

Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

JUNE 2016



Life or Death? Deciding in a Split Second

By Anne Hebert

I make my way through the entrance of a warehouse where there's been a report of an intruder. My heart races. I've been told, "Bad guys don't have rules," and that thought

haunts me as I move through each doorway, hallway and open space. Then came the split-second decision whether to reach for my gun. Was my life and/or the life of others at risk? *(continued on page 30)*

Losing Our Legislators



All five of NE Denver's state legislators are leaving their current positions. Left to right: Rep. Beth McCann, Rep. Angela Williams, Sen. Mike Johnston, and Rep. Lois Court. Due to a last-minute budget meeting, Sen. Pat Steadman was unable to be in the photo. Read these legislators' views of the 2016 session, their plans for the future, and a look at some of their bills in an article by John Fernandez on page 12.



Photo courtesy of Denver Arts Festival

The Denver Arts Festival, previously held in other locations, is moving to Stapleton this year on June 18-19.

Arts Festival Moves to Stapleton

By Nick Hutchinson

Paintings, sculptures, jewelry, photography, clay and other mediums will fill the streets around Conservatory Green in North Stapleton on Saturday and Sunday, June 18 and

19. The nationally recognized Denver Arts Festival, formerly known as the Downtown Denver Arts Festival, expects to draw thousands of new visitors in its new location.

"We were searching *(continued on page 5)*



What to do this summer?

Find & post [Local Events](#) at [FrontPorchStapleton.com > Events](#)

And don't forget the [Front Porch Camp Guide](#) is posted at [FrontPorchStapleton.com > News > Resource Guide](#)

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



A stiltwalker holds mistletoe over the heads of visitors at the Big Wonderful. The event will return to Stanley on the first and third Saturdays through September 3. (See story on page 6.)



Most of the events listed below are FREE or support nonprofits.
Additional events are listed on pages 24-26.

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

JUNE

Thurs.-Sat., June 2-4

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

Thursdays in June

MoJaBlu Concert Series 6:30-8:30pm, North Green*
6/9: Tunisia
6/16: Hazel Miller
6/23: Biff Gore Band
6/30: Ron Ivory DooWoop Band

First & third Saturdays in June

The Big Wonderful. Stanley Marketplace, 12-8pm.
www.thebigwonderful.com. (see page 6)

Sundays in June

30th Season of City Park Jazz 6-8pm, rain or shine.
www.cityparkjazz.org (see page 26)
6/5: Euforquestra
6/12: Lannie Garrett
6/19: Hazel Miller
6/26: Otis Taylor
7/3: Ritmo Jazz Latino

Every Sunday starting June 19

First Farmers Market of the season on Father's Day followed by every Sunday through Oct. 16, 8:30am-12:30pm, The Green*

Saturday, June 4

Sheep and Goat Fun Day at the Urban Farm - Meet, goats, sheep and their babies and watch sheep shearing. 11am-1pm. 10200 Smith Rd, Denver 303-307-9332
www.theurbanfarm.org Members Free, Non-members \$5

Saturday & Sunday, June 4 & 5

Lowry Yard Sale. Lowry Neighborhood, 8am-2pm.
www.lowry.org

Through June 5

Northfield Stapleton Family Festival. Rides, food, midway games & more! M-F, 5pm-11pm, Sat.-Sun. 1-11pm. Visit northfieldstapleton.com for \$5 off an all-day wristband, ticket prices and additional details.

Thursday, June 9

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

Friday, June 10

Movie on the Green - "Inside Out" Starts at dark, The Green*

Saturday, June 11

KidSpree at Yumfest. 10am-6pm. Aurora's largest family festival. Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda Pkwy. www.auroragov.org

Tuesday, June 14

Public Meeting on Concept Design for Open Space north of 56th Ave in Stapleton. 6-7:30pm, Central Park Rec Center. Representatives from Forest City, Denver Parks and Rec, Stapleton Development Corporation, the Park Creek Metro District and the landscape architecture firm, Civitas, Inc. will participate and respond to questions.

Saturday, June 18

Concert on The Green - Soul School 7-9pm, The Green*

JUNE

Saturday, June 18

Teen Night 7-10pm, Runway 35 Pool*

Saturday, June 18

Fourth Annual Denver Century Ride & Street Party Vendor, expo, free children's activities and food tents on Northfield's Main Street until 5pm. Register online at northfieldstapleton.com

Saturday, June 18

Park Hill Garden Walk. 10am-4pm. Xeriscapes to formal gardens. Tickets: King Soppers and select locations.
www.parkhillgardenwalk.org

Sunday, June 19

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

Wednesday, June 22

Bike to Work Day. Register at biketoworkday.us. (see page 26)

Wed.-Sat., June 22-25

Denver Library Summer Used Book Sale. Central library, 10 West 14th Ave. 10am-4pm each day.
www.dplfriends.org

Thursday, June 23

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

Friday, June 24

Movie on the Green - "Divergent" Starts at dark, The Green*

Friday & Saturday, June 24-25

Relay for Life - 6am-6pm. Run/Walk to raise money for cancer followed by celebrations of cancer survivors and memorializing loved ones. Food, activities and entertainment. To learn more and register, visit main.acsevents.org

Saturday, June 25

Aurora Arts Festival, 12-8pm. Arts, music, food booths. Fletcher Plaza, 9898 E. Colfax. www.auroraculture.org/2016-aaf/

JULY

Saturday, July 2

Concert on The Green- Forever Dangerous 7-9pm, The Green*

Monday, July 4

DJ's @ the Pools 12-4pm, all Stapleton pools*

Monday, July 4

4th of July pancake breakfast 9-10:30am and 4th of July parade 10:30-11am, Central Park*

*More information at www.stapletoncommunity.com
The Green: E. 29th Ave. and Roslyn St.
North Green: Valentia & E. 49th Place
Sam Gary Library: 2961 Roslyn St.
Central Park: MLK Blvd. & Central Park Blvd.
Central Park Rec Center: 9651 E. MLK Blvd.
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



Theatre on The Green-*The Wedding Singer* Thursday-Saturday, June 2-4, 7-9pm

The Aurora Fox Theatre and the MCA will be presenting three showings of *The Wedding Singer*. It's 1985. Junk bonds, Michael Jackson, New Coke, trickle-down economics, wealth. Robby Hart sings in the band at the local reception hall; his dreams of becoming a singer/songwriter are long gone, replaced by a burning desire to get married. He and his friend Julia, a waitress who works at the reception hall, are both engaged, but to the wrong people. Robby gets left at the altar and fortune intervenes to help them discover each other. Showings will be held on The Green at 29th Ave. & Roslyn St. All showings are free and open to the public.

MoJaBlu Concert Series

Every Thursday, June 9-30, 6:30-8:30pm

Join the Stapleton MCA and Jazz@Jack's Thursday evenings for an evening of Motown, Jazz and Blues on The Green located in Conservatory Green at 49th Place and Valentia St. These are free concerts open to the public!

Movie on the Green-*Inside Out*

Friday, June 10, At Dark

Join us on The Green (29th & Roslyn) for the first Movie on the Green of the summer! The first outdoor movie will be *Inside Out*. Each movie will feature a concessions stand to benefit a local nonprofit organization. The concessions stand will sell fresh popcorn, candy, sodas and bottled water. All movies are free and open to the public.

New! Beers & Cheers-Beer Tasting Series

Friday, June 17, 6-8pm

The MCA will be hosting a series of outdoor beer tastings at the Plaza in Conservatory Green. Each month will have a different theme and variety of beers. Tickets are \$15 for residents and \$20 for nonresidents. Buy your tickets at stapletoncommunity.com.

Concert on The Green-Soul School

Saturday, June 18, 7-9pm

Join the MCA for the first Concert on The Green of the summer! The concert will feature *Soul School* on The Green (29th & Roslyn) starting at 7pm. Concerts are free to attend and open to the public.

Denver Arts Festival

Saturday & Sunday, June 18 and 19, 10am-6pm

The Denver Arts Festival is a fine arts and fine crafts festival that continues to be dedicated to supporting Colorado artists while also showcasing a select group of national artists. The Denver Arts Festival, previously held downtown, will now hold its annual premier event at Conservatory Green Plaza.

Teen Night at Runway 35

Saturday, June 18, 7-10pm

The Stapleton MCA is hosting the best pool party of the season for teens ages 12-15 at Runway 35! A DJ will get the party going with music while the pool will be set up with the diving board, glow lights and water games. To top it off, the concession stand will feature

a sundae bar. The fun starts at 7pm and goes till 10. To register, call 303.388.0724 or visit stapletoncommunity.com.

Farmers Market

Sunday, June 19, 8:30am-12:30pm

The first Farmers Market of the season on The Green (29th & Roslyn). The market will run every Sunday through October 16.

Movie on The Green-Divergent

Friday, June 24, At Dark

Join us on The Green (29th & Roslyn) for Movie on the Green featuring *Divergent*.

Friday Night Flights-Wine Tastings

Friday, June 24, 6-8pm

The MCA and the Grape Leaf are excited to present the first wine tasting of the summer! The first Friday Night Flight will be held on Fri., June 24 at the West Crescent. Tickets are \$15 for residents and \$20 for nonresidents. Visit stapletoncommunity.com to purchase your tickets today!

Family Night at the Pools

Family Night will begin on Monday, June 6. Each pool will have a designated night of the week where they extend their closing times. Jet Stream's night will be on Mondays, PJ on Tuesdays, F15 and Maverick on Wednesdays, and Aviator on Thursdays.

Active Minds Seminar

This is a free, no-reservation-needed public program brought to you by the Stapleton MCA. Sam Gary Library 2961 Roslyn St. Thursday, June 9, 6:45-7:45pm

Nuclear Energy

Nuclear power has a checkered history that includes the Chernobyl disaster, Three Mile Island, and the more recent incident after the earthquake in Japan. Advocates, however, point to advantages such as zero carbon emissions and cite the example of France, which produces over 75 percent of its electricity from nuclear power and is the world's largest exporter of electricity due to its very low cost of generation. Join us as we evaluate the pros and cons of this controversial source of power. Thursday, June 23, 6:45-7:45pm

Renewable Energy

Energy from renewable sources (solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, etc.) is an important part of the future of energy in the U.S. and the world. The issues involved are complex, with technical challenges, economic issues, as well as environmental, political and social factors. Join Active Minds as we survey the current state of renewable energy and look at the various forces that will influence how these resources will evolve in the future.

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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Denver Arts Festival June 18-19

New Stapleton Location Expected to Draw Thousands



The Denver Art Festival, previously held downtown, is now moving to Conservatory Green in Stapleton.

(continued from page 1) for a location that could improve on the tight parking situation downtown, as well as a few other issues that had arisen,” says festival organizer Jim DeLutes. “It was time to make a change. Stapleton contacted us and asked me if we wanted to move there and we said yes. It’s a festival of fine art and the quality of the work is high. We like to concentrate on the artists, so we don’t do stages and beer tents. We want people to come and look at art. We don’t want the artists to have to compete with a lot of peripheral entertainment that draws attention away from them. We want to draw peoples’ attention into the art and the artists.”

DeLutes says the festival places an emphasis on providing the best possible venue for its patrons. For the past 17 years the festival set up shop at downtown locations including the Denver Pavilions and the Denver Performing Arts Complex. The original name was The Celebrate Colorado Artists Festival.

DeLutes, who was a photographer and has participated in similar shows all over the country, says the festival focuses mostly

can range from \$50 on the low end to \$15,000 depending on the piece, such as a sculpture.

While the event offers some food, including handmade crepes and unique potato dishes, organizers encourage visitors to patronize the local restaurants in the area. “Because Northfield has some great restaurants located right there, we assume people will gravitate toward them and we want to be



Flower of the Jungle by Manikhong

supportive of the local businesses,” he says. Parking for the event will include local streets surrounding the festival and the outer parking lots of the Northfield shops.

Prices for the art

“We will no doubt learn a few things this first year there but we’re

hoping it flows well and that people can park close by without too many issues,” he says. “Maybe we can implement a shuttle next year depending on how parking works out. We


world of art, this is a great place to be.” The Denver Arts Festival will be held at 8304 E. 49th Place. Valentia and 49th Place will be closed off for the festival. The event happens rain or shine.

On Sat., June 18, hours are 10am–6pm.; on Sun., June 19, 10am–5pm. More information, including participating artists, can be found at www.denverartsfestival.com.




Photos courtesy of Denver Art Festival.



Sense of Balance by Scanlan



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Big Wonderful at Stanley



By Nick Hutchinson
With live music in the air, outdoor games, food trucks, a stilt walker and a variety of artisans selling their wares, NE Denver played host for the first time to The Big Wonderful on Sat., May 21. The 3-acre field to the west of Stanley Marketplace served as the site for the event. Stanley Marketplace, a former ejection seat manufacturing facility, was inspired by New York's Chelsea Market and San Francisco's Ferry Building. The mobile Big Wonderful

event first started in Denver's River North neighborhood in 2014. People entered the carnival-like venue from Aurora, to the north, and Stapleton on its south side. Bicycles lined the fence at the entrance near Beeler St. and E. 26th Ave. with many attendees arriving on foot. The parking lot at Clinton St. and E. 23rd Ave. on the Aurora side of the Stanley, which holds up to 500 cars, contributed to the reasons festival organizers chose the convenient location. "This first time out went terrifically,"

said Big Wonderful founder Josh Sampson. "We're looking forward to working it up over the course of the summer." Sampson estimated that more than 3,000 people attended the event's Stanley debut. The relaxed urban festival occurs at five locations including Stapleton/Aurora, Littleton, the 16th Street Mall, RiNo and a spot near Sports Authority Field. "We signed up for a bunch of these and are basing it all on how well they do," said Travis Gilbert, owner of Tonix, a south Denver company that sells craft cocktail syrup. "This is a really nice spot in general. I'm planning on opening a kiosk here at the Stan-

ley Marketplace when it opens in the fall." Festival organizers covered the ground at Stanley with wood chips to mitigate dust and pointed stage speakers away from the nearby residences along Beeler Street. "It's hard to find stuff like this where we live," said Laurie Dolan, who drove up from the Tech Center with her two-year-old daughter. "It can be a challenge to find something that we both like and it's a great concept. We'll definitely be coming back." The Big Wonderful at Stanley occurs on the first and third Saturdays of the month through Sept. 3 from 12-8 pm. Tickets (which include a free beer or soda) are \$5 in advance online at TheBigWonderful.com and \$7 dollars at the event. VIP tickets are \$15/\$18.

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Rachele Espiritu talks to DPS Superintendent after being sworn into her new position.

By Carol Roberts

With a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and a business that works with community programs to make them more effective, Rachele Espiritu is ready to apply her skills and experience to DPS' educational issues.

The newly elected DPS Board District 4 representative says her role is to be out listening for themes across schools and communities and bringing back what she believes is appropriate for the board to address.

Although she's a trained facilitator and mediator with the professional skills to address many organizational issues, she says she wants to respect the autonomy of school leaders. "I recognize the collective wisdom that is usually in the room and help draw that out through asking questions and making observations. But usually the solutions lie in the community."

She does not have strong feelings about whether schools should be district, charter or innovation. "The bottom line for me is we should have great schools in every neighborhood and how we get there is going to be different based on each community's interest and needs."

She supports the IB for all program at Northfield High School, saying that approach elevates the standards for all students. "When you have classrooms that are mixed in terms of ability, I think the research has shown that everyone does better."

When she was sworn in, existing board members said Espiritu's mental health background fills an expertise gap. She says she will ask questions to see if there might be an unintended impact on the whole child. She thinks a more trauma-informed approach is needed in how the board thinks about

their interventions. On the subject of restorative justice, she believes the trauma-informed approach adds a different dimension to how we think of student's behaviors and their actions in school. "When you look at the research and you know that many students are facing adverse childhood events, it changes the way you think about why they might be behaving the way they are or why they're having the challenges they're having."

Espiritu's company, a minority and woman-owned firm called Change Matrix, works to enhance the capacity of social service organizations to do their work, either through leadership development within organizations or through collaboration with other organizations. "Effectively collaborating means a real blending of decision making," she explains. "That's where groups get tripped up. Decision making is a hard one because you give up an element of control."

Espiritu's favorite phrase is, "The single biggest failure of leadership is to treat adaptive challenges like technical problems." She explains the two approaches. Technical problems are easily identifiable, can often be solved by an expert, and people are receptive to the solution. Adaptive challenges require changes in beliefs, relationships and approaches to work, and the people with the problem do the work of solving it. Solutions require experiments and take a long time.

She believes this is an effective framework for looking at DPS programs. "Sometimes in my field there's a tendency to do a single training or to provide a handbook. We know that doesn't effectively provide any change."

Espiritu lives in Stapleton with her husband and two sons who attend Stapleton schools.

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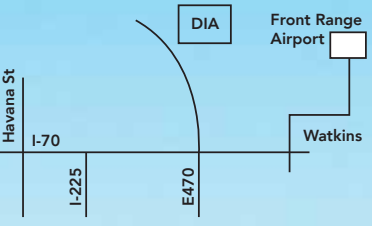
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Mummy Secrets Revealed in Scans at Children's Hospital



Flight for Life and DMNS staff transport an Egyptian mummy to Children's Hospital.

By Nick Hutchinson

In a time-bridging partnership, the Denver Museum of Nature & Science teamed up with Children's Hospital Colorado to scan

two mummies and a sarcophagus.

"The mummy transport is a unique example of our two worlds coming together and combining history with state-of-the art technology and medical expertise," says Christy Dobson of Children's Hospital Colorado.

The scans of two mummies and a sarcophagus were inspired by the Chicago Field Museum's re-scanning of its mummies in 2011 and the valuable results that endeavor yielded. Denver's 1991 scan of its mummies led museum scientists to believe one mummy had been relatively wealthy during her lifetime—and that served as the foundation for the "rich Mummy/poor mummy" storyline in the current exhibition. The latest scans suggest a different interpretation.

"Part of rescanning the mummies was because the rich mummy, poor mummy narrative is inaccurate. People had to have money to be mummified, so by definition there is no such thing as a poor mummy. It is true that the one mummy was not as carefully wrapped or buried with amulets and metal inside the wrappings,

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Above: The mummy is pictured next to the Children’s Hospital scanner. Right: The sarcophagus is pictured partially in the scanner. Below: Scientists get a first look at what the scan reveals.

but she was placed in a gorgeously painted sarcophagus and the fact that she was mummified at all signals that her family cared for her and gave her the best treatment they could afford. We will be updating the narrative when we update the gallery with the results of the scientific analysis next year,” says Dr. Michelle Koons, curator of archaeology at the Museum of Nature & Science.

The hospital donated its expertise and equipment to allow the museum to perform CT scans, which use a series of X-ray images, to provide high-resolution pictures that help further enhance the understanding of the relics

Flight for Life provided a de-commissioned ambulance and gurney for the scans. At the museum, the gurney was retrofitted with a platform that could hold and transport the mummies and sarcophagi. Starting in the evening after rush hour, each mummy or sarcophagus was loaded into the ambulance by museum and Flight for Life personnel and driven to the hospital, scanned and returned. Altogether, the process took about eight hours.

The mummies had been scanned before at University Hospital in 1991, and a single mummy was scanned again in 1998, but thanks to advances in technology, these most recent photographs taken on April 18, 2016, provide even more detailed imagery, increasing the potential for new insight and understanding of the ancient treasures. The first scan revealed astounding images within seconds. While it will take time to review and interpret the images, scientists at the scene were excited by the clarity and detail they showed.

“The scans back in the ’90s were done with one-centimeter resolution,” explains Koons.



“These new scans are at .5 mm resolution. We can see many more details of the wrapping technique and the amulets and metal pieces inside the wrappings. In fact, we can

even see that the metal piece that is covering the incision where the organs were removed from mummy 1997-24.1. We are processing the data and hope to have images of

this in the near future. We also hope to see if any pathologies, such as arthritis, can be identified on the bones.”

“Our ongoing partnership allows us to engage in our passion for science, medicine,

the human body, nutrition, exercise and the overall well-being of our community,” says Dobson.

The full analysis of the CT scans and other tests are expected to be complete by the end of the year. In addition to the CT scans, several other minimally invasive tests will be done to further scientific understanding while protecting the integrity of the artifacts, including: radiocarbon dating of very small samples of the linens, skin, and wood from the sarcophagi; isotope analysis of the linen, hair and skin; core sampling of the sarcophagi for use in tree ring dating and wood analysis; and portable X-ray fluorescence analysis to determine the composition of the pigments on the sarcophagi.

“We look forward to adding the next chapter to its history when we get all the new data back in late fall,” says Koons. “This is an incredible opportunity for the museum and for the field of archaeology. A scientist may not get such an opportunity during her career. It’s been a privilege to work with such a dedicated team of medical and museum professionals.”



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Jeffery Washington
Bob Lane

Steve Sherick
Lois Court
Erin Bennett

State Senator – District 33

Raymon Doane

Angela Williams
John Biggerstaff

State Representative – District 6

No candidates

Jeff Hart
Chris Hansen

State Representative – District 7

No candidates

Elet Valentine
Michele Wheeler
James Rashad Coleman

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Beth McCann

Editor's Note: Two of the three Democratic candidates live in the Front Porch distribution area. This article examines their similarities and differences. Information about the third candidate, Kenneth Boyd, is posted on our website at FrontPorchStapleton.com, along with information submitted by other candidates on the primary ballot.

By John Fernandez

Democratic voters in the June primary are faced with choosing among three candidates, including two highly qualified candidates for Denver district attorney—Michael Carrigan and Beth McCann. Their campaign programs are very similar and their career paths reflect equal levels of preparation for serving as Denver's chief elected law enforcement officer. It is perhaps in personality and style that voters will discern differences between the two.

An issue that illustrates those differences is the death penalty. Carrigan's campaign literature touts that he is “the only candi-

date pledging to never use the death penalty,” a statement he reiterated in the *Front Porch* interview.

McCann says she opposes the death penalty and voted that way several years ago as a state representative in the General Assembly. She notes, however, language in the Colorado Constitution and state law calls for consultation with victims' families at all critical stages in the proceeding, including filing of charges, and she wants to honor that process. She says she would never ask for the death penalty but wants to avoid a “sound bite” approach to the issue by making a declaration of such a position ahead of time. Speaking with the *Front Porch*, she acknowledged that this “more nuanced” approach might not be as effective with voters in a campaign.

A difference in their campaign strategies is visible in how they approach endorsements. Carrigan has lined up a who's who of city and state leaders and prominently displays the lengthy list on his website and campaign literature. His endorsement list begins with Denver Mayor Michael Hancock. McCann expresses reservations about seeking

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Democratic Primary



Michael Carrigan

an endorsement from an elected official whose administration she might have to investigate as elected DA. She says it is “freeing” to not have the big name endorsements and feels that she could be more independent. McCann revels in having a broad base of support in the community.

Both candidates have impressive credentials:

Carrigan is a partner with Holland & Hart specializing in complex litigation. Before entering private practice, he served with three different district attorney offices and prosecuted more than 100 cases up to judge and jury, eventually serving as senior deputy to the Denver DA (Bill Ritter at the time). In 2004 he was elected to the University of Colorado Board of Regents and, as a Democrat,

served as chair of the Republican majority board. His term concludes in January. As a Hancock appointee, he is co-chair of the Denver Crime Prevention and Control Commission, a “broad-based group aimed at reducing recidivism and the growth of our incarcerated population through a focus on diversionary programs and alternatives to sentencing.”

McCann is completing her fourth and final term as state representative from House District 8 (east central Denver). She earned a partnership in the Denver law firm of Cooper & Kelley in the 1980s. She was Denver’s first female manager of safety in the early 1990s under Mayor Wellington Webb, later transi-

tioning to a different cabinet position as head of the Safe City office following Denver’s Summer of Violence (1993). She is a founder and former president of the Colorado Women’s Bar Association and served on the board of governors of the Colorado Bar Association.

Both candidates are transitioning out of elected office, are married, have children and have served on numerous community and nonprofit organizations’ boards.

The candidates share the following priorities:

Re-building trust between the community and law enforcement through more transparency. Both said they would explain their decisions on excessive force cases. Carrigan: “The best thing we can do for good police officers is to prosecute the bad ones.” McCann: “I’m the only candidate that has prosecuted and sent a police officer to prison.”

Reducing crime through prevention and rehabilitation. Both candidates use the term “mass incarceration” and assert that minorities are overrepresented in the criminal justice system. They both want to institute reforms that disrupt what Carrigan calls the “school to prison pipeline.” McCann wants to use the “bully pulpit” of the DA’s office to provide youth better choices and change the current practice of using jails to warehouse people with mental health challenges.

Giving priority to cases involving elder abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, illegal gun possession and youth in general. Carrigan says he would create more “specialization” in the DA’s office since individual lawyers can’t be expert in every field. McCann does not anticipate a

major re-organization of the DA’s office. She would form an advisory council to help with community relations.

Bringing a high level of management expertise to running the DA’s office currently staffed with 75 attorneys and multiple divisions. Carrigan notes his experience as a regent with responsibility for CU’s \$3.5 million budget and his 16 years with Holland & Hart, a “modern law office.” McCann cites her years of management and supervisory experience with Denver’s Safety Department, as Chief Deputy DA and as Chief Deputy Attorney General in the Colorado Attorney General’s office.

Both candidates note the tremendous power of the DA’s office given the amount of prosecutorial discretion inherent in that position. Each appears eager to shape a new trajectory that reduces crime at the front end of the “stop to sentence” continuum within the criminal justice system. They both believe the time is ripe locally and nationally for criminal justice and sentencing reform. McCann says her “qualifications and accomplishment set me apart” including the fact that she has “made the law” as well as prosecuted it. Carrigan notes his private sector experience, big name endorsements and experience on both sides (defense and prosecution) as pluses. McCann describes the current DA’s office as defensive and insular, tendencies that would change because “women have different ways of solving problems. We negotiate more and are not as locked into positions.” They both say the number one job for the DA is safety, a goal more effectively reached through diversion at the front end of the criminal justice system.



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2016 Legislative Session: Insufficient but better than nothing

By John Fernandez

A 2016 legislative session some have termed “do-nothing” will nevertheless foreshadow big changes for northeast Denver. All five of the area’s state legislators—



Rep. Angela Williams

two senators and three representatives—are leaving their posts. And, voters can expect a half-dozen ballot initiatives to address major issues unresolved by the General Assembly.

Sens. Mike Johnston (District 33) and Pat Steadman (District 31) as well as Reps. Lois Court (District 6) and Beth McCann (District 8) are term-limited. Rep. Angela Williams (District 7), who is finishing her third term, has chosen to seek the District 33 senatorial seat. Court is running for Steadman’s seat and McCann is busy campaigning for Denver district attorney.

Our legislators continue to chafe at the fiscal constraints imposed primarily by the Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR). In their unanimous opinion, that constitutional amendment passed by the voters in 1992 ensures that the state budget will continue to force the state to fall behind in needed expenditures for major programs like transportation and education. All hold out hope there will be a ballot issue this fall calling for a 10-year “time-out” from TABOR’s revenue cap.

Some also hope the governor will issue a special session “call” to once again push for re-classification of the Hospital Provider Fee (HPF) to an enterprise fund. This would have the effect of lowering general fund revenues far enough below the TABOR cap that several hundred million dollars could be made available for transportation and education. As

with many bills considered by the legislature this year, that bill failed largely along party lines. Republicans hold a one-seat majority in the Senate while in the House, Democrats have a three-seat majority. Other such failures included changes to the presidential primary election process, efforts to reduce penalties for juveniles who engage in sexting, and reforms to the construction defects legislation. One or more of those issues may find their way to the November ballot.

Ironically, one bill that did benefit from bipartisan support, the grocery store liquor sales bill, faced an uncertain future at press time due to a potential veto by the governor. Even if the governor signs off on Senate Bill 197, there remains a good chance this issue too will be subject to a November ballot initiative.

But, outside the purely fiscal arena, the legislators expressed pride and satisfaction at their accomplishments in the 120-day session that ended at midnight May 11. Many of the bills they drafted and supported were passed (see sidebar story for a selection of their bills). Each of the legislators applauded the accomplishments in these areas:



Rep. Lois Court

State budget.

Through fiscal maneuvering, major cuts initially proposed by the governor to balance the budget were avoided. Per pupil average spending for K-12 schools was increased by \$122 to \$7,425, a \$20 million cut to higher education was averted, transfers to the state’s highway fund were set at \$150 million and the state was able to maintain its statutory 6.5 percent budget reserve. Sen. Steadman and others caution that a one-year fix to address a \$100 million court-mandated rebate on severance taxes will need a permanent solution in future sessions.



Sen. Mike Johnston

School finance act.

Progress was made at reducing procedural and resource limitations on charter schools.

Tax expenditure study. Rep. Court, in particular, was pleased that a bill passed to establish a task force to evaluate whether the state is getting “bang for the buck” for the various

tax credits and deductions approved over the years that now amount to \$3.5 billion.

Criminal justice reform. A major thrust here is to recognize that juveniles are different psychologically from adults and every effort should be made to focus on prevention, diversion and rehabilitation. There appears to be a growing consensus that this benefits the individual perpetrator and has a high return on investment for society. At the same time, the sentences and the statute of limitations were strengthened for sexual assault and strangulation crimes.

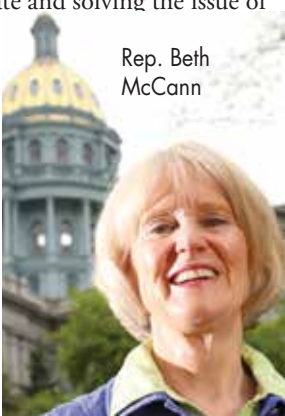
As usual, the 2016 session kept legislators busy until virtually the last minute of the legal limit and working hours extended late into the evenings. Some legislators looked forward to catching up on sleep and getting back on the campaign trail. Johnston equates his departure to a high school graduation, “heading off to college” and not rejoining his old classmates in the fall.

Speaking of that next step in his political career, Johnston acknowledged that he is “taking a serious look” at running for governor in 2018 saying, “there is nothing formally in discussion but it’s one long-term option.”

Court says she has been asked by many people to continue in the legislature and maintains a passion for it: “If you have a brain, use it. If you are a member of a community, participate in it.” She hopes to continue to work on solving Colorado’s “fiscal Gordian knot” as well as an end-of-life bill, campaign finance and election law

in general.

Williams’ immediate future is similar: the campaign for a Senate seat and the Democratic primary in June. Williams says she will continue to focus on the budget, improving the state’s small business climate and solving the issue of trust between neighborhoods and law enforcement.



Rep. Beth McCann

McCann says her departure from the legislature is “bittersweet” and reflects on how much she has learned in terms of the issues and perspectives of people from all over the state. Her political future could also be decided in the very short term as she faces fellow Democrat Michael Carrigan in the June 28 primary (see article on page 12).

Steadman says he doesn’t support term limits “but I’m not sorry that it’s happening to me.” Despite the rigors of the 120-day session, his enthusiasm for political office bubbles over: “I love the legislative process, I love the policy

debates, and I love the satisfaction of knowing I’ve made Colorado a better place.” Steadman has no immediate plans but expects to be campaigning in the fall in support of ballot issues including re-authorization of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District.

The deadline for the governor to sign or veto bills is June 10. A special session would have to be called after the June 28 primary and would likely result in participation by some legislators as lame ducks since many of the sitting members are facing contested primary races.



Sen. Pat Steadman

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Selected Bills Important to Our Legislators

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Rep. Lois Court

HB 1030 – Off-highway Vehicles Regulation: Allows local governments to permit OHVs on state highways within their jurisdiction, with a goal of permitting access to roads in the Colorado back-country benefiting, in particular, disabled veterans.

HB 1054 – End-of-Life Options for Individuals with a Terminal Illness: Would have authorized an individual with a terminal illness to request, and the individual's attending physician to prescribe to the individual, medication to give the individual a choice at the end of life. Passed out of committee but was pulled by bill sponsors in anticipation of difficult floor fight.

HB 1182 – Establishing Contribution Limits Under the "Fair Campaign Practices Act" for Candidates for School District Director: Would set limits on contributions to candidates for school district director comparable to limits in effect for state elected officials. Did not pass (postponed indefinitely in committee).

HB 1297 – Reestablish Check-offs Excluded from the 2015 Tax Form: Expands the number of organizations to be included on the Colorado income tax return for which voluntary contributions can be made.

Sen. Mike Johnston

SB 35 – Public School Fund: Creates \$2 billion bonding capacity combining resources of State Land Trust and local school districts to support capital construction, particularly in rural areas.

SB 116 –Sealing of Criminal Justice Records Other Than Convictions: Creates simplified process; eliminates need to sue the state to accomplish sealing of records.

HB 1260 – Increase the Statute of Limitations for Sexual Assault: Extends the period of time during which a person may be prosecuted to 20 years.

HB 1264 – Ban Law Enforcement Use of Chokehold: Defines "chokehold" and sets strict limits on its usage.

Rep. Beth McCann

HB 1090 – Finders' Fees for Foreclosure Sale Proceeds: Sets limits in amount and through time of potential payments to person who assists property owner in recovering amounts due to the owner from the public trustee following sale of a foreclosed property when the amount bid exceeds the amount owed by the property owner ("overbid").

HB 1215 – Changes the Statutory Purposes of Parole: New language focuses more on rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders into society.

HB 1216 – Administration of the Independent Ethics Commission: Allows commission to retain its own legal counsel to avoid opportunities for appearances

of impropriety that might arise when investigating cases of state employees represented by State Attorney General's office. Failed in Senate.

HB 1388 – Employer Hiring Criminal History: this so-called "Ban the Box" bill would bar employers from asking on forms about criminal backgrounds, though it would not prevent them from broaching the subject in interviews or from looking into an applicant's background on their own. Failed in the Senate.

Sen. Pat Steadman

HB 1408 – Cash Fund Allocations for Health-related Programs: this modifies and streamlines the allocation of tobacco litigation settlement moneys and stabilizes the fund with marijuana revenues.

HB 1414 – Telephone Users with Disabilities Fund: Stabilizes funding base for telecom relay services by applying fee to all telecommunications regardless of technology, not just land lines. Expands service to those who are both deaf and blind.

SB 146 – Modernizing Statutes Related to Sexually Transmitted Infections: merges existing laws on STIs and HIV to no longer stigmatize HIV infection with stand-alone provisions for this one virus, and broadens the scope and power of public health protections by making procedures applicable to all STIs that today apply only to HIV.

SB 150 –Marriage by Individuals Who Are Parties to a Civil Union: this clarifies the dissolution process when there is both a marriage and a civil union between the parties.

Rep. Angela Williams

HB 1014 – SOS Business Intelligence Center: Continues a pilot business intelligence center in the Colorado Department of State to streamline access to public data and provide resources to make the data more useful.

HB 1262 – Improving Peace Officer Hiring: Requires opening of internal affairs files for candidate employed by another law enforcement agency.

HB 1263 – Racial Profiling Prohibition: Updates law passed in 2001 to include gender, gender identity, national origin, language, religion, sexual orientation or disability.

SB 183 – Creation of a Task Force to Study Colorado's 911 Needs: The task force will study other states' laws, rules and practices concerning 911 oversight, outage report and reliability and will determine whether the current funding is sufficient for providing existing 911 service and transitioning to next-generation 911 service.



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By John Fernandez

RTD estimates that problems with the Positive Train Control (PTC) system will require that horns for both the new commuter rail line and the pre-existing freight trains will continue to sound for at least three to four more months. RTD's plans for the A Line had long included enough safety measures at the 11 at-grade crossings along the 23-mile route that the federal government would allow establishment of what is known as a "quiet zone." The hope was that the Quiet Zone (QZ)

would have been in place by April 22, the date that the A Line opened for revenue service. Now it appears the Quiet Zone will not be in place until late summer or early fall.

While train horns have always sounded along this stretch of the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) main line, the A Line's frequency of service (or headways) of 15 minutes in each direction, has increased the frequency

of horn sounding by a factor of 10. The A Line operates about 21 hours a day. According to a Denver Transit Partners (DTP) spokesperson, train horns must be a minimum of 110 decibels.

At the A Line crossings, RTD patrons as well as area motorists have noted erratic patterns in the timing of warning bells and gate closures relative to train arrivals and departures. RTD acknowledged as such to the state's Public Util-

ities Commission (PUC), which has regulatory authority over all rail crossings in Colorado. An order issued by the PUC on April 15 cited these unresolved "technical issues": gate activation failure, gate false activation, commuter rail vehicles entering crossings while gates are descending, and traffic signals in flash condition.

Despite the Union Pacific's request that the A Line opening be delayed a month, the PUC

A Line Train Horns to Sound for Several More

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A flagman is pictured at the Ulster crossing in the Central Park Station. Flagmen are on duty 24 hours a day at all crossings pending approval of the Quiet Zone.

allowed the opening to proceed provided RTD implemented two temporary safety measures: to post human flaggers at each crossing 24 hours per day, seven days a week; and staffing of a “GO Team to respond to any crossing technical issues within 20 minutes of notification.” An RTD spokesperson described the GO team members as “signal and traffic experts who can quickly mobilize should there be any crossing issues.” RTD’s concessionaire for the A

Line, Denver Transit Partners, is paying for the extra people to be stationed at the crossings.

Thus, the A Line is operating without a fully operational PTC. Once fully operational, the A Line will feature the first such system in the country for a new rail line service. In 2008, the federal government mandated PTC for rail lines in the wake of a horrific train collision in California resulting in 25 passenger deaths.

PTC tracks train movements along the length of a corridor and can avoid operator error by remotely stopping or slowing a train. In the meantime, the traditional “automatic train control” (ATC) system is being supplemented by the flaggers and GO team. A recent article in Planning magazine compared ATC to PTC systems this way:

Automatic Train Control establishes communication between the train and

the signal system that lets engineers know when to stop, go slow, or forge quickly ahead. Under ATC, if the vehicle passes an established signal point at a speed faster than the limit, alarms will sound in the cab. If the driver does not respond quickly enough, the ATC system will apply the emergency brake on its own.

Positive Train Control essentially marries this long-standing system with contemporary GPS tech-

nology to allow the warning system to kick in if the driver is going too fast at any point along the track, not just where the signal wires are standing sentinel.... It also allows for subtler regulations of train speed and can be calibrated differently in case of, say, bad weather or nearby track work.

Establishing a QZ is complex both in terms of technical requirements and jurisdictionally. Legally, the impetus for a QZ resides with local government, in this case, Denver and Aurora. The “notices of intent” for the A Line QZ were filed by Denver last August and by Aurora this January. Those local governments will not issue the notice of establishment (NOE) until advised by RTD that all the technical requirements have been met. DTP spokesperson Nadia Garas said three to four months for QZ establishment “sounds reasonable.”

Despite the legal role for Denver and Aurora in this process, it was RTD that committed to installing the necessary safety measures to make the QZ a possibility. They did this through the environmental reviews for the A Line as well as a “Responsible Rail Amendment” adopted in 2007. In addition to the PTC itself, crossing safety features include “quadrant gate arms” and medians (to block travel lanes in both directions and to prevent vehicles from going around the gates when descended), pedestrian gates, safety signage and audible and visual alerts.

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Stapleton Foundation CEO Bev Haddon Retires After 15 Years

By John Fernandez

Beverly Haddon's 15-year tenure as chief executive officer for the Stapleton Foundation ("Foundation") began as a temporary assignment. She laughs in recounting that she was the only one on the Foundation board way back when who didn't have a full-time job so she was the "natural choice" to head up the fledgling organization.

By all accounts, with Haddon at the helm, the Foundation is fulfilling its role as the "heart and soul" of Stapleton, ensuring that the Green Book vision for the former airport guides development in this part of the city.

Haddon announced her resignation last November and agreed to stay on the job until a

successor was selected. Candidate finalists for the CEO position will be interviewed by the Foundation in June and the hope is the new person will be on scene by July. At that point, Haddon plans a very brief transition before heading off for a six-month "sabbatical," mostly to be spent at her mountain retreat near Pagosa Springs.

Reminiscing recently with philanthropist Sam Gary, now 89 years old, both Haddon and Gary say it all started with a vision—to stop urban sprawl with a development that could attract young fami-



Beverly Haddon (left) laughs with Sam Gary, the person credited both with the concept of turning the old airport into a new urban neighborhood and with playing a key role in moving the concept to reality.

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lies with children. In the late 1980s, Gary played a key role in organizing the Stapleton Redevelopment Foundation (SRF) that toyed with the idea of buying and developing the doomed airport. The complexities and immense scale of such an effort soon persuaded Gary and his board, of which Haddon was a member, that it would require a public-private partnership.

The city and its Stapleton Development Corporation focused on obtaining a master developer (Forest City) while the SRF reconstituted itself as the Stapleton Foundation. All these entities committed themselves to the Stapleton master plan known as the Green Book, a visionary document adopted in 1995 that sought to answer this question (taken from the Foundation's website):

What happens to seven square miles of runways, prairie, weeds, tons of leaked jet fuel and noxious chemicals, a control tower and one used, fairly out-of-date airport when the new airport [DIA] opens?

Following Forest City's selection in 1998, the development process began by focusing, necessarily, on the infrastructure needed to support the vision – the demolition, environmental remediation, roads, utilities, and drainage systems, soon followed by land sales to the builders of homes and retail spaces. Vertical construction kicked off in 2001.

Meanwhile, the Foundation adopted its mission:

Create a community that is seamlessly connected to surrounding neighborhoods, as well as a community that becomes a sustainable model in education, employment, open space, housing, diversity, and sustainable development.

Using an idea proposed by Forest City, the Foundation soon became sustainable itself with funding from a "community investment fee" (CIF) collected at the time of closing on the sale of residential and commercial properties in Stapleton. By 2015, that fee was generating \$600,000 annually. Combined with grants, the Foundation budget now exceeds \$2.6 million and supports four full-time staff funded by the CIF and 10 grant-funded full-time staff members.

While health and transportation issues are key areas of emphasis, any history of the Foundation's first 15 years would have to single out public education as a top priority. The Foundation knew going in that the key to attracting young families would be quality schools. Unfortunately, Denver Public Schools did not enjoy a good reputation in the 1990s. Haddon soon found herself playing the public role for which she is known today: the bully pulpit advocate for establishing excellent new schools and turning-around failing schools and as cheerleader for innovative programs (continued on page 18)

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AGES 3-8

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

The Witch (2015)

A man and his family stand in judgment in front of a brooding gathering of early Pilgrims. The man is strong in his own Christian faith, defying the village rulers and bellowing his distaste for them as if he were a preacher himself. He and his family are summarily banished beyond the gates of the plantation. They ride off, alone, the gates closing behind them. But why?

So starts *The Witch*, a moody, atmospheric, and chilling period film from writer/director Robert Eggers that doesn't speak down to its audience and ultimately is a smart, fascinating, and surprising film that defies genre labels. Eggers, a production designer and costume designer, shows great skill in his directorial debut, particularly with his handling of actors and setting. This enveloping film will stick with you for a while.

The setting is 1630s New England where the banished family takes residence on a seemingly idyllic plot on the edge of a forest. Religious superstition and the fear of witches/witchcraft abound in this period, and the family's fears are soon realized as their newborn son disappears into thin air one day. The oldest child of the family, Thomasin, was charged with watching the baby and her parents are swiftly weary of her, even as they ascribe the

disappearance to the devil. The other three children in the family are a younger, adolescent brother and even younger twins (a boy and a girl). Soon after, the crops die and events become stranger. The family unravels, and soon,

we know why.

Enough about plot. The film is a winner for its atmosphere, setting, costumes, and period language. The characters are studied closely, and each gets numerous close-ups that serve to create a claustrophobic atmosphere very much like one might feel in such a place. What the film lacks in plot and action is more than leveraged for interesting characters placed in difficult situations. While this is not a film for everyone, if you let it breathe a bit, you might find yourself catching your own breath. It is intense, sharp filmmaking.



You will like this if you liked *The White Ribbon*, *The Babadook*, and/or *It Follows*. Now available on iTunes and/or Amazon Video.

Daredevil Season 2 (Netflix)

I was a big fan of *Daredevil* season one (reviewed July 1, 2015). I found its mixture of comic book lore, *Taxi Driver* film noir-darkness, and *Oldboy*-gore refreshing. Season 1 did what good seasons 1 do: they establish character, background, and give us the first baddie. Seasons 2 can be messy: many times they add in too many characters and too many subplots, forgetting what they did well in the first season. *Daredevil* nearly falls into this trap, but it catches itself and pushes ahead with another excellent season of thoughtful, gritty, high-octane drama. The Marvel show for grown-ups is growing up nicely.



Season 2 continues the story of Matt Murdock (Charlie Cox), the blind crime-fighting vigilante in Hell's Kitchen, NYC. The action picks up quickly and new characters fly at us. The first new and important character we meet is Frank Castle/The Punisher (Jon Bernthal). Castle becomes a vigilante after his family was killed in a New York DA sting gone wrong, and then he goes on a brutal, violent, vengeful killing spree.

The other main character is a former love of Murdock's, Elektra (Elodie Yung), who comes back into his life as a bad-ass vigilante of her own. Their relationship is, well, com-

plicated (but whose isn't?), and it too sends the plot spinning in another direction. Their subplot, The Punisher's subplot, and the return of Fisk and the erstwhile ninjas from season 1 all come together at the end of the season. And it works.

Aside from story advancements, the elements that set apart *Daredevil* all remain intact: the excellent, dark and chiaroscuro cinematography; the snappy editing; the intelligent dialogue; and the murky characters with depth. All are on display in what has turned out to be one of the best series on any TV platform. Stay tuned for season 3.

You will like this if you enjoyed *Daredevil*, Season 1; *Jessica Jones*; and/or *The Killing*.

Seasons 1 & 2 now playing on Netflix.

One other item of note:

The Denver Film Society announced the schedule for their summer family program, “Welcome to the Dahl House.” The series will highlight seven family-friendly films from the beloved children's author, Roald Dahl. Each week the Denver Film Society will screen a film on Saturday morning at 10:30am. All tickets are \$5 (children 6 and under are free) and include an all-you-can-eat cereal bar beginning at 10am. The series will kick off Sat., June 4 with the 1971 classic, *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* (with a golden ticket competition!). Check out the Denver Film Society website for more information.

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

Summer Kid's Camps



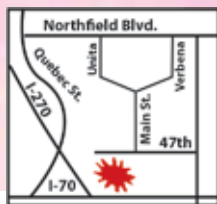
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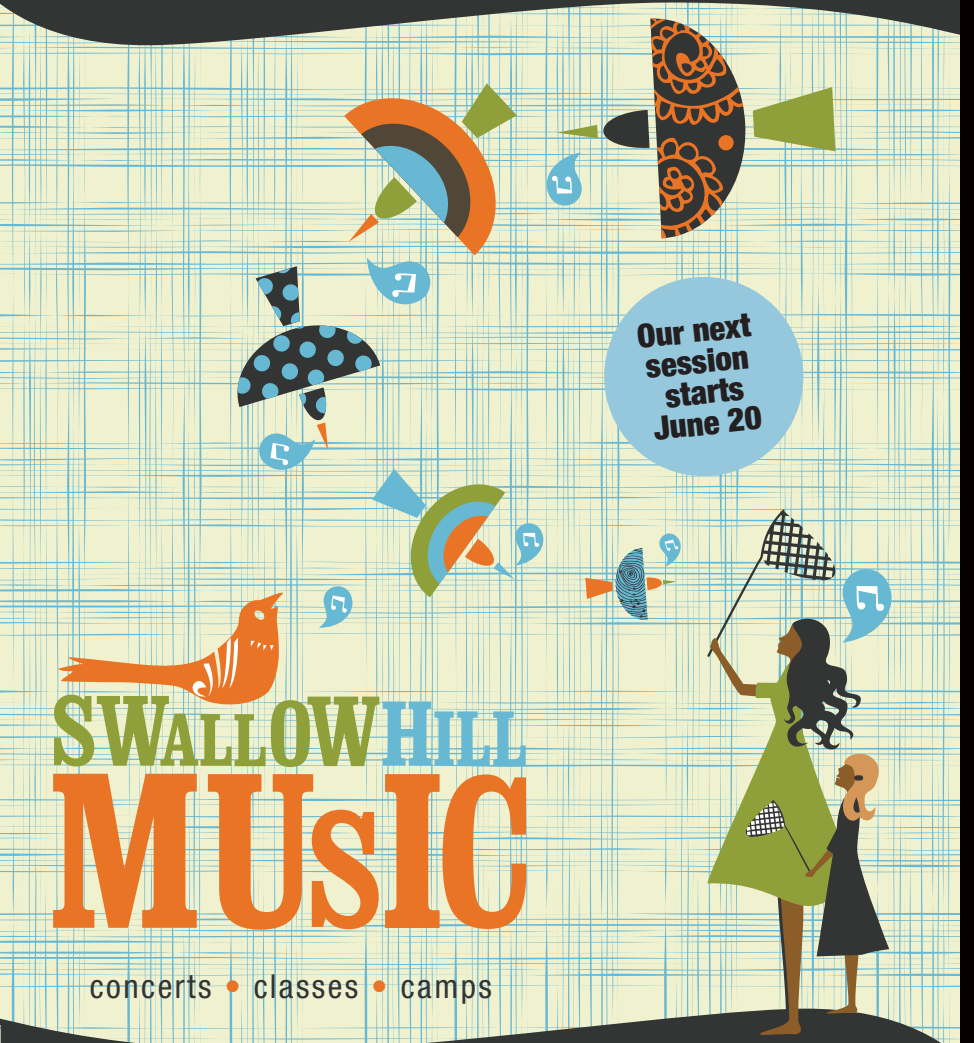
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Bev Haddon

(continued from page 16) and funding.

The Foundation played an integral role in pairing Westerly Creek and Odyssey School in the same building (a first in DPS) and in the creation of the Denver Language School. Haddon used her role as Foundation CEO to help the Stapleton and Park Hill communities understand and accept the move of the highly successful McAuliffe International School to the Smiley campus—a move that was hugely important not only in terms of equitable education but also symbolically for the integration of Stapleton with its neighbors. Ashley Elementary School, just across the street from Stapleton, is another example of Haddon providing the support needed at a critical juncture in the turnaround process. And Haddon proudly announced just this month the success of a three-year effort to improve Fletcher Elementary in Aurora, culminating in the Aurora Public Schools (APS) superintendent's decision to ask the APS board to replace Fletcher at that location with a charter school.

Educators and parents involved in this efforts are lavish in their praise: Zachary Rahn, Ashley principal says, "Bev is the biggest champion for public schools and education I have ever met"; Karla Rehling, Northfield High parent says, "She is true to her mission and to the schools"; Kurt Dennis, McAuliffe principal calls her "a warm and accepting person who makes things happen behind the scene." All noted her connections locally and nationally, her ability to attract financial and knowledge resources, and her people skills both at "living room meetings" and contentious public settings. Rahn said, "She is a pillar of the community and will be deeply, deeply missed."

Her legacy continues through her long-tenured staff at two major Foundation programs: Angie Malpiede who runs North-east Transportation Connections (a transportation management association), and Alisha Brown in charge of the *be well* Health & Wellness Initiative. The Foundation is seeking a replacement who has Haddon's skills, and preferably someone who has familiarity with the city of Denver given how crucial interpersonal connections are to this job.

Gary said Stapleton and its Foundation have been an "amazing journey" that started with a simple idea. He said the pace of development has been "unbelievable" and wonders what the next 15 years will bring. As the Foundation moves from a development era to sustainability, he shares in its board's recent direction to staff to "focus more intently on getting data" that document the worth of the various Foundation programs. For her part, Haddon sees the Foundation becoming "aggressively" involved in the affordable housing issue in Stapleton. She is concerned that required percentages of affordable housing are not keeping pace with development and that this percentage will worsen as deed restrictions on early units expire and allow those units to be sold on the open market.

As to her long-term plans, Haddon says it's in her genes to stay involved. After that, she says she'll "be doing something else but I don't know what yet." She reflects on the fact that her mother, a podiatrist, accepted patients through her 89th year. Haddon says she has already volunteered to help with fundraising for the Denver Language School and Aurora's Moorhead Recreation Center, two projects that exemplify what the Foundation is all about.



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Just the Facts

Colorado Quakes

by James Hagadorn



When the earthquake hit, I was in the shower. A quick debate ensued—ought I dress or just dive for cover below the nearest desk? Was Godzilla stomping by my California motel? Nope—but a mere decade later, I was surprised to learn that earthquakes like this are increasingly becoming part of Coloradans’ experience.

That’s because we’re causing earthquakes to happen, and we’re not very prepared for them.

An earthquake is a rapid shaking of the ground that occurs when a fault, or underground crack, moves suddenly. Like tossing a pebble in a pond, underground waves ripple through the ground when the earth lurches, translating energy from the epicenter to distant regions.

These cracks and faults move periodically. Usually they’re triggered by continents pushing against one another or by volcanoes rumbling. In Colorado these movements aren’t common, and typically result in small earthquakes.

The biggest local hot zones for such activities are in our mountains. There are a few exceptions—like tremors that occasionally stem from gnarly but little-known faults near Commerce City

and La Junta. Or the really big quake that hit Estes Park in 1882—it was about the same size as the Northridge quake that devastated Los Angeles in 1994.

But we’ve been steadily raising the stakes in our local earthquake hazard scene. Whether by blowing up underground nukes or stuffing undrinkable water underfoot, we’ve triggered plenty of quakes.

Is fracking to blame? Hardly. Fracking does cause micro-quakes, but most of these are tiny and can’t be felt.

Is extraction of oil, gas, or groundwater to blame? Not directly. Although sometimes the removal of fluids from the pore space in underground strata causes ground slippage,



Collapsed front of a brick building (note crushed mailbox) in Segundo, CO, after the 2011 Trinidad, CO earthquake. Photo by Matt Morgan

such movements are generally small and don’t produce many quakes that we can feel.

Triggered quakes mostly result from our injection of fluids into the ground where subsurface faults were unknown to exist.

These fluids include: i) wastewater that’s removed from oil-bearing rocks in the process of extracting oil; ii) salty surface waters that we’re trying to keep from contaminating waterways; iii) stinking water removed as a byproduct of extracting natural gas from coal beds; and iv) fracking fluids.

Ironically, we’ve known about this phenomenon for a half century—because the world’s scientific community discovered it right here in Colorado. Back in the 1960s, when earthquakes were suddenly wreaking havoc in Denver, a geologist named David Evans figured out that they were caused by the Army’s injection of chemical weapons waste into the bedrock. The U.S. Geological Survey confirmed this work with some nifty experiments out in a Rangely oil field—directly proving that pumped fluids can cause earthquakes.

The logic is as follows. When we inject waste fluids into the ground, it increases the overall pressure of water that’s already trapped between subsurface layers. This in turn causes a pressure wave, which can travel fairly long distances underground. When the wave encounters a fault, it can destabilize it. Ka-thwam! The fault moves and an earthquake occurs.

But there’s a challenge. This fluid pressure chain reaction can trigger faults located tens of miles away from where the waste is injected, often with a time lag that makes it hard to link cause with effect. Some state agencies and academic institutions, in cooperation with our region’s oil and gas companies, have been working to better characterize these systems so we can dispose of these fluids *sans* earthquakes.

Fortunately, most such “induced” earthquakes are small. But in the last decade the moderate-sized ones have become more common. Witness Oklahoma, which now has more quakes than California. A tiny fraction of these tremors are big enough to disrupt our lives—sometimes toppling furniture, breaking windows, and splitting foundations. See the known faults and quakes in your neighborhood at <http://dnrwebcomapg.state.co.us/CG->



Geologists Matt Morgan and Robert Kirkham of the Colorado Geological Survey examine evidence for movement along a fault, after trenching through soils deformed by the fault and mapping their internal structure. Photo by Dave Noe

SOnline/.

Although Colorado’s risk for big earthquakes is low, its vulnerability is increasing. In part this is because we’re rapidly expanding our built environment. Yet our building codes and infrastructure aren’t designed to resist quakes as systematically as occurs in quake-prone places like California or Alaska. And, although we might not need to be prepared for “the big one,” there’s greater risk in not being prepared at all for the “most likely one.”

So what can we do? First, think about what might fall onto your head during a middle-of-the-night tremor. Second, consider strapping your gas water heater to the wall. This 10 buck solution will keep your house from burning down should your heater tip over during a quake. And when the quake hits? Drop, cover, and hold on. Maybe skip the selfie.

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

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Cycle and Get Fit



By Courtney Drake-McDonough

In the past year, Whitney Christensen had a baby, moved to Stapleton, decided her desk job just wasn't her dream and started a new business. After noticing a lack of fitness facilities in north Stapleton, the fitness-minded mom opened Shift Cycle + Fitness in March, an indoor cycling studio that also offers childcare. "I wanted to do some good and to really feel motivated and inspired by my job," says Christensen. "And I wanted to be able to bring my daughter with me."

A runner and outdoor cyclist for years, Christensen's knees had suffered from running. "But cycling gives me the same endorphins and same energy I got with running but with less impact on

my joints," she says, which was the deciding factor in opening a cycling studio. Christensen wanted to make sure there was a childcare element provided with Shift Cycle because she had struggled to find a place where she could take her daughter while she worked out. Children are cared for during class time by CPR- and babysitter-certified childcare providers. The childcare area is near the front with a half-wall, so parents can see where their children will be while they take a class.

In the course of each 45-minute class, participants use specialized moves and hand weights while on the bike to work their upper body. In the course of maintaining balance while doing the moves on the bike, the body's core is more fully engaged, resulting in what Christensen says is a more efficient workout.

Music is a driving force in Shift Cycle work-



Danny MacDonald (left and above) leads a spin/exercise session at the new Shift Cycle + Fitness Studio in Northfield. Owner Whitney Christensen is in the foreground above at right.

outs, cycling to the rhythm of the music. "It's really easy to get lost in the music and fully immersed in the ride, which is a very cool mental state that a lot of us need to just let go, not thinking about the daily stresses," says Christensen. "The music and beat really does a lot beyond the pedal strokes."

Instead of having classes at different levels, participants are encouraged to work as hard as they want to on any given day. "I tell people, 'Come do what you can, enjoy the ride, enjoy it for what it is. The next day, try something different, add a little more resistance and challenge yourself with some new moves.' But really, anyone can come do it and do it at their own pace. It's very self-motivating," says Christensen.

Studio lighting is kept very dim except for what is directed on the teacher. Not only does it help prevent people from feeling insecure about how they look or their abilities, but it also helps them focus on their ride. "It's riding for what you need in that day," she explains. "You may have had a bad day or a great day but we suggest people use that as fuel, looking inward."

For Christensen, the year of big changes, and specifically, her baby girl have been her motivating fuel. "Thanks to her, I made this life change and took that leap and it has been awesome."

The studio is located at 5096 Central Park Blvd. and can be reached at 303.862.7331, www.shift-cycle.com. Hours vary depending on day and class schedule and are expected to increase.

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Left: A panorama shows the bar and dining area at left and games at right.

Below: Assistant General Manager Kyle Lockwood plays one of the many games at Gameworks in Northfield.

Arcade Games & Craft Drinks in Northfield

By Nick Hutchinson

If arcade games, craft drinks and American-style cuisine sound appealing, then GameWorks might be your next destination. The new entertainment center is located in the former Circuit City retail space between Bass Pro Shops and Super Target in Northfield. The arcade offers a mix of classic and modern games in a spacious setting that includes a private meeting room, full bar, restaurant, a big-screen television viewing area and a state-of-the-art laser tag setup.

“We are geared toward kids’ birthday parties, adults, sports viewing and corporate events. You name it. We do it all,” says Assistant General Manager Kyle Lockwood, who was preparing for a Super Smash Bros. tournament at the time of this interview. “We also host e-sports tournaments, which are popular. These



tournaments are console gaming events that use Xbox Ones. We follow the tournaments on a large monitor as well as using PCs and Macs. And we can send out feeds to other TVs in the venue.”

The 40,000-sq.-ft. operation, which

opened on March 24, is the first GameWorks in Colorado. Other locations exist in Las Vegas and Seattle as well as in Kentucky, Virginia and Ontario, Canada. Customers can earn discounts on food and game rewards through the arcade’s GamePerks program. Lockwood says the business sees a lot of younger kids and college-aged patrons but that he anticipates younger people of all ages in the summer months.

“Evenings and weekends are huge for us. We have a full menu that includes pizza, sandwiches, pastas and entrees—the whole works. And we have a full bar with tons of local beers. We have 42 local bottles and local taps too with a full liquor offering as

well,” says Lockwood, who moved to Denver from Minneapolis, where he worked for a similar arcade business at the Mall of America.

The business currently employs a total of 90 people, with eight employees working on weekdays and upwards of 20 staff working at any given time during weekends. GameWorks, which is looking to open more locations, touts a safe and welcoming environment.

GameWorks was drawn to the Stapleton area based on the area’s boom in residential development. Lockwood says the arcade is somewhat similar to venues such as Punch Bowl Social, which opens in Stapleton’s Central Park West neighborhood this fall, but has a different feel.

For more information, visit www.gameworks.com/locations/denver. GameWorks is located at 7950 Northfield Blvd.; 720.330.9444. Open Sun.–Thurs. from 11am–10pm. Fri. and Sat. from 11am–12am. After 10pm the venue is 21+.



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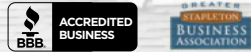
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The Music Never Stops: Stapleton

By Nick Hutchinson

Warm weather brings live music to the north and south greens of Stapleton, and this summer features an eclectic and exciting lineup of talent. From soul, R&B, jazz and blues to rock, classical and funk, free concerts offer listening and dancing for all in the Stapleton and NE Denver neighborhoods.

Seating for all shows is first-come, first-served and the concerts are all free and open to the public. People may bring their own chairs, blankets, food and drink, though some food trucks (mostly sweets) are available. Bringing dogs is discouraged but not prohibited.



Ron Ivory
DooWoop Band

June 16: The Hazel Miller Band

On June 16, a longtime favorite, Hazel Miller, comes to Conservatory Green in North Stapleton.

Miller has been called a force of nature. Her distinctive voice conjures raw soul and passion. Though she started her career in Louisville, Ky., the city of Denver named Hazel Miller as one of 150 people who make Denver a better place

to live. She has received awards including Most Outstanding Performer at Red Rocks Amphitheatre.

Miller has regularly performed with Big Head Todd and the Monsters and has also sung on Boulder's *eTown* radio show. She has performed at major jazz and music festivals throughout Colorado and opened for artists as diverse as Peter, Paul and Mary, John Mayall, Charlie Musselwhite, The Blind Boys of Alabama, Nancy Griffith, Bob Weir, Buddy Guy, Lou Rawls, Rickie Lee

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's Summer Concerts on the Greens

Jones, Spyro Gyro and many others. She also appeared in *The Vagina Monologues* in Boulder and Denver, receiving an award for Best Local Star in a Theatrical Production.

Concert attendees are sure to appreciate Hazel's soulful and well-acclaimed voice. In this exclusive interview, Miller shares some of her history, thoughts and what listeners can expect to hear at the show.

How did you get started in music?

I started many years ago in Louisville, Ky., while in high school. It is my first and only choice for a career.

What brought you to Denver and how long have you been in Colorado?

I came west to change my life. I've been living and singing in Denver for 32 years.

Do you play any instruments in addition to being a vocalist?

No, unfortunately my talents do not extend to playing music. I once took adult piano lessons at Bellarmine College in Louisville. They returned my fee.

Do you think music is something that should be taught in school?

Yes, of course, music is absolutely necessary to every young mind and heart. I vote for taxes to support the arts in school. I participate in fundraisers for private programs that support music and the music business for young men

and women.

What have been a few of your favorite moments playing music in Colorado?

Last Saturday night my band lit up the stage at Herman's Hideaway. My first time on stage at Red Rocks with Big Head Todd was a biggie for my nerves and my confidence. My first Winter Park Jazz Festival was exhilarating and frightening.

Do you enjoy performing in the Stapleton area?

Yes, indeed. I have played The Green in Stapleton many times. The audiences are always friendly and open to our music. I played the MoJaBlu Fest once before, last year. We had a ball!

What can fans expect to hear when you perform this summer?

We'll bring our A game! Tell the audience to be prepared to listen, dance, sing and party!

Thursday Concerts at Conservatory Green in North Stapleton

The weekly MoJaBlu series (Motown, jazz and blues) features bands sponsored by the downtown Denver jazz club Jazz at Jack's. The shows are held every Thursday evening at Conservatory Green in North Stapleton between 6:30 and 8:30pm at 49th Place and Valentia St. This summer's series brings in Denver favorites including:

June 9 - Tunisia (current hits, classic rock, disco, hip-hop)

June 16 - Hazel Miller Band (jazz, blues and Top 40)

June 23 - Biff Gore Band (blues and R&B)

June 30 - Ron Ivory DooWop Band (R&B, funk, Motown)

July 7 - Hot Lunch Band (R&B, funk, soul)

July 14 - Dotsero (contemporary jazz)

July 28 - SuCh (contemporary soul)

Aug. 4 - The Samples (Reggae-inflected rock)

Saturday Concerts on The Green at the 29th Ave. Town Center

Concerts start at 7pm at Founders Green, 29th Ave. at Roslyn. This summer's Founders Green concerts include:

June 18 - Soul School (oldies, Motown, R&B)

July 2 - Forever Dangerous (Michael Jackson tribute)

July 16 - Taylor Scott (soul- and blues-based singer-songwriter. During the Stapleton beer festival)

July 16 - Chris Daniels & The Kings (roots rock, blues and funk. During the Stapleton beer festival)

Aug. 6 - Aurora Symphony (Classical)

Sept. 3 - Funkiphino (funk and R&B)



Hazel Miller

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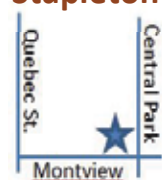
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SEASONAL/HOLIDAY EVENTS

7/1 Friday—Old-fashioned July 4th Celebration. 5-10pm. Old-time games, historic demonstrations, live music, horse-drawn wagon rides, etc. 715 S. Forest St. 720.865.0800. www.fourmilepark.org

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

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

7/4 Monday—Aurora 4th of July Spectacular. Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda Pkwy. Live music, fireworks at dusk. www.auroragov.org

7/4 Monday—Colorado Rapids vs. Portland. Fireworks after game. Family fun zone 5pm; game 7pm www.coloradorapids.com

7/4 Monday—Colorado Symphony's Family Friendly 4th of July. Fiddler's Green. Concert 7:30pm, fireworks at dusk. Tickets \$18.50-\$36.75. www.coloradosymphony.org

7/4 Monday—Denver Outlaws vs. Florida Launch. 7pm. Sports Authority Field. Fireworks after game. www.denveroutlaws.com

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

DENVER METRO EVENTS

6/3 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Santa Fe Arts District, Tennyson Art Walk, River North (RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Museum, Navajo Street Art District. www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

6/3 Friday—Presence Exhibit at SYNC Gallery. Cyncie Winter and James Bohling, artists. 931 Santa Fe Dr. <http://jamesbohling.com>, <http://cynciewinter.com>

6/4 Saturday—Denver Dumb Friends League Equine Center Open House. 10am-3pm. Harmony Equine Center, 5540 E. Highway 86, just west of Franktown. Tours, food truck vendors, kids' activities, meet horses available for adoption. www.ddfl.org

6/4 Saturday—The Big Wonderful. Stanley Marketplace, 12-8pm. Music, food, craft and

artisan vendors. Tickets \$5-\$15. www.thebigwonderful.com

6/4 to 6/5—Capitol Hill Peoples Fair. Civic Center Park. Sat. 10am-8pm, Sun. 10am-7pm. FREE. www.peoplesfair.com

6/4 to 6/5—Denver Chalk Art Festival. Larimer Square, Sat. 10am-10pm; Sun. 10am-7pm. FREE. www.denverchalkart.com

6/9 to 6/11—Tea and Treasures Fundraiser. Presented by Assistance League of Denver. Tea, table setting competition, garden/ plant sale; tour historic Bosworth House. \$18/advance \$24/door. 303.695.1246. www.denver.assistance-league.org

6/10 to 6/12—Golden Music Festival. Clear Creek History Park, Golden. www.golden-history.org

6/11 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. Free with admission. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-2pm. www.wingsmuseum.org

6/11 Saturday—Meet Molly Brown Tea. Take tea with "Molly Brown"; hear her Titanic experience and passion for helping. Seatings at 11am and 1pm. \$26 www.mollybrown.org

6/11 Saturday—Old South Pearl Brew Grass Festival. 12-10pm. \$5. 1200 block of Old South Pearl St. www.oldsouthpearlstreet.com

6/12 Sunday—A Taste of Puerto Rico. Civic Center Park. 11am-7pm. www.atopr.com

6/12 to 9/25—Women of Abstract Expressionism. Denver Art Museum. Free with admission. 100 W. 14th Pkwy. www.denverartmuseum.org

6/16 Thursday—DeVotchKa with Colorado Symphony. Featuring Ozomatli, with special guest Josh Blue. Red Rocks Amphitheatre. 7:30pm. www.coloradosymphony.org

6/16—Do at The Zoo. Graze on food from 60+ Denver fine restaurants, craft brews, cocktails and wines, live music and view the animals. Tickets: \$175. www.denverzoo.org/doathezoo.

6/17 to 6/19—Denver Comic Con 2015. Denver Convention Center, 700 14th St. \$35+. www.denvercomiccon.com

6/17 to 6/19—Denver Greek Festival. Greek food, music, boutique, cathedral tours, etc. 4610 E. Alameda. www.thegreekfestival.com

6/18 Saturday—1940s WWII Era Ball. 8th annual ball transports guests back to 1940s

with music, costumes, pin-up girl contest, food/drinks and dancing. Fundraiser for Wounded Warriors Project, Spirit of Flight Center Colorado, and Audie Murphy Museum. Held at Boulder Airport. 5pm. Tickets begin at \$45. 720.924.1945. www.1940sball.org, <http://1940sball.org>

6/18 Saturday—Juneteenth Music Festival. Five Points Neighborhood, Welton St. betw. Park and 28th. www.juneteenthmusicfestival.com

6/18 to 6/19—Cherry Blossom Festival. Sakura Square, Lawrence St. betw. 19th and 20th. www.cherryblossomdenver.org

6/18 to 6/19—Denver Arts Festival. Stapleton Conservatory Green, 4982 Valentia St. www.denverartsfestival.com

6/18 to 6/19—Denver PrideFest. Civic Center Park, downtown Denver. Parade 9:30am, Cheesman Park. 11am-7pm Sat, 10am-6pm Sun. www.glbtcolorado.org/pridefest

6/21 Tuesday—Cocktails for a Cause event for The Rise School of Denver. 5:30-9:30pm. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. The Rise School, inclusive, therapeutic preschool for typically developing children and those with developmental delays. Guests bring items requested by charity. \$10 fee includes wine/dinner. Women's networking event, silent auction. www.cocktailsforacauseco.org, RHarding2@gmail.com, www.cocktailsforacauseco.org/events/the-rise-school-2/

6/22 to 6/25—Denver Library Summer Used Book Sale. Central library, 10 West 14th Ave. 10am-4pm each day. www.dplfriends.org

6/25 Saturday—Westword Music Showcase. Golden Triangle. www.westword.com/musicshowcase

6/25 to 6/26—Coors Light South Platte RiverFest. Free paddle board demos, kidzone, food/drink vendors, live music. Confluence Park and Little Raven. www.greenwayfoundation.org

6/27 Saturday—49th Annual Denver 7's Rugby Tournament. 9am-6pm. Dicks Sporting Goods Park. www.denversevenrugby.com

7/1 to 7/4—Cherry Creek Arts Festival. www.cherryarts.org

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

6/1 to 9/28—Denver Bike Night. Wednesdays. Evening bike rides thru downtown Denver. 7pm. Various start points. Must register. www.denvercruiserride.com

6/11 Saturday—Jodi's Race for Awareness. City Park. 8:30-11:30am. www.jodisrace.org

6/12 Sunday—Strides for Epilepsy. City Park, 9:30-11:30am. www.epilepsycolorado.org

6/18 Saturday—Dignity Challenge: A Fitness Fundraiser for Refugees. Benefits Denver/Aurora refugee community to become self-sufficient. Great Lawn Park, Lowry. 7am-2pm. \$10-\$33. www.projectworthmore.org/dignitychallenge

6/18 Saturday—2016 Coldwell Banker Denver Century Ride. Single point start/finish line and Post Ride Street Party at Main Street, The Shops at Northfield Stapleton. Benefits bicycle advocacy in Colo. <http://denvercenturyride.com/>

6/22 Wednesday—Bike to Work Day. Register: www.biketoworkday.us

6/25 Saturday—CF Climb Denver. Sports Authority Field at Mile High Stadium, Stair climb benefits cystic fibrosis. 8am. www.fightcf.cff.org

6/25 Saturday—Castle Rock Half Marathon. 1/2 marathon, 5 mile and rock challenge. Begins/ends at Festival Park. www.crgov.com/run

6/25 Saturday—Climb For Courage. Falcon Stadium, Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs. www.hallucinationsports.com

6/25 Saturday—Undy 5000: A Brief Run to Fight Colon Cancer. 5K in your undies to fight colon cancer. Denver City Park. www.undy5000.org

6/26 Sunday—Stadium Stampede. Sports Authority Field at Mile High Stadium. www.hallucinationsports.com

KIDS AND FAMILIES

6/1 to 8/13—Denver Public Libraries Summer of Reading. Free activities, ideas for summer reading, incentives for Denver kids, 3 age groups. FREE. www.summerofreading.org

6/2 Thursday—City Park Alliance Ice Cream Social. City Park Alliance and City Council Dist. 9 host at City Park Pavilion. 6-9pm. Old-fashioned costumes encouraged. Free ice cream, bubble machine, face-painting, magician, street performers. Grand finale: the Denver Municipal Band. <http://cityparkalliance.org/icecreamsocial>

6/3 to 6/24—StoryTime in the Exploration Station. Fridays in June, 10:30am. All ages. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. www.wingsmuseum.org

6/4 Saturday—Home Depot Kids Work-

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6/4 to 7/23—Welcome to the Dahl House. Family film screenings of Roald Dahl's novel adaptations; 6/4 “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” with golden ticket contest; 6/11 “Matilda”; 6/18 “The BFG”; 7/2 “The Fantastic Mr. Fox”; 7/9 “The Witches”; 7/16 “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang”; 7/23 “James and the Giant Peach.” Tickets \$5, Sie Film Center 2510 E. Colfax Ave. www.denverfilm.org

6/7 to 6/10—Star K Nature Camp. Ages 6-12, Tues.-Fri. 9am-12pm, 1-week sessions. Repeats 6/28-7/1 and 7/5-7/8. Other camps offered. Morrison Nature Center 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. 303.739.9428, www.auroragov.org/nature

6/7 to 6/28—Tuesdays in June—Four Mile Historic Park Small Settlers. Ages 2-5 accompanied by parent/caregiver. 9-10am. \$5/child, adults free. Members free. 715 S. Forest St. Advance register: 720.865.0814 or education@fourmilepark.org. www.fourmilepark.org

6/10 to 6/24—Lowe’s Build and Grow Kids Clinics. Bring kids to Lowe’s stores to build FREE wood project: Monthly, 2nd and 4th Saturdays. Free apron, goggles, project-themed patch, merit certificate on completion. 10am. www.lowesbuildandgrow.com

6/11 Saturday—KidSpree at Yumfest. 10am-6pm. Free entertainment/family activities with reasonably priced attractions and food. Aurora’s largest family festival. Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda Pkwy. www.auroragov.org

6/11 Saturday—National Get Outdoors Day Denver. Denver City Park. Rock climbing, live music, outdoor arts, bicycling, fishing, junior ranger activities, more. FREE. 10am-3pm. www.getoutdoorscolorado.org/ngod

6/11 to 8/7—Colorado Renaissance Festival. Weekends. Larkspur. www.coloradorennaissance.com

6/17 to 6/18—Grand Opening of Gymtegrity Gymnastics and Cheer. Stapleton’s first gymnastics and cheer training center. 18,000-sq.-ft. facility with programs for kids of all ages. Parents can sign up for free trial class and meet coaches/instructors. 4720 Lima St. in Montbello Industrial Park. \$5/family. Fri. 3-6pm, Sat. 11am-3pm. <http://gymtegrity.com>

6/24 Friday—Denver Botanic Gardens Family Fun Night. 4th Fri. monthly explore nature at night in Mordecai Children’s Garden. Monthly themes, snacks by campfire, other fun activities. www.botanicgardens.org

LECTURES AND CLASSES

6/7 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—Peace in Northern Ireland 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S. Dahlia St. 303.316.6359. www.ActiveMinds.com

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

6/23 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)—Renewable Energy. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325. www.ActiveMinds.com

6/28Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—The Refugee Crisis. 12:30-1:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727 www.ActiveMinds.com

6/11 Saturday—Blue Iris Divorce 101. Free panel discussions by professionals on legal, financial, family and emotional aspects of divorce. <http://theblueiris.org>

6/23 to 7/7—Italian for Travelers. 8-hour, 3-week course offered by Italian Institute for beginner students interested in basic communication skills before leaving for Italy. Course materials included, \$195. www.italianinstitute.com or 303.733.4335. <http://italianinstitute.com>

MUSEUMS—DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE

Through7/2—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. <http://dmns.org/planetarium/current-show>

Through 8/7—Robot Revolution. Exhibit free with admission. <http://dmns.org>

Through 9/22—IMAX current films. A beautiful Planet 3D; National Parks Adventure 3D; Robots 3D. www.dmns.org

6/8 Wednesday—Indigenous Film. 6:30pm. Free. “Youth Showcase.” Partnering with International Institute for Indigenous Resource Management and Denver American Indian Commission to present monthly film series followed by discussion. www.dmns.org

6/11 to 6/12—Denver Mini Maker Faire. Hosting the 2016 multigenerational festival to make, create, learn, invent, craft, hack, recycle, build, think, play and be inspired. www.dmns.org

6/16 Thursday—Science Lounge. Cocktails/entertainment every 3rd Thurs. of month. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/nonmembers. www.dmns.org

6/23 Thursday—Teen Movie Night- Back to the Future. Teens only! 6:30pm. Phipps Theater. \$10 includes popcorn. Drinks / snacks available for purchase. www.dmns.org

MUSEUMS—FREE DAYS

6/4 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.denverartmuseum.org

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

6/5 Sunday—Denver Museum of Nature and Science Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.dmns.org

6/7 Tuesday—Children’s Museum Free Target Tuesday. 4-8pm. www.cmdenver.org

6/10 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Free Day. SCFD Free second Friday, 12pm-4pm. www.fourmilepark.org

6/23 Thursday—Denver Botanic Gardens Free Day. SCFD Free day www.botanicgardens.org

6/24 Friday—Clyfford Still Museum. SCFD Free day. Free admission last Friday of every month all day. Free admission every Friday 5-8pm. 1250 Bannock St www.clyffordstillmuseum.org

7/2 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.denverartmuseum.org

7/5 Tuesday—Children’s Museum Free Target Tuesday. 4-8pm. www.cmdenver.org

NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS

6/4 to 6/5—Lowry Yard Sale. Lowry Neighborhood, 8am-2pm. www.lowry.org

6/7 Tuesday—Meditation. 7 p.m. Unity on the Avenue. 4670 E. 17th Ave. Pkwy. 303.322.3901. <http://unityontheavenue.org>

6/8 Wednesday—Art Gab. 5-7pm. Free, open-to-public informal talk with artists present. Art Gym, 1460 Leyden St. <http://artgymdenver.com>

6/11 Saturday—Lowry Wine Walk. Lowry Town Center. \$20. Wine walk and free concert 6-10pm. www.lowrydenver.org

6/18 Saturday—Park Hill Garden Walk. 10am-4pm. Xeriscapes to formal gardens; artist showings at each garden. Tickets: King Soopers and select locations. www.parkhillgardenwalk.org

6/23 Thursday—Bluff Lake Fireside Chat. Bats! 6:30-8pm. All ages welcome. \$1 suggested donation. Bluff Lake Nature Center, 3400 Havana Way. Keith@blufflake.org. www.blufflakena-turecenter.org.

6/25 Saturday—Aurora Arts Festival. 12-8pm, Fletcher Plaza, 9898 E. Colfax, Aurora Arts and Cultural District. 100 artists, makers and creative businesses. www.auroraculture.org

6/24 to 6/25 —Relay for Life. 6pm 6/24 to 6am 6/25. All-night walk for cancer. Stapleton North Green, 4892 Valentia Ct. www.main.acsevents.org

6/25 Saturday—Ties and Tiaras Daddy and Daughter Dance. Dinner, activities, prizes, DJ, First Dance Presentation and free photo. Tickets: <https://squareup.com/store/kinnaraindependent>. Fundraiser to support trip to Tampa, FL, to perform at 2017 Outback Bowl. Dahlia Campus for Health and Well-Being (3401 N. Eudora St.). 5pm-8pm. \$25; \$5 for additional daughter. Kat.Frazier,kinnaraindependent@gmail.com

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

5/25 to 6/5—5th Annual Family Festival. Rides, festival food, midway games and more. www.northfieldstapleton.com

PERFORMING ARTS

6/6 to 6/25—Your Soul’s Movement Performing Arts Camp. Musical Theater Summer Camp Intensive: character development, makeup, movement, audition techniques, monologue methods, stage fighting. Ages 7-17, Contact director Scott Merchant for exceptions). 303.284.1553, www.yoursouls-movement.com, <http://yoursoulsmovement.com>

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

6/4 Saturday—Kids Fishing Clinic. 10am-12pm. Kids ages 8-12. Poles available for loan. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

6/10 Friday—Hike-N-Bird. 9-11:30am. Novice to expert birders, this hike explores woodland, wetland and prairie habitats. Must be comfortable hiking up to 3 miles. RSVP Required.

6/18 Saturday—Planting for Pollinators. 9:30-11:30am. Assist Refuge staff by planting native wildflowers that will provide a nectar source for pollinators. Be prepared to work outside for 1-1.5 hours, wear closed toed shoes, bring water and sunscreen. RSVP required. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

6/18 Saturday—The Masked Bandit. 10-10:45am. Learn about Refuge’s black-footed ferrets and observe feeding time. RSVP required. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

6/19 Sunday—Build-a-Bison. 1-2:30pm. Explore real bison bones and assemble a bison head to tail. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

6/23 Thursday—Nature Tots- “Magnificent Monarchs.” Ages 3-5 and their adults. 10-11am. RSVP required. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

THEATRE

Through 6/11—The Boys Next Door. Firehouse Theater Company at John Hand Theater. 7653 E. 1st Place, Lowry. www.firehousetheatercompany.com

Through 7/3—Sunset Blvd. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. <http://vintagetheatre.org>

6/2 to 6/4—The Wedding Singer. Theatre on The Green by Aurora Fox Arts Center. 7-9pm. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

6/3 to 8/7—Colorado Shakespeare Festival. Univ. of Colorado Boulder. www.coloshakes.org

6/7 to 6/12—Beauty and the Beast. Buell Theater, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

6/10 to 7/2—Bakersfield Mist. Avenue Theater, 417 E. 17th Ave. www.avenuetheater.org

6/16 to 6/20—The Improvised Shakespeare Company. Garner Galleria Theater, Denver Center for the Performing Arts www.denvercenter.org

6/17 to 7/15—Rock of Aging. Firehouse Theater Company at John Hand Theater, 7653 E. 1st Place, Lowry. www.firehousetheatercompany.com

Harkins Theatres. 720.374.3118 www.harkinstheatres.com
6/3 – The Bye Bye Man; Me Before You; Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
6/10 – The Conjuring 2; Now You See Me 2; Warcraft
6/17 – Central Intelligence; Finding Dory
6/24 – Independence Day: Resurgence; The Neon Demon

Check page 26 for more events

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Don't Miss These Events

June 5 – City Park Jazz

This season begins on June 5 and continues every Sunday night from 6-8pm through Aug. 7. Food trucks will be on site. Bring blankets or chairs and rain gear (concerts are held rain or shine). Volunteers will monitor bikes checked in at the Bike Corral in the City Park Pavilion from 5 – 8:30pm at no charge. Please park at the Nature & Science Museum or zoo lots, not in the neighborhoods. Denver Park rules apply: No alcohol over 3.2%; no glass, no marijuana, no motorized vehicles in the pedestrian area. CityParkJazz.org

June 11 – Jodi's Race for Awareness

Jodi's Race for Awareness promotes awareness and raises funds for programs that support Colorado women with ovarian cancer at City Park. Activities include a 5K/1-mile run and walk, family fun zone, live entertainment, an expo, furry friends dog zone and a t-shirt contest will all be featured at the event. Theresa Marchetta, 7News anchor and host of The Now will emcee the Race. For more information, please contact geri@gomezhowardgroup.com.

June 22 – Bike to Work Day

Register to participate, locate bike stations, join a group ride and purchase Bike to Work t-shirts by visiting biketoworkday.us.

June 25 – Aurora Arts Festival

Visit "Arts on the Block" from noon to 8pm at Fletcher Plaza, 9898 E. Colfax Ave. This annual event is free and open to the public. The festival features artwork from an array of artists and celebrates what makes Aurora great. For more information, visit aurorafestival.org or call 303.344.2223.

July 14 – Abounding Business Conference

The Abounding Business Conference 2016 is a business empowerment event created to reach thousands of entrepreneurs to equip them with the skills, insights, and information needed to take them beyond the ABC's of business and into profit. Visit NASE.org

Announcements

Mentors Needed for Struggling Students

East High School's A+ Angels Mentoring Program (www.aplusangels.org) is looking for mentors to help their student succeed in high school by building a relationship, working on organization and study skills, helping with homework, modeling advocacy, and providing encouragement and accountability. All mentors are volunteers and most work full time in jobs unrelated to education. Mentors are expected to attend a training program in late August 2016 and meet with their students once per week during an early morning study hall (convenient for those who work). Contact Aimee_Arens@dpsk12.org for more information and to apply.

Denver to Distribute New Trash Carts

Denver will deliver new trash carts to the front of each property between July and December. Carts will contain an information packet and trash pickup schedule. A standard cart is 65 gallons but residents may call ahead to request a nonstandard 35- or 95-gallon size instead. Recycling service can also be initiated by calling #311 to sign up. As a reminder: please double bag all pet waste to eliminate leakage. For more information, visit www.denvergov.org or call #311.

Lifeguard Jobs with City of Denver

Denver Parks & Recreation offers free training and \$9.50 an hour to qualified lifeguard and water safety instructor candidates.

Must be at least 15 years old by the end of the American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification class—Able to swim 300 yards continuously using front crawl and/or breaststroke while demonstrating breath control—Able to tread water for two minutes, using only legs—Other swimming, surface-diving and object retrieval tests—Bilingual ability is a plus

Full and part time openings across the city and part-time work during the school year. Email aquaticsjobs@denvergov.org or call 720-865-0660.

100% of DSST Seniors Accepted to a Four-Year College, 9 Years in a Row

College acceptances include: MIT, New York Univ., CU-Boulder, DU, Colo. College, UC Santa Barbara, USC, Puget Sound & Wooster Polytechnic Institute.

Stapleton

Pedestrian Crossings in

By John Fernandez

The locations of pedestrian crossings for the Eastbridge development have been selected by Denver. For access from the north (MLK Blvd.) and from the south (E. 29th Dr.), the crossings will be placed mid-block between Galena and Geneva streets (see map). Earlier input from the Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) had favored pedestrian crossings at Geneva Court (midway between the retail center and Kings Soopers.

CAB's Zoning and Planning Committee (ZAP), at its May 10 meeting, again heard local residents argue for the Geneva Court crossing based on that location serving a "more natural flow" of pedestrians north and south to the F-15 pool, the daycare center and the retail development that is coming out of the ground. They also said the crossings approach the back

side of buildings in the town center and do not align with RTD bus stops in the area.

Denver Engineering Supervisor Eric Osmundsen said traffic projections do not "warrant" or justify a full traffic signal at Geneva Court. In turn, this forces a signalized pedestrian crossing to be located elsewhere because Denver's adopted traffic regulations do not allow a pedestrian signal to be within 100 feet of any driveway or intersection. Osmundsen said the locations west of Geneva Court were selected to balance the options for a protected crossing with the existence of a traffic signal at Havana St. People could still cross MLK Blvd. and 29th Drive at Geneva Court but it would not be a protected (i.e., signalized) crossing.

CAB members continued to express concerns with this decision but took no further action because the city decision is final.



Stapleton Selected for Xcel Solar Storage Program

By John Fernandez

The Public Utilities Commission has given approval to Xcel Energy to undertake a solar power storage program at two locations: Stapleton and at the Panasonic campus proposed near the 61st and Pena station on the A Line. The overall purpose of the planned two-year program is to test the capabilities of current battery technologies and the integration of utility-scale battery systems with the power grid.

In Stapleton, six batteries will be installed on homes that already use solar power. Another six batteries will be installed along the utility feeder line itself. According to Andre Gouin, Xcel Energy business technology consultant, this "combination of customer-sited and utility-sited battery systems will allow us to determine whether one type of configuration offers advantages over the other."

The PUC approval authorizes Xcel to invest \$9.1 million on the program. Roughly two-thirds of the investment will be spent on the Panasonic project, which includes a 1.3 megawatt solar installation, a large, two megawatt-hour battery storage system, a microgrid "islanding" switch, and the integration and controls equipment necessary to operate them. The remaining third spent at Stapleton will be for the six utility-sited battery systems, six customer-sited systems, and the associated integration and controls equipment.

The solar storage program is being conducted as part of Xcel's Innovation Clean Technology program used by Xcel to "demonstrate new technologies that could enable the increased adoption

or integration of clean technologies into the electric system."

According to Gouin, Stapleton was selected because this "neighborhood has one of the highest penetrations of solar within Xcel Energy's Public Service Co. of Colorado service territory." A process for selecting participating homeowners has yet to be determined but geographical distribution may be one criterion. Selection and installation are expected in the first quarter of 2017. The PUC approval requires Xcel to provide milestone reports about project costs so they can be vetted for future rate proceedings. All data would be made available to the public.

Rebecca Cantwell, executive director of the Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association (COSEIA), applauded Xcel for undertaking the pilot study, saying that everyone benefits from a grid less vulnerable to outages. She said, "Battery storage may be the 'next big thing,' a technology which is in its infancy in Colorado." Assuming a successful test, she said policy changes can't be predicted but the prospect of more distributed energy production and storage will inevitably raise important issues that will need to be addressed by the state's Public Utilities Commission. Cantwell said, "We think it is very important that what is learned from the test be shared with all interested parties, including companies that wish to get involved in battery storage in the future. We will be working to ensure an open marketplace for this important new technology."

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Eastbridge



Signalized pedestrian crossings are circled.

WCMD Election Results

The Westerly Creek Metropolitan District (WCMD) board has two new members as a result of the May 3rd election. Newcomers Katie Bedard Dell and Justin M.



WCMD board members (from left): Justin Ross, Tom Downey, Katie Bedard Dell, Tim Thornton. Dave Ungemah was not present. WCMD Legal Counsel Paul Cockrel is at right.

Ross join incumbent David H. Ungemah who was re-elected. Each will serve a four-year term. Dell received the most votes (50) followed by Ross (42) and Ungemah (27).

At the first meeting of the new board on May 26, the new members were sworn in and the following slate of officers was voted on and approved:

- President: Tom Downey – Vice President: Tim Thornton
 - Secretary/Treasurer: David Ungemah
 - Asst. Secretary/Treasurers: Katie Bedard Dell, Justin Ross
- The special district tax paid by Stapleton residents is collected by WCMD but, by law, must be passed on to Park Creek Metro District (PCMD) for the construction of Stapleton’s infrastructure. The board reviews and approves the budget and other documents required of special districts.



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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

SUN Annual Forum, Kickball and Block Parties

SUN Meeting June 21—Join a Committee

SUN's monthly meeting in June (3rd Tuesday, Central Park Recreation Center Multipurpose Room, 6:30, June 21st) is an opportunity for community members to join a SUN committee for the next year. The meeting will not have the typical format of 1-hour block captain meeting followed by the board meeting. Starting at 6:30, the SUN board will reorganize given the slate of SUN board members elected in May, and assign committee roles and other responsibilities. All community members are welcome and encouraged to attend, particularly if interested in a committee role, or participating more directly with SUN. The meeting is likely to end earlier than the usual ending time of 8:45.

SUN Annual Events

In partnership with the MCA, SUN promotes three events annually. The Stapleton Block Party Day, the Annual Community Forum, and the Kickball Tournament will be in September.

13th Annual Community Kickball Tournament

This event will take place Saturday, September 10th at a location in Stapleton (TBD). SUN is soliciting suggestions for beneficiaries of this charitable fundraiser. Previous recipients have been the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at nearby Children's Hospital Colorado through the March of Dimes, Stapleton Schools, Station 26 firehouse, and Bluff Lake Nature Center. Send to StapletonUnitedNeighbors@gmail.com prior to June 17th. To participate in or be a sponsor of the event email or visit www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com/SUNKickball

Block Party Feedback

Among 28 block parties registered with SUN, 12 occurred across the community on Block Party Day, May 14, amidst a cloud covered sky, intermittent showers, and cooler than anticipated temperatures. As new block captains have asked how the event takes place on other blocks, below is a summary of SUN block captain responses about the parties:

An average of 3 blocks join together for each party, with a third of parties combining 4-6 blocks. Average party size is 50 people, (range 10-200) Locations: 40% in an alley or street, 60% in a

courtyard/park/muse.

Cost: \$0/potluck (82%), with the remaining block accepting donations for entertainment (bounce house) or other shared resources, ranging from \$10-\$50 per household.

Start time: 10am (4%), noon (17%), 2pm (17%), 3pm (26%), 4pm (26%), 5pm (9%). Average duration was 4.5 hours, ranging from 3-8 hours.

Many blocks are opting to celebrate later in the summer. To learn whether your block has a block captain, email your street address to: SUNoutreach@gmail.com (addresses in such queries are not retained, compiled or distributed).

SUN Annual Community Forum

On May 17 the community unanimously approved an expansion of the language in the SUN bylaws to better describe the community boundaries (see April *Front Porch* SUN Spot), and the nine-member slate of SUN board members (see May *Front Porch* SUN Spot).

Police Report. Cmdr. Ron Thomas of Denver Police District 5 described that year-to-date crime is down. While noting responsibility of the police to protect the community, Thomas encouraged sustained vigilance among residents to prevent crime by locking doors, keeping valuables out of cars, keeping lights on, ensuring keys are difficult to find (particularly not under your doormat, or in your car), and calling in crime (specifically calling 911 for suspected gunfire).

Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Report. Dave Netz, CAB chair, summarized feedback the CAB has provided about the performance of Stapleton community developer Forest City in adhering to the Green Book. Noted challenges include communication with the community about deviations from plans, or not meeting with the community early enough in the planning phase to incorporate feedback, insufficient quantities of rental and income-qualified housing options, and completion of park space. Goals of CAB in 2016 include mapping out incomplete community projects and determining where funding is needed for the completion. This information would be used to better advise future

homebuyers what to expect if moving into an area surrounded by incomplete projects.

Stapleton Master Community Association (MCA). Diane Deeter, MCA program director, described new programming that will begin when "The Cube," the MCA's large indoor facility

on Northfield Blvd. opens in the fall. Addressing the question of communitywide participation in the RTD EcoPass program, Deeter stated that at \$2 million, it would be cost-prohibitive to raise household MCA dues to cover participation.

Denver Public Schools (DPS). DPS was represented by District 4's newly elected board member, Rachele Espiritu; Amy Bringedahl, the new principal at Northfield High School; Brian Eschbacher, director of planning and enrollment at DPS; and Alexis Harrigan, SUN's community liaison with DPS. Plans for elementary schools in Stapleton include Inspire opening in 2017 on the Sandoval campus, then in 2018 relocating north of 56th to another campus with a second new elementary school (to open in 2019). DSST middle school will stay in place. There are no plans for another middle school north of I-70, to expand Isabella Bird into a middle school, or to build a theater that could be a shared resource for area schools. DPS will pursue a bond this fall to fund a 500-seat building on the Sandoval campus and four additional classrooms on the Conservatory Green campus.

Stapleton Development update. Tom Gleason of Forest City reported the City of Denver had stated that if funding can be secured, construction on the second half of the Central Park Blvd. (CPB) bridge would begin November 2017 and be completed the following summer. Construction on the funded MLK Blvd. extension will begin November 2016. Jodi Collier, Punch Bowl Social marketing director, stated their timeline is currently to open winter 2016, and they would take over the building in late May to begin planned work. Northfield Commons retail project, the fourth and fifth buildings by this group, was described by Drake architect Michael Cassett. The buildings will sit at the northeast corner of Northfield Blvd. and CPB and have nine shops; many tenants already signed. Tyler Carlson of Evergreen Development provided a leasing and construction update about the Eastbridge Town Center: shells will be delivered to tenants in August with hopes to open November 2016 in tandem with King Soopers (not at the meeting). He also explained the city's decision to locate pedestrian crossings separate from the intersections.

Additional Q/A with Tom Gleason covered that construction on land north of the Punch Bowl Social site is to connect 32nd Ave. to CPB and put utilities in place for future development. Ongoing work in the far east of Bluff Lake is remediation being conducted by Denver International Airport. Much interest has been expressed to Forest City in the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) near the Central Park Commuter Rail Station; however, no announcements are available. Forest City considers land along CPB north of the station part of the TOD plan as well.

Fun for kids at Augustana this summer!

Vacation Bible School/Day Camp

- Monday, July 18–Friday, July 22
- 9–11:30 a.m.
- Children grades K-5

WAM! (Worship, Art, and Music Camp)

- Monday, July 11–Sunday, July 17
- Children who have completed grades 1–7 practice and present the musical *Esther* during worship, Sunday, July 17

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Bluff Lake Dam Reconstruction to Begin



By Anne Hebert

Bluff Lake's 100-year-old leaky dam that usually results in a dry lake bed part of the year is about to be rebuilt. The dam will undergo excavation and reinforcement to prevent a breach. The result will be a permanent dam that will retain water and ensure that the area will continue to attract and protect wildlife and many species of birds. Improvements around the shoreline will include new native plants. At 123 acres, Bluff Lake is the largest nature center in Denver.

The Bluff Lake Project Groundbreaking and Donor Appreciation Event was held Saturday, May 14th and the construction is scheduled to begin June 6th. It is slated to last two to three months. During the construction, the trail over the dam will be closed. The other trails in the nature area will remain open.

Visitors interested in construction progress can best observe by taking the trail on the south side of the dam.

Erika Walker, President

of the Bluff Lake Board says, "It's exciting to give a gift for the future. The dam will be here for generations to come." Bluff Lake is located at 3400 Havana Way.



The old dam that is being rebuilt is visible in the trees beyond the grasses.

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Shoot ... Don't Shoot



Officer Phouratsamay Chanthavong demonstrates the proper way to hold the gun during *Front Porch* writer Anne Hebert's training session.

(continued from page 1) My reaction was not what I expected. When I see the suspect, I forget every rule I've learned and discharge my weapon four times. I have lethally shot the intruder before he is given the chance to put up his hands and surrender.

As a 56-year-old grandmother who has had little experience with guns, I never could have imagined I would shoot a person. But in that split second, alone and facing the intruder, survival instincts took over and I overreacted. He was apparently unarmed.

I have been taught the vitally important initial assessments when responding to a call: keeping an eye



Hebert draws her weapon during a domestic violence simulation. Responding to a domestic violence call is potentially one of the most dangerous situations for police. In this simulation, the man was armed with a rolling pin.

on a suspect's hands, checking for weapons, tracking the movement of friends and bystanders on the scene, evaluating escape routes for the suspect and myself, checking my footing and looking for cover. I realize how completely unaware of my daily surroundings I usually am—and trying to remember all my training seems overwhelming. If I fire my gun I will also have to articulate exactly what prompted drawing the weapon and all actions that followed.

One of the rules I find hardest to follow is keeping my finger off the trigger unless I plan to shoot. The belt is awkward. With all the stuff on it, a tear gas canister and a Glock 9mm or 45mm weapon, there is no comfortable way to hold my arms. My replica gun is exactly like the real thing in detail, size and weight. The only difference is that it is bright red to distinguish it from a real gun. I wonder if that's why officers often fold their arms across their chests.

I have failed my first test in the Denver Police Department's "Shoot ... Don't Shoot" simulation. Chalking that unfortunate performance up to nerves, I move on to the second exercise.

Each simulation exercise begins with a basic description and I must ascertain how potentially dangerous it is. Each exercise is different from the one before. I'll be navigating through several exercises back-to-back, requiring constant vigilance.

I am reminded to use verbal warnings. Shouting at a screen does not come naturally at first, but before long I don't hesitate to use my loudest voice. This scenario involves an armed man in a workplace. I successfully locate him and manage to fire two lethal shots.

In the third exercise, I carefully enter an open apart-



ment door. My hand is on my weapon, but it is in my holster. I hear a noise and carefully draw the weapon holding it low, finger off the trigger. A man sits on a couch using a knife to wound an unresponsive person sprawled across his lap. When he sees me, he puts the knife down and his hands in the air. There is no need to shoot.

I learn that domestic disturbance calls, first, then traffic stops (which are often far from routine) are the most dangerous situations for police officers.

As I go through several more simulations, I find I make faster decisions and fewer mistakes. Practice makes a big difference in my confidence, my response time and my judgment. I realize this training is important for everyone with a gun, not just law enforcement officers. Police offi-

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A fellow officer is down. Using the proper Rules of Suspect Engagement, Hebert waits to take a clean shot at the perpetrators. Posted instructions help trainees remember their weapons training and become more confident of their skills when handling a weapon. Simulation practice helps trainees make better decisions.



View a video at
FrontPorch
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A workplace turns violent. Careful weapon handling produces two lethal shots. The perpetrator is killed, saving the lives of several co-workers and bystanders.

cers are continuously trained. Private citizens who carry a weapon have to complete training. But now, remembering how my instincts led me to my first fatal mistake, I wonder if

people who rarely take a refresher might be forgetting what they learned long ago. After a morning of training, I am completely drained mentally and physically.

Denver Police Department Training and Community Engagement

Officer Phouratsamay Chanthavong, or PC, as he's known by his fellow officers, directs and facilitates officer training and education outreach to citizen groups. A 22-year veteran on the force now working in the Community Development Division of the department, he knows the rigors of police work well.

Appropriate and allowable rules of suspect engagement are posted on the wall at the Denver Police Academy in several places, along with signs listing the rules of weapon safety. Officers are trained to be constantly vigilant. The signs serve as a visible reminder to police trainees and seasoned officers alike. "This all becomes second nature and the behavior they practice on and off duty," says PC.

All recruits are subjected to a psychiatric evaluation, background check and lie detector examination before they are accepted into police academy training. Checkpoints during training raise alarms about a recruit who is having difficulty or may not be psychologically suited for police work. PC adds that each recruit must spend 27 weeks training at the academy, successfully complete 14 weeks of field training supervised by a trained officer, and must complete another nine months working under the supervision of a senior officer who will continue to offer input and provide direction. At any time, a trainee can be referred back to re-training in a specific area.

PC points out a mobile simulation unit. "These units are easily transportable and take the place of the old mobile bus units." The new mobile units can be transported in a car and are easy to set up, making simulation training for law enforcement and citizen

groups much more accessible. Reports about overly aggressive police officers and the use of force in many places in the United States have made improper law enforcement conduct a topic of national debate. Do law enforcement officers use different rules for the people they engage? PC responds that officers are trained to use the very same rules of engagement with each person they encounter. "Officers welcome using (body) cameras. While it used to be a question of the officer's word against the citizen's, we now have video to document the interaction."

Officer training, including deescalation, community awareness of how officers are trained, body cameras, community engagement programs, new legislation (including some of our legislators' bills listed on page 13)—these are all part of the complex effort to have a fairer and more just criminal justice system.

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