

Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

APRIL 2016



A Line Arrives April 22 All Aboard!

On April 22, nearly 12 years after voters approved FasTracks, passenger rail service to DIA begins. Central Park Blvd. Station (shown above) and six others on the CU A Line will hold

celebratory events on April 23. The A Line is expected to average 27,000 riders a day when it opens and 48,000 a day by 2030. See pages 3 and 34 for more information.



Northfield Principal Amy Bringedahl reunites with the group of students who interviewed her during the selection process. Left to right rows back to front: Eli Castillo, Marcel Batorowicz, Alex Henderson, David Perry, Leslie Loya, Tierra Mack, Nyna Moore, Caroline Carranza, Garrison Clayton, Ian Meister, Kennedy Judge.

Amy Bringedahl Settles in at Northfield

By Madeline Schroeder

At the beginning of March, Denver Public Schools announced a new principal, Amy Bringedahl, for Northfield High School to begin the 2016-17 school year.

Bringedahl is currently the principal at Merrill Middle School. During her 23-year career, she has been a middle and high school social studies teacher, basketball, volleyball and track coach, (continued on page 8)

Girls Empowered

Seventh-grade girls at McAuliffe International School in Park Hill recently formed G.E.M.S., Girls Engaging Mentally and Socially. Through strong female friendships, the girls have become empowered to tackle issues they face in middle school like social media, relationships and peer pressure. Story on p. 22.



Alicia Biggs (left) and seventh-grader Alexia Del Valle (right) embrace during G.E.M.S.



Zoo Welcomes Whimsie, the Baby Gorilla

Meet the Denver Zoo's newest addition on page 20

Printed with soy-based ink. Paper contains 30% postconsumer waste.

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



March brought the first sightings of spring, followed by a record blizzard at the end of the month.



Most of the events listed below are FREE or support nonprofits.
Additional events are listed on pages 28-30.

Also visit FrontPorchStapleton.com to view additional events and to submit events.

APRIL

Now through Thursday, April 21

imPressed: Printmaking Exhibit. Art Gym, 1400 Leyden.
artgymdenver.com

Now through Friday, April 29

Free weekly walks in Stapleton. Led by Walk2Connect volunteers. Open to all. Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri,
walk2connect.com/events.com

Now through Sunday, May 8

Chocolate: The Exhibition at Denver Museum of Nature & Science* dmns.org.

Now through Sunday, August 7

Robot Revolution at Denver Museum of Nature & Science* Free with admission. dmns.org. See page 6.

Friday, April 8

Denver Police District 5 invites the public for coffee with Commander Ron Thomas. Stop by, say hello and have a free cup of coffee. 8-10am at Central Park Rec Center, 9651 MLK Blvd. For questions, call 720.913.1417.

Saturday, April 9

9th Annual Fishing Frenzy. Ages 3-15. Educational booths, prizes, poles available to use. Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge* 303.289.3789

Tuesday, April 12

Denver Public Schools special meeting to announce final selection of Board Director representing District 4. 4:30pm. Location TBD. board.dpsk12.org. See page 24.

Thursday, April 14

Active Minds, "Chocolate." 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library* www.activeminds.com

Friday, April 15

Free Collections and Library tour, History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway. 3rd Friday of the month. 1pm. historycoloradocenter.org

Saturday, April 23

Celebrate 50+ Years of East High School Lacrosse at City Park. HS games starting at 9am. Alumni game and gathering at 1 pm. Visit www.ehslax50.com.

Saturday, April 23

Celebrate 50+ Years of East High School Lacrosse. HS games at East starting at 9am. Alumni game and gathering at 1pm in City Park. Visit www.ehslax50.com.

Saturday, April 23

Dress for Success Denver Power Walk 5K. 10am. Central Park* Registration ends April 21. dressforsuccess.com/denver. See page 30.

Sat. & Sun., Apr. 23-24

Doors Open Denver. Behind-the-scenes tours of Denver's architecture. doorsopendenver.com

APRIL

Thursday, April 28

Active Minds, "The Age of the Vikings." 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library* www.activeminds.com

Saturday, April 30

Swigert Touch-A-Truck. 10am-1pm at Sam's Club Parking Lot, Quebec Square. Go inside firetrucks, cop cars, bulldozers. Supports Swigert International School. touchatruck.swigertpta.com

MAY

Sunday, May 1

4th Annual Race for Open Space. 5K and 10-mile course along Sand Creek Regional Greenway. Register to participate or volunteer at raceforopenspace.org.

Tuesday, May 3

Westerly Creek Metro District election. Three of five seats on WCMD Board are up for election. Stapleton residents can cast a vote anytime 7am-7pm at 7350 E. 29th Ave, Room 200. See page 31.

Saturday, May 7

Denver's Daddy Daughter Dance. Formal/semiformal dance for dads and daughters. 6-10pm. Park Hill Golf Club, 4141 E. 35th. denverd3.org.

Tues.-Thurs., May 10-12

Aladdin production at McAuliffe International School, 2540 Holly. Doors open at 6, show at 6:30pm. For tickets visit mcauliffe.dpsk12.org.

Tuesday, May 17

Stapleton United Neighbors Annual Forum. 6:30pm. Central Park Rec Center* See page 32. sites.google.com/site/sunwebsite1/

JUNE

Thurs.-Sat., June 2-4

Theatre on The Green. *The Wedding Singer*. 7-9pm. The Green* stapletoncommunity.com

Sunday, June 19

Denver Arts Festival. 10am-6pm. Conservatory Green* stapletoncommunity.com

* More information at Events@stapletoncommunity.com
Founders Green: E. 29th Ave. and Roslyn St.
Conservatory Green: Valentia & E. 49th Place
Sam Gary Library: 2961 Roslyn St.
Central Park Rec Center: 9651 E. MLK Blvd.
Bluff Lake Nature Center: 4755 Paris
Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge: 6550 Gateway Road, Commerce City
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!

Saturday, April 16, 6-9pm

The Stapleton MCA and Central Park Recreation Center are partnering to host a night of fun for children ages 7-12 from 6-9pm. The SNL will be held on Saturday, April 16 at the Central Park Rec Center. Early registration will be open until the end of business Wednesday (4pm) prior to each SNL event date. Registrations will be accepted at the door, \$20 (cash only) per participant. Join us for a night of fun with games, dinner, snacks and more!

Central Park Station Street Party

Saturday, April 23, 10am

Join us at the Central Park Station at 37th & Ulster for the opening of the University of Colorado A Line commuter rail! There will be live entertainment, food trucks, games, healthy living demonstrations, a climbing wall, photo booth and much, much more. For event updates, follow the MCA on Instagram and Facebook.

Community Gardens

Are you interested in growing your own vegetables this summer? The Community Garden in Conservatory Green has spaces now available in the 50th Place and Stoll Place Gardens. If you are interested in having a plot, visit our website at www.stapletoncommunity.com/programs/community-programs and complete the application. You will be able to select your space once payment has been received.

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, April 14, 6:45-7:45pm

Chocolate

The Denver Museum of Nature & Science is currently featuring a special exhibit on chocolate. The story of chocolate is a "rich" tale indeed involving aristocracy and slavery, innovation and coincidence. Pivotal roles were played by both Christopher Columbus and

Hernando Cortez. Join Active Minds as we describe how extremely bitter cacao beans are transformed into one of the world's most sought-after flavors and tell chocolate stories such as the rise of Switzerland's luxury chocolate industry and the origins of the Hershey company.

Thursday, April 28, 6:45-7:45pm

The Age of the Vikings

Join Active Minds as we trace the rise and fall of the Age of the Vikings. We will describe their origins in Scandinavia and how they extended their reach into Europe, North America and beyond. We will explain the culture and traditions of the Norse Warriors, including their distinctive horned helmets and unique ships. Finally, we will discuss their legacy in modern times (besides the football team).

We're Hiring!

The MCA is accepting applications for seasonal positions for the summer season. We are hiring for lifeguards, coaches, manager, swim lesson instructors and front desk/concessions. Applications can be found online at www.stapletoncommunity.com. Please submit completed applications to jobs@stapletoncommunity.com.

2016 Event & Aquatics Sponsorships

The MCA offers a variety of opportunities for sponsorship of the events and pools. Event sponsorships include single event sponsorships as well as packages. Prices vary for each sponsorship level. All prices are located at www.stapletoncommunity.com. For questions about these sponsorships, contact ddeeter@stapletoncommunity.com or call the MCA office at 303.388.0724.

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

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Communications Coordinator
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Get the latest on 

Master Community Association



Sponsored by Stapleton MCA

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Front Porch

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Mark your calendars

Line Up for A Line Opening

The CU A Line from Denver Union Station to Denver International Airport will officially open Friday, April 22 with a series of events and free rides on Friday and Saturday. Regular service will commence Sunday, April 24.

Friday, April 22

INVITE-ONLY RIDE FROM DENVER UNION STATION TO DIA

Elected officials & other dignitaries travel the line
7:30am to 10am

GRAND OPENING CEREMONY AT DIA

Gov. Hickenlooper & other dignitaries will speak
10am to noon – Open to the public
Bus routes to DIA: AA, AB, AF, AS, AT, 145X, or 169L
*There is no free parking at the airport

FREE A-LINE TRAIN RIDES FOR THE PUBLIC

Noon to 9pm

Saturday, April 23

ALL RAIL LINES FREE TO THE PUBLIC

5am to 10pm

A LINE CELEBRATIONS

10am to 2pm
Parties will be held at all A Line stations except Peoria
38th and Blake station party will continue until 8pm

FREE STREET PARTY AT CENTRAL PARK STATION

10am to 2pm
Smith Rd. and Uinta St. will be closed

Theme: *Central Park Station Takes Flight...*
celebrating the imaginative whimsy of flight travel
with a focus on diversity and inclusivity

Five “runways” will be temporarily laid down on closed streets.
Themes and activities include:

1. Runway to Worldly Cuisines

12 food trucks, international culinary options, “community-based” food vendors

2. Runway to Global Arts & Culture

dance groups (Mexican, Ethiopian, Asian, Brazilian), Montbello High School drum line

3. Runway to Kid Adventures

climbing wall, balloons, face painting, gravity play, ring toss, photo booth

4. Runway to Healthy Living

line dancing, aerobics, coretraining, yoga, juice bar, food tasting
Featuring: Bike to Work Day booth, Denver recreation centers,
be well Health & wellness group, Walk to Connect, and EarthWalkLearn

5. Runway to Community Resources

display area for local businesses, institutions, registered community groups,
Denver Police and Firefighters, Digstown, Forest City, Bluff Lake and more!

MAIN STAGE PERFORMANCES

located at the south end of Uinta Street, just north of 37th Place including:

10 – 10:15am Native American Blessing • **10:25 – 10:40am** Capoeira

10:50 – 11:05am Ethiopian Dancers • **11:40 – 11:55am** Drum Line

12 – 12:15pm Art Dedication • **12:30 – 12:45pm** Step Dancing

12:55 – 1:10pm Grupo Folklorico • **1:20 – 2pm** Denver School of the Arts Big Band

2pm Closing Remarks

For information about station parties and the grand opening, visit
www.rtd-denver.com/a-line.shtml#event-details

The free street party is organized by Northeast Transportation Connections (NETC) and partners including: be well, Forest City, and the Stapleton Master Community Association. NETC is the transportation management association for Stapleton and northeast Denver. The event has been funded through NETC’s budget and with support from a number of event sponsors.

Front Porch is hiring

- Full or part time to be determined with some flexibility of hours.
- Strongly prefer someone who lives in Front Porch distribution area.
- Exact job to be determined based on some combination of the following skills: Good organizational skills, good computer skills (MS Office/inDesign/ knowledge of or willingness to learn Word Press), journalism background or good writing & communication skills. Community newspaper payscale.
- Email Carol.Roberts@FrontPorchStapleton.com (Job starts May 1)



Saint Joseph Hospital Certified Nurse-Midwives in Stapleton & Uptown

Saint Joseph Hospital’s certified nurse-midwives partner with expecting moms so they can have a healthy pregnancy, a healthy body and a healthy baby. From low- to high-risk pregnancies, we offer a full range of birthing options for mothers seeking personalized, high-quality care.

With convenient clinic locations in Uptown and Stapleton, our nurse-midwives are here to help your growing family every step of the way.

Learn more or request an appointment at saintjosephdenver.org/midwife or call **303-318-BABY (2229)**.



Hey NE Denver,

We're pleased to deliver a **FREE** award-winning community paper to your door.

We hope you'll keep in mind the advertisers who make it possible.

We've started a **FOOD & DRINK** and a **KIDS** ad section.

AND you can look up **ALL** our advertisers in the directory below.

OR visit FrontPorchStapleton.com/business-directory/

Front Porch
303.526.1969

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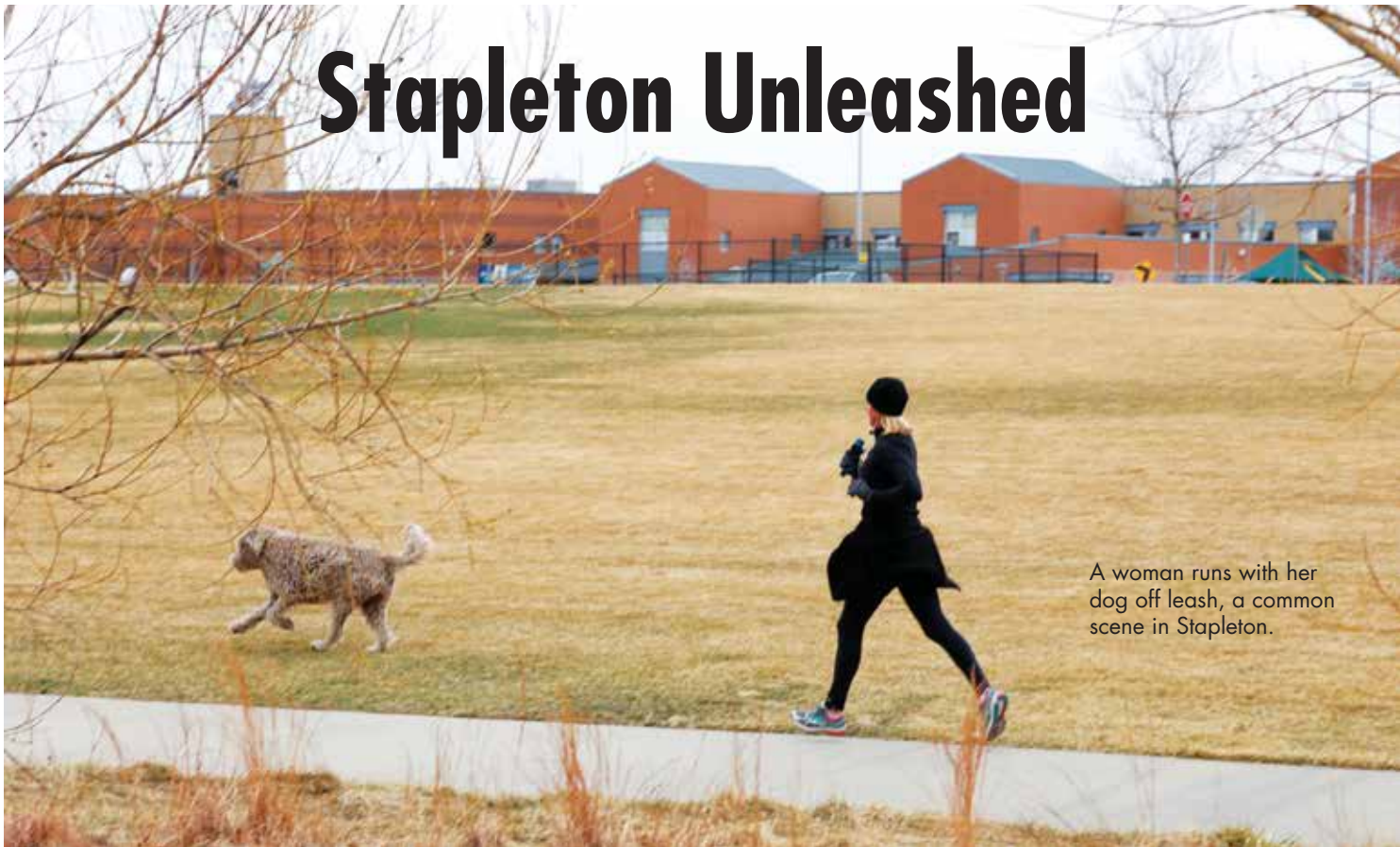
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A directory with links to these businesses can be found at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com > Business Directory

Stapleton Unleashed



A woman runs with her dog off leash, a common scene in Stapleton.

By Madeline Schroeder

Ann Johnson was dropping off mail near her pocket park when an off-leash dog came out of nowhere and began to lunge at her. It jumped high enough to knock her in the jaw.

Last summer, a few guys were playing with their puggle who was off-leash at the F-15 pool. The dog ran across the street to where Kim Petersen was pushing her infant in a stroller. The dog tried to jump into the stroller and looked like it was going to bite the baby. The owners ran over and claimed it was the dog's way of a friendly hello.

Kids were throwing a tennis ball for an off-leash puppy on the sidewalk outside their home. The ball went into the street and the puppy chased it. A car slammed on its brakes just in time to avoid hitting it.

Dogs running off leash is a regular occurrence throughout Stapleton. Some of these situations end in injury for the dog and/or owner. Many cause fear and anger. In the grand scheme of crime in Denver, dogs off leash may seem trivial. But Stapleton residents are growing concerned at the frequency of this problem.

To gauge residents' thoughts about dogs running off leash, the *Front Porch* posted on

NextDoor, a social media site for individual neighborhoods. What resulted was a slew of concerned comments and emails.

"So disappointed in owners who refuse to use a leash. Their dogs come charging at me on my bike and risk hurting both of us."

"Our dog is most definitely not friendly toward other dogs and has attacked other dogs. We have worked with trainers and a behaviorist on this. We were given tools to use to work with our dog—we take her for a run almost daily, and we do everything in our power to avoid other dogs. However, if an unleashed dog were to approach us, that dog would end up being attacked by my dog."

"I abide by the leash laws because this is a high-density community with a lot of young kids and dogs."

Denver's leash law requires dogs to be on a leash *and* under control of their owner at all times, unless in a specified off-leash area.

Most Stapleton homes have small backyards so residents seek areas to let dogs run off leash, so pocket parks, Central Park, or even sidewalks duel as dog parks.

Central Park, in particular, is described by residents as "filthy" and "scary" due to the amount

of dog waste and number of dogs off leash. Several residents say they avoid the park altogether.

Stapleton resident Carrie McConnell sees off-leash dogs daily, including two during the interview for this story. "I think not feeling safe in Central Park, that is alarming. And I think it's a bummer because the pocket parks, which are so unique to Stapleton, are used as a dog park," McConnell says.

McConnell recalls a recent day when her son and a friend were swinging golf clubs in the pocket

park. An off-leash dog kept coming up to smell them. The owner told the kids to stop swinging golf clubs because they may hit the dog. It begs the question, do dogs rule in Stapleton?

Dogs off leash can be a point of contention among neighbors. Stapleton resident Wendi Kispert is more primarily bothered by owners of off-leash dogs. Her dog does not like dogs running up off leash and often growls or barks. "What makes it worse is that the owner(s) of the dog(s) act like my dog and I are in the wrong when she goes crazy. I have had to pick her up and start running (thank goodness she is small) from the dogs, and the owner(s) just look at me and don't call in their dogs."

Shelley Sandel, veterinarian at Northfield Veterinarian Hospital, says even the friendliest dogs may be set off by a certain dog or situation and try to attack. "I've been a vet for 22 years and even the very best dog I don't trust 100 percent."

Older dogs can be particularly bothered by puppies, according to Sandel. Last year, a one-year-old labradoodle puppy was tragically attacked and killed at Westerly Creek Park by two large dogs. The dogs were leashed around the owner's waist, but not under control. Under control is defined as the dog can be restrained if needed. A child holding a leash or an owner wearing an extended leash around the waist would not be considered under control.

While Sandel sympathizes wanting to let dogs run, leash laws *are* the law—people who do not abide are subject to fines. "Keeping dogs leashed is safer for everyone," she says.

To report a dog bite, attack, violations or problems, call the Denver Division of Animal Control at 303.698.0076. For an emergency, call 911.

Denver's Off-Leash Parks

Stapleton Greenway Dog Park E. 22nd & Syracuse

Lowry Dog Park E. 4th Pl. & South Yosemite

Berkeley Dog Park Sheridan & W. 46th

Kennedy Dog Park Hampden & S. Dayton

Fuller Dog Park Franklin & E. 29th

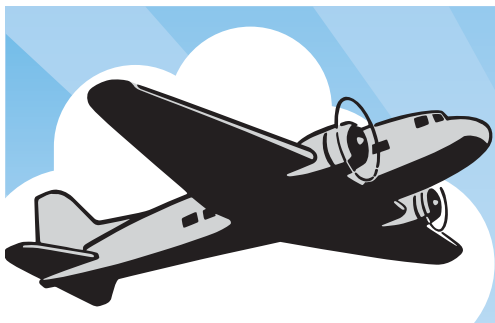
Green Valley Ranch East Dog Park Jebel & E. 45th

Railyard Dog Park 19th & Little Raven Street

Parkfield Dog Park 53rd & Chambers Rd.

Little Box Car Broadway & Lawrence St.

Development of a 3-acre off-leash dog park at Prairie Meadow Drive and Spruce in North Stapleton should be underway this spring with an estimated completion by the end of 2017, according to Tom Gleason, vice president-public relations, Forest City.



WHEN IT'S TIME TO SPREAD OUR WINGS, WE THROW A PARTY! And you're invited!

CENTRAL PARK STATION
Takes Flight

WHAT: CENTRAL PARK STATION STREET PARTY
Featuring Worldly Cuisines, Playful Kids' Activities,
and Artistic Stage Performances

WHEN: April 23, 2016 – 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

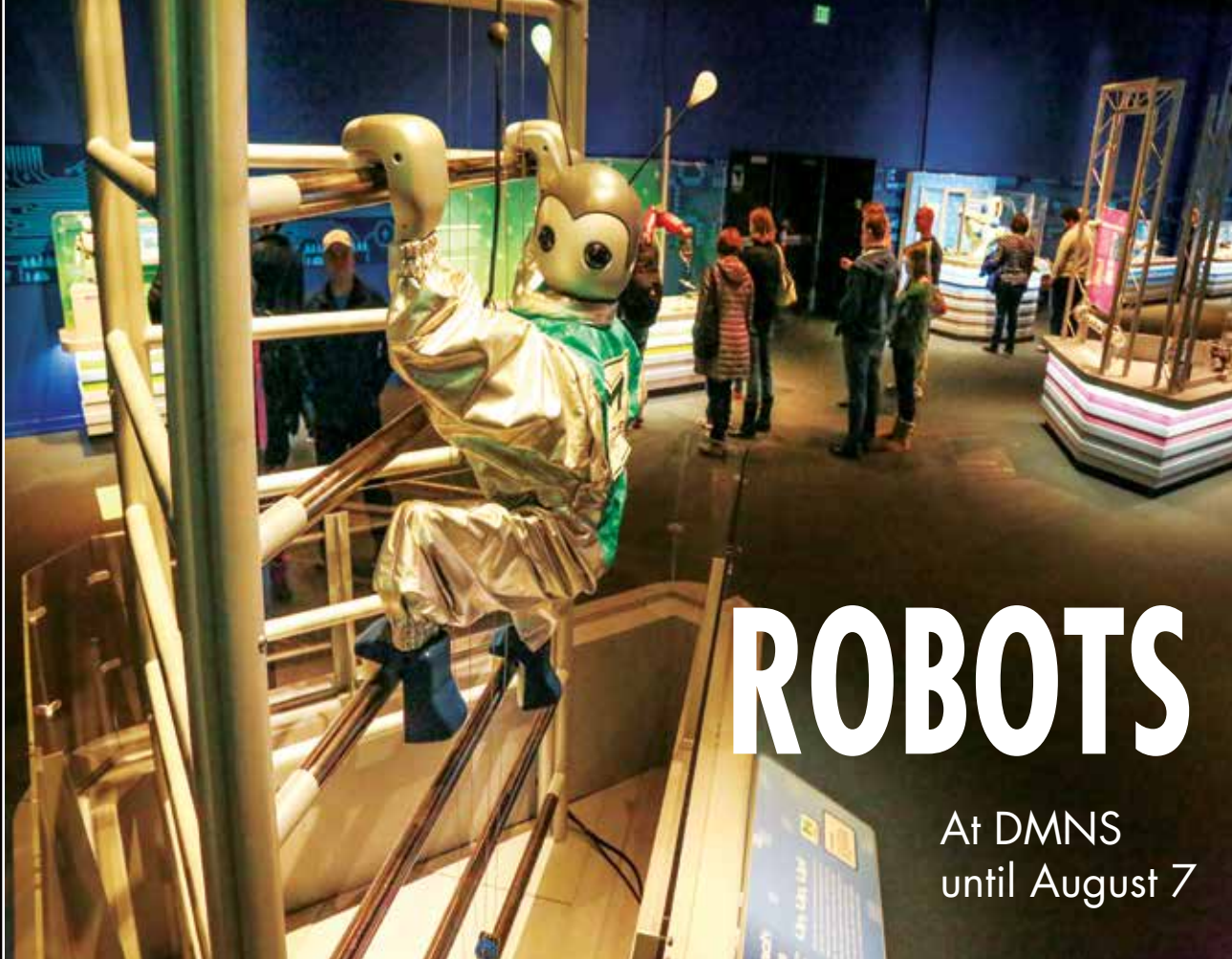
WHERE: Central Park Station Park & Ride (Ulster Street & Smith Road)

For periodic event updates follow Stapleton Denver on [f](#) [t](#) [in](#)
Inquiries can be sent to info@stapletondenver.com.



FORESTCITY





ROBOTS

At DMNS
until August 7



Above: Zenzel Cobb, 3 1/2, pats PARO, a harp seal robot that raises its head and opens its eyes in response to being stroked. Such robots have been used to soothe patients who can't communicate well with other people, including people in nursing homes with dementia. **Top:** Climbing robots like YUME ROBO can be programmed to do tasks like washing windows or even rescuing a cat from a tree. In the future such a robot may climb mountains on Mars. **Top right:** Owen Li presses buttons to direct ROBOTIS-MINI to do a variety of motions including standing on it's head, walking, sitting and doing a karate move. It walks slowly and has big feet to keep it from falling down.

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Last year, I walked into an operating room and saw a few medical staff and one impressively large machine—the robot that would be performing my surgery—with a little help from the humans. Assured of its accuracy, fine touch and resulting faster recovery, I was cautious, curious and in awe. Just such a machine is on display at “Robot Revolution,” now showing at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science through August 7. Stroll around the large exhibit, which reflects robots from organizations around the world, and you’ll find yourself asking, “What’s the world coming to?”

“Robot Revolution” shows that what once seemed to be hypothetical and the stuff of science fiction movies is our reality. Brian Hostetler, educator

for the exhibit points out, “If you think about it, cars that drive themselves are robots! They sense their environment, make a plan for how to navigate through it and have the ability to act upon that environment.” Another example, Roomba vacuums have been lightening the housework load for years.

The exhibit, supported by Google.org with additional major support from The Boeing Company, is divided into four main color-coded areas: Cooperation, Skills, Smarts and Locomotion, all to introduce guests to the various aspects of robots.

“Cooperation” shows how engineering breakthroughs are helping create robots that work with humans to enhance our lives, such as the da Vinci Surgical System. EMYS uses a Facial Action Coding System to mim-



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Are You Expecting a New Baby?

Advanced Pediatric Associates has taken special care to develop the services new parents need in caring for their newborn. Our physicians visit newborns **within 24 hours of birth** at many area hospitals, and our **Nurse Line** is available to answer any questions new parents may have about **newborn care or feeding**. Guiding parents through baby's first year and beyond is a top priority at Advanced Pediatric Associates. From **birth through college**, we look forward to forming a **close partnership with parents...** monitoring growth and development, caring for illness and injuries, and providing behavioral and parenting advice through all the magical milestones of parenthood.

We're Available When You Need Us!

When your children are sick, we know you want quick and convenient access to medical care and advice. We carefully tailor our schedule to leave plenty of room available for **same-day sick care**, and our convenient Stapleton office is open both weekdays and Saturday mornings. **Have questions or need advice?** Just give us a call! During regular office hours, our **licensed, registered nurses** are available to provide home care advice and answer questions about illness, injuries and newborn care. When our offices are closed, an Advanced Pediatrics' **on-call physician** works in conjunction with registered nurses from **Children's Hospital Colorado** to handle any urgent concerns.

Are you expecting a baby? Call to schedule a free “Meet the Doctor” visit!
Sign up for our “Preparing for Baby” checklist on our website.

Meet Our Board Certified Pediatric Physicians



Dr. Bradley Kurtz, FAAP



Dr. Alison Auster, FAAP



Dr. Bethany Carvajal, FAAP
Certified Breastfeeding Specialist

ic guests' faces and express basic human emotions. PARO shows the softer side of robots in the form of a furry therapeutic baby harp seal used to benefit the physical and emotional health of medical patients. And Soccer Robots make their way around a large soccer "field" using the same rules as human players, eliciting boisterous sideline coaching from the human observers.

"Smarts" displays machines that are able to sense, plan and act. The humans get to see, compare and contrast how they do things compared to the robots like Baxter who plays tic-tac-toe against visitors. Yume Robo hoists his 60-pound frame up a ladder, coordinated by smart motors. "Skills" shows the things robots can do that mimic and sometimes surpass human capabilities by gripping and maneuvering and handling fragile and tiny objects. "Locomotion" explores ways robots can move, sometimes in places humans can't or shouldn't.

"Robot Revolution" offers interactive opportunities at every turn. Throughout the exhibit, there are ways to make the robots do things with just a glance or with the push of a button, such as Robotis Mini who can dance, take a bow and do headstands. Families can also participate in a live stage show about drones and their emerging capabilities. In the Tinker Tank section, people can build their own Snap Circuits using a variety of objects, play with Bee Bots or Cubelets and dress up in robot-inspired garb.

Hostetler reminds visitors that robots couldn't exist without humans. "Without humans to build, program and maintain robots, they would not last long." As proof, a repair shop of sorts is set up in the exhibit with large windows showing staffers surrounded by parts and tools.



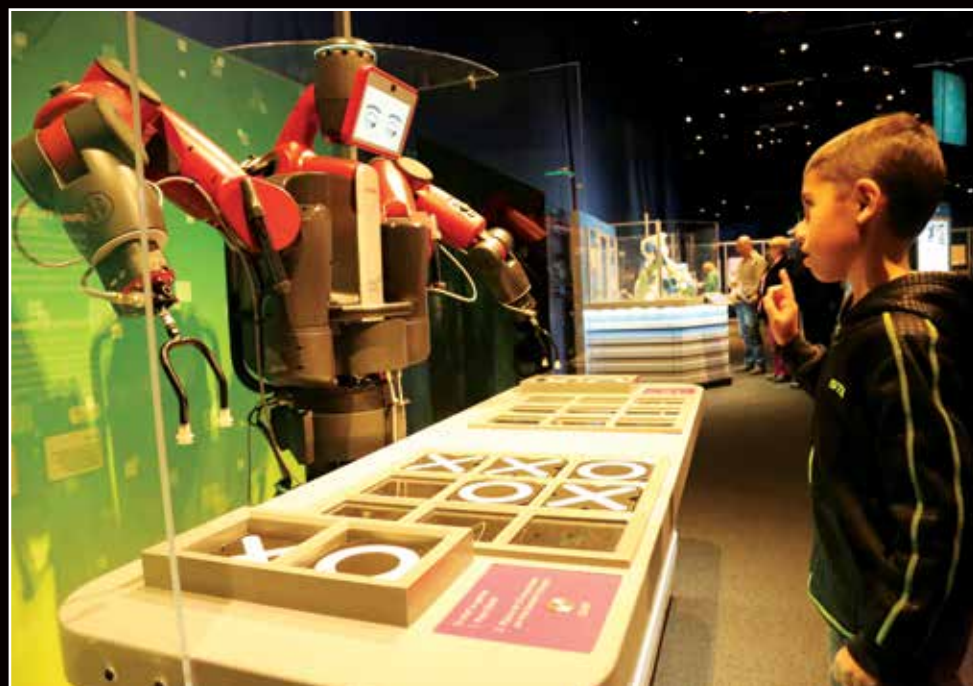
Left: Taylor Kaiman, a chemistry student at CU Boulder, makes facial expressions that are picked up by a camera, causing the robot to imitate Kaiman's expressions and the movements of his head. Explanatory information about this robot uses the term "The Uncanny Valley" to refer to the uneasiness humans may feel when they see robots expressing emotions.

Below: Eli Wolf, 8, plays Tic Tac Toe with Baxter, a robot that can easily be programmed to do a variety of simple, repetitive tasks.

Watch a video at
FrontPorch
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Whether visitors approach "Robot Revolution" with trepidation or awe, Hostetler hopes the takeaway is that robots are here to stay. "They are all around us, and they are amazing! There are so many things that robots do for us in our daily lives. Embrace the revolution!"

"Robot Revolution" is a ticketed exhibition with pricing for members \$7 for adults, \$6 ages 3-18 and 65 and older. Non-member pricing is \$23.95 for adults, \$17.95 for ages 3-18 and \$19.95 for ages 65 and older. Tickets include museum admission. For more information, visit www.dmn.org/robot-revolution/.



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Get to Know Dr. Christine Conageski

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

Northfield Principal

(continued from page 1) athletic director, assistant principal and principal.

“It’s hard to put into words,” she said to describe her feelings after being selected. “It’s exciting because of the potential of Northfield. Walking through the school and meeting kids and the staff and seeing their passion is just unbelievably amazing and exciting for me.”

Since March, Bringedahl has been splitting her time between Merrill and Northfield. She currently spends two days a week at Northfield. Her focus is getting to know Northfield’s past experiences and how best to move forward.

Northfield opened in fall 2015 under Principal Avi Tropper who designed the original Northfield vision. In October, only three months after starting, Tropper resigned following an incident involving a student and a security guard.

Ron Castagna, the beloved former principal of Lakewood High School, was brought in out of retirement until a permanent principal could be selected. Bringedahl’s selection marks a fresh start for the school.

The school’s disheartening start saddens Bringedahl, and she is determined that Northfield will achieve all it was originally expected to be. “There’s a lot of work to be done to set the foundation for a successful 2016-17 school year,” Bringedahl says.

Two hundred new freshmen will attend Northfield in 2016, totaling 400 students. To accommodate the new class, Bringedahl interviewed and hired math and science teachers at the end of March. She plans to hire all four of the new teachers by mid-April.

To establish community and school culture, Bringedahl has planned retreats in late April and May for teachers, as well as teachers and the community, to get to know each other.

Teachers at Northfield currently collaborate, but Bringedahl is establishing a formal program known as professional learning

communities. Bringedahl started these communities at Merrill and says they continue to be one of the school’s most powerful tools. A professional learning community is a team of teachers who share the same content area and grade level. The teachers have collaborative time to write lesson plans, support one another, and discuss what resources are missing for student success. At Merrill, teachers have 45 minutes every day for this time. “For a lot of my career, teachers have worked in isolation, but we are doing ourselves a disservice by doing that. We don’t know

what we don’t know. We have to be willing to look at what another teacher is doing and how they’re achieving success.”

Throughout the hiring process, she has sought teachers who work well in teams.

Bringedahl will also hire at least one restorative justice coordinator. Restorative justice is the school’s approach to conflicts in which students take ownership of the issue and make restitution. When a conflict occurs, the victim, offender and anyone involved meet to discuss how to repair any harm.

Determining what situations call for restorative justice requires establishing clear rules for the entire school. Are headphones ever allowed? Are cell phones acceptable? In the coming months, she and teachers will establish these standards.

Another main focus for Bringedahl is establishing the International Baccalaureate Program. Northfield is one of a few high schools across the country to offer IB For All. Because IB courses are rigorous, they typically target high-achieving students, but IB For All high schools offer IB preparatory classes for



Clockwise starting upper left: Amy Bringedahl speaks with a Northfield parent at a community forum in March where she was announced as a final candidate for principal; Elsie Esmond and T'airah Martinez introduce one another to the class as a get-acquainted exercise; IB Coordinator Micah Porter speaks to his class.

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in-depth context for students at the higher end of grade level. Professional learning communities will be useful for teachers to develop the range of curriculum in diverse classrooms.

Bringedahl and the administration are currently selecting teachers to receive IB training. "Training is very expensive," says Micah Porter, the IB coordinator at Northfield. Because achieving IB status is a lengthy process, every school appoints one person to be the main point of contact. Porter took on this role this year. "We have to be very intentional about who we send off to training," he says.

Training takes three days and will likely happen over the summer. The school will then apply for IB certification in October.

Because Ron Castagna has experience with IB from Lakewood High School, he has been providing expertise throughout the IB certification process. Castagna may continue as a resource in some way next year, possibly as a consultant.

As part of the IB process, Bringedahl is also reevaluating the school's Innovation Plan, a hefty 200-plus-page document that outlines the school design, curriculum, administration, and more.

"It's a very ambitious plan. There are great components within the plan, but things need to be modified to meet the needs of the school community," she says. For example, the original plan calls for "looping," where teachers stay with the same class and move up throughout each grade. "It works well at the elementary or early middle school grades, but for high school it's really complicated," she says. Teachers would have to be trained in all subject areas for all grade levels, which is difficult with costly IB trainings.

"We're looking at the modifications now, but honoring the spirit of the Innovation Plan," Bringedahl says.

She is available to talk about development at the school and encourages people to reach out, allowing 48 hours for a response while she continues to split time between Merrill and Northfield through the end of the school year. Contact Amy Bringedahl at Amy_bringedahl@dpsk12.org or visit northfield.dpsk12.org.

every ninth- and tenth-grader. Junior and senior years, every class is part of the prescribed IB program.

IB For All classes have a diverse range of students. Bringedahl has experience with "cluster data grouping," or selecting students for classes based on assessment and academic performance.

"I am very intent on diverse learning environments," she says. Every student in a class at Northfield will study the same content, but the method of learning will be different based on students' needs. Classrooms will have additional support for students at the cusp of grade level, as well as enrichment and

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Punch Bowl Construction Underway, November Opening Set



The original building is the white rectangle. The additions, most of which are at ground level, are the parts that come out at an angle. The parking lot will have two access points: from Uinta St. (on left) and Central Park Blvd. (top right). The city wouldn't allow access from Martin Luther King Blvd.

By Laurie Dunklee

Construction is underway to restore Stapleton's historic control tower building into Denver's newest Punch Bowl Social restaurant and entertainment complex expected to open November 2016.

CEO and founder of Punch Bowl Social Robert Thompson decided to re-purpose the control tower after City Councilman Chris Herndon approached him more than a year ago. "Councilman Herndon wanted a group to take care of the tower and preserve it. We're treating it like the landmark that it is. Everything we're doing is consistent with the building's origins."

Asbestos remediation is complete and

work is beginning on the core infrastructure, including power, water, parking and expansion of the building.

Punch Bowl Social has an "eatertainment" concept that combines craft cocktails, diner-inspired food and entertainment, including old-school arcade games, pool tables and bowling alleys. Punch Bowl will serve lunch five days a week and brunch on Saturdays and Sundays. It will be adult-only after 9:30pm. As of now, it is planned to be open until 2am on most days, but that depends on what the community wants, according to Thompson, a Lowry resident.

The finished space inside will be about 15,000 square feet. Both indoor and outdoor spaces will be available for wedding receptions

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Renderings by Oz Architecture

This view faces MLK with Uinta St. at left. Punch Bowl’s “eatertainment” concept will include a permanent food truck outside (far right) that will serve the same menu as inside. Patrons will gather around the fire pit and faux pool. Outdoor games will include hopscotch, hula hoops and lawn bowling (far left) where resilient grass will be planted. A second-floor patio will face Central Park Blvd. Trees and other landscaping will obstruct views of Punch Bowl from homes on Uinta.

and corporate events.

Thompson figures the rehabilitation of the control tower building will cost around \$7 million. “The asbestos abatement was a big deal, and also we need to replace the floors,” he said. “The building is OK structurally, but the concrete floors on top of the structure won’t pass modern-day code. So we’ll take them out and re-pour them.”

None of the historic building will be demolished. “We’re adding 5,000 square feet to the original building, increasing the building’s size by 30 percent. We’re preserving the mid-century modern and art deco design elements,” he says.

Thompson’s appreciation for historic buildings is evidenced in the Punch Bowl Social at 65 Broadway that was a grocery store in the 1950s. “We love old stuff,” he said. “It’s more interesting, and it’s also consistent with our brand identity of throwback



The tower will be preserved on the outside and it will be lit with vertical LED strip lights. Because the interior is only 400 square feet at the top, not much will change inside and there will not be an elevator.

elements, like old-school gaming.”

Forest City is also completing work north of the tower on the same lot. “That is the removal of concrete caissons that supported the former airport concourses prior to the start of utility work and the extension of 32nd avenue,” says Tom Gleason, vice president of public relations for Forest City.

The vacant lot next to Punch Bowl Social that abuts Central Park Blvd. will likely be used for new housing, according to Gleason. “We don’t have a specific project at this time but anticipate it will be a high-density residential development.”

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Patty Limerick Named New Colorado State Historian

By Madeline Schroeder

Author, lecturer and history buff, Patty Limerick has been appointed the new Colorado State Historian.

Limerick has been known for her colorful, straightforward accounts of the West. She serves as faculty director and chair of the board of the Center of the American West at the University of Colorado (CU) at Boulder.

Limerick will continue her duties at CU in a new partnership between the university and History Colorado, a historical society that offers public access to cultural and heritage resources of Colorado, including the History Colorado Center downtown.

What is the role of the state historian?

The role has two principle elements. One is what I've always tried to be—the cheerleader, the advocate, the persistent person calling attention to the value of history and how we got to this point in time It's really not a good idea for humanity to be bumbling around in a state of amnesia about the past.

Then, I get to play a central role in choosing topics for exhibits, programs, putting forward what I know about the academic world, and figuring out how to be engaged in the best way that helps citizens be knowledgeable and know why it's special to be in Colorado.

Do you have sole control over the content of the museum?

The answer should not be frozen or static, but dynamic and we're always working out chains of communications ... I



Patty Limerick sits in the Dust Bowl exhibit at the Colorado History Center. In her role as Colorado State Historian, she will help decide new exhibits for the museum.

bring historical expertise and experience, but I am not a solo actor with hammers and screws and can make an exhibit case on my own.



Limerick is passionate about The West and sharing its history with Coloradans.

What are some of the challenges of putting together an exhibit?

There are challenges of taking one story within a complicated history. How do you put into a museum a place that was dusty and hard to live in when there will be kids visiting the museum? But you don't want it to look inaccurate.

We will be thinking about a lot of those questions and how can we, in the limited

space of a museum, convey complexity and how groups' histories don't stay separate.

So, one thing I have to admit is every time I visit History Colorado Center there are not many people there. Is that something you have focused on or discussed?

I think that's on everyone's radars. I think the partnerships with Denver Art Museum and Denver Museum of Nature & Science will be helpful. We want to make the atrium much more of a community space where people can have lunch or take part in whatever events we have. The location of History Colorado Center is so central we need to find what will magnetize people. Huge opportunity.

What is your favorite museum or exhibit you've ever been to?

Well, there's an interesting question. I would say the 150th anniversary of the California Gold Rush at the Oakland Museum was *really*

good—visually compelling, sophisticated and really up-to-date with academic understanding, and so immediate in the humor reality of it. And it showed the long-term impacts of the Gold Rush.

Also, the Park City, Utah, museum uses technology in a really interesting way. When you're leaving, there's a big, old-fashioned bar with a mirror behind the bar. And projected on the screen are old-timers telling stories. It's everything you want when you visit an old town and the locals tell you stories.

I'm curious about your opinion of the controversy whether to change Stapleton's name because of the affiliation with KKK member Ben Stapleton.

I do have a lot of thoughts about that ... I feel we, as a society, sometimes it makes sense to keep the name and reckon with

the history. And sometimes the reckoning with the history distracts us from living productively with the history ... Stapleton is a great example of how we can exercise our thinking around that. The name Stapleton will never be erased from Colorado history. We shouldn't even contemplate that. Meanwhile, the Stapleton development is really a distinctive concept of new urbanism that's not directly tied to Mayor Stapleton's vision when it was an airport To say, well, we have to keep every aspect of the past, including a name that doesn't connect to what's happening there now, maybe it is time for a new name. Whatever it is, it is an occasion for excellent, productive, grounded deliberation on history and how we live with it.

The History Colorado Center is located at 1200 Broadway. For more information call 303.447.8679 or visit www.historycolorado.org/museums/history-colorado-center

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More Denver Public Schools Students Get Top Choice

By Madeline Schroeder

Denver Public Schools was named the No. 1 choice district in the nation by the Brookings Institute, which studied choice programs in districts around the U.S.

Every year DPS families enter the school choice lottery by preferencing their top five schools for the upcoming year. Students have higher chances of receiving their first choice based on factors that include having a sibling in the school, living in a boundary zone, or being a Denver resident.

District wide, choice outcomes improved this year. In 2015, 74 percent of incoming

sixth graders and 77 percent of incoming ninth graders received their first choice. In 2016, 80 percent of incoming sixth graders and 87 percent of incoming ninth graders district wide received their first choice according to data released at the end of March.

Many parents say choice is stressful as they wait and wonder if their child will get into the school they believe is best for him or her. But the growing number of families in the Stapleton/Park Hill shared boundary has required DPS to add middle school seats, and in Stapleton/Park Hill this year every middle schooler got their first-choice school.

87%
of incoming ninth graders got their first choice, district wide

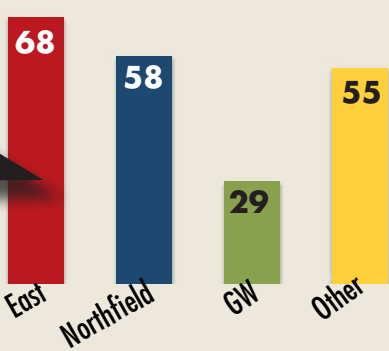
80%
of incoming sixth graders got their first choice, district wide

Northfield High School Results for Boundary Students

95% of the 210 boundary students submitting forms received their first choice high school. Northfield was the top choice for 58 students.

East was most requested by NHS boundary students—and was also most requested districtwide

#1 Choices Per School



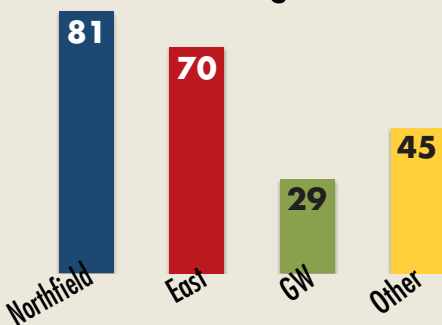
Northfield...

Northfield attracted more students in its second year, with 58 choosing it as their #1 school. With both a 9th and 10th grade class in 2016-17, the school will double to approximately 400 students.

Districtwide...

East continues to be the most requested Denver high school and only 18 percent choiced out. GW had a 60 percent choice-out rate. And Northfield had a 64 percent choice-out rate.

Students Assigned

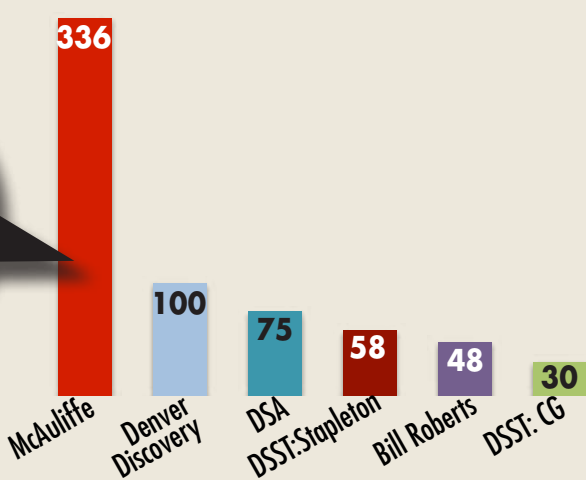


Middle School Results for Stapleton/Park Hill Boundary

100% of students entering sixth grade received their first choice high school.

McAuliffe was the most requested middle school among boundary students—and in all of DPS

#1 Choices Per School



In boundary...

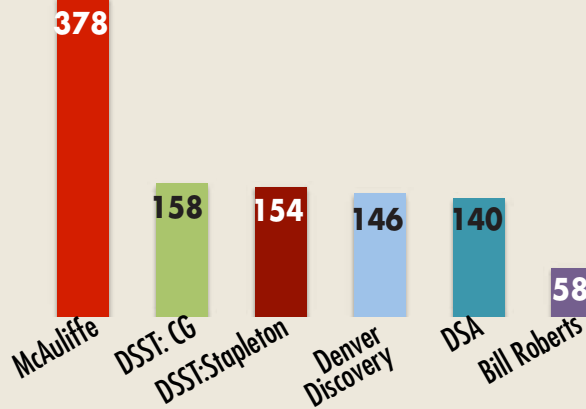
Based on high demand and projected future growth, DPS added 100 new seats at McAuliffe for 2016-17. With the new seats, the school was able to accommodate all of the students who chose it as No. 1.

Bill Roberts, a K-8 school that touts an intimate middle school learning environment, will have the smallest sixth grade class at 58 students. The remaining middle schools are similarly sized at about 150.

Non-boundary...

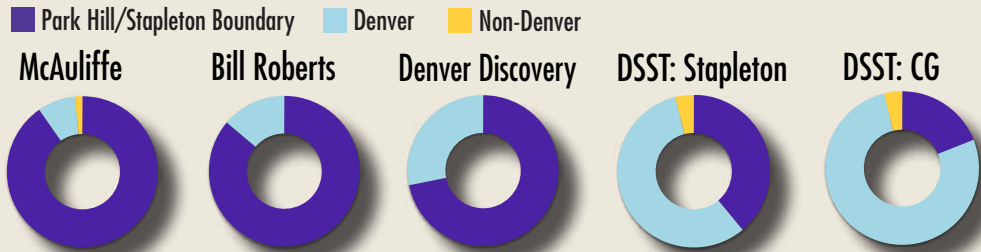
The charts below show school population according to students' place of residence: in boundary, in Denver, non-Denver. Boundary students total 647 (top right chart) and the total number of students assigned (middle right) was 1034 in all the schools. Both DSSTs have a majority of non-boundary students, which follows from their mission to serve a diverse population.

Students Assigned



294 incoming sixth graders were assigned to Hill Middle School, the middle school boundary area south of the Stapleton/Park Hill zone

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New Partner Joins Stanley Marketplace

Does that change the original plan?

By Carol Roberts

At the groundbreaking for Stanley Marketplace in October 2014, Mark Shaker, while introducing the project, said, “This is not a traditional development project. This is a movement. It’s about bringing like-minded businesses together who believe in more than the bottom line, about creating a sense of community, about tearing down fences and building bridges and about doing something very special.” This philosophy underlies the “Stanifesto,” the agreement Stanley makes with tenants, who are all independent local businesses—no chains or franchises.

The huge marketplace project at 2501 Dallas St. in Aurora has 140,000 square feet and encompasses 23 acres. The original developers, Flightline Partners, Inc., realized that with a growing budget and 50 tenants coming in, they needed a partner with complementary skills. “We’ve brought it this far. We need to ensure success by having someone that fills our deficits.”

Flightline recently announced a 50-50 partnership with Westfield, a big, seemingly traditional investment/development/property management company. The Front Porch asked Flightline and Westfield how their partnership would impact the



In a July, 2014 photo, Flightline partners Mark Shaker (left) and Lorin Ting show their plans for Stanley Marketplace.

vision for Stanley Marketplace.

The Stanifesto is alive and well, says Mark Shaker, partner at Flightline. Both Shaker and Richard Wham, partner at Westfield say there is no change in the vision. “We have complementary skill sets,” says Wham. With their combined skills and resources the partners will carry out the original vision and make the project “the best it can be.” Shaker believes Westfield, among other strengths, brings the best possible property management and support for their tenants.

But it was the search for financing that really got Flightline tuned in to the need for a partner. The cost had doubled. The banks were reluctant to fund a non-traditional project that had no comparables. It’s not located on a major street that brings traffic. And the banks said the surrounding area is still five years away from changing to residential from the current industrial uses.

“And, who are we? A rag tag group of people putting on a pretty big project. There’s an execution risk. With that scale, for a bank to

KIDS

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Stanley Marketplace sits on 23 acres, which includes land on both sides of Westerly Creek.

put their resources behind it, they wanted some comfort that we'd get to the finish line." By partnering with a group that had resources and expertise on even larger projects, "That's how lenders got comfortable," says Shaker. Flightline sold three acres on the south side of the Stanley property to Westfield for development of about 150 apartments. Having Westfield able to come in and quickly start development addressed the need to have residential nearby, and soon, rather than just having industrial on two sides of the property, says Shaker.

Construction of the apartments will start by year's end, says Wham—and they expect occupancy by the end of 2017. The apartments will be "on the efficient side, from a space perspective, but high design at an attainable price point." It will be a three- or four-story building that won't need a lot of amenities since tenants can walk over to Stanley Marketplace for coffee, fitness, meals, even a beer garden. Westfield has contracted with Boss Architecture, which designed the beer garden and event center at Stanley, to maintain consistency.

Although he expects the apartments will be popular with those in their 20s and 30s, Wham hopes it will attract "a broad array of ages who seek a creative and collaborative lifestyle." He says he'll be interested to see who comes—and adds that with all the land at Stanley there is the potential for future residential development.

Wham and Shaker both say they expect it will be attractive to those who work at the medical center, where they could ride a bike to work.

Despite Westfield's appearance as a big traditional development company, Wham says in the past 18 months they've been acquiring property on Brighton Blvd. in RiNo and are looking at adaptive reuse strategies for 17 acres that have a number of brick façade warehouses.

The company is interested in the new retail approach Stanley has developed, says Wham, adding that millennials are spending more money on food and going out not just for the food but for the overall experience. Stanley's work developing the concept for their marketplace, combined with being fully leased, made them an attractive partner for Westfield as they move toward developing a "new retail" type project.

With no swing vote in a 50-50 agreement,

how will decisions be made in the Flightline/Westfield partnership? "We have an extensive list of major decisions that require both of us to pull in the same direction, so it truly is an equal partnership," says Shaker. "There are some things on both sides where we have to be in complete agreement to move forward or else we're kind of stuck. With what we've created, there are certain things that for us are non-negotiable, and we need to make sure that we're on the same page. There haven't been any issues thus far."

Shaker says Westfield is in full agreement with their philosophy on selection of businesses and have completely deferred to Flightline in the selection of businesses since they've been partners.

"I've made commitments to all the businesses there. We have a merchants association that all the businesses are members of and contribute to, and we will do a wide array of community events and activities, and we continue to build that culture. I've made promises to all these businesses and I'm not going anywhere. I'll be there continuing to build our project. I don't do anything else. I just do Stanley and that will continue for years to come," says Shaker.

The projected opening date for Stanley Marketplace is July 27. The grand opening event will likely be in early August.

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Creating Community with Music

By Carol Roberts

“Music is our tool to put something out there that can help make the world better,” says Flobots rock band and hip hop singer Jamie Laurie to Northfield High School students. “In the last few years we’ve realized that the tool is not just us getting on stage and rapping and have people sit there and cheer for us. The real tool is the ability of a community to sing together.”

“In the civil rights movement there were a lot of times when people were together in very, very frightening situations where they had no weapons, the other side had a lot of weapons. What they did in those key moments to have strength and power very often was song. Collective singing.”

Laurie says today in the U.S., it is counter cultural and awkward to sing in public. People think you need to have a voice like those on American Idol. But, he points out, in much of the world people sing very readily. “What we’re doing is recovering that here.”

Laurie’s fellow Flobot Stephen “Brer Rabbit”

Brackett warms up the young audience with his personal story. As a child his room was filled with photos of famous African Americans who made contributions to our society. “My parents wanted to be sure that my skin color, in my mind, was not a disadvantage. That my skin color was something that I’d be proud of and wasn’t a deficit. It was armor that I’d step into the world with.”


“There are a lot of times when we can feel that we don’t have much power, right? We feel boxed in on all sides and we have no options. But the warrior women in my life taught me that there are still choices that we have in those moments to change things.” He says his mother was valedictorian of her high school class in the early years of desegregation. When she walked up to get her diploma, the principal looked at the audience and said, “How dare you let this [n-word] take this from me?” And my mother took it.”

His mother went on to become a lawyer and, despite serious illness, continued to do pro bono work. She told him, “Son, as long as you are alive, you can make a difference. Our gifts are not our own.” He told the students that this experience

Top left and top right: Jamie Laurie, singer, songwriter, and founder of the Flobots engages Northfield High School students in an interactive event that focuses on


how music can impact people and communities. Top middle: Flobot Stephen “Brer Rabbit” Brackett responds with emotion to Corey Albert’s rap performance.

KIDS (CONTINUED)



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seeing his mother carry on with her contribution to the community despite her pain and illness “taught me how I want to be.”

Laurie then asks the students to think of a moment when they had a powerful experience with a song. NHS student Corey Albert stands up and shares that he had awakened at 3am after a dream about a good friend who died because her mom was doing heroin and crashed the car. Albert wrote an entire song in one sitting called *Trust: Cause and Effect of Breaking It* based on a problem his friend had had with her boyfriend.

Laurie’s own experience happened while driving a group of kids he was working with in an after school program. A song came on the radio and suddenly a diverse group of kids was united in song. “I thought maybe if I’m really trying to get people involved, maybe I should try to be the

voice on the radio.” He called his childhood friend Stephen (Brer Rabbit) and came back to Denver and they formed the Flobots. (Both attended East.) “Five years later we were the voice on the radio. It was all the one moment with that one song.”

Laurie and Brer Rabbit brought the students down to the gym floor and got them singing. “Something happens and you just felt it. We’re like, vibrating together. How do we take that one step further?”

Laurie tells the students about a group of people in Canada who’d been hearing about keeping refugees out, but they wanted the refugees to feel welcome. They did it by getting together and singing in public.

Led by the Flobots, the NHS students replicated that idea using *When the Saints go Marching In* music with the words:

*Oh refugees are welcome here,
Oh refugees are welcome here. Oh
how I love thee as my neighbor
where refugees are welcome here.*



Jane Chu (right), chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, visited creative groups in Colorado, including the Flobots event at Northfield in March. She is talking with Jasmine Groves, who had won the Poetry Out Loud competition at Northfield a few days earlier. Groves went on to compete at the state level competition. Groves, who says she’s shy and had not previously performed in front of an audience, recited *To Helen* by Edgar Allan Poe. The Flobots event and Poetry Out Loud were sponsored by Colorado Creative Industries and organized by NHS teacher Nicole Foster.

Above: NHS student Osris Austin inspires his fellow students in a “sing-off” as Brer Rabbit (rear) encourages the singing.

Simultaneously another group sang the tune to *Swing Low Sweet Chariot* using the words: *Refugees are welcome here, Mother earth is everyone’s home.*

With that shared experience ringing in their ears, Laurie told the students, “We hope you have

wheels spinning in your head with ideas for collective singing. It’s really powerful.”

From the looks of it, the students had become believers in the power of music.



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Zoo Welcomes Whimsie, The Baby Gorilla



Visitors gather at the glass as the dominant male gorilla, Jim, walks by. Western lowland gorillas do climb but primarily spend their time on the ground.

By Madeline Schroeder

Denver Zoo welcomed a rare addition on February 25: a western lowland gorilla named Whimsie Adepa (ah-deep-ah). Western lowland gorilla populations

have declined by more than 60 percent over the last 20 years due to poaching, according to the World Wildlife Fund. Whimsie is the fifth of her species to ever be born at Denver Zoo, and the first in 11 years. Only 10 a year are born at zoos across





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the U.S., according to Denver zookeeper Michelle Valois.

Western lowland gorillas live in heavy rainforests in communities of up to 30. They have distinct social dynamics. There is one dominant older male, also called the silver-back for his swath of silver hair. Communities include several females and babies, and sometimes a few other young males who then go off to find a community of their own.

Denver Zoo has a troop of six gorillas:

Left, Tinga holds her two-month-old baby, Whimsie, and watches Jim, her partner and the dominant male in the group, walk away for a moment. Below, much like a human mother, Tinga pats Whimsie's back and jiggles or changes positions to comfort her.



11-year-old mother Tinga, 29-year-old father Jim, baby Whimsie, 39-year-old female Bossa, and "the bachelors," 19-year-old Charlie and 20-year-old Curtis.

Tinga was born at Denver Zoo. Valois had just returned from maternity leave when Tinga was born and felt a very special connection with her. At age 2, Tinga moved to the Los Angeles Zoo and returned in November 2014 to be paired with Jim. "I was so happy when she came back. She returned incredibly in-

telligent and has formed a special bond with Jim," she says. Whimsie is Tinga's first baby.

"She's very much a first-time mom," Valois says. "She's very protective and gentle." A few days after the birth, zookeepers were concerned Whimsie was growing weak because she was not nursing. They trained Tinga to let them check Whimsie's health and discovered the baby is actually very strong, according to Valois.

Whimsie is now nursing and Tinga is learning quickly how to be a mom. She pats Whimsie and jiggles or shakes positions to

soothe her when she cries, which is often. Jim has not yet interacted with Whimsie, but is very protective over her and Tinga, pushing away other gorillas if she needs space.

Baby gorillas stick with their moms until they start to walk around at 6–9 months.

At that point, zookeepers hope Jim will interact with Whimsie and they'll begin to play together. Denver Zoo expects big crowds at that time. For more information, visit denverzoo.org



Instinct is a lot of the game. Tinga is learning quickly how to be a mom.
—Michelle Valois, zookeeper



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21

April 2016



Lynnsie Holloway writes the group's mission for G.E.M.S.



Madison Wortham, far left, Lynnsie Holloway, center, Jaidyn Fears, middle right, and Lena Price, far right participate in a conversation during a G.E.M.S. meeting.

Discovering the Power of Female Friendships

By Madeline Schroeder

It's a quaint room with a couch and scattered chairs. It doesn't feel like a typical classroom. A seventh-grader sits across the room working on something. We begin our conversation and about 20 minutes in, a young woman comes in crying. "Ms. Biggs, I need a meeting," she says desperately. Alicia Biggs and the other seventh-grader in the room immediately embrace the young woman. "OK, what's going on? Are you OK?" They talk through what happened, take deep breaths, and she goes into a neighboring room to relax. "This is typical. Instead of getting upset at a teacher, the girls come down here and we talk it out. I give her the words to deliver with respect," Biggs tells me, simultaneously emailing the student's teacher to let her know she is OK and in her room. Alicia Biggs is the administrative assistant at McAuliffe International School at 25th and Holly. She has highlighted blonde hair and chunky gold jewelry, which clacks on her keyboard as she types. "We want a safe place to come and talk about anything that is going on in our lives and know that it's going to be safe. Mentally and socially we want to be able to express ourselves and for other girls to be engaged and help build each other up and be a support system." A few months ago, a few seventh-graders, includ-

ing Lynnsie Holloway, decided to do something about the number of cliques among girls at the school. "A lot of us are all going through similar stuff, so I wanted to bring the girls together," Holloway says. They formed G.E.M.S., Girls Engaging Mentally and Socially, a support group for young women attending McAuliffe. The group has grown to more than 25 girls and is changing the happiness, well-being and academic performance of these young women.



Jalaya Gilmore shares her thoughts as Nadia Barajas listens.

Biggs and Lynnsie's mom, Lena Price, mentor the group. Many of the G.E.M.S. do not have moms at home and are being raised by grandparents. G.E.M.S. is a sisterhood that gives them the opportunity to relate about difficult issues and ask female role models questions. After school every Tuesday and Thursday, the girls cozy up in this small room and talk about everything affecting their lives. They also go on activities together including bowling, visiting the Black Rodeo, and by the end of the year, will go to Elway's for dinner and a theatre production. Although hosted in the school, G.E.M.S. meetings feel nothing like school. No one raises her hand. All the conversations are nonjudgmental and confidential, unless it involves a safety issue. They've talked about topics including depression, social media and relationships. After talking about social media, Biggs took all of their phones for one night and locked them in her room. Initially there was panic, but in the end they were grateful to know they could survive without phones. Everyone still arrived at her room early the next morning. For their conversation about relationships, they invited boys at the school to share their perspectives. The boys explained they get physically attached, but not as emotionally attached as girls. Price likes to challenge the girls with questions they wouldn't expect, like why do you guys love expensive tennis

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Alicia Biggs playfully embraces Jaidyn Fears while Alexia Del Valleleft laughs.

shoes? Or why do you think there's the mis-conception that all black people like chicken?

Price admits she was afraid to have a daughter. Her boys were easy to raise—"barber shop, football, food, and they're good." Growing up she was the popular girl, but didn't always want to be. "I wanted to flourish and I wanted to hang out with the white kids and be diverse and experience different things. One side or the other always had something to say about it, *you're acting too this*. I want my daughter, and all the G.E.M.S. to be well-rounded mentally; everything else will fall into place."

Price and Holloway are a powerful mom-daughter example for the group. They listen intently when the other is speaking, laugh like best friends, and trust one another.

Many G.E.M.S. do not have many adults they like or look up to. Some feel their teachers, almost all of whom are white, do not care about or understand what they're going through at home. Several experience depression, anxiety, or have had suicidal thoughts. This comes out in the classroom at times.

At G.E.M.S., they talk about long-term goals and how school fits into that. Biggs and Price role-play as teachers for the G.E.M.S. to practice assertive and respectful communica-

tion when they get upset in the classroom.

"We want them to learn to advocate for themselves in a respectful manner and teach them they have good sense, because they do, even though they don't always show it," Price says.

The effort goes both ways, though, according to Biggs. She has hosted Cultural, Race and Equity workshops for teachers at the school to learn about their own differences and teaching across cultures.

If a student feels she cannot communicate with a teacher and the conversation is too emotional, she can always come to this room. Biggs and one of the other G.E.M.S. will be there ready to wipe her tears.

G.E.M.S. will continue throughout the summer months, and Price and Biggs encourage the girls to call or text anytime. They continue to recruit girls who seem like they may need someone. Price says, "Find someone in your life, whether it's a friend, cousin, mentor to talk about things. You are not alone."



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DPS Board Announces Ten Finalists for Vacant Board Seat

Ten finalists for Denver Public Schools Board Director of District 4 presented to the community on Monday, March 21 at Manual High School. Candidates were given five minutes to express how they would achieve success as Board Director.

1. Jennifer Bacon

Attorney and BS in Management, Business Law and American Politics. Juris Doctor. 10+ years in public education.

Speech focused on access to quality schools, accountability and acknowledgment

2. Makisha Boothe

University of Colorado at Denver, B.A. Currently DPS Director of Strategic School Design and Senior Director.

Speech focused on equity and urgency to create diverse, innovative school models in all neighborhoods

3. Priya Burkett (stand-in pictured)

University of Colorado, Denver, Executive MBA. The George Washington University, D.C. BA, Finance and Information Systems. Currently Director, Strategic Accounts, Xcel Energy and Board of Director, Denver Public Schools Foundation.

Speech focused on nurturing the whole child and providing social-emotional support in classrooms

4. Rachele Camesa-Espiritu

University of Colorado-Boulder, Ph.D Clinical Psychology, University of Colorado-Boulder, MA Clinical Psychology, University of California-San

Diego, BA Psychology. Practicing psychologist and Founder of small business

Speech focused on student's well being and mental health

5. Velvia Garner

BS Nursing, MS in Nursing Administration, Doctorate (in progress), Public Administration, Policy, Public Management.

Speech focused on classroom management and supporting a child's mental health

6. Jo-Nell Herndon

MBA and Master of Nonprofit Management. Previously served on boards including Montessori Academy of Colorado and the CU Denver Business School. Founder of Montessori ECE school

Speech focused on social-emotional services, and getting resources to schools that really need it

7. MiDian Z. Holmes

Operations professional, specializing in training development. Community activities include education advocacy and community resource for Colorado Student Athletes.

Speech focused advocating for DPS kids who do not attend high-performing schools

8. Arnetta Koger

Teacher Leader. Social studies teacher, Denver Center for: International Studies at Montbello. Obama for America community organizer.

Speech focused on equity for children of color, as well as the need for more teachers of color

9. Dexter Korto

9th grade writing teacher and 7th grade

social studies teacher at DSST: Cole. Previously Urban Leader Fellow, defensive backs coach at Montbello High School, recipient of D1 athletic scholarship.

Speech focused on supporting all students, citing a Special Ed International student who "DPS failed"

10. Adrienne Tate

Founder and Lead Consultant, Tate Education Consulting. Designed and facilitated trainings for teachers and school leaders.

Speech focused on achievement of children of color and special needs students and need for teacher training

Remaining Schedule for Board Director Selection

4:30pm Thursday, April 7 the Board will interview the finalists

4:30pm Tuesday, April 12 the Board will vote on the finalists and announce the selection

4:30pm Monday, April 18 the new District 4 Board Director will be sworn in at the Board of Education work session

Denver Water Sets New Rate Structure

By John Fernandez

Area residents can expect their water bills to change. A new rate structure will be reflected on bills for any meter read on or after April 1, 2016. That means meters read in early April, for example, would include water use from days in March under the new structure.

The impact on individual homeowners will vary, as bills will be individualized based on consumption patterns. What's increasing for everyone is the "monthly service charge." Water bills are comprised of this service charge plus a charge based on consumption. For a typical residential customer, the service charge is increasing from \$6.74 to \$8.79 per month. Commercial customers will also see a service charge increase depending on meter size.

The consumption charge portion of the bill is converting to a three-tier system based on indoor use, landscaping for an average size yard, and a higher rate for landscaping requiring more than 15,000 gallons of water per month.

The former four-tier system charged higher rates for higher tiers. The price per gallon under the new three-tier system also increases from tier to tier but defines the tiers by type of use rather than simply by a greater charge per

gallon: establishing the lowest tier for "average winter consumption" for basic indoor use; then allotting 15,000 gallons of use in the next tier based on what it takes to water an average-sized yard efficiently; then defining a tier three for any water use above that. Each tier under the new system costs less per 1,000 gallons than the previous system, an amount offset to some degree by the increased service charge. As a fixed fee, the larger service charge will help stabilize revenues to the overall water system. Denver Water has, as have many other Colorado water providers, experienced inconsistent revenues as a result of more frequent extreme weather fluctuations and customer water conservation efforts..

In adopting the new structure last December, the Denver Board of Water Commissioners indicated the "new structure will provide a more secure source of the revenue the utility needs to continue to collect, treat and deliver safe, reliable water to its customers."

Because tier one of the structure is based on a customer's average winter consumption, calculated by averaging your monthly water consumption on bills dated January, February and March each year (beginning in 2016), water bills among customers will vary. Customers can get details on the new rate structure by accessing the Denver-Water.org web site.

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- Bring a tarp to cover your truck or trailer.
- Due to limited quantities, Denver residents only.
- Commercial vehicles are prohibited from taking or selling the City's mulch or compost.



Compost Prices are \$3.75 per 1.25 cubic ft. bag (9 gal.) or \$31.50 per cubic yd. (includes tax). Compost limit of 3 cubic yards or 20 bags per vehicle.



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Sierra Club Sues Over I-70 Plan

By John Fernandez

Even as the I-70 East expansion project wends its way toward final federal approval, community organizations representing neighborhoods in north Denver adjacent to I-70 joined the Sierra Club on March 15 in a lawsuit.

CDOT is proposing to eventually expand the current six-lane highway to 10 travel lanes and four frontage lanes. Phase 1 of the project is slated to begin next year following federal issuance of a formal "Record of Decision" (ROD) this summer. CDOT is proceeding on a parallel path with selection of a contractor/developer, with a decision expected this fall.

The suit, filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, challenges EPA's revision of the methodology for determining compliance with the air quality standard for particulate pollution. The specific claim about EPA guidance revolves around whether multiple

high pollution days will be counted against the standard.

The organizations joining the Sierra Club in the suit include Citizens for a Greater Denver, the Elyria and Swansea Neighborhood Association, and the Cross Community Coalition.

In a press release issued March 16, the group alleges increased health risks from the project for an estimated 10,000 residents of north Denver residing within 1,000 feet of I-70.

This same group of organizations has been urging CDOT to re-route interstate highway traffic away from the north Denver neighborhoods onto an expanded I-76 and I-270 combination. In this scenario, I-70 through north central Denver would be converted into a surface boulevard. CDOT opposes this alternative as unrealistic and has been joined in that view by many local and state officials. The public comment period on the preferred alternative closed March 2.

April 2016

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Stapleton Front Porch

Just the Facts

Tracking Colorado's Rockfalls

by James Hagadorn



Crews assess precipitously perched rocks above the road—the source of the recent rockfall in Glenwood Canyon.

typical environment) left behind by ancient landslides and the bulldozing of Snowmastodon-era glaciers are the last source of falling rocks.

These crazy-looking piles of dirt and rock are a geological mishmash of giant boulders suspended in sand and gravel. They line most of Colorado's valleys and canyons. As water from snowmelt or rainfall saturates sediment that holds boulders in place, rocks can slip or fall out of these piles, tumbling down to burghs like Cañon City or the geological bullseye of East Vail.

Falling rocks from these sources directly impact homes, vehicles, infrastructure, and people. They have indirect impacts as traffic hazards and because they catalyze landslides. To add to natural triggers, anytime we undercut, oversteepen, or disturb hillsides and mountainsides, rockfalls will

be more likely. Ditto when we build roads and homes at the foot of, or on top of ancient rockfalls and landslides.

Given that Colorado's freeze-thaw cycles and rainfall are each three-season phenomena, it isn't surprising that crack-related rockfalls are a year-round phenomenon. Witness the epic traffic-clogging examples on the I-70 corridor. In contrast, erosion- and slippage-related rockfalls tend to occur after prolonged or massive rainy intervals, especially when it's windy. Highway 133 between Paonia and Carbondale is a classic example.

Rockfalls have been shaping the surface of our state for a billion years, and will continue to do so. They're an indication that our earth is always in action, and they signal the risks of living and playing in mountainous and hilly terrain. Understanding what triggers them and how they behave helps us predict and minimize our risk. To learn more, check out coloradogeologicalsurvey.org/geologic-hazards/ or codot.gov/programs/geotech/.

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

In Colorado, falling rocks mainly come from three sources, all of which are plentiful in hillsides and mountains. The first source is fractured bedrock like the stuff exposed in Black Canyon of the Gunnison, Golden's Clear Creek Canyon, and Pikes Peak. These rocks, cooled from magma or cemented together during burial and mountain-building, are full of fissures and cracks. As water seeps into the cracks, sometimes it lubricates them or degrades crack-filling crystals into clays that help the rocks slip apart. The rocks eventually calve off like glaciers. An even more destructive process, called ice-jacking, occurs when this infiltrating water freezes and expands, gradually wedging the rock's cracks open more and more during the daily and seasonal freeze-thaw cycles.

Alternating layers of sedimentary rock are the second major contributor to rockfalls. In exposures like those that rim Castle Rock, Durango, Grand Junction, and Manitou Springs, massive cliff-forming beds of these rocks regularly spall off from mesas, buttes, and bluffs. The cause? Underlying the durable well-cemented cliff rocks are soft mud-rich layers. These layers erode from rainfall and seepage, undercutting and allowing the overlying rocks to topple downhill. Ice-jacking of cracks in cliff-rocks also contributes.

Relict soils and sediments (those not in their



Photos courtesy of CDOT

Crews assess the recent damage to the road deck in Glenwood Canyon.



Stapleton Front Porch

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Avoid Trips to Vet, Call Mobile Service

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Somehow, they just know. Merely seeing their pet carrier come out, animals seem to know they are probably going to “that place.” The unfamiliar sounds, smells, sights and all those other animals at the vet really gets their dander up. By the time the pets see the doctor, their stress levels are through the roof.

Veterinarian Danielle Rope, who has been in practice 10 years, witnessed this scenario repeatedly and was often asked if she would make house calls when she worked in a large specialty hospital in California after earning her degree from the University of California, Davis School of Veterinary Medicine.

When Rope moved to Denver two and a half years ago, she worked for a mobile practice that specializes in end-of-life care. The Park Hill resident saw how much better the situation was when pets and their owners could remain at home. In January, Rope opened Whole Pet Wellness Veterinary Services, providing basic veterinary in-home services to cats and dogs.

The focus for Whole Pet Wellness is on preventative care and maintenance of chronic illnesses, providing education to pet owners for keeping dogs and cats healthy. “People will not take their pet to the vet because of the time and stress it takes,

so they don’t end up getting them the preventative care they need,” says Rope. “This makes it more accessible for people.”

Rope, and the technician who accompanies her, cannot do surgery, x-rays or treatment for serious emergencies. In those cases, she sends people to area specialty and emergency hospitals.

Fees for in-home services are comparable to area veterinarians, says Rope, with the addition of a \$35–\$40 travel fee—but she believes it saves time and decreases stress. For people with multiple pets, Rope believes in-home services can be especially helpful. “Owners have to make multiple trips or go through the chaos



In her business Whole Pet Wellness, owner Danielle Rope, accompanied by her dog Troy, brings her mobile vet services to clients’ homes.


of taking them all at once.” She says when she arrives at their home, “it’s a big relief.”

With in-home visits, “Things are calmer, the pets are happy in their own place, and there’s a more personal interaction with the pet owners as well,” says Rope.


Pet owners can visit wholepetwellness.com to sign up for a free, 10-minute phone consultation.

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Each month, the Indie Prof reviews a current film in the theater and a second film available at Redbox or VOD. This month the second review is of a TV series available on VOD. Follow “Indie Prof” on Facebook for updates about film events and more reviews.

Remember (2015)

Once upon a time, Atom Egoyan was the next big director. His early films *Exotica* (1994) and *The Sweet Hereafter* (1997) had a poetry and lyricism that reminded many of the great European art-house directors of the '50s and '60s. He seemed destined to be a directing star. Destiny did not smile on Egoyan, however, and he ended up floundering for the past few decades with films that did not seem to meet the potential of his two early films.

What better way to get back in the game than pair with brilliant and legendary actors

Christopher Plummer and Martin Landau? Working with a script from first-time writer Benjamin Austin, Plummer and Landau play two Auschwitz survivors living out their 90s in an American nursing home. Plummer's Zev Guttman has worsening dementia but still agrees to a plan hatched by Landau's Max Rosenbaum to find the German SS officer who worked at the camp and then emigrated to the U.S. under one of his victim's names. Rosenbaum gives Guttman a list of everyone in the U.S. with that name, and Guttman proceeds to crisscross the country in an effort to find the man. What follows is not just inspiring acting but also an in-depth character study of everyone Guttman meets. Plummer's performance is particularly good as he struggles through his disease but is still fueled by the bitter taste of revenge just ahead of him.

Henry Czerny plays Rosenbaum's son, chasing his father around the country as his

father tries to find the SS officer. The study of an elderly man stricken with dementia will hit home to anyone who has dealt with such a situation. It is not easy, and the film does not make it so. Every one of the secondary characters are well drawn, and Czerny's character particularly so.

Another great performance comes from *Breaking Bad*'s Dean Norris in a tense and well-plotted sequence that builds in tension and hits all the right notes. The subtext of the entire film is particularly melancholic: as the last of the Holocaust survivors die off, we still need to hold onto their memories and stories.

What the film lacks in technical achievement, it makes up for in story and acting. Shot on a very small budget, the film gets the most out of what it does have. And it makes one wonder where Egoyan has been all these years and where that wonderful early promise went. Here's hoping that *Remember* is his springboard to more great films and the fulfillment of that promise.

Opened March 25 at the Sie Film Center, and available on demand soon. You will like this film if you liked *Still Alice*, *The Pianist*, and/or *Ida*.



Rectify

Close-ups that linger. Long shots of a character studying the landscape that hold for long takes. Strange metaphysical occurrences and intermittent spirituality. Round characters with interesting, and conflicting, depth.

Sounds like a Bergman, Fellini, or Antonioni film, but these are all aspects of the latest TV series from the Sundance channel, *Rectify*. This show is another step forward in the “Slow TV” movement that draws a line from *The Sopranos* to *Mad Men* to *Breaking Bad* to the stellar crop of current entrants. These shows have come a long way in a short time and *Rectify* carries the art-house aspects even further. It is one of the best new series to grace the small screen since some of the aforementioned early trailblazers.

The show stars Aden Young as Daniel

Holden, a man recently released from prison after being on death row for 20 years. DNA evidence helped release him, but many in the town—including the former prosecutor and the current sheriff—have their doubts about his innocence. If Young is the pulse of the film (alternately slow and thoughtful and then wild and unpredictable), then Abigail Spencer as his sister Amantha is the heartbeat of the show (alternately loving and sweet and then just as quickly, a “box of firecrackers” as one character describes her). The secondary characters are all excellent, creating whole and real characters in very short order.

The action takes place in fictional small town Georgia, and that small-town south plays a part in the action—many times in wonderfully unexpected ways. Characters surprise and uniquely interact as we find ourselves constantly changing our alliances and identifications. The show can be as poetic as one of the many subtle sunrises and as brutal as a bar fight. Along the way, the show pulses with multiple underlying themes such as the politics of the criminal justice system, small-town dynamics, the role of religion in our lives, and of course, the family dynamic. Go for the binge.

Seasons 1 & 2 are available on Netflix. Season 3 is coming soon, and Season 4 starts this fall on the Sundance Channel. You will like this show if you liked *Top of the Lake*, *Breaking Bad*, and/or *Mad Men*.

Vincent Piturro, Ph.D., is an associate professor of Cinema Studies at MSU Denver.



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DENVER METRO EVENTS

Through 5/27—Museo de las Americas: Detention Nation. Exhibit challenges viewers to contemplate consequences of broken immigration policies and looks at conditions immigration detainees face in detention facilities in the U.S. and around the world. 861 Santa Fe Drive. www.museo.org

Through 5/31—Automotive Memories: One Man's Lifelong Collection. Forney Museum. Free with admission. 4303 Brighton Blvd. www.forney-museum.org

4/1 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

4/1 Friday—April Fool's Day at Chocolate Crisis Center. Having a chocolate crisis? Chocolate doctor, Dr. Angst has cure, zany antics, fun photos and free chocolate tasting. Visit the Center First Friday and make fool out of self/friends/loved-ones. Free. Free parking. <https://chocolatecrisiscenter.com/events/chocolate-crisis-center-april-first-friday>

4/8 Friday—Rockies Home Opener. Coors Field. 2:10pm. Rockies vs. Padres. www.coloradorockies.mlb.com

4/9 Saturday—A First Class Affair Titanic Dinner. 7-course festive, decadent dinner modeled after first-class dining on Titanic. 16+. \$120-\$130/person. www.mollybrown.org

4/15 Friday—Sips and Sweets. Annual fundraising event for Community Resources, Inc. (CRI) providing activities/programs for Denver Public School (DPS) students and families using volunteers. Wine tasting and silent auction 7-9pm in First Bank Speer Branch, 600 Broadway. \$20/person. Entertainment and displays of CRI programs. Contact: Director Sue Edwards, 720.424.2300, Sue_Edwards@dpsk12.org, <http://cri.dpsk12.org/sips-and-sweets-event/>

4/15 Friday—Collections and Library Behind the Scenes Tour History Colorado Center. 3rd Friday of month, 1pm. Free with admission; register at front desk. Limited to 12 people. See rarely seen storage and

processing areas; view artifacts up close. www.historycoloradocenter.org

4/15 to 4/16—Rodeo All Star Weekend. National Western Complex. www.rodeoallstar.com

4/16 Saturday—Denver Bacon and Beer Classic. Sports Authority Field. Sat. 1-4pm and 7-10pm. Games, contests, tastings, etc. Tickets: www.baconandbeerclassic.com

4/21 Thursday—Wings Wine Tour Presented by Quintessential Wines. Wings Over the Rockies Museum partners with Quintessential for rare opportunity to meet the winemaker families and taste their wines. Proceeds further mission to educate and inspire all people about aviation and space endeavors of past, present and future. www.wingsmuseum.org/wine/

4/22 Friday—Earth Day Denver 2016. Union Station, Downtown Denver. 10am-2pm. www.denvergov.org

4/23 Saturday—Scandal on the Titanic Tea. Molly Brown House. Sittings 12:30pm and 2:30pm. Reservations required. www.mollybrown.org

4/23 to 4/24—Denver Flea. Spring Flea, Exdo Event Center, 1399 35th St. \$5. Flea market fun: food, family activities, vintage and handcrafted items. www.denverflea.com

4/23 to 4/24—Denver Lantern Festival. Dacono, Colorado National Speedway. Gates open 3pm; live music, vendors, inflatables, kids' activities, etc. Chinese lantern release after sundown. www.thelanternfest.com

4/23 to 4/24—Doors Open Denver. Behind-the-scenes look at some of Denver's iconic buildings. Free and fee-based tours available. 2016 locations: www.doorsopendenv.com

4/29 Friday—Denver Art Museum Untitled Final Fridays. 6-10pm. Adult evening out final Friday each month at Denver Art Museum. www.denverartmuseum.org

5/5 to 5/8—Blue Star Weekend. Wings partners with National Museum of World War II Aviation to present special event honoring veterans and their mothers. Learn about types of food offered to WWII front-line soldiers. See inside WWII warbirds and classic cars. Enjoy

brunch with your family. Honor veterans of past and present. Tour and/or fly in EAA B-17G Flying Fortress Aluminum Overcast, one of few remaining airworthy B-17s from WWII. <http://wingsmuseum.org/blue-star-weekend/>

5/6 Friday—First Friday Cinco de Mayo Celebration. 5-9pm. Museo de las Americas. www.museo.org

5/7 Saturday—Cinco de Mayo Festival. Civic Center Park. www.cincode-mayodenver.com

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

3/1 to 4/29—Free Weekly Hosted Walks in Stapleton. Join Walk2Connect volunteer walking movement leaders for weekly group walks around Stapleton neighborhoods. Free; open to all. Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri. Times, meeting places, walk descriptions: <http://walk2connect.com/events>

4/1 to 4/30—9News Health Fair. Various locations throughout April offers convenient and affordable health screenings. www.9healthfair.org

4/23 Saturday—Dress for Success Denver Power Walk 5K at Stapleton's Central Park. Benefits women to achieve economic independence. 10am.

Central Park (8801 MLK Jr. Blvd.). Online register ends 4/21. \$25/person, \$5/dog. Register: www.crowdrise.com/DenverPowerWalk. Pre-event/on-site register: 9am. Prices increase day of. Sign up individually or as team, wear costumes/showy accessories to win prizes. Free food, giveaways, etc. Pink Life Saver bus on-site 9am-12pm for free mammograms (women aged 40+ with insurance card, ID and primary care provider name. Call 720.848.1030 for appointment. Donate work attire clothes, shoes, accessories at event. <https://www.crowdrise.com/DenverPowerWalk>, <https://dressforsuccess.com/denver>

4/24 Sunday—2016 Cherry Creek Sneak. 10- and 5-mile runs, 5K and 1.5 mile sprint; half-mile kids fun run ages 8 and under. Cherry Creek. www.cherrycreeksneak.com

4/29 to 4/30—Urban Wine and Chocolate Run. Dick's Sporting Goods Park. Pre-race party Friday evening, 5-9pm. 5K or 1K Wine Run through Dick's Sporting Goods Park and surrounding area. Post-race wine/chocolate party. www.active.com

4/30 Saturday—Home Run for the Homeless 5K. Coors Field. LoDo. www.myneighborhoodalliance.org

5/1 Sunday—4th Annual Race for Open Space. 5K and 10-mile course along Sand Creek Regional Greenway at Star K Ranch Aurora. Register now. We coach youth trail running program at Suncor Boys and Girls Club to introduce kids to outdoor fun and free participation in the 5K. Donations welcome with registration. Race proceeds go to Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership to improve/preserve/promote natural areas and youth outdoor engagement in NE metro area. Race volunteers needed. <http://raceforopenspace.org>

5/7 Saturday—Denver Dumb Friends Furry Scurry. Wash Park. Register: www.furryscurry.org

5/8 Sunday—Mother's Day 5K. City Park. 9am. \$30/person; \$90/family. www.mothersday5k.com

KIDS AND FAMILIES

Through 4/2—Jack and the Beanstalk. Performances Saturdays 10am. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora Cultural Arts District. Tickets \$7 www.vintagetheatre.org

Through 5/1—Denver Puppet Theater. Little Red Riding Hood. www.denver-puppettheater.com

4/1 to 4/29—Story Time in the Exploration Station. Fridays in April, 10:30am. All ages. Museum closed Fri. 4/15. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. www.wingsmuseum.org

4/2 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

4/3 Sunday—Boulder Tulip Fairy and Elf Festival. 1-5pm. Pearl Street Mall, Boulder. Live performances, face painting, free kids' activities, Tulip Fairy Parade 3:30pm, Dress as fairy or elf. www.downtownboulder.com

4/5 to 4/26—Tuesdays in April Four Mile Historic Park Small Settlers. Ages 2-5 accompanied by parent or caregiver. 9-10am. \$5/child, adults free, members free. 715 S. Forest St. Advance register: 720.865.0814 or education@fourmilepark.org. www.fourmilepark.org

4/6 Wednesday—Preschool Story Time. 9:30am, ages 2-5 with caregiver. History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway. www.historycoloradocenter.org

4/7 to 4/28—Star K Kids. Thursdays, 9:30 and 11am; kids 5 and under. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. www.aurora.gov/nature

4/8 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Hay Bales and Tall Tales. 12-1pm. Free with admission. 715 S. Forest St. www.fourmilepark.org

4/8 to 4/22—Lowe's Build and Grow Workshops. Bring kids to Lowe's stores to build FREE wood project: Monthly, 2nd and 4th Saturdays. Free apron, goggles, project-themed patch, merit certificate on completion. 10am. www.lowesbuildandgrow.com

4/9 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry.

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4/10 Sunday—Aerobatics at the Hangar. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. www.wingsmuseum.org

4/10 Sunday—Junior Rangers. Ages 6-12. 1:30-3pm. Learn about plants and animals of Star K Ranch. RSVP required, 303.326.8650. www.aurora.gov/nature

4/13 Wednesday—2nd Wednesday Create Playdates at Denver Art Museum. Kids 3-5, 10am. Art, story times, scavenger hunts. Included in museum adm.; 5 and under free. 100 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy. 720.865.5000. www.denverartmuseum.org

4/19 Tuesday—Tiny Tots, Inside the Orchestra. 45-minute Colorado Symphony concerts for kids 6 and under who sit next to musicians and hear classical music they may recognize. Temple Emmanuel. 9:30 and 10:45am. \$9.95; children under 1 free. Tickets: www.insidetheorchestra.org

4/22 Friday—Denver Botanic Gardens Family Fun Night. 4th Friday each month explore nature at night in Mordecai Children's Garden. Monthly themes, snacks by the campfire, other fun activities. www.botanicgardens.org

4/22 Friday—Earth Day Celebration at the Children's Museum. Earth Day activities included with admission. 2121 Children's Museum Drive. www.mychildsmuseum.org

4/24 Sunday—Dia del Niño. History Colorado Center. Celebrate children from around the world with free admission, live performances and crafts throughout the day. www.historycoloradocenter.org

5/1 Sunday—Star Wars at the Hangar. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. www.wingsmuseum.org

LECTURES AND CLASSES

4/5 and 4/12 Tuesdays—Active Minds (Free)—Yemen. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. 303.316.6359. www.ActiveMinds.com

4/14 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)—Chocolate. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. www.ActiveMinds.com

4/26 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—NASA and Future of Space Exploration. 10:15-11:15am. Tattered Cover, 2526 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727. www.ActiveMinds.com

4/28 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)—The Age of the Vikings. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. www.ActiveMinds.com

5/3 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—NASA and the Future of Space Exploration. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. 303.316.6359. www.ActiveMinds.com

MUSEUMS—DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE

Through 5/8—Chocolate: The Exhibition. Free with admission. www.dmn.org

Through 8/7—Robot Revolution. Special exhibit allows interaction with robots rarely shown to public. Separate ticket required. www.dmn.org

4/21 Thursday—Science Lounge, Domestic Bliss. Adult evening with cocktails, science and entertainment. Third Thursdays, 6:30-9:30pm. \$10/members; \$12/non-members. www.dmn.org

IMAX Current Films. Secret Ocean 3D; Living in the Age of Airplanes; Robots 3D. See website for times/changing films. www.dmn.org

Planetarium. Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity; Cosmic Journey: A Solar System Adventure; Destination Solar System; Dream to Discovery; One World One Sky; Big Bird's Adventure; We Are Aliens. See website for times/changing shows. www.dmn.org

MUSEUMS—FREE DAYS

4/2 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.denverartmuseum.org

4/5 Tuesday—Children's Museum Free Target Tuesday. 4-8pm. www.cmdenver.org

4/5 Tuesday—Denver Botanic Gardens Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.botanicgardens.org

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

4/8 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Free Day. SCFD Free second Friday, 12pm-4pm. www.four-milepark.org

4/10 Sunday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science Free Day. SCFD Free day (Earth Day). www.dmn.org

4/14 Thursday—Aurora History Museum Free Day. SCFD Free day. Repeats 4/20. www.auroragov.org

4/23 Saturday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science Free Day. SCFD Free day. (Dia del Niño). www.dmn.org

4/29 Friday—Clyfford Still Museum. SCFD Free day. Free admission last Friday every month all day. Free admission every Friday 5-8pm. 1250 Banrock St. www.clyffordstillmuseum.org

5/3 Tuesday—Children's Museum Free Target Tuesday. 4-8pm. www.cmdenver.org

NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS

Through 4/21—imPressed: Printmaking Exhibit. Art Gym, 1460 Leyden. Explores variety of printmaking styles from artists around the country. www.artgymdenver.com

Through 4/24—Exhibit: Landscapes in Miniature. Cake Crumbs Cafe, 2216 Kearney St. katyacharles@yahoo.com

4/2 Saturday—Neighborhood Partners Environmental Team (NPET) Volunteers on Sand Creek Regional Greenway. Volunteer for Sand Creek Regional Greenway at Smith Rd. Trailhead. Help save trees from beavers and remove graffiti and pick up trash. Starbucks Coffee and breakfast treats! Smith Road Trailhead (10000 Smith Rd.). 9-11am. Sign up: kkramer@sandcreekgreenway.org, http://sandcreekgreenway.org/our-greenway/directions-parking/.

4/4 Monday—League of Women Voters Presents A Discussion on Climate Change. Fellowship Hall, Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St. 5:30pm. www.lwvdenver.org

4/5 Tuesday—Meditation. 7p.m. Unity on the Avenue, 4670 E. 17th Ave. Pkwy. 303.322.3901 http://unityontheavenue.org

4/6 Wednesday—Opening Your Heart Workshop. 6:30-8:30pm. Love offering. Unity on the Avenue, 4670 E. 17th Ave. Pkwy. 303.322.3901. http://unityontheavenue.org

4/8 Friday—League of Women Voters Presents Colorado or Amendment 69. McCollum Rm., Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St. 5:30pm coffee/networking; 6pm presentation. www.lwvdenver.org

4/13 Wednesday—Gong Bath. Bring yoga mat or blanket to lie on. \$20 suggested love offering. Unity on the Avenue, 4670 E. 17th Ave. Pkwy. 303.322.3901. http://unityontheavenue.org

4/24 Sunday—Purim in the Stadium. Jewish Life Center presents Purim in Dick's Sporting Goods Park. Stadium-themed buffet dinner, Colorado Rapids Street Team Pre-Game Soccer Fest, raffle, multimedia Megillah reading with football player, sports crafts/activities. Entire Jewish community invited, regardless of affiliation/background. Costume prizes. \$15/adult; \$10/child; \$50 family. RSVP: www.JewishStapleton.com, 720.515.4337, info@JewishStapleton.com. http://jewishstapleton.com

4/30 Saturday—Family Fun Year-Round Lake Ground-breaking Event. 10am-1pm. Lake rebuilding and

construction tours, kids' games, races, s'mores, equipment exploring, photos, bird tours, etc. \$3/ person; no pre-registering, just show up. Bluff Lake Nature Center, 3400 Havana Way. jlamontagne@blufflake.org www.blufflake.org

4/30 Saturday—Swigert Touch A Truck. Kids can climb on and explore dozens of trucks/vehicles during fun family event to support Swigert International School. 10am-1pm. Sam's Club Parking Lot, Quebec Square, Tickets: www.swigertpta.com, touchatruck.swigertpta.com

5/7 Saturday—Denver Recycles Mulch Giveaway and Compost Sale. Havana Nursery, 10450 Smith Rd. Loader service and dig your own; compost only at this site. Fred Thomas Park, Quebec and 26th, dig your own mulch at this site. 720.913.1311 www.denverGov.org/DenverRecycles

5/7 Saturday—Denver's Daddy Daughter Dance. A formal/semiformal ball for dads and daughters to celebrate father- and daughterhood. Park Hill Golf Club. 6-10pm, www.denverd3.org/

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

4/1 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. God's Not Dead. www.harkinstheatres.com

4/8 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. The Boss. www.harkinstheatres.com

4/15 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Barber-shop: The Next Cut; The Jungle Book; Everybody Wants Some; Mexico's Bravest Man; Midnight Special. www.harkinstheatres.com

4/22 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. The Huntsman: Winter's War; The Rally-LA. www.harkinstheatres.com

4/29 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Mother's Day. www.harkinstheatres.com

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

4/2 to 4/30—Wildlife Viewing Tours. Saturdays (4/2, 23 and 30) 9:30-11:30am and 1-3pm Sundays (4/10 and 24). Naturalist leads bus tour through refuge to view bald eagles, bison, coyotes, deer, raptors, etc. RSVP required. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

4/9 Saturday—9th Annual Fishing Frezzy. For youth anglers ages 3-15; educational booths, prizes by categories, poles available to use. Reservations required through Commerce City Parks and Rec: 303.289.3789. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

4/10 Sunday—Build-a-Bison. 1:30-2:30pm. Assemble a bison skeleton from head to tail. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

4/16 Saturday—2016 Fishing Season Opens. Catch and

release fishing allowed at Lake Mary and Lake Ladora on Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays sunrise to sunset. Wading allowed in Lake Ladora after Memorial Day. \$3 refuge daily permit and Colorado State license for anglers 16 and older required. Artificial bait and barbless hooks only. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

4/16 Saturday—Noxious Weed Knock-Out. 9:30-11:30am. Help Refuge staff remove noxious weeds; gloves and water provided. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

4/16 Saturday—The Masked Bandit. 10-10:45am. Naturalist leads program featuring the black-footed ferret exhibit. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

4/30 Saturday—Hike-N-Bird. 9-11am. Novice to expert birders, explore woodland, wetland and prairie habitats. Must be comfortable hiking up to 3 miles. RSVP required.

THEATRE

Through 4/2—Tigers Be Still. Avenue Theater, 417 E. 17th Ave. www.avenuetheater.com

Through 4/8—Junie B. Jones, The Musical. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada. www.arvadacenter.org

Through 4/9—Newsies. Buell Theater, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

Through 4/10—Black Elk Speaks. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. www.aurorafox-artscenter.org

Through 4/17—Rabbit Hole. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St. Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

Through 4/17—The Mountaintop. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada. www.arvadacenter.org

Through 4/24—Dixie's Never Wear a Tube Top. Garner Galleria Theater, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

4/2 to 4/30—Steel Magnolias. Presented by Spotlight Theatre at John Hand Theater, Lowry. Tickets \$17-\$22. www.thisisspotlight.com

4/8 to 5/15—Sweeney Todd. Stage Theater, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

4/21 to 5/21—November. Avenue Theatre, 417 E. 17th Ave. www.avenuetheater.com

4/22 to 5/15—Catch Me If You Can. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. www.aurorafox-artscenter.org

4/26 to 5/15—Death Takes a Holiday. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada. www.arvadacenter.org

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Don't Miss These Events

Starting April 2—Community Cleanups with Environmental Team

9am-noon the first Saturday of every month, the Neighborhood Partners Environmental Team meets to pick up trash in the water ways at Bluff Lake Nature Center and adjacent open space. NPET encourages the public to join. Volunteers of all ages and skill levels are welcome. Contact Bluff Lake Nature Center Site Manager Chris Story at 303.945.6717 to confirm time, date and location.

April 9—CFU Un-Job Fair

From 8:30am-4:40pm on Saturday, April 9, Colorado Free University in Lowry will host its annual Un-Job Fair for people running, or considering launching, their own business or nonprofit. National speakers who specialize in self-employment will present. The day will include breakout sessions and activities. CFU is located at 7653 E. 1st Pl. For more information, visit www.freeu.com.

April 14—Stapleton's First Kindergarten Class Reunion

Stapleton's first kindergarten class is graduating from high school this year. Students and families of Stapleton's first kindergarten class at Westerly Creek Elementary are invited to a reunion to reminisce and celebrate! Thursday, April 14 from 6-8pm at Westerly Creek Elementary RSVP via Evite at <http://evite.me/1sD7c5Yqnr> Questions? Please contact Melissa Darzins at mdarzins@comcast.net

April 16—The Park People's Earth Day Tree Sale

The Park People organization will celebrate Earth Day this year by offering homeowners affordable trees to plant on their property. Since

the discovery of Emerald Ash Borer, the invasive species that attacks ash trees, in 2012 in Boulder, The Park People have been proactively planting trees to lessen the impact if the species makes it to Denver. Trees will be on sale 9am to noon on Saturday, April at the City Park Greenhouse (2500 E. 23rd Ave.) and Sloan's Lake Park (5055 W. 17th Ave.). Visit www.theparkpeople.org, or call 303-722-6262 for more information.

April 23—5K Power Walk for Dress for Success

The Power Walk for Dress for Success is dedicated to empowering women to achieve economic independence. The event will take place at 10am on Saturday, April 23 at Central Park (8801 MLK. Blvd.). Online registration closes at midnight on Thursday, April 21. For more information or to register, visit crowdrise.com/DenverPowerWalk

April 24—Doors Open Denver at Stanley Marketplace

Doors Open Denver is an annual event that allows residents and visitors to go on free, self-guided tours of Denver's unique architecture, including high-profile and historic buildings. Stanley Marketplace will offer two Insider Tours as part of Doors Open Denver at 1pm and 2:30pm on Sunday, April 24. For tickets, visit doorsopendenver.com > Sites + Tours.

April 30 & May 1—Art Show & Sale

Longtime Park Hill resident Helen Wolcott hosts an annual spring art show out of her home, 2309 Clermont. This year's event will take place 10am-6pm on Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1. Enjoy a free glass of sangria. The show will include jewelry, silk, photography, wood, stained and fused glass, fabric, paper art, pottery, weavings, quilted creations.

Eastbridge Update

Construction on the Eastbridge Town Center is underway. Evergreen developer Tyler Carlson says retail tenants will have access to their space in September and he thinks some will be ready to open when King Soopers opens in November. Some of the businesses won't open until December or January.

Evergreen has also purchased a .86 acre lot north of MLK (across from the town center) where they want to build a single story 8500 square foot building with three tenants. The current zoning allows similar uses as the town center, but for some unexplainable reason it has waivers that would prohibit a financial or medical/dental use. Evergreen has applied for rezoning that would allow those uses, and has interested tenants for those uses. They are working with neighbors and the city on vehicle access to the property. The entire empty lot is 2.5 acres. Evergreen has told Forest City they are interested in developing the rest of the lot in addition to the .86 acres they have already purchased.

New Assisted Living/Memory Care

Balfour Senior Living and Northstar Commercial Partners have announced plans to jointly develop a 63,000-square-foot community on a 1.5-acre site located at 2979 Uinta Street in the Stapleton neighborhood (SW corner of MLK and Uinta St.). It will comprise 58 assisted living units and 16 memory care units. The project is slated to open for occupancy the first half of 2017.



The parcel was acquired last September from Forest City for \$1.565 million. The use has been anticipated for some time. Its neighbors include two age-qualified residential projects, the 108-unit Greenways at Stapleton, and the 150-unit Grove at Stapleton (nearing completion). Amenities will include a salon, farm-to-table dining, chauffeured transportation and a fitness center.

Thrive to Build 165 Affordable Rowhomes

Thrive Home Builders will construct 165 affordable rowhomes along Central Park Blvd. north of I-70. These homes will offer two and three-bedroom floorplans ranging between 1,213 and 1,330 square feet and have a starting price point of \$172,900. The homes will include Thrive's trademark double 2x4 walls and the potential for solar panels and zero energy ready features. The homes will alternate between three- and fourplexes, which will have different designs to create variety. For more information email pvega@thrivehomebuilders or visit www.newtownbuilders.com/find-your-new-home/elements-rowhomes-at-stapleton

March CAB Meeting Updates

26th Avenue Cycle Track Shelved

A two-way cycle track was proposed on the south side of 26th Ave. to safely accommodate higher levels of bicycle traffic from the Aurora development and extension of Stapleton to Peoria Street (see frontporchstapleton.com/article/cycletrack-on-26th/). Despite strong community support, Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Co-chair David Netz acknowledged it will not proceed. Tom Gleason of Forest City and Bar Chadwick, city of Denver, both said their organizations do not support the cycle track idea. Forest City will proceed to widen 26th Ave. in conjunction with its development of a park and 322 dwelling units in Aurora according to the original plan that includes bike lanes. (See August Front Porch article at frontporchstapleton.com/article/forest-city-submits-plans-aurora-park/.)

Cash Flow Projections for Stapleton Infrastructure

Staff from Denver Urban Renewal Authority (DURA) and Denver Department of Finance provided an update on "Stapleton cash flow projections." These projections determine what projects will be funded (such as additional lanes on the Central Park Blvd. bridge) and they drive the timing for construction. After fully repaying all developer advances, 2013 was the first year that Stapleton tax increment financing (TIF) generated revenues in excess of existing debt obligations. By the year 2025, those excess revenues are projected to total \$96.3 million. However, \$63.5 million of that won't be available until 2022-2025 (the last four years of the TIF) with the release of the bond reserves. Between now and the end of 2021, the excess revenues will average just more than \$4 million per year.

City staff said that with only nine years remaining on the TIF and the amount of outstanding obligations, traditional bond financing is probably no longer an option. The two scenarios discussed were: 1. Forest City advances funds to be repaid with TIF, and, 2. DURA cash-funds projects with the net cash flows available at the end of each year. CAB co-chair David Netz stated remaining capital projects include the CPB bridge widening, Havana Street bridge over Sand Creek, Smith Road and development in Section 10. CAB requested a follow-up report to clearly identify what is and what is not funded at this point. Bar Chadwick, Denver's Special Projects Manager in the Department of Finance, said PCMD consultants have begun the permitting process for the Central Park bridge final build-out, a process that will take a year or more in working with stakeholders such as the Colorado Department of Transportation, RTD and the Union Pacific Railroad.

NW Aurora Buzzing with Activity

New school in Aurora? CAB member Nadine Caldwell said Aurora Public Schools is in the early stages of evaluating a possible Aurora Public Schools (APS) high school campus on the north side of 25th Ave. between Fulton and Iola streets. Caldwell said Superintendent Rico Munn mentioned this at a March 10 meeting of the Northwest Aurora Neighborhood Organization (NANO). When contacted to elaborate, the APS superintendent's office declined further comment. In this corridor, APS owns the K-5 Fletcher Community School site as well as a parcel located at the northeast corner of Fulton St. and 25th Ave. This block abuts the portion of Stapleton located in Aurora south of 26th Ave. where a 322-unit residential neighborhood is just beginning to be developed.

The Heights at Westerly Creek: A Littleton developer has applied for a rezoning of 16 lots in Aurora immediately southeast of the Stanley to permit development of a seven-story mixed-use building (retail and up to 115 dwelling units). Current uses are a body shop and an appliance storage yard. The L-shaped parcel lies between Dallas and Dayton streets just south of 25th Ave. The requested SIR zoning (sustainable infill and redevelopment) would allow a mix of uses not permitted under the existing industrial zoning. The request goes to the Aurora Planning Commission on April 27.

Century Square: A development group is pursuing the rezoning of a nine-acre parcel it owns at the southwest corner of Colfax and Havana in Aurora, site of a Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market, several small retail stores and a handful of residences. SIR zoning would replace business and residential zoning with allowed mixed-use buildings (retail/ office first floor, residential above). City staff has recommended approval. The item is scheduled for Planning Commission and City Council hearings over the two months.



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Cast your vote!

Westerly Creek Metropolitan District Board Election May 3

Three of five seats on the WCMD board are up for election on Tuesday, May 3. Stapleton residents can cast their vote between 7am and 7pm at 7350 E 29th Ave, Room 200.

To vote, you must be registered to vote in Colorado and either a resident, property owner (natural persons only), or the spouse or civil union partner of a property owner. Absentee ballots can be obtained from the "designated election official," Micki Wadhams. (303-218-7206, mwadhams@CCCfirm.com) Park in the lot behind the Berkshire, enter from the back of the building, and take the elevator or stairs to the second floor. The five candidate statements are printed on page 33.

Stapleton infrastructure is being built with revenue from two primary sources: tax increment financing (TIF) and a special assessment from the Westerly Creek Metropolitan District (WCMD).

The TIF does not add to Stapleton tax bills. Under a 25-year agreement among Denver's taxing entities, property and sales taxes from Stapleton go to Denver Urban Renewal Authority (DURA), which manages the bonds and funding for Stapleton's regional infrastructure. Based on a formula in the TIF agreement, DURA also sends a portion of the TIF revenue back to the city for city services in Stapleton.

What is WCMD?

Westerly Creek Metropolitan District (WCMD), however, collects a special assessment over and beyond the usual taxes paid by Denver residents who do not live in a special district. The WCMD tax appears on Stapleton property tax bills. The mill levy for 2016 is 56.619. This tax funds the construction of Stapleton's local infrastructure such as neighborhood streets, pocket parks and pools.

In 2016, the WCMD mill levy is projected to generate \$24.6 million. That revenue is then passed on to the Park Creek Metro District (PCMD) whose role is to get the infrastructure designed and built. PCMD uses funds from TIF and WCMD to pay for construction.

What are the Powers of the WCMD Board?

The WCMD board is composed of five elected members who must be either a resident or property owner in Stapleton. By contrast, the PCMD board is comprised of representatives of the developer (Forest City) and the Stapleton Development Corporation. Powers of the WCMD board are limited, as described in the Service Plan that governs the district since its creation in 2000. The District is required by intergovernmental agreement to pass on all its revenue to PCMD, which ultimately makes the decisions on construction of infrastructure.

Although the board positions have limited authority, they do offer residents the opportunity to watch over the revenue and expenses as they participate in the process of turning over the tax revenue to PCMD. The WCMD board also votes to legally bring in the new Stapleton property that is added to the District's tax base as Forest City purchases property.

According to the Service Plan, the Westerly Creek Metro District is authorized to incur obligations for infrastructure such as streets, water, drainage, sanitary and parks. The Service Plan also sets the maximum mill levy the Board can collect.

When will the WCMD tax end?

There is no sunset date for the WCMD tax.

According to Paul Cockrel, who provides legal counsel for WCMD and PCMD, the latest maturity date for outstanding District bond debt is December 1, 2045. The latest maturity dates for outstanding District obligations to Forest City or related parties is in 2056, but outstanding obligations to Forest City may, depending on continued growth in the District's tax base, be prepaid or refunded by issuance of new District bonds with shorter maturities. The costs of completion of all public infrastructure required for full development of Stapleton cannot be definitively determined at this time, so financial forecasts for repayment of future District debt are not available.

The WCMD tax is expected to continue at a lower level after infrastructure debt is paid off to maintain land owned in perpetuity by PCMD.

For a detailed explanation of where your property taxes go, charts that show TIF and WCMD revenue projections and forecasts, and descriptions of the entities that are creating Stapleton, visit Front Porch Stapleton.com > News > Stapleton Articles



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

News at Stapleton United Neighbors

Contributions from: Nicholas Massey, SUN Sustainability Committee; Bryan Penny, SUN treasurer; Mark Mehringer, SUN president; and Amanda Allshouse, SUN secretary

SUN events in April:

Monthly meetings: 3rd Tuesday, April 19. SUN Block Captains/ Outreach, 6:30–7:25pm; SUN board, 7:30–8:40pm. Central Park Rec Center Multipurpose Room.

Blood drive: Bonfils Blood Mobile, Central Park Rec Center, April 30. To reserve a time, go to: www.bonfils.org/, click “Donate Blood,” “find a location” and enter site code 5463.

Celebrating opportunities for sustainability throughout the City of Denver in April

Two events the weekend of Earth Day and multiple ongoing opportunities via the Department of Environmental Health (DEH) are ways by which residents in Denver can celebrate and harness opportunities to live more sustainably, said Susan Renaud, DEH community engagement administrator, who presented during the March SUN block captain/outreach meeting. Earth Day events center on the opening of the University of Colorado A Line: Downtown in Union Station on Friday, April 22 from 10am–2pm; and in Stapleton at the

Central Park Station 10am–2pm Saturday, April 23 (where members of the SUN board will be staffing a table). Four ongoing opportunities include the Denver Energy Challenge, Certifiably Green Denver, Sustainable Neighborhood Network, and the Community Active Living Coalition:

The Denver Energy Challenge is a program that helps Denver residents reduce consumption of energy. A residential energy conservation program provides free energy advising—a free personal concierge service is provided by the city for improvements in home comfort and energy efficiency and lowering of energy bills. Some suggestions include switching to LED bulbs, improving insulation, recommending contractors, low interest loans (2.75%), and more; 10,000 Denver residences have been enrolled. www.denverenergy.org

Certifiably Green Denver is a green business program that provides free consulting to the commercial sector to reduce the consumption of resources and to lower overhead costs (energy/water/resource management/transportation). The program has helped over 1,700 Denver businesses, with 176 having achieved the full certification to date. The City of Denver currently offers some incentives for businesses who join. Currently, one Stapleton business, Smart Space, is certified. www.denvergov.org/cgd

Community Active Living Coalition is a program that currently

has 300 community members who participate and conduct walk analyses. If you are interested in improving Denver’s walkability, visit www.walkdenver.org/join-denvers-community-active-living-coalition/.

Sustainable Neighborhood Network is a program that works with neighborhoods to help them to achieve their sustainability goals. This program is driven by neighborhoods and the city provides support services and structure to facilitate the projects. Currently, eight neighborhoods participate. A new application process opens April 20 for matching funds up to \$2,500 for projects. With community support, SUN is positioned to participate in this program in the future. www.sustainableneighborhoodnetwork.org/sustainable-neighborhoods-denver. Stapleton residents interested in involvement in SUN’s sustainability committee or a seat on the SUN board should email StapletonUnitedNeighbors@gmail.com.

NW Aurora-Stapleton-Stanley Marketplace Neighborhood Survey

You are invited to participate in this collaborative research effort: www.surveymonkey.com/r/NWASPSMP

Aims of this community-based research effort are to determine the sustainable economic, social and political relations between the Northwest Aurora Neighborhood Organization (NANO), SUN and the Stanley Marketplace. This survey is led by Associate Professor of Urban Sociology and Intergroup Relations Theodor Manley, Jr., PhD, College of Arts & Sciences, Johnson & Wales University, a private, nonprofit, accredited institution located in east Denver.

Annual Meeting May 17 & Proposed Amendment to SUN Bylaws

Notice: A vote will take place to change Section 1 of the SUN bylaws at the SUN Annual Meeting: May 17, 6:30pm, Central Park Recreation Center to ensure that there is no confusion about the footprint of Stapleton and that our organization is inclusive of all residents in the projected final phases of the buildout. www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com/Home/sun-board/sun-bylaws

Current Language: The boundaries of SUN are Quebec Street to the west, 56th Avenue to the north, Havana Street to the east and Montview Boulevard to the south.

Proposed Language: The footprint of SUN is contained within the City of Denver, bounded on the western edge by Syracuse St. (Montview Blvd. to 23rd Ave.), Quebec St. (23rd Ave. to Northfield Blvd.), Spruce Way (Northfield Blvd to 53rd Pl.), Spruce St. (53rd Pl. to 56th Ave.), and Central Park Blvd (56th Ave. to 64th Ave.); on the northern edge by 56th Ave. (Spruce St. to Central Park Blvd.), 64th Ave. (Central Park Blvd. to Havana St.), and Martin Luther King Blvd. (Havana St. to Peoria St.); on the eastern edge by Havana St. (64th Ave. to 56th Ave., Dallas St. (56th Ave. to I-70), Havana St. (I-70 to Martin Luther King Blvd.) and Peoria St. (Martin Luther King Blvd. to 26th Ave.); and on the southern edge by 23rd Ave. (Quebec St. to Syracuse St.), Montview Blvd. (Syracuse St. to Beeler St.), and 26th Ave. (Beeler St. to Peoria St.).



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Stapleton Update

WCMD Board Election May 3

Vote for no more than three of the following for a 4-year term

Sean Caffrey • Katie Bedard Dell • James R. Moody
Justin M. Ross • David Hull Ungemah

Description of board responsibilities and voting information is on prior page.



Sean Caffrey

I am a supporter of new urbanism design principles and have lived with my family in Eastbridge since 2009. I am running for the board because special districts are a community-based form of government that operate best with the oversight of concerned citizens. I have an MBA and have worked closely with many districts during my almost 20 years with Colorado county and state governments. I have participated actively with the Stapleton Parks Advisory Group (PAG) learning much about our neighborhood and its development. My goals as a board member would be to: continue the WCMD's responsibilities to finance our local infrastructure, keep our tax rate to do so as low as possible, and increase the transparency between our community and the activities of the Park Creek Metro District which receives all of the WCMD's funds. I would be honored to have your vote on May 3 or by absentee ballot.



Katie Bedard Dell

I have been a Stapleton resident for ten years and currently reside in the Bluff Lake neighborhood. I also work in Stapleton and appreciate the five-minute drive from home to office. The tag line that Stapleton is a great place to "live, work and play" most certainly applies to me. I have two children, a freshman and a sixth grader, who attend Denver Public Schools. For many years I have been an active community volunteer and served in various volunteer positions at my children's schools. I've also worked advocating for our new schools in meetings with the DPS school board, staff and other community leaders. My goal in serving on the WCMD is to provide oversight, accountability and to ensure the board is as effective as possible during Stapleton's build-out. I believe the governance of special districts should be as transparent as possible and I will work to diligently toward that goal.



James R. Moody

My goal is to focus on increased transparency about how the District is performing. The powers of the WCMD Board are limited—to collect and transfer property taxes to PCMD. However, the Board is the directly elected voice of Stapleton taxpayers, and should do more to provide information about the District's performance to the voters. I approach this opportunity as neither

a champion nor a critic of how things currently operate. The WCMD fee is a major portion of the property tax bill for Stapleton residents, and taxpayers should have an easier time finding answers to questions such as whether we are on track to adequately fund our infrastructure needs, whether our bond rating is at the right level, and when we are expected to pay off our debt. My wife, two kids and I have lived in Stapleton since 2010, and I had the good fortune to serve on the SUN Board from 2011-2013.



Justin M. Ross

As a 14 year resident this June, I've dedicated several years to the likes of the Greater Stapleton Business Association, Citizens Advisory Board, Housing Diversity Committee and the Stapleton Development Corporation. Assisting with the inner workings of the Westerly Creek Metropolitan District, I feel would be the natural progression in my volunteer efforts. I have the background and experience within the community to offer realistic ideas and direction. As a small business owner, I have a firm foundation knowing how business works as well and will prove to be valuable to Stapleton and the Westerly Creek Metropolitan District.



David Ungemah

For the past two years, I have been privileged with representing Stapleton area residents and property owners on the WCMD. In partnership with my running mates, Tim Thornton and Tom Downey, we brought an "everyday resident" perspective to the Board that had not had such representation since its creation. Since the election, we have improved communications with residents through our new website and advertising meetings in more commonly accessed locations, critically reviewed the tax revenue generated by the Stapleton community, and identified key common issues with PCMD and Forrest City. Although the powers of the WCMD are very limited, I strongly believe the WCMD's most important role to play is in planning for the eventual transfer of Stapleton's infrastructure to the residents of our community and the City of Denver. I will continue to work towards a sustainable, pragmatic, and desirable system of infrastructure for Stapleton.

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Train Schedule

37 minutes each way
Departing Union station to DIA
 3:15am to 3:45am every 30 minutes
 4:15am to 6:15pm every 15 minutes
 6:30pm to 12:30am every 30 minutes
 No trains 12:31am to 3:14am Sun - Thurs
 1am last train Friday and Saturday only

Departing DIA to Union Station
 4:11am to 4:41am every 30 minutes
 5:11am to 7:11pm every 15 minutes
 7:26pm to 1:26am every 30 minutes
 No trains 1:27am to 4:10am Sun - Thurs
 1:56am last train Friday and Saturday only

Buses

-The Skyride from Central Park to DIA will no longer operate starting April 22.

-12 bus bays serve 10 bus routes

-Frequency and hours of service vary widely by route. Peak frequencies are typically 15 or 30 minutes.

-Routes served are: 28 (28th Avenue), 34 (Bruce Randolph Avenue), 37 (Smith Road Industrial), 42 (Montbello via Albrook/Green Valley Ranch), 43 (MLK Blvd/Gateway), 65 (Monaco Parkway), 73 (Quebec Street), 88 (Northglenn/Commerce City/Stapleton), 89 (Stapleton/Anschutz Campus), 105 (Havana Street).

Fares & Fare Zones

Travel in	Fare
1-2 zones	\$2.60 Local fare
3 zones	\$4.50 Regional fare
Airport zone	\$9.00 Airport fare

Find more fare info at www.rtd-denver.com/fares-2016.shtml or 303-299-6000.

New 2016 Rail Lines

Line	Start Date
CU A Line	April 22, 2016
B Line	Summer 2016
G Line	Fall 2016
R Line	Late 2016

Tickets and Fares

-Riders can purchase one-way tickets and day passes (\$2.60 to \$9) aboard buses or at ticket-vending machines at rail stations.

-Day passes (\$5.20 Local and \$9 Regional/Airport) provide unlimited trips throughout a service day for the cost of a round trip.

-Half-fare discounts are available for elementary, middle and high school students ages 6-19, Medicare recipients, passengers with disabilities and people ages 65 and above. Active military are free.

-10-Ride tickets books are available at retail outlets and provide an approximately 10 percent discount on single rides.

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New Rail Service to DIA Starts April 22

By John Fernandez

The long-awaited commuter rail service from Union Station to DIA opens to the public mid-day on Friday, April 22. A ceremonial trip for elected officials and other dignitaries begins around 7:30am at Denver Union Station and concludes with speeches and an official grand opening event at the DIA station from 10am to 12 noon. The trains will run at 15-minute intervals and will be free through Saturday the 23rd—and all of RTD's rail lines will be free that Saturday.

Also on Saturday, a Central Park Station "Street Party" will be held from 10am to 2pm to celebrate the arrival of commuter rail service to Stapleton. See story on page 3.

The trip will take 37 minutes end-to-end. Central Park to downtown will take 14 minutes while the airport trip from Stapleton will last 23 minutes. Trains will run approximately 22 hours per day at 15-minute intervals (30 minutes late at night or early in the morning). Fares will range from a local, two-zone, one-way cost of \$2.60 to \$9 for any trip to the airport. (See schedule and fare information at left.)

The new service is officially called the "University of Colorado A Line" because CU purchased naming rights for five years at a cost of \$5 million.

Voter Authorization of FasTracks

In November 2004, regional voters overwhelmingly approved "FasTracks," and now 12 years later the promise of that ballot proposal is delivering a new transportation choice. The voter approval authorized the Regional Transportation District (RTD) to begin developing the nation's most ambitious mass transit system build-out: 122 miles of new commuter and light rail along with 18 miles of bus rapid transit and enhanced bus service across an eight-county district. Now with \$5.2 billion expended or committed for FasTracks, commuter rail service is coming to the Central Park Station.

What Is Commuter Rail?

Commuter rail is new to Colorado. Light rail has served portions of Denver since the mid '90s. Commuter rail features heavier vehicles capable of higher speeds (up to 79 miles per hour). To take advantage of that capability, stations are spaced farther apart, hence the "commuter" label. RTD selected electric power for the commuter rail lines just as they did for light rail.

The A Line will operate partly within its own, exclusive corridor such as north of I-70, but also within the pre-existing Union Pacific main line corridor, as within Stapleton. Federal safety rules would not have allowed lighter weight "light rail" vehicles to share a corridor with freight traffic—another reason RTD selected commuter rail technology for this corridor.

Along its 23-mile corridor, the A Line will connect Denver Union Station and DIA with six intervening stations: 38th and Blake, 40th and Colorado Blvd., Central Park, Peoria, Airport Boulevard and 40th, and 61st and Pena.

Connecting Rail Lines

On day one, the A Line will connect with three light rail lines at their downtown terminus: the southwest or "C" line to Highlands Ranch, the southeast or "F" line to Lone Tree and the west or "W" line to Lakewood and Golden. By the end of the year it will connect at the Peoria station with the "R" light rail line that is being constructed within and parallel to I-225 in Aurora. Also by the end of 2016, it will connect with two new commuter rail lines: the "B," which is segment one of the northwest line ending in Westminster (W. 69th Ave. and Grove St.), and with the "G" line being built to Ward Road through Arvada and ending in Wheat Ridge. (See RTD zone map at left.)

P3—A Public-Private Partnership

The A, B and G lines constitute a project dubbed EAGLE P3 in which RTD entered into a 34-year agreement with a concessionaire, Denver Transit Partners (DTP), to finance, build, operate and

maintain the system. RTD makes so-called "availability" payments to DTP if it meets performance standards. DTP repays its private financing from that amount, much as home mortgages are repaid. "P3" refers to the fact that this is a true public-private partnership. The \$2.2 billion project includes a \$1.03 billion federal grant that RTD was awarded.

Street Crossings

Although new rail and roadway bridges were constructed in key locations, such as where the line passes under Peoria Street, 13 "at-grade" crossings remain, such as at Ulster and Havana streets. At such surface crossings, RTD has constructed a variety of safety measures including gates, fencing, medians, flashing lights and bells. These measures enabled Denver and Aurora to apply to the federal government for "quiet zone" status, which, if approved, will permit not only A Line trains but also the freight trains to run silently through the crossings; i.e., the operator will not blow the horn. The end result will be far fewer "high lonesome" train horn soundings despite the great increase in local train traffic.

As of this writing, the quiet zone had not yet been "established" by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). RTD says quiet zones have been applied for and approval is forthcoming. The start date of the quiet zones will depend on when approval is given. RTD, Denver and Aurora are working to have the date be on or near opening day—they will announce when they have the approval.

Positive Train Control

Another key feature of the A Line is new technology referred to as "positive train control" (PTC), a complex system designed to absolutely prevent incidents that might be caused by operator error (see March issue of the *Front Porch*). The A Line PTC is the first such system to be developed for a fully brand-new rail service. As of this writing, the PTC system is still being tested and is undergoing approval by the FRA. RTD says PTC will be functioning on opening day.

Parking

—The station has 1550 spaces, 34 motorcycle spaces and 34 accessible spaces.

—RTD plans installation of a minimum of two electric vehicle charging stations in the east parking lot but an implementation date for this pilot program has not been set.

—10 bike racks and eight lockers are in the northwest corner of the east parking lot. A free, key-card access, weatherized structure holding 20-40 bicycles is expected to be built at the 37th Place cul-de-sac by year end.

—Cars registered within this RTD service area (Stapleton and all of northeast Denver) are charged \$2 per 24 hour period. The first 24 hours are free. If out-of-district, a \$4 daily fee applies.

—Parking ticket kiosks are at bus bays A1 and C2. Two additional kiosks will be added soon on the north side of Smith Rd. at each end of the rail platform. Enter the vehicle license plate number, make payment and keep the receipt.

—On-street parking is permissible up to a maximum of 72 hours as elsewhere in Denver. There is no parking on Smith Rd.

Accessing the Station

—Drivers can access the station at Ulster or Uinta. These streets are accessible from Smith Road eastbound or from 36th Ave. east- or westbound.

—To board the train, riders will cross Smith Road at the signal on Uinta or the signal at the east end of the platform.

—Trains are accessed at the east and west ends of the platform. Travellers going west will cross the tracks at grade by passing through swing gates.

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GRAND OPENING

 University of Colorado  Line

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10 AM – NOON

You're invited to the official opening of the University of Colorado A Line! Service will begin running directly after the ceremony.

FREE RIDES

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO  LINE
NOON – 9 PM



SATURDAY • APRIL 23

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ALL UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
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10 AM – 2 PM

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