(2) Frankie & Johnny in the Claire de Lune
July 29 - Sep 4
Directed by Pam Clifton

(2) Stella and Lou
Sep 16 - Oct 2
Directed by Lorraine Scott

(1) "A Family Musical" TBA
Sep 16 - Oct 30
Directed by Deb Flomberg

(2) The Oldest Boy
Oct 14 - Nov 13
Directed by Wendy Moore
In Collaboration w/TEA - Theatre E'sprit Asia

(1) Big, the Musical
Nov 25 - Jan 15, 2017
Directed by Bernie Cardell

(2) The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
Dec 2 - Dec 23
Directed by Rachel Bouchard



'Night, Mother
2015 Henry Award Winner:
Outstanding Production!
Emma Messenger/Haley Johnson



Spitfire Grill
Megan Van De Hey

Jan			Feb		
Fri	Sat	Sun	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	5	6	7
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May			June		
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Dec			Jan		
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9	10	11			
16	17	18			
23			20	21	22

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Central Park Park-n-Ride Opens; Rail to Start April 22, 2016



This RTD rider worried she'd miss the bus to the airport by the time she took the parking receipt back to her car—but RTD says receipts do not need to be left in cars. Just enter your license plate number and keep the receipt.

By Carol Roberts

With the announcement that the East Line (now renamed University of Colorado A Line) will open April 22, more and more transit riders are expected to use the new Central Park Blvd. (CPB) rail and bus station. With 1,500 parking spaces, it's RTD's highest-capacity lot. RTD Senior Architect/Urban Designer (and Stapleton resident) Ignacio Correa-Ortiz is optimistic about its future. "I think this is the next great TOD (transit-oriented development) spot in the region." He calls it "a blank canvas" with its numerous development possibilities on the acres of

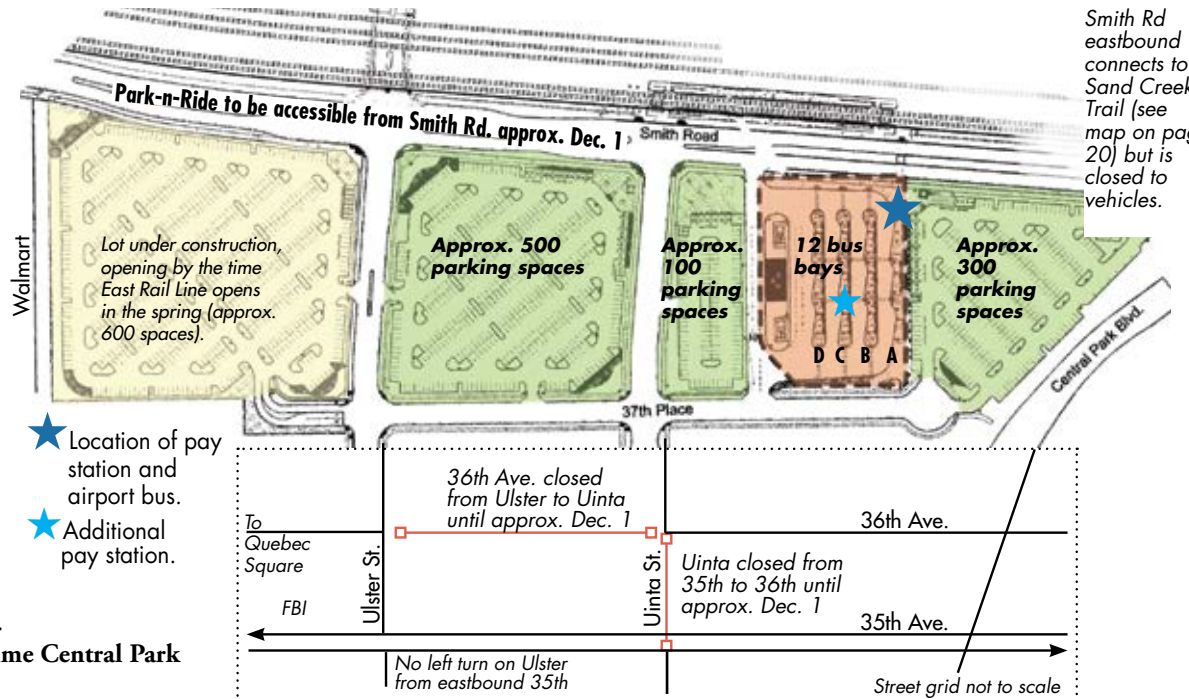
empty land nearby.

Tips for first-time Central Park park-n-riders

Enter your license plate number at the parking ticket machine and then the number of days your car will be parked. A day is a 24-hour period. The ticket machine will calculate the amount due, with the first day free for Denver residents. Subsequent days are \$2/day. The address of the CPB Park-n-Ride is 8200 Smith Rd.

The airport SkyRide route "AS" buses depart CPB station and DIA from approximately 3am until midnight every day.

Find the exact schedule at RTD-denver.com. The ride is approximately 25 minutes, directly to the airport with no stops, and drops passengers on the west side of the terminal at United. The CU A Line trip from Central Park Blvd. will also take 25 minutes, but will run every 15 minutes during the day, and less frequently late at night. Bus service from CPB to the airport will stop when the CU A Line opens. The cost for an adult on the bus or train is \$9 one way. Children 15 and younger ride free when accompanied by an adult. Seniors are half price. The



Smith Rd eastbound connects to Sand Creek Trail (see map on page 20) but is closed to vehicles.

cost for the train to the airport will be the same.

Riders can also download the Parkmobile app, sign in, and enter zone 7003 to purchase parking at the CPB station. A transaction fee of 25¢ to 35¢ is added to the parking fee.

Cyclists, electric cars and solar panels

Bicyclists have the option of using outdoor bike racks, but the station also has several bike lockers. In the future, cyclists will be able to lock their bikes in a weatherproof bike corral, accessible by signing up for a free entry card.

RTD is pursuing a pilot program

that will offer two charging spaces for electric vehicles. The station has the capacity to accommodate up to 10 charging stations in the future.

The bus canopies were built facing southward to accommodate future solar panels to power the station.



Bicycle locker



Canopies shelter 12 separate bus bays. Route maps and schedules are posted at each bay.

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Effective Sex Ed Discusses Life Goals, Being a Good Partner



Reproductive health teacher at McAuliffe Kendra Collings teaches a class to seventh-grade girls.

By Madeline Schroeder

We watched a disturbing video of giving birth.
The teacher showed vivid STD pictures of real, infected people.
It was kind of a joke and had no depth to it. My teacher brought in a walrus penis bone.
We watched a horrific video of how and why you get your period. We didn't talk about sex.
We talked about how babies are made, but never actually discussed sex or how to protect yourself.

These are memories collected from people about their sex education experience in school. Most schools, if they do offer sex education, focus on the nuts and bolts of the female and male anatomies and how babies are born. But McAuliffe International School in Park Hill is taking a more comprehensive approach to sex and sexuality by focusing on life goals and what it means to be a good partner. Kendra Collings is a seventh-grade reproductive health and physical education teacher. She uses the HealthTeacher curriculum, an online resource of health education tools including lessons, interactive presentations and additional resources to integrate health into any classroom and make sure kids live well. “Kids are curious, just like we were growing up, and if we don't teach them this stuff, somebody else will, and that resource may not be in our child's best interest, or it may just be very inaccurate,” she says. As the child and grandchild of teen parents, Collings has felt the impact when sex education is not

taught. Her mom, who had a full-ride scholarship, could not go to college. Her parents are still together and managed to move from supreme poverty to middle class, but it was extremely difficult. Collings has a master's in health education and a master's in physical education. She has two children who both go to McAuliffe. When they're older they'll tell everyone how their mom taught the whole school about sex. As part of the reproductive health class, every month the students focus on one skill they can use to be a better person. In the active listening unit, they practice listening without interrupting and while making continuous eye contact. In the assertiveness unit, they learn how to effectively use their words to be heard. For example, when someone is upset, instead of saying “You did this ...” the students learn to say, “I feel this way because” They use these same skills when discussing what it means to be a good partner in a relationship. In the sex and sexual health part of the class, the boys and girls are separated and the doors are locked to avoid interruptions. Collings begins

by discussing goals and asks the students what they want out of life. They discuss together how to make those goals happen and if they had a baby, would that goal still be possible? “It teaches them that if they really want this thing for themselves, they need to take care of their bodies,” Collings says. The next part of the class is dedicated to questions. The students can write them anonymously and put them into a box. Collings somehow makes what's normally a blush-inducing experience, into a positive, even humorous experience. “You have to be direct but not uncomfortably direct. I don't know how I do it,” she says and laughs. *Does kissing get you pregnant?* No, kissing does not get you pregnant. *Can you get pregnant from oral sex?* Well, what do you know about oral sex? How did you hear that word? No, you cannot get pregnant from oral sex because the reproductive and digestive tracts are separate. It can't jump from one to the other. *Is it OK if I am attracted to another girl?* Of course it is. Now what you need to do within your own family unit is your own journey because it's still considered very different in some families, but in other families, it's just normal, as long as you love somebody. At times, Collings shares her opinion as a mom and makes it very clear to students it is what she would want for her kids. Because the class sparks curiosity, the final part goes over reliable resources and using websites with .edu or .org to answer questions. In addition, Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains visited the class to host an educational workshop after a McAuliffe parent attended their *Open Minds, Family Talks*. See sidebar. This information is essential to kids' wellbeing because many are not getting sex education at home, according to Collings. Within her own friend circle of moms, many don't want to teach their kids about sex but want it to be taught in school. “We are totally missing a big gap in not only health education in Colorado, but education about alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, Internet safety and emotional safety. My goal is to make sure every boy and girl at this school has a resource for their questions.”

Do you have questions and don't know who to ask?

Text ICYC to 57890 to access the Planned Parenthood textline. Trained professionals answer questions regarding sex, puberty, relationships, birth controls, or sexually transmitted diseases.

Open Minds, Family Talks

Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains (PPRM) offers a workshop called *Open Minds, Family Talks* for parents, guardians, caretakers or any adults to sharpen their skills around discussing sex and sexual health with youth. First, attendees consider their own personal values around sex with an anonymous survey including questions like “Do you think teens should have access to birth control?” Next, instructors Rebecca Engel and Julie LaBarr—a sensational combination who make the evening fun, informative and thoughtful—**give skills for talking about sex.**

- Be an ask-able adult.
- Seek out teachable moments.
- Assure your youth that they are healthy and normal.
- It's OK to say “I don't know”—if you give wrong information and your youth finds out, he/she won't ask again.
- Have more than just the “big talk.”
- Use the right medical language.



Answering tough questions

- Let them know it's a good question to ask.
- Find out what they are really asking and think about it.
- Decide what message to give.
- Encourage feedback. Did I answer your question?
- Finally, attendees practice what they've learned through role plays. For example:

Mom, do you masturbate? PPRM: Before diving into the dirty details, ask where did you hear that word? What do you know about it? Based on their age and understanding, you can give more information and let them know masturbating is perfectly normal.

Why do hormones cause you to gain weight? PPRM: That's a great question, and I'm not actually sure. I think it is different for everyone. How about we look it up together?

Would you like to attend an *Open Minds, Family Talks*? The workshop can come to your home or business. Planned Parenthood also offers a course for parents about Sexuality in the Digital World. For more information about any of the Planned Parenthood educational workshops, contact Julie LaBarr at julie.labarr@pprm.org or 303.813.7631.



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Denver Police Liaisons Between Homeless and Residents

By Madeline Schroeder

A homeless person is sitting on a bench outside of a business. A homeless person is sleeping in the park. A homeless person is walking laps around Wal-Mart. These are all reasons to call the police, right? Not necessarily.

“Being homeless is not illegal and being crazy is not illegal,” says Robert Parks, homeless outreach officer for the Denver Police Department. This is one of the first things he tells people when he gives educational talks about homelessness.

According to Parks, most of the time homeless people are not doing anything illegal, but residents want them removed. But just like any other citizen, homeless people do have rights and cannot be removed from public spaces for no reason. “If there is an immediate crime and something we can stop, we do that. But a lot of the time, we get into the complexities raised by homelessness,” Parks says.

If officers wanted, they could follow one homeless person around all day and most likely write citations for public urination, violation of the camping ordinance, and open container, but that

only gives the homeless person a list of court dates and fines.

Homeless outreach officers have tricky jobs because the goal of the officer is oftentimes different than the goal of the person who called in. Officers very rarely receive calls concerned about homeless people. Most of the calls are to have a homeless person removed. “Most important to remember is that Denver is a city that values all people and as a city, we want to do all we can to help move people from a life on the streets to stability, including connecting them to appropriate services to help them embark on that transition,” says Jesse Granger with the Department of Human Services. “We firmly believe that the safest place for those experiencing homelessness is indoors. People are better served when they are sheltered and ultimately housed because without stability, it is difficult to achieve self-sufficiency.”

The homeless outreach unit’s goal is to help further the process of getting people off the streets. The unit was formed in 2007 and serves the entire Denver metro area. It consists of four people. Most cities do not have these units. There is a need, but no funding for a special unit. Plus, many officers are not drawn to this type

of work.

While these officers do police work, a majority of their time is spent doing social work. Homeless outreach officers are mediators between the homeless community and residents, business owners, or whoever calls the police. They are on call as consultants for patrol officers dealing with homeless issues and can come to a scene. They also respond to calls from 911 and 311 (Denver city services).

The officers know every homeless community around Denver, as well as the individuals within those communities. The officers connect them with the right services, including the best places for medical care, food, shelter, drug addiction rehabilitation, long-term care, and more.

“The connotation of homeless does not



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- Volunteers should NOT currently be taking Birth Control or Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) or exercising vigorously more than 2 days per week


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Division of Geriatric Medicine COMIRB #06-0537 5/9/2014 PI: Kerrie Moreau, PhD






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The I-270 off-ramp at Quebec is a common spot for panhandlers. Denver Police Department homeless outreach officers help connect these individuals with the right services to help them get off the streets.

capture the broad spectrum of what it means to be homeless,” Robert Parks says. There are three main types of homelessness: economic, situational and chronic. The economically homeless person is often undereducated, lives paycheck to paycheck, and his or her skill is no longer needed. The situationally homeless person gets into a situation that drives him or her to the streets, like a woman who is beaten and decides to leave with only \$50 that doesn’t get her very far. The chronically homeless person is often addicted, sleeps in alleys and doesn’t want to get off the streets. Most often, people cannot pick out the economic or situational homeless person, but know and think of the chronic homeless person. These chronically homeless people are the ones the homeless outreach officers spend most of their time working with. Unfortunately, the chronically homeless people oftentimes don’t want to get off the street and may deny help from the police.

Every morning the homeless outreach officers do a wake-up call for the chronically homeless population downtown. Within the business improvement district downtown, there is a sit-lie ordinance that restricts people from sitting or

sleeping from 7am to 9pm. The officers wake up the people and get them moving so people do not call the police on them later in the morning. As winter approaches, these homeless people will move inside to stairwells, ATM vestibules, and lobbies, becoming more visible to the public.

Parks believes his unit cannot solve the homeless problem and it will persist, especially as Denver continues to grow, but they are an essential part of getting homeless people the services they need to get off the streets and not be a nuisance for residents and business owners.

For non-emergencies, call 720.913.2000 and for Denver City Services, call 311.

Beginning November 7, the History Colorado Center will have an exhibit called Searching for Home: Homelessness in Colorado History. The exhibit explores the complexities around homelessness and museum-goers can discover what it’s like to live on the streets. Visit History Colorado at 1200 Broadway or call 303.447.8679.

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NORTH CENTRAL: Bruce Randolph High School
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SOUTH CENTRAL: South High School
Louisiana Ave. & Franklin St.

SOUTHEAST: Cherry Creek Transfer Station
7301 E. Jewell Ave.
(Quebec St. & Cherry Creek Dr. South)

WEST: Sloan's Lake Park
17th Ave. & Sheridan Blvd.

SOUTHWEST: Kennedy High School
Newland St. & Brown Pl.

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11

November 2015



Denver School of the Arts students gather on the main stage. Left to right: Pierce Cram, senior, vocal; Lydia Thompson, junior, theatre; Alica Saper, senior, theatre; Riley Watson, sophomore, theatre; Deja Von Crittendon, sophomore, stagecraft and design; Katherine Guerrero, senior, orchestra.

Upcoming Performances at DSA

Theatre, *The Dining Room*, Nov. 11-14
Actors hold intellectual discussions about the role of dining rooms over the decades.

Fall Dance Concert, Nov. 19-21
See works choreographed by the students and for them by guest artists.

Orchestra Concert, Dec. 12
Hear the program including the William Tell Overture. For a complete list of events in a variety of arts and to purchase tickets, visit www.dsa.dpsk12.org.

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Denver offers a wealth of opportunities to experience the performing arts on a professional level. But nestled just off of Quebec and Montview Blvd., a wide range of performances can be enjoyed at Denver School of the Arts. While some may envision school performances only a parent could love, DSA delivers polished shows to the public, reflecting the hours of lessons, study and rehearsal DSA students go through.

Nearly every weekend throughout the school year, DSA puts on shows covering their variety of majors including orchestra, dance, theatre, visual arts and video cinema arts. Performances are not just for the experience of being in front of an audience. The ticket prices, which generally range from \$10-\$14, help pay for weekly guest artists to work with the students, for performance production costs and to help augment costs associated with travel to competitions and conferences.

Ticket sales from the fall and winter orchestra concerts, for instance, help provide scholarship money for the orchestra to attend The Midwest Clinic in Chicago in December, considered the most prestigious forum for orchestras and bands in the country. The orchestra is one of four in the country invited to play. "To get invited to play is really rare and an honor," says Dr. Enrique Lasansky, director of orchestras at DSA.

In Lasansky's middle- and high-school orchestras and chamber music groups, students spend 90 minutes in school rehearsing new music for each concert. After school, they take

private lessons and spend hours practicing and, in some cases, also work with other youth orchestras.

Despite the intensity, the majority of students will not become professional musicians due to high competition and limited job options. The hope, though, says Lasansky is that "they will have a solid background in the arts and will continue playing either in community groups, semiprofessional groups or chamber music and will become consumers of the arts." Plus, he adds, the skills students learn as musicians are applicable to other fields and have been shown to increase intelligence.

Eighth-grader Isabelle Oss is an example of a student committed to her music now but without designs on a musical career. She plays piano and ukulele but focuses on violin at DSA. Despite the time and effort she devotes to music, Oss wants to be a surgeon someday, but says music will always be part of her life. "I don't remember a time when I didn't have music in my life," she says.

Like Oss, Perri Earnest, a senior dance major, doesn't want to be a professional dancer but is considering teaching. Earnest, who takes dance classes almost nightly plus classes and rehearsals in school, feels she has gained good life experience through her art. "I've gotten a great school education and life skills," she says. "It's prepared me to deal with all different kinds of people."

That's one of the main goals, says Brandon Becker, one of two theatre directors at DSA whose department puts on up to 11 shows per year, requiring several hours of after-school rehearsal. He feels there are many benefits for students who

have a background in the arts, even if they don't pursue it as a career. "Our mission as a department is to create good citizens who are able to articulate their point of view about the world and art," he says. Becker feels the skills students learn easily translate to any field. "The tools of working together as an ensemble, problem solving, thinking outside the box—all those things contribute to what are now considered 21st-century skills," he says.

Becker feels all of the various shows DSA puts on are great for the community to see. In the theatre department, some shows are very family-friendly, while others, like November's *The Dining Room* are more intellectual with adult topics, best for ages 10 and up. He recommends parents read the descriptions of the plays on the website to determine the level of appropriateness for their children.

Oss feels people will be surprised to see how good the school's performances are. "There's something really great going on blocks away from their house and they don't know about it quite yet." She also feels it could be motivating for other kids to see what can be done with the arts. Earnest agrees. "I think a lot of younger kids get put into dance classes by their parents when they are little and they don't always love it, but I think getting to see kids a little older than you performing and having a great time, it's really inspiring and beneficial that they see it." She also sees a bigger picture. "It's impressive to walk into our school and see the artwork and everything that's going on," she says. "It's really lovely to see and to help keep the arts alive and thriving."

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(continued from page 5)

problems and concerns (one noted “except the teacher who left—he didn’t like her teaching.”)

- All said the advisors are approachable and helpful regarding problems and concerns.
- Eleven of 12 respondents said teachers present lessons in an understandable and organized way.



Avi Tropper

of disciplinary challenges. There were a very small number of incidents at the school that required proper intervention and management, which is exactly what our staff provided. We completely disagree with the criticisms we have seen and heard regarding Northfield's approach to student discipline and believe strongly in the way that the staff addressed the circumstances they

confronted.”

An Oct. 20 article at Co.Chalkbeat.org included the following information. “(Tropper) described the district’s investigation as ‘tremendously flawed,’ featuring ‘falsehoods and lies.’ He said the district failed to talk to faculty who could refute some of the claims...” (Co.Chalkbeat.org, Oct. 20, 2015, by Eric Gorski)

Understanding Northfield's innovative model

Northfield's model includes some innovations that some parents still don't fully understand, including restorative justice, detracking, the advisory program and distributive leadership. Following are parent questions and concerns and teachers' explanations of these aspects of NHS.

Restorative justice. The greatest number of comments on the survey were in response to the question “Has your child indicated he/she believes the resolution-based approach to discipline, rather than a more traditional punitive approach, is working?” Four of 12 said yes.

Responses included, “My son feels there are many disruptive students in classes.” “My daughter specifically said that behavior issues have improved steadily since the beginning of the year.” “Regarding discipline, the school talks about a ‘restorative justice’ model, but has never explained what exactly that means.” “Seems to be working so far.” “... my main concern, since the end of last year, was that while the vision was there, the ability to implement and lead was not. What exactly does the restorative justice plan entail when handling an incident?”

"I have nothing against it but whatever they're doing, it's badly implemented," says Parent Greg Francis. "They need to work on it. My thought is there have to be disincentives to these kids for fighting. The impression I was getting was that they'd do it again. If they're not doing it again, then it's working. But it seems like it's not. And that is a distraction to the kids who are engaged, who are there to learn."

Parent Karla Rehring says she hasn't gotten much feedback about kids being out of control or violent or bullying. "From our perspective it's not a big deal."

History teacher Peter Wright says one of his colleagues is working on professional development for the teachers about restorative justice. “It’s not about punishing students, it’s about developing strategies for talking with them, helping them understand how their behavior impacted the community, and then allowing the student to come up with strategies or actions they can take to make it right and restore whatever harm has been caused. I think it’s been working great.”

Literature teacher Katie Langlois says, “I have not had a discipline issue with a student that I felt was resolved improperly. Whenever I had a discipline issue that I was *(continued on page 26)*”

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Each month, the Indie Prof reviews a current film in the theater and a second film that is available on DVD or an instant-streaming service. This month's column is a bit different, however.

November is the best month for Denver film: the Denver Film Festival (DFF) runs from November 4-15 this year, and it is full of wonderful offerings. With so many films at the Fest, choosing one or more can be daunting. I've chosen a few that I believe will not disappoint. Check out the full schedule on the Film Society's website. Enjoy!

Virgin Mountain (2015)

The Icelandic cinema is very much like its country/people: interesting, quirky, and unpredictable. I became a fan on a trip to Iceland last year; Icelandair flights have big screens on every seat with a selection of films from all over the world. The Icelandic films are especially good. *Virgin*

Mountain is another in the line of these excellent films. Simply titled *Fúsi* in Icelandic after the eponymous character, it follows Fúsi from a dull, monotonous life to one that is soon turned upside down. A

"mountain" of a man, Fúsi is bullied at work and lives with his mother and her boyfriend. They baby him. He spends his time re-enacting military battles with a friend and talking to a little neighbor girl. In the hands of another director (say, an

American director), this could be very sentimental and melodramatic material. But not here. The tone straddles the line between comedy and drama in ways that American films never seem to pull off.

Writer/Director Dagur Kári was born in Paris to Icelandic parents. He returned to Iceland and later attended film school in Denmark. And while his films have a distinct Icelandic flavor, they have a tinge of the outsider looking in—and that is not such a bad thing. There is a matter-of-factness about the narrative, where things just "are." When Fúsi receives a gift from his mother—for a line-dancing class—the story moves forward quickly. The film is expertly made with simple, elegant cinematography and excellent performances. The best of those performances is from Gunnar Jónsson as Fúsi. A comedian in Iceland, he brings a warmth and brevity to the quiet character, and a sense that there is much more beneath that (very

large) surface. We root for him, and it pays off. It is a wonderful film.

Liza, The Fox-Fairy (2015)

This is more fun than you should ever have watching an "art film."

This gem from first-time Hungarian director Károly Ujj Mészáros tells the story of Liza (Mónika Balsai), a live-in nurse for the former Japanese ambassador's wife in 1960 Hungary. Liza does not leave the apartment and cares for the paralyzed, bedridden woman full time. She has been taught



Scene from *Virgin Mountain*

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Scene from *Liza, The Fox-Fairy*

Japanese and listens to the Japanese pop-star Tomy Tani, who comes to life as a character only Liza can see. They sing, dance, and talk around the apartment. But when Liza leaves the house for two hours on her 30th birthday, Tomy kills the ambassador's wife.

Wait, what? Isn't Tomy an imaginary friend? Yes, and, well ... we're not really sure what is going on in this wacky world. But we love it. When the old woman leaves the apartment and some money to Liza in her will, Liza becomes a magnet for suitors. All of these suitors meet an untimely, albeit accidental, death, seemingly at the hands of the jealous Tomy. Of course in reality Liza is the main suspect, even though Inspector Zoltan believes she is innocent.

A cross between *Amelie* and *Austin Powers* with a hint of Japanese horror and *Barbarella*, this is a film that defies oversimplified labels such as "black comedy."

It is perfectly insane, imaginative, visually stunning, and downright hilarious. To see what actually happens, check it out at the Festival!

Sailing the Sinking Sea (2015)

In its early days, documentary film bordered on ethnography. Even though much of Robert Flaherty's groundbreaking film *Nanook of the North* (1922) was faked, it still gave the world a glimpse

of a civilization that was going extinct. One critic, speaking of Flaherty's films, mentioned that they had "documentary value," hence giving a name to the new genre.

Olivia Wyatt's new film, *Sailing the Sinking Sea* wasn't faked, but it does have essential documentary value—chronicling the lives of the Moken people of Burma and Thailand. As Wyatt states: "The Moken are a seafaring community and one of the smallest ethnic minority groups in Asia, traditionally spending eight months out of the year in thatch-roofed wooden boats. Wholly reliant upon the sea, their entire belief system revolves around water."

After an opening sequence reminiscent of



Scene from *Sailing the Sinking Sea*

Stan Brakhage, the film then follows the Moken in their water existence, using wonderful underwater image as well as meaningful montage editing to document their lives. This is a smart and thoughtful film, far from the high-dollar, issue-driven docs we

have seen over the past several years. I am not criticizing those films by any means, but this is a film with only one issue: people. Other picks: *Parablem* (2015), and *War of Lies* (2014). Enjoy the best time of the year for film in Denver!

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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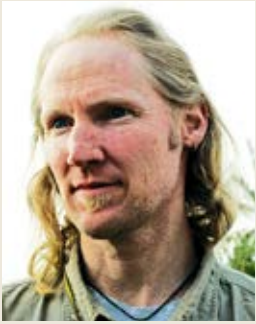
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Just the Facts

The Truth About Sugar
by James Hagadorn



Halloween is the biggest holiday in terms of sugar. Ever wondered what exactly sugar does to the body? Does it actually make kids hyper? What is the risk of diabetes? Science columnist James Hagadorn presents the facts about sugar.

Our kids bring home oodles of goodies each Halloween. Then comes the guilty-pleasure part—chowing down on all that candy. Adults are in the same boat as children, with many consuming even more Halloween treats than do kids—whether the candy's absconded from their brood's stash, from bowls in workplace break rooms, or elsewhere.

Should we be concerned?

Before answering this question, let's put Halloween into context. Halloween is the big kahuna of U.S. candy-dominated holidays, followed by Easter, Christmas, Valentine's Day, and Mother's Day. Between all these holidays Coloradans eat about 20ish pounds of candy per year. By "candy," we're talking about chocolate, licorice, suckers and the like. Kids eat about 3–5 pounds each Halloween.

Candy is delicious. But it's challenging. Two of those fun-size candy bars contain more sugar

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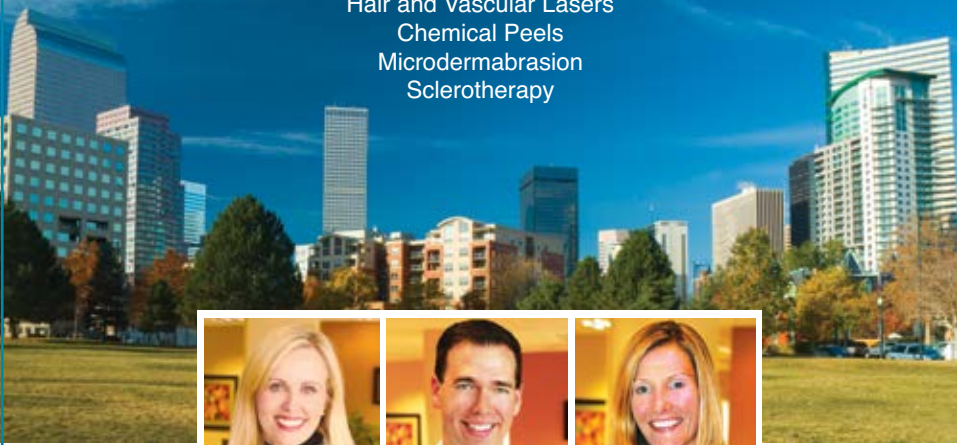
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than a can of full-strength Coke—the equivalent of gulping about 10 teaspoons of white table sugar. Yowza!

The most common concern about Halloween candy is the same one that we hear at birthday parties: that all this sugar makes kids hyper. It turns out that scientists and psychologists have debunked this urban legend many times and in many ways. A sugar blast doesn't alter kids' behavior in such settings—not in boys, girls, kids with ADHD, or those without. This urban legend is a classic example of the difference between correlation and causation. We observe kids eating a ton of candy or cake, then we note their rambunctious behavior, and we conclude that one must cause the other.

But these events are correlated, not causal. What tends to happen in this setting is that other factors associated with these events (being excited, scared, tired, having skipped dinner, dressed up, etc.) cause kids' behavioral changes. Moreover, parents, because they "believe" that they know what will happen with their kids' post-sugary behavior, also unknowingly change their own behavior and expectations. This changes the way they perceive their kids' behavior and the way they interact with their kids, including the way they warn, criticize, time, and discipline their kids. In some cases, parents impact the way children behave by telling them that they'll be hyper after eating so much cake/candy/sugar.

Rowdy behavior aside, the real issues with all this candy are longer-term and more hair-raising than any haunted house. They include scary-sounding phenomena such as prediabetes, diabetes, obesity, and tooth decay.

Like HIV, these conditions don't kill you directly—but they make it easier for other maladies to mar your life.

They occur not with a few nights per year of candied abandon, but with daily long-term dosing of our bodies with what's called "free sugar" or "simple sugars." This is what's in candy, juice, soda, cookies, honey, corn syrups, and processed foods. In Colorado we eat ~120–150 grams of these so-called "free sugars" per day, but the World Health Organization recommends that we eat much less—not more than 25–50 grams per day. That's the equivalent of about 6–12 teaspoons of sugar, much of which we consume in "so-called healthy" foods such as yogurt,

energy bars or juices without ever eating candy and desserts. Add a Snickers and—egads—I'm way over that limit, even without Halloween!

Sugar isn't quite in the same league as tobacco, because we need a little bit of it to thrive. But it's getting there.

For example, our high-calorie, sugar-rich diets can lead to a prediabetic condition known as metabolic syndrome, or "prediabetes." In this situation, our bodies regularly have higher levels of insulin, a sugar-regulating hormone produced by special cells in our pancreas, termed islets. Higher insulin levels result from excess sugar consumption and lead to obesity. When we've had a sugar-rich diet for a long time, we become less sensitive to insulin and these insulin-producing cells become overtaxed and exhausted. This is when prediabetes gives way to Type 2 diabetes. It's like what happens to the long-battered liver of an alcoholic—except there are a lot more of us harming our pancreas than those who damage their livers.

The scary part: One in three Americans has prediabetes.

The alarming part: Prediabetes lacks any external or obvious symptoms.

The good news is that Colorado, save its rural areas, lags the rest of the U.S. in these conditions. But we're catching up—our prediabetes and diabetes rates, like our obesity rates, have doubled in the last 20 years.

Fortunately, these things needn't haunt us because we can change the future. Prediabetes, like obesity, is readily resolved by tempering our intake of sugar and by increasing exercise. Exercise helps to reduce blood sugar levels and to diminish prediabetic insulin resistance.

We don't have to swear off Halloween candy, but perhaps just eat it in moderation or in consideration of the overall mountain of sugar that our poor ol' pancreas has to deal with every day.

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

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SUPER INDIAN

Native American Artist Fritz Scholder

at DAM through Jan. 17

By Carol Roberts

Park Hill resident and exhibit curator John Lukavic says when Fritz Scholder arrived in Santa Fe in 1964 to teach art, paintings by Native American artists were “flat, representational and often formulaic.” And non-native artists painted overly romantic representations of native people, like works by George Catlin, Frederic Remington and Edward Curtis. Lukavic says Scholder was turned off by this and vowed never to paint an Indian.

In the next few years, however, Scholder’s ideas changed and he thought there was a need for a new way to portray the Indian.

The Denver Art Museum (DAM) exhibit features Scholder’s paintings from 1967 to 1980, and is organized by themes including color, the figure and social issues.

Scholder said color and composition were the two most important factors in his painting, with subject third on his list. Sections of the exhibition focus on: how Scholder challenges stereotypes, native pop, portraiture (which Lukavic says really is a focus on color), dark subjects (morbid and mysterious subjects), and a section on Scholder’s lithographs.

With *The American Portrait with One Eye*, Lukavic asks guests to step closer so they are not seeing the whole figure anymore because it’s too big. They’re seeing the color and how the paints are layered on top of each other...how he paired the purple and black and pink and



Above: *American Portrait with One Eye*, 1975.

Above right: Exhibit curator John Lukavic, a Park Hill resident, guides visitors through the Fritz Scholder exhibit at the Denver Museum of Art. Right and below: *Seated Indian with Rifle* (After Remington), 1976. Scholder created a seated figure similar in form to the one in *The Captive* by artist Henry F Farny, but Scholder’s figure does not look like an aggressor.



orange and reds.

Lukavic, in the photo above, is shown in the Challenging Stereotypes section of the exhibit. He explains that Scholder, in these paintings, is in dialogue with non-native artists. Scholder takes historic images and makes them contemporary. He was quoted as saying, “I painted the Indian real, not red,” and said his Indians and his cowboys were more real than the

traditional artists’ paintings.

In *Seated Indian with Rifle*, Scholder removes the context that was in the original painting, guarding a captive, and gives it a bright pink background. Now the viewer is free to consider what it may be...opening people’s eyes to

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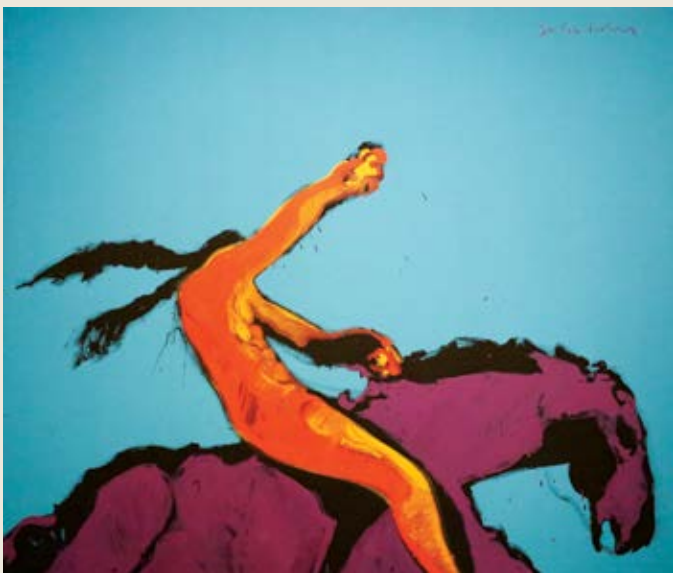
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Scholder is trying to get people to recognize that not all the perceptions of native people are accurate and to challenge people to think deeper and open their mind to



Left: Indian Power, 1972
became a popular poster
Below left: Walking to the
Next Bar, 1974
Below: Indian and Rhinoc-
eros, 1968



who native people are.

Walking to the Next Bar, left, was a very controversial painting in its time because these are not romantic portrayals of native people. Some criticized Shoulder for highlighting the negative aspects of Indians in America. But to him it wasn't highlighting the negative. The negative and the positive are all just part of reality. It's not meant to be looking down on people or making a comment on alcoholism other than that it exists and it needs to be recorded and recognized. If you turn a blind eye to it, you don't recognize the challenges people face in life, says Lukavic.

Indian Power (top and behind Lukavic's arm), painted in 1972, had not been seen publicly since 1977, until DAM recently acquired it. "It took me years to find it,"

who possibly owned it at that time. Through a lot of tracking down I was able to get in touch with them. They said they had sold it to a family member, but then they stopped responding to messages. Then it showed up at a gallery in Cherry Creek in June. A friend of mine saw it and texted me while I was in New York. “

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) painting is packed with political symbols, even though Scholder claimed not to paint political themes. The painting seems to associate the BIA, notorious for breaking treaties, with a rhinoceros, which, during the Cold War period of the 1950s through the ‘70s stood for the spread of fascism and communism. Juxtaposed with this is a native man holding a “peace pipe.”

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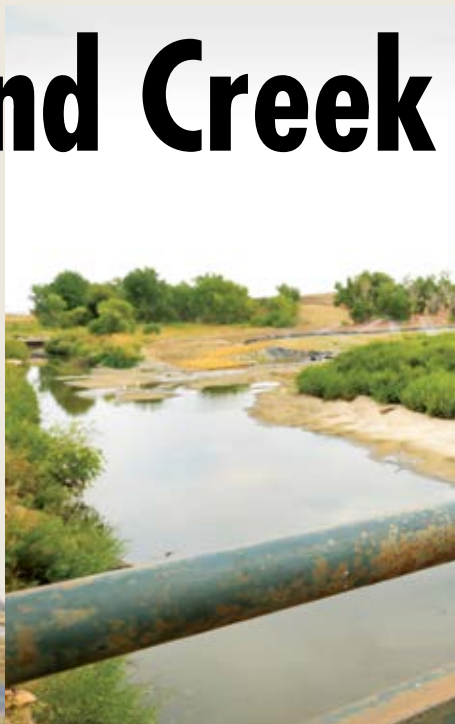
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Navigating Sand Creek

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By John Fernandez
So close yet so far. That might summarize where things stand today with the Denver portion of the Sand Creek Regional Greenway trail. It's located in the heart of Stapleton yet can feel wild and remote. It's also tantalizingly close to completion after 20 years of development.

For several years now, construction projects have been opening and closing various sections of the four and a half mile Denver segment. Yet, this protracted time of user confusion will soon transform into a "new era," said Kate Kramer, Executive Director of the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership (SCRG). A master plan update is underway along with new capital investments and plans to seek funding to complete the trail through Stapleton.

The *Front Porch* has prepared this map and accompanying story to help users navigate the existing and future trail.

A Quebec Interchange.

Proceeding upstream, the Denver segment of the Greenway trail begins at the Commerce City boundary near 48th Street and the Sapp Brothers Travel Center. This cyclist is heading west on the trail under I-70. The trail either side of the I-70/Quebec this interchange will be in an interim condition (i.e., asphalt) until the on and off-ramps associated with the I-70 East project are completed. CDOT is about to issue an RFP for that massive project and timing is still uncertain. The Greenway trail segment immediately upstream from I-70 has suffered severe scour from recent floods. The hydrology of this segment is under

reexamination by the master plan update project consulting team led by Stream Landscape Architecture & Design. The goal is to install final trail improvements that will resist damage in future flood events. Suncor Energy has provided seed money that the Partnership and Denver Parks and Recreation will be trying to leverage into a complete budget.

B Three Bridges Trail Underpass.

The permanent trail on the north side of Sand Creek from Central Park Blvd to the Smith Road trail head has been disrupted for the past several years by RTD's FastTracks project. This fall, Denver Transit Partners will build a trail underneath Smith Rd. and two rail bridges, improving the safety and continuity of the trail at this important juncture. The trail that passes through the so-called "tunnels" area of the greenway (where Stapleton's north-south runways used to cross over Sand Creek). Trail users can also access the new CPB transit station via Smith Road as it passes under the Central Park Blvd. bridge.

C Tunnels Area.

The name of this segment is somewhat of a misnomer. The tops of the tunnels where Stapleton Airport runways crossed Sand Creek were removed several years ago. The supporting walls on the north and south banks remain as does the concrete bottom underneath the creek that renders this stretch a shallow haven for waterfowl. The master plan study may recommend an alternative trail for use in high water. The current trail on the north side of the stream tends to flood in storm events. A parallel trail on the high bank north of the tunnel wall would provide safe passage during storms. In the Uplands West area, the soft surface trail paralleling 37th Ave. is closed until approximately mid-November due to construction.

D Confluence to Havana.

SCRG Executive Director Kate Kramer points to Westerly Creek's confluence with Sand Creek from the bridge accessed at the Smith Road trailhead. A massive environmental remediation and park construction project has been underway this year to create the Westerly Creek North and Prairie Uplands Parks. A new bicycle/pedestrian bridge over Westerly Creek and a trail through the parks from Beeler St. to Havana St. will provide access to

the south bank of Sand Creek, complementing the long-established Greenway trail on the north side of the waterway. This area will be open to the public next summer to allow the extensive revegetation to establish itself. At the same time, the Havana trail underpass (photo D1) will be re-opened to allow trail users to continue east without having to cross the Havana/Florence Way intersection.



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Completing the Trail

The Sand Creek Regional Greenway (SCRG) was conceived in the early 1990s, sparked in part by the abandonment of Stapleton Airport but even more by the successful transformation that had been occurring along the South Platte in Denver and its neighboring jurisdictions.

Just as redevelopment of Stapleton began with a vision (described in the so-called “Green Book” master plan), so did the SCRG begin with a plan for a regional-scale amenity. By the mid-1990’s, Denver, Aurora and Commerce formed the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership to transform a high plains creek corridor burdened by highways and industrial development. The goal was to not only allow the corridor to serve its flood conveyance function but to restore the landscape and create a regional recreation corridor.

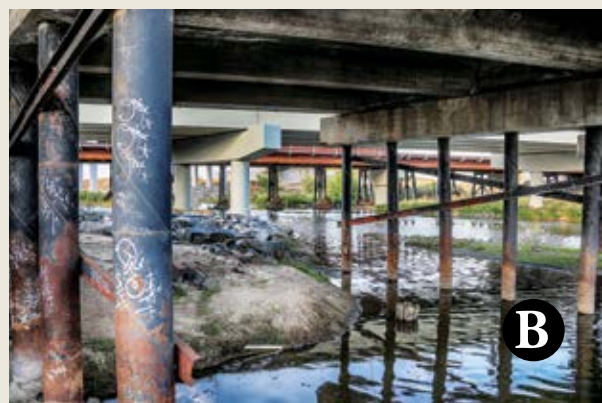
The Greenway was defined as extending the 14 miles from Sand Creek’s confluence with the South Platte upstream to where the creek crosses Colfax Avenue in Aurora. Hard and soft-surface trails were to be constructed for use by hikers, bikers and equestrians. Over time, debris left over by the numerous industrial users along the stream would be removed and the riparian landscape restored. As expressed in the 1995 Greenway Master Plan, the vision was to balance access with preservation of the stream corridor.

What set the Denver segment apart from the corridor in the adjacent cities is that much of the land was owned by Denver Aviation because it lay within the boundaries of the Stapleton International Airport. While public ownership of land needed for a public facility is generally a good thing, in this case, trail completion was delayed by environmental remediation and Denver’s reluctance to take on ownership and maintenance of a new facility at a time of budget constraints.

During all this, the SCRG Partnership has persevered in securing funding for a basic trail to make sure the Denver segment was not the missing link. From the Quebec Street interchange to the Aurora city limits just west of Peoria Street, the trail has always connected to Aurora and Commerce City, interrupted only by its alternating surface materials – concrete, gravel and dirt.

Master Plan Update

Now that land ownership by Denver Parks & Recreation is imminent, the city has undertaken an update to the 20-year-old greenway master plan using a \$75,000 grant from Great Outdoors Colo-
(continued on page 34)



Greenway trail continues 4 miles through Star K Ranch to Colfax Ave. trailhead.

E Martin Luther King Blvd. Extension.
Denver has received a grant allowing extension of this east-west arterial to Peoria Street. Bicycle/pedestrian paths on both sides of MLK will provide a more direct route to the Fitzsimons/Anschutz campus, complementing the existing Sand Creek trail that winds down

near water level where the creek crosses under Peoria Street. Construction of the extension will start in 2017 with completion set for 2018. The Greenway trail, the multi-use paths on MLK, and a proposed multi-use path on Fitz-

simons Parkway will provide access to the campus, the Fitzsimons Parkway light rail station and to Sand Creek Park in Aurora.

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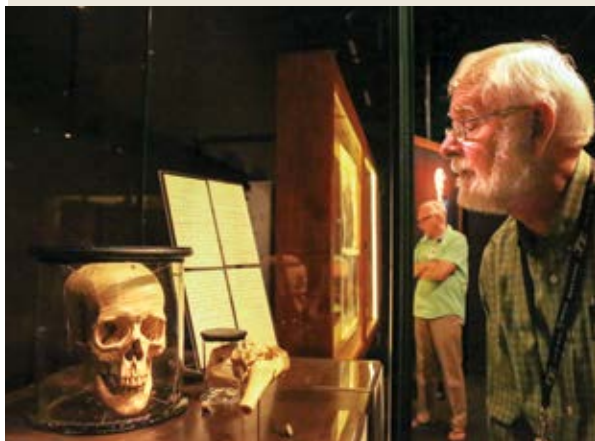


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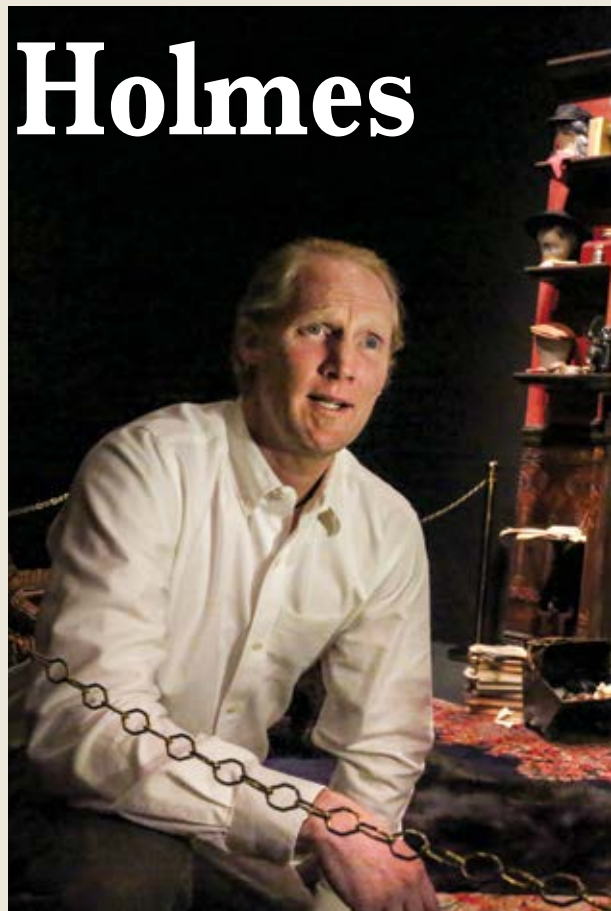
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Left: Physicians investigated evidence found at crime scenes—such as this skull fractured by a bullet and an elbow joint fused by a traumatic injury.

Sherlock Holmes



By Laurie Dunklee

More than 100 years after Sherlock Holmes solved his first case, the eccentric English detective remains a fascination for audiences of all ages. Why does the character created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle still impress us with his famous powers of observation and deduction?

“Sherlock Holmes mysteries deliver a sense of the unknown that is compelling,” said James Hagadorn, curator of the International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. “Most of us can’t solve the mysteries the first time we read them. With most mysteries we can guess the conclusion, but not with Sherlock Holmes.”

Visitors to the exhibit, open October 23 to January 31, are challenged to solve a crime using methods that were employed by the famous sleuth in his time. “The conclusion—the ‘whodunit’—is surprising; it’s pretty cool,” said Hagadorn.

The exhibition features detailed stage sets, elaborate Victorian-style exhibits and interac-

tive experiment stations that appeal to dedicated Sherlock enthusiasts, the merely curious and families with children who enjoy playing detective.

Sherlock Holmes’s sitting room, at 221B Baker Street in London, is recreated complete with a crackling fire, a bearskin rug, a table holding his signature pipe, and a cup of tea. The room gives visitors an opportunity to practice their powers of observation. At first glance, the room’s clutter is almost overwhelming. But on closer inspection, everything shows the hand of a brilliant eccentric.

The next set, a parlor crime scene, contains clues—including bloodstains, a broken bust and a smoking seed pod—for visitors to observe in order to solve the crime.

“Through the keen eyes of Sherlock, we learn that seeing is not the same as observing,” said Hagadorn. “Observation at a crime scene is about what is important and what is not; what are its characteristics? A detective can describe it to another detective with their eyes closed and they can visualize the crime scene. When observing, the things that strike you as not normal are relevant. As Holmes would say, ‘the evidence is right in

front of us.’ He used that information to reconstruct what happened.”

Visitors pick up a “detective’s notebook” to record their observations with stamps and cutouts. They test their evidence with experiments used at the end of the 19th century.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was a physician who had studied at the University of Edinburgh Medi-

cal School from 1876 to 1881. Professors and students in the “surgery arena” were expanding their exploration of anatomy to include investigating how people died. “Forensics didn’t exist yet; they called it ‘medical jurisprudence,’” said Hagadorn. “Conan Doyle himself did experiments on injuries caused by shooting, stabbing and blunt force. Was the cause of death natural or human-induced?



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Left and above: Curator James Hagadorn in Sherlock Holmes' sitting room, where visitors can practice their powers of observation. "The little things are infinitely the most important," said Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of the Sherlock Holmes character.

Right: Studying what footprints look like, forward and backward. Holmes reconstructed what he observed at a crime scene to determine what happened.



Right: Historical reenactor Andrew Parker portrays Victorian-era journalist Nathaniel Becker. The experiment reveals the identity of an unknown substance by turning a clear liquid to lavender.



"Doyle was also a huge fan of Edgar Allen Poe, the first writer of detective mysteries. Doyle's own stories added the scientific method: collecting information, comparing it to a database, using experiments and making an interpretation. No one had done that before. And he made it fun and interesting. He popularized scientific thinking and methodology."

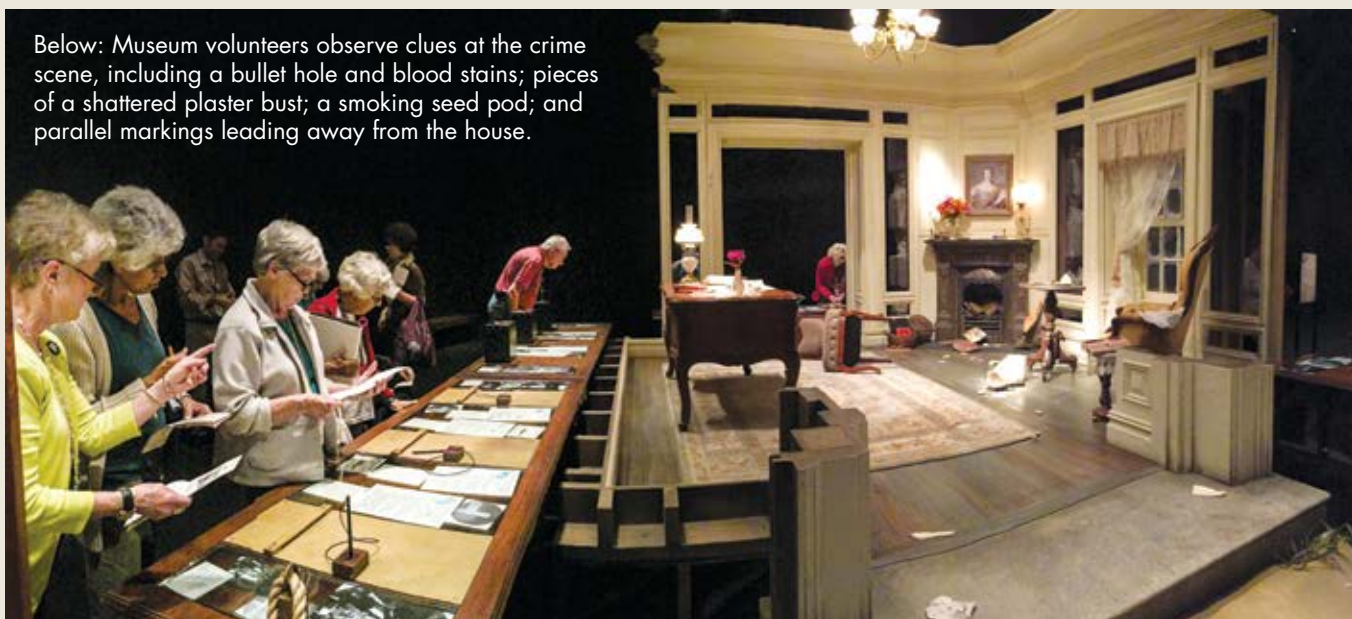
The first Sherlock tale, *A Study in Scarlet*, was published in 1887. Doyle featured Holmes in four novels and 56 stories, the last published in 1927. Sherlock's methods of observation, testing and deduction greatly influenced the development of techniques for solving crimes, many of which are still used today.

Holmes' methods demonstrate the innovations of his time. "The end of the Industrial Revolution was a time of accelerated advances in areas such as communications, transportation and chemistry," said Hagadorn.

Visitors analyze their crime scene evidence at stations exploring poisonous plants, chemical reactions, ballistics and how to interpret forensic evidence, including the patterns of bloodstains. "All of it is the basis for modern crime scene investigation," said Hagadorn.

Tickets for the exhibit range from \$17.95 for children and students to \$23.95 for adults and include admission to the museum. For more information, see www.dmns.org or call 303.370.6000.

Below: Museum volunteers observe clues at the crime scene, including a bullet hole and blood stains; pieces of a shattered plaster bust; a smoking seed pod; and parallel markings leading away from the house.



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Get to Know Dr. Jane Limmer

Jane Limmer completed her undergraduate work at Dartmouth College and her Ob/Gyn training at Harvard Medical School and Duke University. She is committed to providing patients with individualized care during pregnancy and is especially interested in prenatal and postpartum fitness. She lives in Stapleton and spends her free time hiking and cycling with her husband and family.

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Dentist Strives to Make Patients Feel Awesome

By Laurie Dunklee

Providing affordable dentistry in Stapleton is the goal of Dr. Jack Nguyen, who opened Awesome Dental Stapleton in April. “Dental services can be expensive,” said Nguyen. “Our focus is to close the gap and make dentistry affordable, in a clean, spacious office. We’re not a boutique; I don’t have a Mercedes or a 5,000-square-foot house. I like what I do; it’s not all about the bottom line. I discuss a patient’s options with them to facilitate the most educated decisions. If a patient can only do one thing, I’ll do it.”

Nguyen’s parents immigrated to Kansas from Vietnam in 1975, just before the fall of Saigon. “Dad had been in the Special Forces and earned a Purple Heart; Mom worked for the U.S. Embassy. When they came to this country, they benefited from Medicaid, so I accept Medicaid now.”

Nguyen earned his doctorate in dentistry in California and moved to Colorado in 2010. “I worked as an associate and then decided to open my own practice,”

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Dentist Jack Nguyen, sits in a patient room at his new business, Awesome Dental, in Quebec Square.

he said. "When I told my friends, they all said, 'That's awesome!' So I named it Awesome Dental."

In addition to cleaning, fillings and crowns, Nguyen provides a wide range of services, including root canals, implants, oral surgery, bridges and dentures. "I have experience with a wide variety of cases, including trauma and infections. I make the dentures by hand. I like diverse and challenging work."

Awesome Dental Stapleton's office, 4,126

square feet on the second floor of Vectra Bank at 3600 N. Quebec, is completely new. "It was built from scratch. I did some of the work, like painting and helping with the electrical. Each treatment room is a private suite with views of the Rocky Mountains and downtown skyline," said Nguyen.

Reach Awesome Dental Stapleton at 303.355.1818 or awesomedentalstapleton.com.



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Northfield High School

(continued from page 13) unable to resolve on my own, I got an advisor or the principal involved. I have never walked away and felt it was handled poorly. It's really, really beneficial because now here's a student who made a mistake and we're over it. Students realize I still care about them and their success."

De-tracking. Parent Greg Francis says, "I think they need to serve the high achievers better. My son and all of his friends, pretty much, are finding the classes not very challenging." And Francis would like more information on the math placements—he has just requested that information from the teacher.

Karla Rehring also talked to the math teacher about the need for a more challenging math class. She found the staff to be responsive. "When I did reach out, it was great. It's still an ongoing process ... One thing I'd like to see going forward is that there's clear communication to the kids and parents of how that looks in the classroom because it's so new. At all the other high schools you just sign up for honors class. If you don't feel like your kid's being served, wherever they are on the spectrum, you have to say, 'Let's figure it out.' The teachers definitely want to make sure the kids are learning and growing." Rehring acknowledges it's difficult for teachers to be sure all kids are challenged and says kids need to advocate for themselves and let teachers know when they're ready for more work.

Literature teacher Katie Langlois says if she learned a student is bored or thinks her class is too easy, she would ask if the student has attempted all the honors tasks and what his/her level of mastery is on those honors tasks. "I don't think I've had any students accomplish the honors tasks in my class easily. Every single student that has completed the honors task at a high level has required a lot of coaching and teaching from me. I have not had a student who has completed the honors task and then said, 'But this was too easy.'"

Josh Griffin, a vice-principal from D'Evelyn Junior/Senior High School who spent an entire day observing at NHS says he doesn't think there's a downside for more advanced students. "I think it's challenging for teachers to maintain a level of rigor and challenge that draws all students into it, but I believe that can be built in for the highest achieving student. And that's what I observed."

The advisory model. Students have a 90-minute class every other day with their advisor, and continue having classes and an advisory relationship with that person for the full four years. The advisors are responsible for about 70 students each and teach one less class per day than the academic teachers so they have time to meet individually with students.

Rehring says she thinks students who aren't having any serious problems might never make a special appointment to meet

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with a school counselor. But seeing their advisors every other day in class, students feel comfortable talking to them about their classes and advocating for themselves in that setting. She thinks in the advisory system, problems get identified and advisors can get additional resources for students when needed.

Josh Griffin says, “There’s immense power in having one person work with a small group in what will be a relatively large school. Assuming there’s no faculty turnover, your student’s advisor is going to know your student very well in academic and personal ways and can support them. If the concern is about college counseling, they’re going to be very well equipped to help students with that based on their knowledge of the students.” Griffin says his school has 1,030 students and three counselors.

Distributive leadership and mid-day PE. Surprisingly, distributive leadership and PE are connected. Based on research that shows taking breaks and moving physically improves concentration, NHS requires every student to take a PE class at the same time in the middle of the day. NHS has hired part-time PE teachers who come in and work with students, leaving all teachers free for planning and collaboration during that time. The teachers’ comments indicate this structure has created a better opportunity for growth as a teacher than they have experienced in other job settings.

PE teacher Krista Meikle explains that students on a team have PE together to condition for their sport. After school, coaches work on skills and strategy since the team has already done conditioning that day. She likens it to the approach used in college sports and says so far it has been very successful for her students on the volleyball team. NHS has both a varsity and JV girls team that are competing strongly. Meikle says the games are scheduled on Saturdays, so they don’t interfere with class.

Seven of eleven respondents on the survey said

their student finds having a mid-day work-out class helps him/her focus later in the day.

Peter Wright says that time allows teachers to both think ahead and plan for the future as well as grade papers and plan tomorrow’s lesson. “Our goal, even now, three years away from those IB exams, we want to make sure that we’re developing in them the skills and dispositions to be successful on those tests—and we couldn’t do that if we didn’t have devoted time set aside to collaborate.”

In other schools, the principal or vice principal often observes teachers. At NHS the mid-day collaborative time allows the teachers to work together to improve their skills. Josh Griffin says, “I was very impressed with their model of calling on the teachers to see how they can most effectively develop themselves as professionals. There’s a lot of autonomy and pragmatism in their professional development model.”

Jamie Doak says, “I’ve never taught in a school before where I got to see the whole staff have a common room for all our desks and offices. During that hour we either have structured meetings or we do professional development, talk about academic data, behavior issues and collaborate as a team of teachers for those students. On the day or two a week that we don’t have those meetings, we get to hang out and have lunch together. I think teachers being friends with each other really boosts school culture as well. From my point of view, this is one of the closest staffs I’ve ever taught with. We’ve really bonded. It’s not, ‘We’re here, we teach, we go home.’ It feels more like a family.”

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Every aspect of the innovative school design supported our commitment to prepare all students for the rigors of IB.

–Teachers follow the same cohort of students through to graduation, building relationships and meeting the needs of every student.

–All English Language Learners and special education students are educated in inclusive co-taught classrooms.

–Advisors develop growth mindsets in students. –Detracked classes allow all students to learn with and from each other, opposed to the segregation all too common in traditional schools.

–Honors tasks are available to all students willing to take on additional challenge.

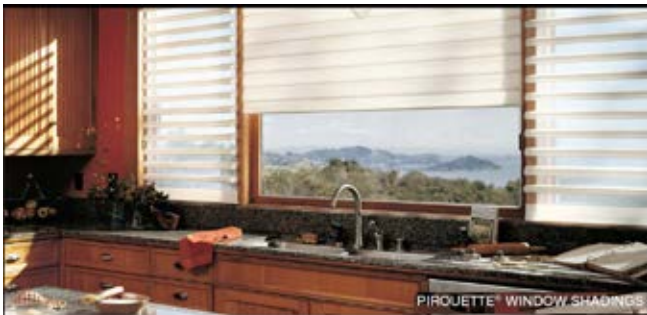
–An academic support course helps students prepare for core classes.

–Creation of a prep program at many of our feeder middle schools increased student readiness for high school.

–A late start time, extended school day and year block schedule with 90-minute periods, and daily PE formed a research-based schedule proven to benefit all students.

Opportunity gaps do not close absent deliberate efforts, and these elements do just that.

—Courtesy of Avi Tropper



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Beauty Bar

Liz Gonzalez-Lara is opening L Style Bar, a beauty bar offering hair styling, makeup and airbrush tanning.

“L Style Bar will be a blow-out bar, a place to get a special look for a special occasion,” said Gonzalez-Lara, a Stapleton resident since 2010. “Blow-out bars, which don’t offer cuts or coloring, are popular in New York and other cities. We’ll fit in well with the beauty-related businesses on the second floor of the Stanley.”

Since 2007, Gonzalez-Lara has headed Beauty on Location Studio, which takes beauty services out to homes and venues. “We have a team of 10 stylists who do almost 100 weddings a year,” Gonzalez-Lara said. “We love it; it’s wonderful to spend the happiest day of someone’s life with them. We get great comments from brides.

“But our relationship ends on their wedding day. L Style Bar will be a sister business where people can come to look their best for all occasions like parties, baby showers and photo shoots.”

Gonzalez-Lara said her space at the Stanley is about 800 square feet. “We’ll have a lounge, an



Stanley Marketplace, located at 2501 Dallas St., Aurora is expected to open in the spring of 2016. Search for "Stanley" at FrontPorchStapleton.com for past Stanley business announcements.

location,” said Farrell, a Park Hill resident since 2005. “And there will be space for people to sit down and eat in the common area.”

Mondo Market will offer foods from all over the world. "Our goal has always been to make the ingredients used by professional chefs available to the public," Farrell said. "We offer Olio Verde olive oils and spices the professionals use. Our cheeses are hand-selected from all over planet, including Blu '61 soft blue cheese, and Basajo sheep's milk cheese from northern Italy. We'll offer salumi [dried, cured meat] that you won't find at King Soopers, like a dried, cured pork loin from Spain.

"Unlike the big-box stores, our offerings are hand-selected. But we're not too expensive. We want people to try cool stuff without breaking the bank."

Farrell and Davis were inspired to open a public food market after they visited markets in Vancouver, Mexico City and San Francisco. “The grocery experience is much different than at big-box stores. The energy of shoppers and merchants goes beyond just consuming—it’s more like a community where you make a day of it.”

For more information, see mondofood.com
or call 720.722.0566.

Gourmet & Specialty Foods Market

Mondo Market started as an online specialty food store in 2008. Owners Nicolas Farrell and Michael Davis opened their first public market at The Source food market in the River North District in 2013.

“Our space at the Stanley will be 2,000 square feet, double the size of our Source



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Central Park's Trees Restored



Photo courtesy of The Park People

Volunteers from Newmont Mining Corporation planted dozens of trees in Central Park.

By Madeline Schroeder

In mid-September, a number of Central Park's trees were restored, thanks to The Park People and Newmont Mining Corporation.

The Park People, a nonprofit, loves trees and believe they have incredible benefits to communities beyond environmental, like encouraging residents to walk more, use public spaces, and engage with the outdoors. The organization partners with Denver Parks & Recreation to preserve historic sites and contribute to new development by planting trees.

When the trees in Central Park were originally installed, the contractor used wire cages around the roots, which is fine for the first couple of years until the roots need to grow beyond the constraint of the cage. Denver Parks & Recreation has been puzzled about how to fix the issue, until they connected with The Park People regarding their Mile High Tree Champions program that replaces improperly planted trees with new ones.

"We partner with local businesses and they sponsor staff a half day to help plant trees so those [volunteer days] take place in natural areas, affordable housing communities, parks, nonprofit headquarter sites, and more," says Kim Yuan-Farrell, executive director for The Park People.

The Park People connected with Newmont Mining Corporation, which has an office in Denver. Forty Newmont employees volunteered and planted more than 30 trees in two areas of Central Park. The trees were a diverse mix that will be medium and large once fully grown.

Refuge Employee Named Firefighter of the Year



Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

By Madeline Schroeder

Nick Connolly, a fire technician at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, received the South Zone Firefighter of the Year Award for his work on the wildfires in the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests for three months this summer.

Connolly's performance was outstanding; his amount of initiative and work ethic put Nick well above the other nominations received, according to South Zone Fire Management Officer Will Briggs.

Connolly was a part of the Northern Colorado Helitack crew and completed two tasks to become a Firefighter Type 1 and Squad Helicopter crewmember.

Connolly was a business administration major with an emphasis on finance, but after graduating realized it was not for him and he needed to work outdoors. He joined the AmeriCorps National Civilian Corps to assist in fire management. He has now been working on fire management for five years and hopes to move up in the ranks to work on fire management year-round.

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RECOGNITIONS

Affordable, Sustainable Homes Fit with the Vision for Stapleton

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

The *Front Porch*, in our October issue, published the story of how the Green Book, Stapleton's Development Plan, came to be and what it was all about. That plan projected about 8,000 for-sale homes and 4,000 rentals—and it included a number of lofty ideas for that new community that people didn't understand in the '90s, when the plan was written. One of those lofty ideas was sustainability. People then didn't even know what it meant. Another idea was a diverse housing mix in every neighborhood, including affordable housing. Affordable housing, it turns out, is a wonderful idea that is difficult to implement.

Buyers who don't know what sustainability is don't put it on their "must have" list. And affordable housing comes with lots of strings attached—finding both financing and eligible buyers. Why would a homebuilder choose to pursue those goals?

Gene Myers, whose company has built approximately 1,000 of the homes in Stapleton so far (100 of them affordable), says sustainability was not high on buyers' lists of reasons to buy a home in the early '90s when he started down that path. "Hardly anyone was that interested," he says.

The company's efforts have been rewarded with being the nation's first homebuilder to win the Grand Award from the U.S. Department of Energy for housing innovation three years in a row. "The innovation is happening with the Department of Energy and in national laboratories," says Myers. "What we are is an adopter of that technology and an implementer in a way that makes it affordable for everyday people."

Why take on these challenges? "Don't we all want to feel like we go to work every day and do something that matters?" says Myers. As a local builder, he feels his company has a stake in the community and its goals. "Someone needs to step up and make these things happen, so we're motivated by that ... It's a daunting task to build a great community that ... includes homes people can be proud of, that provide stability and the ability to thrive."

"Ultimately what you're after is building homes that are an asset to the neighborhood and will inspire pride of ownership," says Myers. When it comes to building affordable homes, there is a gap between what it costs to build and what buyers who qualify for the affordable program can pay. At Stapleton, Myers says, Forest City has worked with him to finance that gap, "So that overcomes the biggest obstacle in the production of affordable housing, bar none."

The other challenge in affordable hous-

ing is buyers' financing. "It's an interesting challenge to find homebuyers who have strong credit, who make enough money to qualify for a mortgage, but don't make so much that they don't qualify under the affordable housing guidelines," says Myers.

Myers says his next challenge is to focus on the health impacts of building materials while maintaining a focus on energy efficiency. "It's our belief that

there's science that backs up the notion that the (indoor) environment in which we live has a connection to health," he says, adding that EPA Indoor Plus guidelines call for reducing or eliminating toxins found in almost all new homes

including adhesives, carpeting, carpet padding, cabinets, paint and wood finishes. "It also includes the proper introduction of fresh air into the very tight, energy-efficient homes we're building, and management of the biohazards of

mold and radon ventilation." While it can be difficult to find suppliers to provide healthier materials, Myers says it can be done and doesn't add much to the final cost of the home. "It's implementing the best practices that have come from the U.S. E.P.A.," says Myers.

Myers' homebuilding business started out as Green Tree Homes in 1992. The business name then changed to New Town Builders, which

has been building at Stapleton since the development started. To reflect his future focus on a healthful indoor environment, he is now changing the company's name to Thrive. "We are, at the essence, environmentalists ... and we want to see people thrive with the housing we provide.

Nowhere is it more impactful for a family than in the affordable housing we build," Myers says, as he takes on the construction of 145 new affordable homes north of I-70 on Central Park Blvd.



Senator Michael Bennet visited one of Gene Myers' net-zero homes in January 2012 when he was proposing a bill that allowed federal mortgage loan agencies to consider a homeowner's expected energy costs when determining the homeowner's ability to make monthly mortgage payments.



Gene Myers is pictured in Dec. 2008 with a home his company, together with donations from subcontractors and land from Forest city, contributed. Its sale resulted in about \$300,000 for sending city youth to college preparatory middle and high schools in the metro area.

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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

11/5 to 11/8—Denver Assistance League Holiday Boutique. "Christmas at Our House" holiday boutique and shopping experiences. Tickets/details: www.denverassistanceleague.org

11/12 to 11/13—Botanic Gardens Winter Gift Market. Preview party Thurs. 5:30-8:30pm. Tickets \$15/members; \$20/nonmembers. Free admission Fri. and Sat. 9am-5pm. www.botanicgardens.org

11/12 to 12/23—Colorado Railroad Museum's Polar Express. Performances/train rides weekends and select days. Tickets from \$40 adult; \$35 kids 11 and under. www.coloradorailroadmuseum.org

11/13 to 11/15—Junior League Holiday Mart. Gates Field House, University of Denver. Hours vary. www.JLD.org

11/20 to 11/21—L'Esprit de Noel Home Tour. Denver Country Club neighborhood, 10am-4pm. Home tours only; no holiday boutique. Tickets: www.lesprithometour.com

11/20 to 11/22—28th Annual Holiday Food and Gift Festival. Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th St, downtown Denver. Adults \$10; seniors \$9; 12 and under free. www.hfgf.com

11/20 to 12/23—Denver Christkindl Market. Vendors from Germany and other countries, local artisans, carolers, traditional German food/drink. Skyline Park, 16th and Arapahoe. Hours vary. www.denverchristkindlmarket.com

11/21 to 11/22—Sugar Plum Bazaar. Handmade vintage boutique holiday market. Ellie Caulkins Opera House, DCPA Complex, 1400 Curtis St. Sat. 10am-7pm, Sun. 10am-4pm. www.sugarplumbazaar.com

11/21 to 11/22—World Gift Market. World Gift Market, by 1st Plymouth and 1st Universalist Churches, Hampden and Colorado. Fair trade, eco-friendly gifts handmade by artisans from developing countries and local nonprofits. Fri. 5-8pm First Universalist only. Sat. 9am-4pm, Sun. 9am-2pm both churches. Free admission. www.firstplymouthchurch.org

11/24 to 2/15—Southwest Rink at Skyline Park. FREE ice skating in downtown Denver; bring skates or rent: \$2/pair. www.downtowndenver.com

11/25 Wednesday—Thanksgiving Tea. Molly Brown House. Sittings: 11:15am and 2:15pm. Holiday High Teas begin 12/5. jwilms@mollybrown.org or 303.832.4092x17. www.mollybrown.org

11/27 to 1/2—Blossoms of Light. Denver Botanic Gardens, York St. www.botanicgardens.org

11/27 to 1/2—Trail of Lights. Denver Botanic Gardens, Chatfield Farms. www.botanicgardens.org

11/27 Friday—9News Light the Lights, City and County Bldg. 6:30pm. www.downtowndenver.com

11/27 Friday—Downtown Denver's Grand Illumination. 10-11am. For kids ages 2-5 accompanied by adult. \$5/child if advance registered; adults free. Bluff Lake Nature Center, 3400 Havana Way. Register: keith@blufflake.org. www.downtowndenver.com

11/28 to 12/27—The Nutcracker. Colorado Ballet. Tickets: www.coloradoballet.org

12/4 to 1/3—Zoo Lights. 5:30-9pm. Denver Zoo. 720.337.1400, www.denverzoo.org

12/4 to 12/5—9News Parade of Lights. Marching bands, giant balloons, floats. Fri. 8pm and Sat. 6pm. FREE. www.downtowndenver.com

12/4 to 12/24—Olde Golden Christmas. Historic Downtown Golden, Washington Ave. Weekends. Santa, Christmas parades, carriage rides, dog cart rides, carolers and more. www.visitgolden.com

12/5 to 12/13—55th Annual Georgetown Christmas Market. European-type market: handcrafted gifts, carolers, horse-drawn wagon rides, roasted chestnuts and St. Nicholas. First 2 Dec. weekends. 10am-6pm. FREE. www.historicgeorgetown.org/Christmas_Market

DENVER METRO EVENTS

Through 11/30—Forney Transportation- Corvairs. 1960-69 Corvair exhibit. Free with museum admission. 4303 Brighton Blvd. www.forneymuseum.org

Through 11/30—Denver Recycles Leaf Drop 2015. Free leaf compost drop-off weekdays 8am-2pm, weekends (Nov 7-22) 11am-3pm. 720.865.6810 or website for drop-off locations/info. www.denvergov.org/denverRecycles

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

Gardens. www.botanicgardens.org

11/4 to 11/15—Denver Film Festival. Daily movies/programs. Lowenstein Complex, 2510 E. Colfax and other locations. www.denverfilm.org

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

11/6 Friday—Colorado Ballet's Nutcracker First Friday. 6:30-9:30pm. 1075 Santa Fe Dr. Free. Preview event for The Nutcracker, live performances of some dances, meet characters, see costumes, etc. www.coloradoballet.org

11/6 Friday—Chocolate EAT Gallery. FREE chocolate tasting of 15+ Belgian chocolate flavor combinations. Guests invited to "Be Part of the Art" with zany interactive photography project, etc. Free wine tastings by Boulder's What We Love Winery. Chocolate Crisis Center, 3370 Walnut St. 5-9pm, 303.296.0628. www.chocolatecrisiscenter.com

11/6 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Santa Fe Arts District, Tennyson Art Walk, River North (RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Museum, Navajo Street Art District. www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

11/6 to 11/8—Colorado Ski and Snowboard Expo. \$15; under 12 free. Coupon on website. Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th St., downtown Denver. Tickets: www.bewisports.com/expos/denver

11/6 to 11/14—Denver Arts Week. See website for complete listing of events of weeklong celebration of Denver arts. www.denver.org/denver-arts-week/events

11/7 Saturday—Saturday Night at the Museums. Extended hours till 10pm and special activities at selected museums to celebrate Denver Arts Week. www.denver.org/denver-arts-week/events

11/7 Saturday—4th Annual Pipe Organ Tour. By Historic Denver, Inc. and Denver chapter of American Guild of Organists. 9:30-11:45am. Organ music, architecture, history. Begin at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1820 Broadway, then walk to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. \$20. Contact: Shannon Schaefer atsschaefer@historicdenver.org, <http://store.mollybrown.org/store/historic-denver-events/4th-annual-pipe-organ-tour/>

[mollybrown.org/store/historic-denver-events/4th-annual-pipe-organ-tour/](http://store.mollybrown.org/store/historic-denver-events/4th-annual-pipe-organ-tour/)

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

11/12 to 11/14—Castle Clay Show. Castle Clay Artists and guests. Wood, clay, ceramics, glass jewelry, etc. Jefferson Unitarian Church, 14350 W. 32nd Ave, Golden. www.castleclayartists.net

11/12 to 11/14—Rocky Mountain Weavers Guild Annual Fiber Arts Sale. Englewood Civic Center, 1000 Englewood Parkway. Handwoven wearables, fashion accessories, handmade gift items. Thurs. 4-8pm, Fri. 10-8pm, Sat. 10am-5pm. Free admission/parking. www.rmweaversguild.org

11/13 Friday—Augustana Arts presents Colorado Women's Chorale-Celtic Dreams. Featuring Wicks School of Dance and Cherry Creek HS Girls 21 Choir. Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E. Alameda Ave. \$25/adults, \$20/senior, \$15 student, \$10 ages 4-17, available online or 303.388.4962. www.augustanaarts.org

11/14 Saturday—12th Annual Denver Gorilla Run. 11am. Costume contest 10:30am. Westin Westminster. www.denvergorillarun.com

11/14 Saturday—Sister Sheila Flynn Shares South Africa. FREE. 7pm. Althea Center, 1400 Williams St. Holiday shopping after presentation with clothes, wall hangings, pillows and gifts handmade by women of Kopanang. Join Sister Sheila 11:30am-4pm for lunch + 2 workshops. Register: lunch/workshops, \$25, Tim Wilson, 303.321.0694, 720.987.3072, tkwdco@comcast.net. www.kopanang.org

11/14 Saturday—2015 Spreading Wings Gala: Honoring America's Spirit of Exploration. Relive story of Apollo XIII mission and meet its heroes. Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum welcomes original Apollo XIII crew and Flight Director Gene Kranz as guests of honor. Reserve tickets: <http://wingsmuseum.org/gala/>

11/17 Tuesday—Deck the Mall Holiday Craft Fair. 16th Street Mall. 11am-6pm. www.coloradoevents.net

11/27 to 11/29—Rocky Mountain Auto Show. Colorado Convention Center. www.cremedelachrome.com

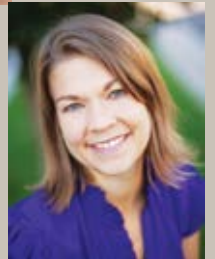
(continued on pg. 32)

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(continued from p. 31)

11/28 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. Free with admission. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-2pm. www.wingsmuseum.org

11/29 Sunday—Colorado Symphony Drums of the World. \$13-\$25. www.coloradosymphony.org

12/3 to 12/6—Denver Potters Association Show. Castle Clay Artists and guests. Wood, clay, ceramics, glass jewelry, more. 6th Ave. United Church, 6th and Adams. www.castleclayartists.net

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

11/7 Saturday—Home for the Holidays 5K. 9am. Denver City Park. Benefits Colorado Coalition for the Homeless. www.coloradocoalition.org/events

11/7 Saturday—PuppyUp Denver Walk. Walk and festival to promote canine cancer awareness. Stapleton Central Park. 10am-2pm. www.puppyupdenver.kintera.org

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

11/8 Sunday—The Great Candy Run. 5K run/walk and family festival at Washington Park. Games, face painting, balloon twisting, crafts, live music, etc. Finisher medals for 5K participants and free kids fun run. www.thegreatcandyrun.com

11/14 Saturday—Mustache Dache 5K. Sloan's Lake Park. Benefits "Movember" men's charities. \$20-\$40, 9am. www.mustachedache.com

11/21 Saturday—Pumpkin Pie 5K/10K. Denver City Park. 9am. www.pumpkinpie5k.com

11/26 Thursday—42nd Annual Mile High United Way Turkey Trot. Washington Park, 10am. Competitive and fun runs. www.unitedwaydenver.org

KIDS AND FAMILIES

Through 1/31—Toys of the '50s, '60s and '70s. Free with Museum admission. See website for special events during exhibit. www.historycolorado.org

11/5 to 11/19—Star K Kids. Thursdays, 9:30am and 11am; kids 5 and under. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. www.auroragov.org/nature

11/6 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Hay Bales and Tall Tales. 12-1pm. Free with admission. 715 S. Forest St. www.fourmilepark.org

11/6 Friday—Preschool Story Time. 9:30am, ages 2-5 with caregiver. History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway. www.historycoloradocenter.org

11/7 Saturday—Forney Transportation Museum Moffat Modelers Toy Train Layout. Scale toy train layout open 1st Sat. of month. Free with museum admission. 4303 Brighton

To view more events or to submit your own, visit FrontPorchStapleton.com > Events

Blvd. www.forneymuseum.org

11/7 Saturday—Home Depot Kids Workshop. 9am-12pm. FREE how-to clinics first Sat. monthly, ages 5-12. Get Home Depot apron, wooden project and project pin. Metro-area Home Depot stores. www.homedepot.com

11/14 to 11/28—Lowe's Build and Grow Kids Clinics. Bring kids to Lowe's stores to build FREE wood project: Monthly, 2nd and 4th Saturdays. Free apron, goggles, project-themed patch, merit certificate on completion. 10am. www.lowesbuildandgrow.com

12/3 to 1/2—Denver Puppet Theater. Santa's Big Surprise. 3156 W. 38th Ave. www.denverpuppettheater.com

LECTURES AND CLASSES

11/3 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—France's Struggle. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S. Dahlia St. 303.316.6359. www.ActiveMinds.com

11/10 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—1963. 12:30-1:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727 www.ActiveMinds.com

11/10 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—Medicare. 5-6pm.

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

11/14 Saturday—Active Minds (Free)—Holiday Traditions Unwrapped. 11-noon. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. 720.865.0250. www.ActiveMinds.com

11/15 Sunday—Active Minds (Free)—Thanksgiving. 2-3pm. Schlessman Family Library, 100 Poplar St. 720.865.0000 www.ActiveMinds.com

11/19 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)—Thanksgiving. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325. www.ActiveMinds.com

12/1 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—Napoleon. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S. Dahlia St. 303.316.6359. www.ActiveMinds.com

MUSEUMS—DENVER ART MUSEUM

11/7 to 12/31—Paint Studio. Daily find creative inspiration at hands-on artmaking space, Level 1, Hamilton Bldg. Try art materials and experiment with techniques. Weekends see demos by local artists 12-3pm. Free with museum admission. Youth 18 and under free general admission daily. Closed Mondays. [denverartmuseum.org. http://denverartmuseum.org/calendar/paint-studio-weekend-artist-demonstrations](http://denverartmuseum.org/calendar/paint-studio-weekend-artist-demonstrations)

11/8 Sunday—Foxy and Shmoxy: Art Detectives. Hilarious foxes inspired by Fox Games artwork are ready to solve art mysteries in Denver Art Museum galleries. See foxes in action 10:30am and 11:30am. To find foxes, visit Family Activity Cart, get letter from Fox Box, and follow riddles into galleries. Free with general admission; youth up to 18 free general admission. No reservations required. <http://denverartmuseum.org/calendar/foxy-and-shmoxy-art-detectives>

11/8 to 2/7—Wyeth: Andrew and Jamie in the Studio. Groundbreaking exhibit of Andrew Wyeth and son Jamie, American icons. 100+ works using varied media, including pen and ink, graphite, chalk, watercolor, dry brush, tempera, oil, and mixed media.. Ticketed exhibition with member discount. [www.denverartmuseum.org. http://denverartmuseum.org/exhibitions/wyeth-andrew-and-jamie-studio](http://denverartmuseum.org/exhibitions/wyeth-andrew-and-jamie-studio)

11/14 Saturday—Bringing the World of Wyeth to Denver: A Lecture with Timothy Standring. Gates Foundation Curator of Paintings and Sculpture shares his curatorial insights and behind-the-scenes stories related to his research on the exhibit. 10-11am, Hamilton Bldg. Lower Level. Book signing with Standring follows in Hamilton gift shop. Ticketed event: \$12/museum members, \$15/nonmembers. [denverartmuseum.org. http://denverartmuseum.org/calendar/bringing-world-wyeth-denver-lecture-timothy-standring](http://denverartmuseum.org/calendar/bringing-world-wyeth-denver-lecture-timothy-standring)

11/27 Friday—Friday After Thanksgiving at the DAM. Family Activity Cart open specially for that day, so your family

can trek through galleries with Family Backpack filled with artmaking, games and puzzles. Free with museum gen. admission, youth up to 18 free museum admission daily. [denverartmuseum.org. http://denverartmuseum.org/calendar/friday-after-thanksgiving](http://denverartmuseum.org/calendar/friday-after-thanksgiving)

MUSEUMS—DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE

Through 1/10—The Power of Poison. Special exhibit, free with admission. www.dmns.org

Through 1/31—Sherlock Holmes. Step into Victorian London and test your powers of observation and interpretation. Ticketed exhibit, adult nonmember \$23.95, child nonmember \$17.95; discount for members. www.dmns.org

11/14 Saturday—Meet Dr. Scott. Museum VP and host of PBS Kids' Dinosaur Train gives short program on dinosaurs, poses for pictures and signs autographs. 10am and 12pm, Members: \$12/\$8; Nonmembers \$15/\$10. www.dmns.org

11/19 Thursday—Science Lounge. Cocktails/entertainment every 3rd Thurs. monthly. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/nonmembers. www.dmns.org

11/21 Saturday—What's Up, Watson! A Sherlock Holmes Party for Teens. 6:30-9pm. \$10/teen, ages 13-17 only. www.dmns.org

MUSEUMS—FREE DAYS

11/2 Monday—Denver Zoo Free Day. SCFD Free Day. Other zoo free days: 11/13 and 11/19. www.denverzoo.org

11/3 Tuesday—Children's Museum Free Day. Target Tuesday Free day 4-6pm. Also 12/1. www.mychildsmuseum.org

11/6 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park. 12-4pm. SCFD Free Day. www.fourmilepark.org

11/7 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day. SCFD Free Day. Also 12/5. www.denverartmuseum.org

11/9 Monday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science. SCFD Free Day. www.dmns.org

11/11 Wednesday—Molly Brown House Free Day. SCFD Free Day. www.mollybrown.org

11/12 Thursday—Aurora History Museum Free Day. SCFD Free Day. Also 11/24. www.auroragov.org

11/13 to 11/14—Botanic Gardens Free Day. SCFD Free Days. www.botanicgardens.org

NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS

11/13 to 11/15—Park Hill Art Club Fall Show. Park Hill United Methodist Church, 5209 Montview. www.parkhillartclub.org

11/21 Saturday—Denver Parks & Rec Holiday Craft Show. Central Park Rec Center, 9561 MLK Blvd., 9am-3pm. Free admis-

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Noah Makovsky, MD Robyn Smith, PA-C
Brandon Davison-Tracy, MD Kara Lampe, PA-C
Amy Nash, MD Noriko Rothberg, CPNP
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11/21 to 11/22—Dance Institute presents The Nutcracker. Adams City High School, 7200 Quebec St. 1 pm. \$15. 303.525.0011, www.danceinstitutedenver.com

11/22 to 1/3—Holiday Art Show, Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church. Visual Arts Guild presents Holiday Art Show. 1980 Dahlia. Painting and photo artwork available for purchase by contacting artist directly. Free and open to public. 303.355.1651. www.Montview.org

11/25 Wednesday—Thanksgiving Eve Community Worship. Food drive and 36th annual pie fest with live music. Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E. Alameda Ave. 303.388.4678, www.augustanadenver.org

12/5 to 12/6—Christmas Fair Trade Market. 9am-3pm Sat. and 9am-1pm Sunday. Montview Church, 1980 Dahlia. www.montview.org

12/6 Sunday—Glorious Sounds of the Season. 5pm. Montview Church, 1980 Dahlia. www.montview.org

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

11/6 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. The Anthem of the Heart; The Peanuts Movie; Spectre; Spotlight. www.harkinstheatres.com

11/13 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. The 33; Brooklyn. www.harkinstheatres.com

11/20 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. The Hunger Games Mockingjay: Part 2; Secret in Their Eyes. www.harkinstheatres.com

11/25 Wednesday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Creed; The Good Dinosaur; Legend; The Night Before; Sisters. www.harkinstheatres.com

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

11/7 Saturday—Wildlife Viewing Tours. 9:30-11am. Free 2-hour bus tour of refuge. Repeats Sat 11/21 and Sun 11/29 1-2:30pm. RSVP required. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

11/14 Saturday—Awesome Antlers. 8:30am-12pm. Learn about seasonal behaviors, then explore their habitat. RSVP required. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

11/14 Saturday—Wild About Ferrets! 10-11:30am. For families ages 6+. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

11/15 Sunday—Build A Bison. 1:30-2:30 pm. Work in teams to assemble bison skeleton head to toe. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

11/10 Tuesday—2015 DPS Great Schools Expo. Sports Authority Field at Mile High. 6-8pm. Parents and students visit teachers, principals and students of various DPS schools and learn

about school choice process. www.dpsk12.org/expo/

11/12 Thursday—William “Bill” Roberts Middle School Open House. Parents and students invited to learn about our school. Tour included. 6:30pm. Bill Roberts Gym, 2100 Akron Way. Register or info on all open houses/tours, <http://billroberts.dpsk12.org/parents/take-a-tour/>

11/14 Saturday—Stanley British Primary Open House. 10am-12pm. K-8, 350 Quebec St. 303.360.0803 ext.167, admission@stanleybps.org, www.stanleybps.org

THEATRE

Through 11/1—Curtains. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintage theatre.org

Through 11/8—My Mother’s Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding. Presented by Theatre Or at Soiled Dove Underground, Lowry. www.theatreor@mindspring.com

Through 11/8—Dogfight. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

Through 11/7—To Kill a Mockingbird. Spotlight Theatre Company at John Hand Theater, 7653 E. 1st Place in Lowry. www.thisisspotlight.com

Through 11/21—Equus. Avenue Theatre, 417 E. 17th Ave. www.avenuetheater.com

11/4 to 11/29—The Lion King. Buell Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

11/13 to 12/6—Voddvile. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. Aurorafoxartscenter.org

11/20 to 12/23—Irving Berlin’s White Christmas. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada. www.arvad-acenter.org

11/21 to 12/19—A Ring-a-Ding Christmas: A Crooner Holiday Review. Firehouse Theater Company at John Hand Theater. www.johnhandtheater.com

11/25 to 12/27—Jacob Marley’s A Christmas Carol. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintage theatre.org

11/27 to 12/20—Santa’s Big Red Sack. Avenue Theatre, 417 E. 17th Ave. www.avenuetheater.com

11/27 to 12/27—A Christmas Carol. The Stage Theater, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

11/27 to 12/27—Little Women. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

11/27 to 12/27—The Santaland Diaries. The Jones, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

11/27 to 1/17—Funny Girl. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintage theatre.org

FEATURED EVENTS

Now through March 2020—Kids 18 and Younger Get in Free to Denver Art Museum

Beginning this year, all kids 18 and under get free admission to the Denver Art Museum (DAM), 100 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy. Also new this year, there is a capped \$5 admission for youth to all special ticketed shows, free general admission for school and youth groups, and bus funding assistance for Title 1 schools. These changes are possible because of a five-year gift from Denver philanthropist Scott Reiman and a one-year grant from Kaiser Permanente Colorado. “Providing access to arts and cultural experiences can inspire creative thinking in our young people—one of the pillars of 21st-century education,” says Kristy Bassuener, DAM director of public affairs. She adds that the museum offers multiple hands-on activities for children and families. For more information, visit www.denverartmuseum.org/freeforkids.

Tuesday–Friday Weekly Stapleton Walks

Tuesday through Thursday every week, join in free Stapleton walks hosted by Walk-2Connect, a Colorado-based social group that creates connections between people and their neighborhoods through walking. Two Walk2Connect volunteers lead these walks in Stapleton, which are 2.5 miles or one hour long. Tuesdays get to know the Westerly Creek Trail. Meet at 8:50am at the Westerly Creek Trail east of Central Park Blvd. and south of MLK Blvd.; Wednesdays discover the development in Conservatory Green and the Northfield Mall. Meet at 7am sharp at the Northfield Starbucks, 8340 Northfield Blvd.; Thursdays walk through the amenities in Conservatory Green, including Upland Park, Runway 35 Pool, and more. Meet at 2:50pm at the fire pit in Conservatory Green Park, south of 49th Pl. between Valentia Ct. and Valentia St.; Fridays watch the sunrise and walk around the Alzheimer’s Garden in Westerly Creek. Meet at 7am sharp at the Central Park Rec Center [9651

MLK Blvd.). For more information, or to see the full calendar of walks, visit walk2connect.com/events/ or contact walk leader Chris Englert at cee33x@yahoo.com.

Throughout November and December— Share the Joy Holiday Card Project

Nine young artists and cancer patients at Children’s Hospital Colorado designed holiday cards and were selected to be a part of the annual Share the Joy Holiday Card Fundraising Project. Proceeds fund a range of services in the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders. In the past, the project raised more than \$1 million. The cards can be purchased online at childrenshospitalholidaycardproject.org, in the hospital Gift Shop at 13123 E. Colfax Ave. or by calling 720.777.6286 ext. 6286.

November 5–January 2—Art of Slow Exhibit at Art Gym

Beginning Thursday, Nov. 5, the Art of Slow that features handmade and artisan items and gifts will be on display at the Art Gym Gallery, 1460 Leyden St. From 5–8pm, the artists will present, and refreshments and appetizers will be served. During the exhibit’s length, there will be a three-day fine art festival 5–8pm on Dec. 4 and 5, and 10am–5pm on Dec. 6. For more information, visit www.artgymdenver.com.

November 7— PuppyUp Denver Two-Mile Walk

On Saturday, Nov. 7, the PuppyUp Foundation will host a two-mile walk at Central Park. Proceeds go to raising awareness of canine cancer. Registration starts at 8am and opening ceremonies begin at 10am. The event will include music, drawings and canine demonstrations. For more, visit www.puppyupdenver.kintera.org.



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Sand Creek

(continued from page 21) rado (GOCO). With cash contributions from Denver and the SCRGP, the total project budget is \$125,000. Project manager Jay Henke of Denver Parks & Rec says the focus will be on determining a final alignment for the trail and then proceeding to prepare construction documents. Those “CDs” will put Denver and the Partnership in a better position to compete for trail construction grants and to solicit private and foundation contributions. Final trail design will also be able to take into account lessons learned from flood events in recent years.

The master plan study will not address overall landscape restoration or other issues such as a long-term weed management plan. However, as the Denver segment becomes more integrated into the Denver park system, trail advocates will be pushing to have those issues addressed by the city.

Safety

The new trail segments and the link to the Westerly Creek Park in the middle of Stapleton will inevitably attract more users. User safety of relatively isolated trails is always a concern. Kramer, who has been with

the Partnership 10 years, says she is unaware of even a single criminal incident along the greenway during that period. She acknowledges the presence of some homeless individuals, a situation that peaks during the summer “hitchhiking season.” She believes the trail is safe but urges users to use common sense, for example, by not traveling alone at dusk. She said new structural designs inhibit camping under bridges. In addition, merely having more users, i.e., “eyes on the trail” will further enhance a sense of safety.



Sand Creek Trail users walk in the area west of the Quebec Bridge.

Greenway Role in Regional System

As the greenway matures, it will also grow in its role as a connector to a much larger regional system with these components:

- The South Platte, Highline Canal and Cherry Creek trails
- An eventual link to the Aurora Reservoir via the “Triple Creek”

extension of the SCRGP south from a new trailhead at Colfax Avenue, and

- As a connection to the Rocky Mountain Greenway envisioned as a complete off-road trail linking the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge, the Rocky Flats Wildlife Refuge and Rocky Mountain National Park. The Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership did its part by funding a temporary connection to the Arsenal Refuge.

Indoor Climbing in Stapleton



The entrance to Ubergrippen, will be visible from Central Park Blvd. The proposed facility will include a small retail area, a cafe and programming for kids, as well as climbing walls.

Ubergrippen, an “indoor climbing crag,” was presented to the Stapleton Zoning and Planning Committee (ZAP) on October 13. The project was well-received by ZAP committee members. Owner Jake Crine said he hopes to open the facility by this time next fall. Ground breaking is anticipated for February.

The facility will be adjacent to the 21st Ave. and Willow St. roundabout. Commercial neighbors will include the Stapleton Fellowship Church (Hangar 61) to the north and east, and the Stapleton Veterinary Hospital to the south. On a 61,000 square foot lot, the building will include 20,430 square feet of floor area within a 14,900 square foot footprint. The structure will peak at 45 feet to

accommodate 16,000 square feet of climbing and bouldering wall area. The site will be accessed by a one-way drive from 21st Avenue, with two vehicular exits from the site onto a private drive to the south that also serves the animal clinic, 7-11 and car wash businesses. It will be an engineered metal building with a concrete base, textured stone and a wood awning. Colors will be predominantly red and gray. The main entrance faces northeast, with visibility from Central Park Blvd. The west side of the building features overhead doors, allowing access to a landscaped area. Climbers will find a retail space for gear and apparel. A café will be open to the public, and Crine hopes to offer beer and wine, depending on his success in obtaining a liquor license. Depending on the final site design, the building will be served by 68 to (continued on p. 37)

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Forest City VP Tom Gleason points toward the commercial area (light red) and rental apartments (brownish) along 56th Ave. in Forest City's preliminary plan for the new neighborhood north of 56th. Affordable for-sale homes are shown in red along CPB (the west border).

Plans for First Neighborhood N. of 56th

Forest City representatives presented a preliminary site plan to the Stapleton Citizen's Advisory Board (CAB) and Zoning and Planning (ZAP) committee showing land use and circulation plans for the first phase of Section 10 in far northeast Stapleton. Section 10 is bounded by the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (RMANWR) to the north and east, and by the Dick's Sporting Goods complex and Commerce City to the west.

The "Filing 49" plan shows a predominantly single family neighborhood for the 130 acres of land located at the northeast corner of 56th Avenue and Central Park Boulevard (CPB), which will be extended north of 56th.

In total, approximately 1,200 dwelling units are proposed: 813 single-family detached units, 81 of which will be affordable for sale; 300 market rate rental units; and 100 affordable rental units. Market rate for-sale units will range in price from the \$200,000s to the \$800,000s. Forest City hopes to begin

grading before year's end and will develop the filing from north to south.

The plan also sets aside a mixed-use, commercial area along 56th Ave. with about 70,000 square feet of building space. Jim Chrisman, Forest City senior vice president for development, said this will not be a town center nor would it be grocery-store anchored. He expects uses such as day care, office and perhaps a drugstore/pharmacy. By comparison, the 29th Ave. Town Center, including the Crescent frontage, contains about 50,000 square feet of commercial space (excluding King Soopers and other uses not fronting on 29th Ave.).

Longtime CAB member Jim Wagenlander expressed concern with the amount and location of multi-family product in this filing. He said the proposed plan "accelerates" the trend of Stapleton housing being dominated by market-rate single family housing. He thinks the mix of units is different than elsewhere in Stapleton, labeling the filing as "the suburbs of Stapleton." *(continued on p. 37)*

Eastbridge Verizon Tower



A rendering of the cell tower is superimposed on a photograph, showing its location near the Shiny Happy Car Wash and Williams Dentistry at MLK and Iola. Final colors and materials on the tower have not yet been determined.

Following multiple reviews, a proposed Verizon cell tower appears headed to final approval through the Denver and Stapleton review processes. The 50-foot tall tower would be located on a 10 foot by 13 foot parcel located on the northwest corner of the Shiny Happy Car Wash property at 2975 Iola St. This Eastbridge site is bound by MLK Blvd., Iola Street and E. 29th Avenue. The metal tower will be configured with three legs and will feature a fully functioning traditional clock face on all three faces. Materials and colors for the tower and clock face are yet to be determined.

Ground-level equipment will be screened by an eight-foot tall masonry [verify] wall for which Verizon obtained a zoning variance from Denver (above the standard six foot height limit).

Verizon representatives said the tower is required to improve 4G data and voice service for Stapleton residents, with customer demand for wireless service growing between 25 and 50 percent annually. The tower will be "co-locatable" meaning it can accommodate either other cellular companies or public safety agencies.

Coming to the Shops at Northfield...

Gameworks

The former Circuit City space, between Target and Bass Pro, has been leased to Gameworks, a entertainment center that offers games, food and sports for the whole family. They serve "American cuisine," craft beers and cocktails and have a variety of arcade games. They expect to open by summer 2016. Find more information at gameworks.com.

Phenix Salon Suites

The space east of Macy's (formerly Christoper and Banks combined with the undeveloped space next to it) has been leased by Phenix Salon Suites, which offers individual suites for salon professionals to operate their own independent business. They expect to open in spring 2016. For more information visit PhenixSalonSuites.com. *(cont' on p. 37)*

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Fifth Annual Stapleton Education Expo on Nov. 5

The fifth annual Stapleton Education Expo will be held on Thursday, Nov. 5. Part informational meeting, part school showcase, this Expo is designed to be an aide in learning both how to maneuver the Denver Public Schools education choice process, as well as an opportunity to meet representatives from public and private schools in and around the Stapleton community. Starting with a formal presentation at 6:30pm, Denver Public Schools will discuss the choice process, introduce the DPS 2020 capacity plan and give an update on the construction at the Northfield campus. Marisol Enriquez, principal of the new Stapleton elementary school, will introduce the new school. DPS will be available after the presentation to answer questions about the choice process.

After this presentation, parents and students are invited to visit principals, faculty, and parents from 30+ neighborhood schools. Ranging from preschool through high school, participating schools

include: Clayton Early Learning School, Happy Ladybug Preschool, Montview Community Preschool, Stapleton Fellowship Preschool, Paddington Station, Montessori Children's House of Denver, Academy 360, Monarch Montessori, Roots Elementary, Ashley Elementary, Isabella Bird Community, Westerly Creek Elementary, Swigert International School, Bill Roberts School, High Tech Elementary, Polaris at Ebert, Morey Middle School, The Logan School, Blessed Sacrament, Colorado Academy, St. Elizabeth's School, The Odyssey School, Stanley British Primary, Sewall Preschool, NE Community Engagement School, International School of Denver, McAuliffe International School, Denver Discovery, DSST: Stapleton, DSST: Conservatory Green, Venture Prep, Northfield High School, George Washington High School, and potentially others.

The 5th Annual Stapleton Education Expo is open to all who are interested

in learning about education options in Northeast Denver, particularly parents or guardians of school-age children who will be participating in the DPS choice process this winter, or who need information about area daycare/preschool/private school options. The Expo will be held this year at the Conservatory Green campus, the current location of High Tech Elementary School and DSST: Conservatory Green, 8499 E. Stoll Place. Doors open at 6:15pm, formal presentation from DPS at 6:30pm, and meet-and-greet open session from 7 to 9pm.

Safety Forum for Nov. 17 SUN meetings: 6:30-7:30pm, Central Park Rec Center

The planned safety-focused agenda for the SUN block captain/outreach meeting for Tuesday, Nov. 17 will be expanded into a community forum format. At the forum will be representation from Denver Police Dept. (DPD), SUN's Safety

Committee, and the Stapleton Master Community Association; as well as State Rep. Angela Williams and Councilman Chris Herndon to answer questions and provide the necessary support from their respective offices. The agenda will begin with an update from the newly invigorated SUN Safety Committee, followed by a discussion from representatives at DPD on crime and crime statistics in Stapleton. Leadership from the MCA will answer questions on the MCA's position to remain exclusively in partnership with the community and DPD, rather than seeking private unarmed patrol. For the second half of the hour, we will facilitate a general Q&A and in-person discussion. In the meantime, if your block is not yet participating in Neighborhood Watch, please get started by contacting DPD Community Resource Officer Sherikera L. Heflin: Sherikera.heflin@denvergov.org.

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LeafDrop Now Thru Nov. 30

Rather than going straight to a landfill, your leaves can go to a composting site through the Denver Public Works Leafdrop Program. Now through November 30, drop off leaves or jack-o-lanterns from 8am-2pm Monday through Friday at the Havana Nursery, 10450 Smith Rd (Quebec & Cherry Creek Dr. South). Weekend drop-off sites are also available through November 22 from 11am-3pm at specific locations across Denver. Visit denvergov.org/ to see the list of locations, guidelines for leaves, and to print a coupon for a free five-pack of paper leaf and yard bags at participating Denver area Ace Hardware stores.

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Stapleton Update

Section 10 Plans

(continued from page 35) Chrisman countered by saying the rest of Section 10 has not yet been planned and he expects significant amounts of multi-family rental housing yet to be built elsewhere in Stapleton such as south of the Central Park Boulevard transit station and in Northfield.

CAB, according to Chair David Netz, will use the Filing 49 plan to complete a “build-out” scenario to assess the likelihood that Forest City will be able to meet their obligations for required percentages of affordable rental and for-sale dwellings.

The Shops at Northfield

(continued from page 35)

What’s happening at Toby Keith’s?

After Toby Keith’s closed, the City and County of Denver seized their property and sold it at auction on October 29 for back taxes due in the amount of approximately \$67,000. Other Toby Keith’s around the country also closed recently. Forest City is not disclosing any information about Toby Keith’s closure, but they are actively marketing the 22,000 square foot property. Permanent or temporary leasing information can be found at northfieldstapleton.com/leasing/.

Climbing in Stapleton

(continued from page 34) 75 parking spaces plus bicycle parking.

Crine plans a variety of activities in addition to climbing such as yoga and summer youth camps. The main issue that arose during design review was traffic and concerns with vehicle headlights impacting the residents on the west side of 21st Ave. He believes the one-way south vehicle movement should minimize any such impacts.

Crine believes the location in Stapleton just off Central Park and Montview Boulevards is “ideal” and that he expects to serve all of northeast Denver. The nearest climbing gyms are in Thornton, Centennial and in Denver at approximately 6th Avenue and Mariposa. Ubergripen will be similar in layout and features to recently opened gyms such as Movement and Earth Treks, at about two-thirds their size. Ubergripen will feature 10 “auto-belays,” devices that automatically lower a climber. Climbers without partners would thereby be able to use the rope walls at the facility. Crine named his business after the climbing term “Ubergripen,” which signifies the “intense feeling of relief” when finding a good handhold after the most difficult or “crux” move on a climb.

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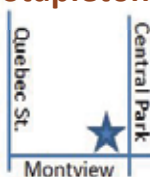
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In the new exhibit at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, a curious black-footed ferret named Louise pops up to say hello. Because the species is nocturnal, spectators likely will not see them in the wild, but can now see them at the only indoor-outdoor ferret exhibit in the world.

Watch a video at FrontPorchStapleton.com



Black-footed ferrets

(continued from page 1) thought to be extinct until a dog in Wyoming brought home a ferret to its owner in 1987. Scientists surveyed and discovered 18 remaining ferrets that, by persistence, had somehow survived. The discovery began the Black-footed Ferret Recovery Program in Ft. Collins, where the 18 ferrets were brought. Through the breeding program, the population has successfully been restored and since 2013, about 500 ferrets have been released into the wild around the country. At

the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, 30 ferrets were released on October 5.

Volunteers were selected to help release the ferrets. At the area of the refuge where prairie dogs live, each volunteer was given one ferret in a cage. Currently, the prairie dog population at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge has gone rampant, but the ferrets will bring that back to a more natural level. By reintroducing the top of the food chain, ecosystems function more naturally—a term called trophic cascade, according to Dave Lucas, refuge manager. The best example is the reintroduction of wolves in Yellowstone National Park that changed the behavior of elk.

Each volunteer opened the kennel and waited for the ferret to poke its head out, which took some coaxing, or gentle shaking of the kennel. Being nocturnal, the ferrets hissed and screeched to be awoken and kicked out of bed. The ferrets scurried into the prairie dog burrows, where they are taking up residence. Ferrets come into the prairie dogs' holes at night and feast. Then they use the burrows to sleep, raise their young, and spend time when they're not hunting.

Because the ferrets are nocturnal it is unlikely that spectators will see the ferrets in the wild, but the wildlife refuge now has a ferret exhibit to give people that experience. The exhibit has two sides to replicate above the ground and below the

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Left: The exhibit has two levels, one above ground where ferrets in the wild hunt, and one below ground where ferrets take over prairie dog holes and sleep during the day. A yawning ferret named Seabiscuit coils up to go to sleep.

Above: A U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service employee, along with volunteers, walk to a prairie dog's hole where they will release a ferret.

Above right: A prairie dog doesn't know what's coming. Black-footed ferrets' main diet is prairie dog, which helps keep the prairie dog population at a natural level.

Right: A black-footed ferret pokes its head out of the kennel and looks at the wild for the first time. It has spent its life in a breeding facility in Ft. Collins.

Far right: After scurrying into the prairie dog hole, the ferret continually pops back up to check out the world above ground.

ground. It is the only indoor-outdoor ferret exhibit in the world. The side meant to show below the ground is kept cool and darkly lit for the ferrets to sleep. The side meant to show above the ground is warm with brighter light and a water feeder and food.

The exhibit is home to two ferrets that are beyond breeding age, Louise and Seabiscuit. They don't like each other so they have separate areas. Seabiscuit slept, coiled up, the entire day of the release, while Louise was up and active.

"Louise, come here. Come on, it's OK. She likes me," says Dave Lucas. Louise is the grandchild of one of the 18 surviving ferrets and a treasure to the conservation story. She is so curious



her nose touches the glass peaking at Lucas.

This is the only place in the world people can see the ferrets' charismatic nature. Lucas believes the ferrets are one reason the Rocky Mountain Arsenal is the premier wildlife refuge in the country, offering city dwellers an escape to

native prairie land. Ferrets continue to be bred at the facility in Ft. Collins and more are planned to be released in 24 other locations in Wyoming, South Dakota, Montana, Arizona, Utah, Kansas, New Mexico, Canada and Mexico.

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