

Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

JULY 2016

STAPLETON

The Passion for Local Food



Ken Chaption shops at the opening day of the Stapleton Farmers Market with his children Sophia, 7, and Kellen, 1.

By Nick Hutchinson

In the alleys, gardens, schoolyards and shared plots of NE Denver, fresh local food is taking root. No pesticides, no big agriculture—just the taste of what seeds, sun, water

and soil can do.

“I have a theory that we are genetically predisposed to growing food,” says Bryant Mason, owner of Urban Farms Colorado, a landscaping company that builds and installs

vegetable planters and urban gardens in the Denver and Boulder area. “Watching a tiny seed grow into an edible plant is astonishing every time it happens. It never gets old. Knowing that the process is making you a healthier

person, a more connected individual and a more interesting neighbor makes gardening seem like a no-brainer. There is a bacteria in soil that releases serotonin in our brains. Kids love digging (continued on page 10)

Red in a Sea of Blue: *Republicans in NE Denver*



Stapleton Republican Ronak Patel says “I think there is room for two parties in America and there are times when Republican policy is appropriate.”

By Nick Hutchinson

I’m With Her! Feel the Bern! In NE Denver, Democrats are comfortable supporting their chosen candidates and sharing their views. Denverites have voted for the Democratic presidential nominee in almost every election (except 1972 and 1980) since 1960. But what about the residents who support the Republican side? How do members of the GOP feel about living in a predominantly blue zone during election times?

“In general, I keep quiet unless I think I can have a meaningful conversation,” says Ronak Patel of Stapleton. Patel, who moved to Denver from Texas, says his positions on social issues are not what some might expect. “There are so many stereotypes attached to being a Republican that people often jump to conclusions. Some people assume I’m against gay marriage or that I don’t believe in equal rights for gay people. That is not my stance at all. Or they assume that I want to put guns in schools. I’m a fiscal (continued on page 8)

Taking Flight



At Wings Over the Rockies museum in Lowry, visitors can take off, fly and land a plane that does real loops and rolls. Story by John Fernandez on page 34.

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



Photo by Marlene Patacky



One morning in June, Marlene Patacky's cat Apollo was not his usual hungry self and wouldn't come out of his little teepee house. When he did come out he led Marlene to her basement window well, where a baby fox was trapped.

When she got home from work the fox was still there. She called the police, and they called Animal Control and Wildlife Rescue who, she learned, were unable to help. Finally a resourceful neighbor lassoeed the fox, pulled him out, and the fox promptly ran away.

Most of the events listed below are FREE or support nonprofits.

Additional events are listed on pages 28-29.

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

JULY

Mondays, July 11 – August 8

Monday Movie Madness at Infinity Park. Free Movies at Infinity Park in Glendale.
7/11 Mamma Mia!
7/18 The Goonies
7/25 Mrs. Doubtfire
8/8 Aladdin
Gates open 7pm, Movies 8pm.
www.infinityparkatglendale.com

Thursdays thru August 4

MaJaBlu Concert Series 6:30-8:30pm, North Green*
7/7: Hot Lunch Band
7/14: Dotsero
7/28: SuCh
8/4: The Samples

Through October 15

Free composting classes held at the Denver Compost Demonstration Site at the Gove Community Garden, 13th Ave. and Colorado Blvd. Sign up by calling 303-292-9900 or visiting www.dug.org/compost.

First & third Saturdays in July

The Big Wonderful. Stanley Marketplace, 12-8pm. \$5 admission gets you a free beer, 12 and under free. Tickets at: www.thebigwonderful.com

Sundays in July and August

30th Season of City Park Jazz 6-8pm, rain or shine.
www.cityparkjazz.org
7/3: Ritmo Jazz Latino
7/10: Heavy Heavies
7/17: Selina Albright
7/24: SuperCollider with Very Special Guest Erik Deutsch
7/31: Imagine featuring Melvin Seals (Jerry Garcia Band), Ray White (Frank Zappa), Damon Wood (James Brown) & Friends
8/7: Chris Daniels & the Kings with Freddi Gowdy

Every Sunday thru Oct. 16

Farmers Market 8:30am-12:30pm, The Green*

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

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

Monday, July 4

Park Hill 4th of July Parade, 1:30-3:00pm. Starts at 23rd and Dexter, ends 23rd and Krameria followed by a street fair at 23rd and Kearney. Over 50 entries including marching bands, floats, imperial storm troopers and a mobile petting zoo. www.parkhillparade.com

Monday, July 4

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

Friday, July 8

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

JULY

Friday July 8 – Sunday, July 10

Colorado Black Arts Festival. City Park West.
www.colbaf.org

Saturday, July 9

4-H Showmanship Demo at the Urban Farm Indoor Arena, 11:30am-2pm. 4-H members demonstrate showmanship with their animals in preparation for Adams County Fair. Lunch and snacks for a donation. 11am-1pm. 10200 Smith Rd, Denver 303-307-9332
www.theurbanfarm.org Members Free, Non-members \$5

Thursday, July 14

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

Thurs.-Sat., July 21-23

Theatre on The Green - The Wizard of Oz. 7-9pm. The Green* stapletoncommunity.com (see page 17)

Friday, July 22

Tots and Folks Yoga on the Plaza. 11am. Your Soul's Movement presents yoga on Northfield Stapleton's Main Street Plaza for all ages (including infants!) and ability levels. Mats are provided. www.northfieldstapleton.com

Saturday, July 23

Adult Yoga on the Plaza. 3pm. Your Soul's Movement presents adult yoga on Northfield Stapleton's Main Street plaza for all ability levels. Mats are provided. www.northfieldstapleton.com

Saturday, July 23

Friends Family Social at the Sam Gary Branch Library. Adults will experience the library after hours with wine and book pairings, while kids enjoy a sampling of library programs including crafts, story time, music and more! Snacks and beverages included. Tickets: \$75 per family and include a Friends Foundation family membership; purchase at dplfriends.org

Thursday, July 28

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

Friday, July 29

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

Friday, July 29 – Sunday, July 31

Denver County Fair. National Western Complex. www.denvercountyfair.org

*Locations

More information on these events 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



Concert on The Green-Forever Dangerous

Saturday, July 2, 7-9pm

Join the MCA for the Concert on The Green (29th & Roslyn St.) featuring Forever Dangerous, starting at 7pm. The concert is free to attend and open to the public.

4th of July Pancake Breakfast & Parade

Monday, July 4, 9-11:30am

The Annual Pancake Breakfast will begin at 9am at the Fountain Pavilion in Central Park. Breakfast may be purchased at the event, which includes pancakes, sausage and juice. Suggested donations are \$5/adult, \$3/child or you can purchase a family 4-pack (2 adults/2 children) for \$12. All donations will benefit the Stapleton Stingrays Swim Team.

Bring your decorated bicycles, tricycles, wagons or scooters for the parade, which will begin at 10:30am at the Fountain Pavilion in Central Park. Participants should line up along the promenade at the fountain and head east toward the lake, looping around back to the fountain area. There will be parade leaders at the start of the parade to guide participants through the course.

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

MoJaBlu Concert Series

Every Thursday, July 7-28, 6:30pm-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. This is a free concert open to the public!

Movie on the Green-The Martian

Friday, July 8, At Dark

Movie on the Green-Race

Friday, July 29, At Dark

Join us on The Green (29th & Roslyn) for Movie on the Green. Each movie will feature a concessions stand to benefit a local nonprofit organization. The concessions stand will sell freshly popped popcorn, candy, sodas and bottled water. All movies are free and open to the public.

Stapleton Farmers Market

The Farmers Market will be every Sunday from 8:30am-12:30pm on The Green (29th & Roslyn).

Friday Night Flights-Wine Tastings

Friday, July 29, 6-8pm

The MCA and the Grape Leaf are excited to present Friday Night Flights! The second Friday Night Flight will be held on Fri., July 29 at the West Crescent. Tickets are \$15 for residents and \$20 for nonresidents. Visit stapletoncommunity.com to purchase your tickets today!

Stapleton Beer Festival

Saturday, July 16, 4-8pm

The Stapleton Beer Festival will be held on Sat., July 16 on The Green. The event will begin with an exclusive VIP tasting from 4-5pm followed by a three-hour tasting and free concert. General admission and concert-goers will be allowed to enter The Green starting at 5pm. Tickets are limited and sell out fast! Purchase your tickets at stapletoncommunity.com.

Theatre on The Green-The Wizard of Oz

Thurs.-Sat., July 21-23, 7-9pm

The play will be shown on The Green at 29th Ave. and Roslyn St. All showings are free and open to the public.

Active Minds Seminar

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

Thursday, July 14, 6:45-7:45pm

Denver Women

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

Atomic Bomb

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.

Jennifer Olsen
Communications Coordinator
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Kid Entrepreneurs

What began as a way to earn a few extra dollars became a robust business for Mitchell Crine. Now in its third year of seasonal operation, his Stapleton lawn care business is exceeding his expectations.

When Crine started his business at age 11 it turned out to be a lot more work than he anticipated. With an older mower and lawn edger, there were lots of slow starts and mechanical repairs. Schedules also had to be adjusted to ensure customers received weekly service when the weather refused to cooperate. "At the end of the summer, I thought I could do more work a lot faster if I spent some of the money I earned on a new mower," he said. He also invested some of his profits in the purchase of a new edger and blower. Armed with new equipment, Crine started offering his services to a larger number of customers.

In year two, Crine, with his dad's help, set up a Paypal account. "It makes it more convenient for customers for sure." It also makes it easier for him to deposit his earnings directly into the bank. Most customers are now billed with a link to PayPal and he also includes information about his upcoming mowing schedule. If he is out of town, he subcontracts with friends and pays them the full service fee, saying, "I want them to be paid fairly for doing a good job." This year, services were expanded to include aeration.

Next year, Crine hopes to be employed by his parents in their family-owned business. His customers need not worry though. A younger brother is waiting in the wings to take over.

In Lowry, 11-year-old Isabelle May, is expanding her Charming Wine Charms business. Designed to fasten around the stem of a wine glass, each charm is colorful and helps a wine drinker enjoy their beverage in a glass designated as "theirs" for the duration of any gathering. She also assembles attractive, colorful packaging for each charm set with a business label and contact information. Her wine charms are sold individually or in sets of four, six or eight. She hopes people will fall in love with the set they buy and purchase more to give as gifts.

May has been operating her business for over two years. She sells her charms in person at craft fairs and local holiday sales events and she has an online sales presence. Charming Wine Charms will also be stocked at a new gift shop at Rocky Mountain Children's Hospital that sells products made by young entrepreneurs. May is working to increase her online traffic and

sales. She took a web development class at Young Americans Center for Financial Education to get the site up and running. "Right now, I sell about 25 sets a year online. There is a lot of room to sell more."

Part of the proceeds from sales is reinvested back into the business for supplies, maintaining the website and contract labor. The profit goes into May's savings account. This summer, she is traveling to Sweden for one month to attend a youth camp, one of four Colorado 11-year-olds going on the trip. They will spend the month of July with other 11-year-olds from 16 countries. May paid for half the cost of the trip with money she earned selling her products.

This Morning' on CBS featured an interview with May in their story about youth businesses and she was also recognized as the Young Americans Center for Financial Education's Young Entrepreneur of the Year. Visit www.charming-winecharms.com.

Young Americans Center for Financial Education offers seminars, camps, classes and competitions for kids who want to turn their idea into a successful business venture and learn about business management along the way. By learning the basics of business planning, website creation and success strategies, kids can go from initial idea to launch while learning what it takes at every step. Kids can even apply for loan to cover start-up costs. Loans can be as small as \$25, but each application must be accompanied by a solid business plan and profit forecast. Visit YACenter.org for more information.



Isabelle May's Lowry business, Charming Wine Charms, makes wine charms that are a fun, colorful hostess or holiday gift. Purchased in sets of four, six or eight, they come in custom packing designed by May. Photos courtesy of the May family.



Mitchell Crine, 14, has grown his lawn care business by getting better equipment, expanding the services he offers and billing by Paypal. To ensure that he meets his commitments, he hires subcontractors when he's away.

By Anne Hebert

"We see kids who really have a strong desire to achieve – it's almost as if it's in their DNA," says Richard Martinez, president and CEO at Young Americans Center for Financial Education. He sees enterprising youth with big ideas every day. Even when business ideas don't take off, Martinez points out, there are lessons to be learned and incorporated in the next attempt. While some kids are defeated by what they perceive as failure, others view it as a chance to learn more about why things didn't go as planned and start again. "Those kids are just driven to succeed and it's really fun to watch their ideas grow and evolve," says Martinez.

We found two local "kid entrepreneurs" who fit Martinez' description.

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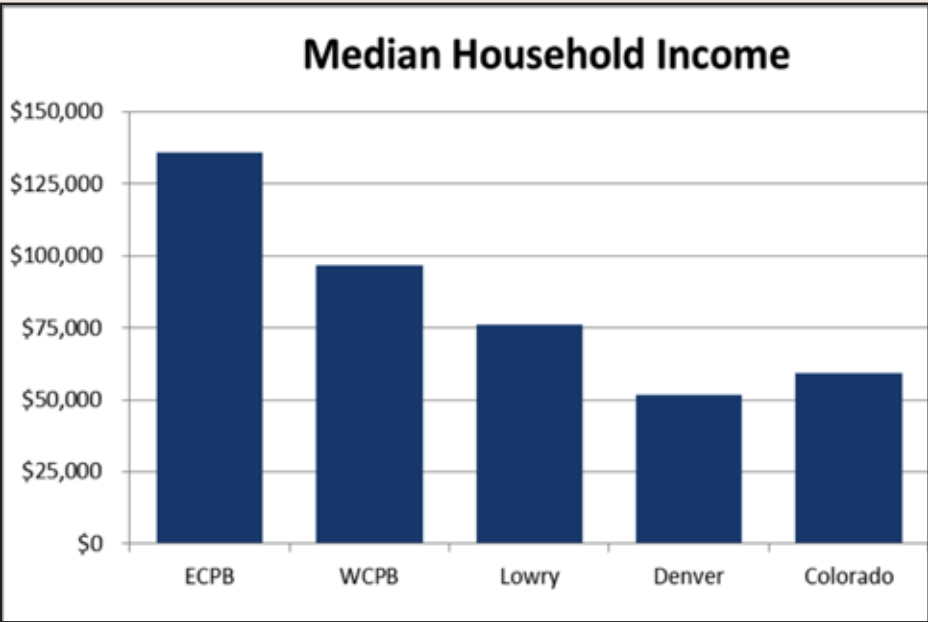
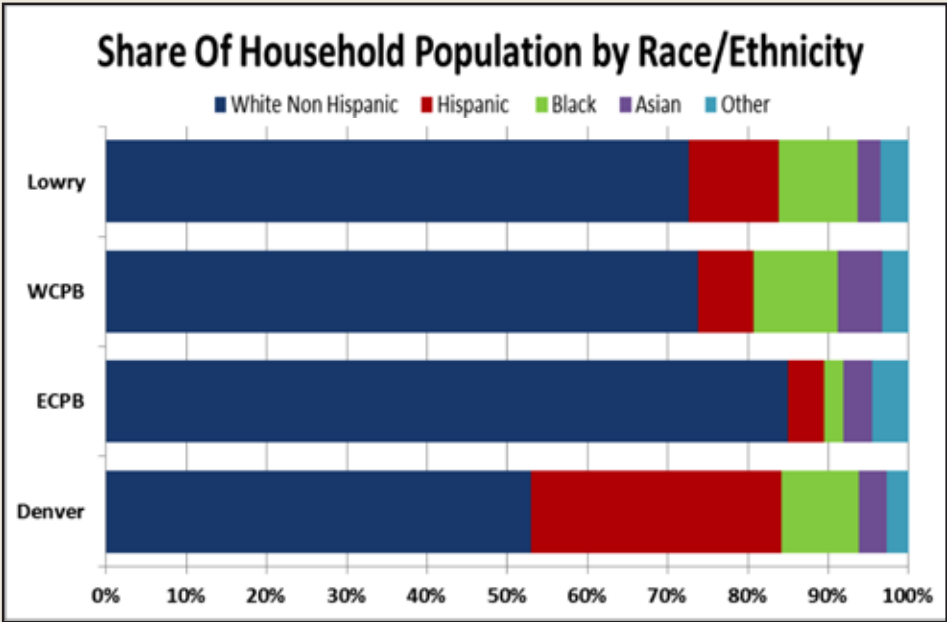
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A directory with links to these businesses can be found at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com > Business Directory

Stapleton Demographics Are



WCPB is the Stapleton population west of Central Park Blvd. ECPB is east of Central Park Blvd.

By John Fernandez
State Demographer Elizabeth Garner summed up her presentation on Stapleton demographics by saying, “We are definitely not close to average.” Garner, a Stapleton resident herself, had been asked by the Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) to provide a snapshot on such measures as race, ethnicity and income as CAB continues to track Stapleton’s performance in affordable housing. At CAB’s May meeting, she presented her analysis, which, at the request of the *Front Porch*, had been expanded to include numbers for Lowry, another large-scale, infill project approaching completion.

Garner’s major findings are no sur-

prise to anyone familiar with Stapleton. By comparison to Denver and Colorado as a whole, Stapleton is very white, very young and very wealthy. The three charts above illustrate those comparisons, breaking out Stapleton’s numbers by its two census tracts: west of Central Park Blvd. (CPB) and east of CPB (tracts 41.07 and 41.06, respectively). (Census tracts are geographies defined by the U.S. Census Bureau used for collecting and reporting data). The Stapleton population is split roughly two-thirds east of CPB, one-third west of CPB.

Other findings are perhaps less obvious and may have more significance long-term for an issue like affordable housing: Stapleton’s black population west of CPB mirrors Denver’s (both at 10%) but

because the percentage east of CPB is so low (2%), Stapleton’s overall percentage has declined to 5% as Stapleton has developed west to east.

From a race/ethnicity perspective, the bigger discrepancy between Stapleton and the city as a whole is with Hispanics: 5% for Stapleton versus 31% for Denver.

Housing “tenure” numbers (renters vs. owners) show Denver and Lowry at roughly a 50-50 mix whereas Stapleton’s two tracts show a predominance of owners (61% for the west tract, 82% for the east tract).

Median gross rent west of CPB (\$1,299) exceeds the Lowry (\$1,168) and Denver (\$913) numbers but east of CPB, the rents are much higher (\$1,923). Note

that rents include rented single-family homes.

These numbers suggest Stapleton will have an increasingly difficult challenge in meeting its affordable housing goals. With for-sale housing prices continuing to escalate, CAB views rental housing as a critical need, saying Stapleton’s development plan (the Green Book) calls for Forest City to make one-third of all housing rentals. Forest City has asserted it will meet its contractual requirement for 10 percent affordable for-sale units but has called the one-third rental number a “projection.”

Garner cautioned CAB to the limits of the numbers she was presenting. They are based on the American Community Survey (ACS) that is an annual statistical

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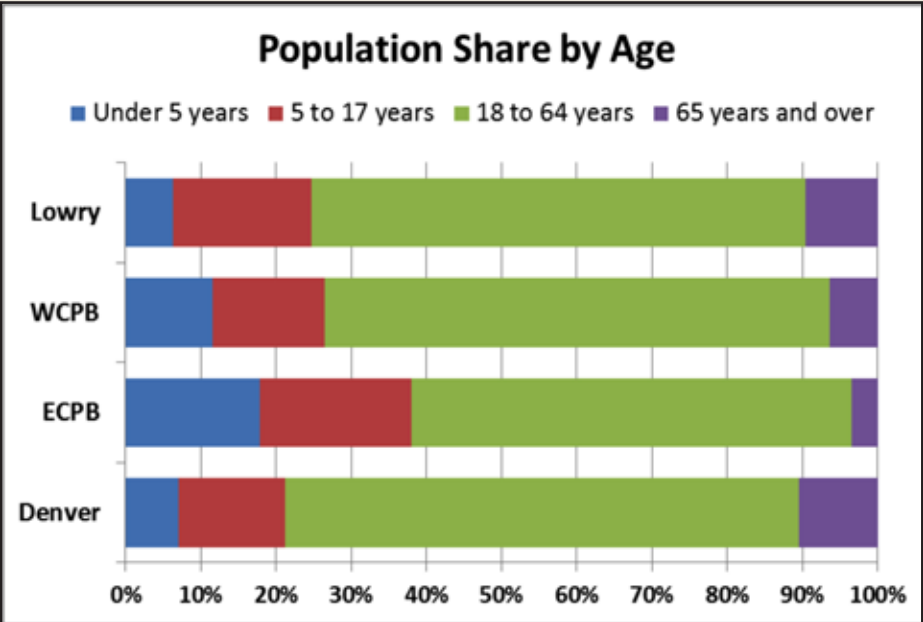
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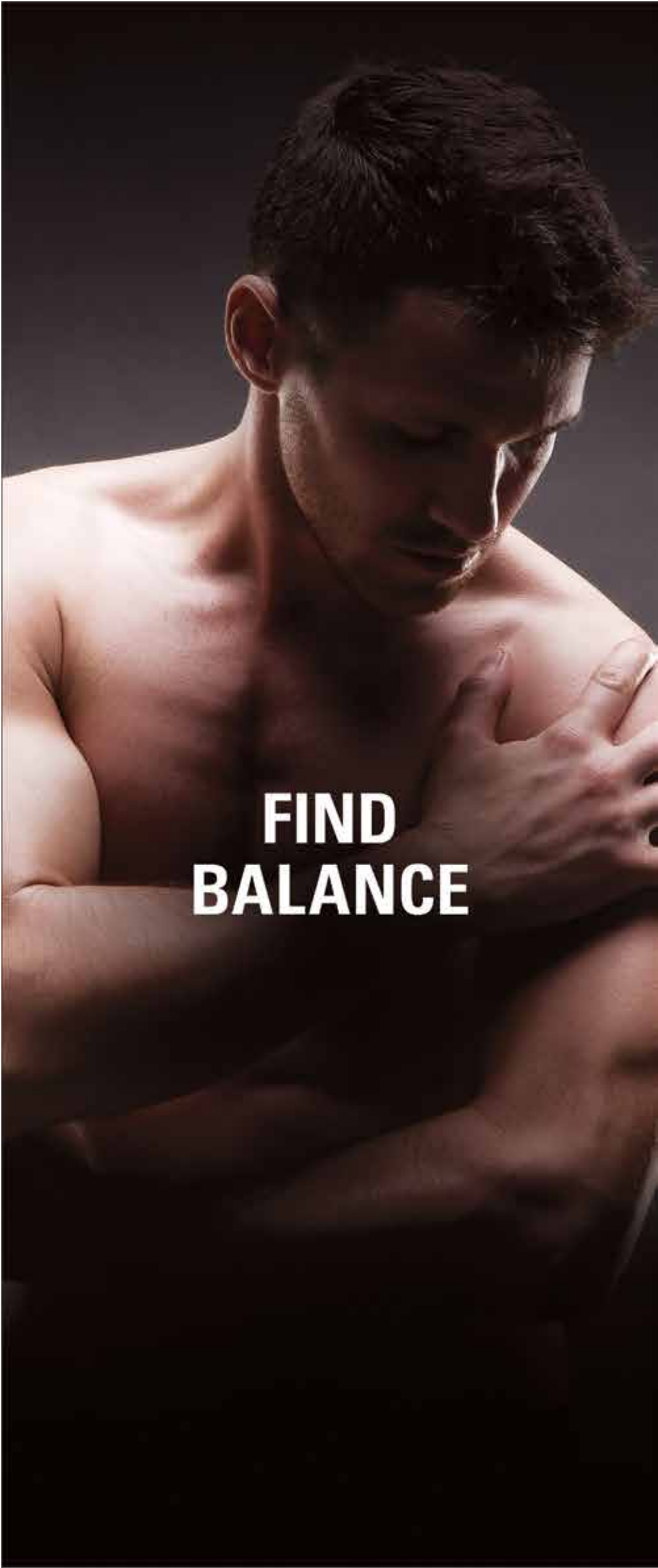
Charts by State Demographer Elizabeth Garner using data from the 2010-14 American Community Survey.

sample compiled by the Census Bureau. To obtain useful limits of probability based on sample size, the ACS numbers are presented as five-year averages. This means the “ACS 2010-14” numbers presented by Garner are lagging well behind existing conditions within Stapleton. The numbers do not include any of the considerable number of affordable housing projects under construction or scheduled to break ground in 2016 (see May 2016 *Front Porch* front page article “Construction Goes into High Gear”). These statistics put the total population at 13,455, a number that is over 22,000 today, according to Tom Gleason, VP for public relations, Forest City.

Nevertheless, the numbers do indicate trends that will need to be overcome in later

stages of Stapleton development if it is to meet its affordable housing goals. Rising housing prices generally add to that challenge. Garner pointed out that the Denver population continued to increase through the recession even as housing starts fell off dramatically; less so in Stapleton. This has added to the upward pressure on housing costs. Regarding diversity in Stapleton, Garner said affordable housing helps because there is more diversity at the lower-income levels: it provides a “bigger pool that you are likely to be able to draw from.”

A link to Elizabeth Garner’s full PowerPoint presentation can be found with this article at FrontPorchStapleton.com.



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GOP

(continued from page 1) conservative who believes in small government. I don't back every Republican candidate, but I think there is room for two parties in America and there are times when Republican policy is appropriate."

Despite what it might feel like to him, Patel is not alone. Other local GOP supporters admit to being careful about sharing their views.

"I'm friends with all the folks in my courtyard but we never talk politics," says Rebekah Keller, who resides in the Westerly Creek neighborhood in Stapleton and is a former vice chair of the Denver GOP as well as a former vice chair of Denver Republican Women. "It's kind of the white elephant in the room. I had my signs out during the last elections, but it's a little uncomfortable and you don't want to get into arguments that might ruin a friendship. People have become rabid about their political views, but I think we all basically want the same things—a good world for our kids, respect for our government and hope for our families. I like to think we can have different viewpoints and that we still have something to learn from each other."

While canvassing her precinct in past elections, Keller recalls visiting a politically split household, where the husband was a Democrat and the wife was a Republican.



Stapleton resident and GOP supporter Tara Porter is pictured with Colorado State Senator Randy Baumgardner at the Republican State Convention in 2014. Baumgardner was running to be Republican nominee for U.S. Senator.

"The husband wouldn't open the door. He said 'I'm not the Republican in the household,' and that was the end of the conversation. People can be very standoffish."

On the more aggressive side of the issue, political signs in support of Republican candidates have reportedly been vandalized during past campaigns.

"Someone tore down the sign we had up for Mitt Romney," says Tara Porter, who lives along a busy street in Stapleton. "We had it secured pretty well, but they managed to rip it up. Also someone driving a Smart Car drove by and shouted at us to take it down. I don't really talk politics with liberals. I'm a Trump supporter but I might not put a sign

up this election. It's a challenge. I have a strong view and I don't waver. I hear horror stories on social media of cars getting keyed for displaying stickers."

Peggy Watkins, a resident of Historic Montclair, says she and her husband have plans to leave the U.S. should the election not go their way. "I'll always vote Republican as long as I believe the candidate has the best interest of the country in mind, but my husband and I have an exit strategy for November. If things don't turn around we will likely move out of the country. If Hillary wins, we'll probably head to Belize."

Jen Callahan, a former Park Hill resident now living in Stapleton, says she grew up in a predominantly Republican community but quickly realized after moving to Park Hill that she was in the political minority. "I've always backed my candidates. I've worn many a Republican T-shirt and although I do get the odd look, I have also gotten many 'I thought I was the only one!' We've learned to adapt. Our neighbors know they can civilly banter with us. In sum: no major drama because we realize we are choosing to live in a liberal neighborhood. We love it here and try to be quiet but not silent conservatives."

Patel points out that he has had disagreements with friends on all sides, Republican, Democrat and Independent. "As long as I feel that I'm being heard and we're not just bashing each other, I'm happy to talk to people," he says.

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55+ and Enjoying Life

By Nick Hutchinson

Dick Rooney smiles broadly when asked about his recent move from Annapolis. The 82-year-old retired small-business owner and his wife, Pat Roche, recently relocated to the Grove at Stapleton, a new apartment complex for tenants above the age of 55. While known as a good area for young families to raise children, NE Denver is also home to a growing number of older adults.

“We’re really excited to be here,” says Rooney. “It’s thrilling to meet new people and start fresh again. It’s like being a freshman at college.”

At apartments such as The Grove and Overture (formerly the Greenways) in Stapleton, tenants age 55 and up realize the pluses of living in a place where they worry less about home maintenance and participate in activities that range from gardening, yoga and cycling to community volunteer work.

Some of the residents come from Colorado, while others hail from all over the country and the world. “The majority of older adults move to be closer to their children and grandkids,” says Jennifer Otavsky, assistant community director at The Grove. “They really like the atmosphere and enjoy being where everyone has a lot in common with them. They make a lot of friends here and they enjoy the convenience of being close to restaurants and shops and they take the time to walk to places. People are staying healthier longer now and aging differently.”

Martha Barker, a retired music professor from Indiana, lives in a two-bedroom apartment at Overture in Stapleton. She recently lost sight in her left eye following a treatment for macular degeneration prior to her move to Denver, but her condition is improving.



Pat Roche, left, and her husband Dick Rooney recently moved to The Grove at Stapleton. The couple relocated from Annapolis to be closer to their children who live nearby. Among other activities, they like gardening on the grounds of the complex and enjoy Denver’s sunny weather.



Music teacher Martha Barker, a resident at Overture Stapleton, gives a violin lesson to fellow Overture tenant Brad Kuss. Kuss says the former music professor is a world class violinist who brings a positive outlook to her lessons and to life. The two connected as the result of a chance meeting in the elevator at Overture, where Kuss happened to be carrying his violin in a case.

“The management is really nice and kind here,” Barker says of her living situation. “It makes a big difference when people take the time to talk to you and get involved in your life. I don’t look my age. I’m on no medications and thanks to good nutrition I might get my sight back. I’ve been working on my health by eating right since I was 29. I’m a little older than that now, but I’m still going strong.”

An accomplished violinist, Barker also teaches piano. “I’m going to be playing at the Montview Presbyterian Church soon. I met with their choir director and will be working with the organist there this coming fall. I’m so excited about being able to keep my music program going.”

Barker says she is looking for more music students and plans to offer violin and piano lessons at the home of her daughter, who lives just a few blocks away from her apartment.


“I like being so near to my grandkids,” she says, pointing out that a few of her friends who are grandparents provide daycare for their families, now that many households have two working parents.

According to Cathy Swainson, the community manager at Overture, residents at the complex enjoy a broad range of activities


including movie nights, a walking club, fitness instruction, cooking classes, brain teasers, craft and jewelry making, listening to educational speakers, building scrap and memory books, playing Wii games, a Mahjong group and all kinds of card and domino games. “Some of our tenants work full time and many are retired, but they all keep very active,” Swainson says.

Otavsky says most tenants are in their early 70s, but there are also a number of people in their 50s and 60s. “We enjoy activities that our members suggest and organize. Some are ongoing, while others are just one-time events. We meet for museum tours, dining, hiking, art lessons, movies, genealogy study, and all kinds of stuff. If you’re over 55 you fit in perfectly. Our residents say they feel so much better being here because they socialize where they used to be more solitary. It takes people about a month to acclimate. They soon get to know one another and they spend time together outside the complex all the time. They love the access to the light rail and to downtown and the open space, which is nice and walkable.”

For more information about the Grove and Overture, visit www.groveatstapleton.com and www.liveoverture.com/denver.



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For more information visit these websites:

Nourish Community Market: www.nourish.coop

The Urban Farm Company: www.urbanfarm.colorado.com

The Urban Farm at Stapleton: theurbanfarm.org

Ekar Farm and Community Garden: www.ekarfarm.org

Swigert students and spring lettuce. Back: Joseph Norman, Finn Woolf, Zander Eliason. Front: Blake Thiel, Cecelia Harper, Kate Woolf.

in the dirt. And most importantly, I've never seen an unhappy person eating a homegrown tomato."

Stapleton resident Logan Wilcox shares Mason's sentiment. Wilcox is an advocate of organic farming both at home and at work, where among other duties he oversees the popular backyard food-growing program at Parkwood Homes in North Stapleton's Conservatory Green neighborhood. "It's fun for families and my kids really love it," he says. "After a growing

season they get to harvest and eat what they grew. And it makes them eat stuff they generally wouldn't try. I'll come home from work and the kids say stuff like 'Dad we got new carrots today!'"

At local schools, including Bill Roberts E-8 and Swigert International in Stapleton, students in all grades get their hands in the soil and learn where their food begins. The gardens are a source of pride and scientific education. They are used as educational tools and are part

of the curriculum. The garden programs allow teachers to bring science and community-building lessons into the classroom, and local businesses, including Ace Hardware on Colfax and Nick's Garden Center in Aurora, sponsor and contribute supplies to the programs.

"We get everyone involved," says Kim Duran, a first-grade teacher at Bill Roberts. "We assign a bed to each grade level as well as to staff and administration." Bill Roberts started its garden program on Earth Day of 2015. With the support of the school's administration and grants from the DPS sustainability team, the program has taken off to include planting and growing not only outside, but also in the classrooms using hydroponic grow towers.

"Our goal is to serve fresh vegetables at the salad bar in the cafeteria and to give some food to families," says Duran. "We like kids to be closer to the source of what they eat and to understand the entire process from seed to eating. A lot of DPS kids don't have access to fresh food and don't really understand the concept. When they learn how it works, they're amazed. They are very observant of how much the plants change day to day. It's great for their sense of inquiry. They notice all the little details, like how cucumber tendrils are attracted to light."

"Both students and parents participate in the planning and growing and they love it,"



says Jennifer Woolf, vice principal at Swigert International School. "And it spirals up in terms of involvement from grade to grade. We hold some great dinners using our fresh greens. Parents and friends of the school really look forward to it."

The much anticipated Stanley Marketplace will feature a three-acre urban garden on site. Similar community gardens exist at The Urban Farm at Stapleton, Ekar Farm in Lowry (which donates all of its food to hunger-relief agencies), and in many local neighborhoods. Area residents grow a bountiful mix of greens, vegetables, herbs, fruits and spices. Based on the proliferation of planters of all kinds, some even on the grounds of existing local restaurants and apartment complexes, there appears to be no end to the passion for locally sourced eats.

While people mostly focus on growing fresh produce, in some cases food such as eggs and honey enter the equation. In 2014, the passage of the "cottage foods" code in Denver allows residents to sell many items from their homes, including uncut



Bryant Mason, the owner of Urban Farms Colorado, leads a class on backyard farming at Parkwood Homes in North Stapleton's Conservatory Green neighborhood. Photo courtesy of Logan Wilcox



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Left: Chef Maggie O'Toole (white shirt at right), brings her culinary skills to Bill Roberts, where students learned to make their own fresh salad dressing on the last day of school this spring.

Above: A sign for Nourish Community Market shows support for the popular local food co-op. Thomas Spahr, head of the Nourish board says, "We are still in lease negotiations. We hope to make an announcement by the end of the summer. Since the project is likely to be a new-build site, we are looking to open by the end of next year."

"My mom was an immigrant from Thailand who started her own garden and that evolved into a small micro farm that grows and sells produce," he says. "There's no question the community benefits from having access to fresh food."

Kim Soko Schaefer, who runs the food box program for Nourish, says it is temporarily based out of the Hangar 61 Fellowship Church, where members pick up the boxes every Thursday. "There will be signs directing people on what to pack in their boxes (how many tomatoes, heads of lettuce, etc.) and you do get to pick which pieces of produce in each box look best to you," Schaefer says. "There will also be a 'for trade' box where you can trade with other member-owners if you decide you'd rather have an extra tomato or two instead of a cantaloupe, for example." The Nourish boxes are made out of a corrugated plastic and can be re-used over and over, season to season, to reduce their impact on the environment.

fruits and vegetables, whole eggs, and home-prepared food products such as jellies, jams, honey, teas, herbs, spices and some baked goods. The recent passage of a bill that, come August, allows homeowners to collect up to two barrels or 110 gallons of rainwater per household, is also a boon for backyard farming.

"One of the things that Denver has done with the cottage gardens act is to really open up the opportunity to have food that is grown hyper locally in markets across town," says Thomas Spahr, head of the board of Nourish Community Market, which was formerly named the Northeast Community Co-op Market, and a realtor who lives in Stapleton. "Aurora is interested in passing similar legislation. It empowers the community to grow their own food and even to make income off of it."

Spahr, who studied community development in college, moved to Denver a decade ago from the San Joaquin Valley of California. He was dismayed by the lack of variety in local grocery stores and noticed a strong demand for local food. Since then he and Nourish have been actively pursuing the creation of a community-based cooperative store to provide sustainably harvested agriculture. Nourish, which is in the process of securing a permanent space for its vision, offers locally sourced food to its members as part of its fresh food box program that began in June.



Claire Rowan, 9, (left) and Rosalie Libby, 10, hold chickens from The Urban Farm at the annual Rock the Co-op event in Conservatory Green. The event celebrates the future opening of Nourish Co-op.



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By Madeline Schroeder

Liz Jones remembers sitting in support groups and feeling scared listening to parents of older children. The group was for parents and caregivers of profoundly disabled children who require help with every basic need. As the children grow, it becomes more difficult to bathe, transport and care for these children. One mom in the group had multiple back surgeries after years of lifting her son. Another mom put her son in a nursing home because she could no longer lift him on her own.

Jones wondered, “What am I going to do when Daniel gets bigger?” Her son Daniel, now 17, was born with profound developmental and cognitive disabilities and will remain in the same condition for the rest of his life. He’s nonverbal, non-ambulatory and tube fed. Like many severely disabled children, there is no specific diagnosis. He is considered medically fragile and has a slew of health complications.

X-rays of his growth plates when he was elementary-school age predicted he would be over 6 feet tall. As his primary caregiver, Jones listened with angst to the parents saying, “I wish my child was just 10 pounds lighter” and “I wish my child was a couple inches shorter.” In 2007, her friend sent an email with the subject line, “Your prayers have been answered.” It was an article about growth attenuation therapy.

Growth attenuation therapy stunts growth. High doses of estrogen, delivered as a daily pill, patch or injection, speed up bone maturation to close the growth plates, or cartilage at the end of long bones in children and adolescents. The earlier the treatment is started, the greater the height reduction. The therapy started in the 1950s as a means to keep women from growing too tall. As it became accepted for women to be taller, estrogen is no longer used for this purpose, but has been adapted for a new use in the past 10 years. Parents of severely disabled, non-ambulatory children with cognitive impairments are seeking the therapy to provide a better quality of life for themselves and their children. A shorter and lighter child requires only one person to lift and no hoisting apparatus so the child can be more easily bathed and transported. The article Jones read described the first case in 2006 where estrogen was used for this purpose. A 6-year-old girl, known as Ashley, with profound cognitive disabilities relied on support for every aspect of daily life, including lifting her head. Ashley’s parents sought the treatment so they could lift and transport her more easily. A common side effect of high-dose estrogen is breast bud growth. Ashley’s parents chose to remove her breast buds because they thought breast growth would be uncomfortable for her. Also, to avoid uncomfortable menses and bleeding, which is difficult for caregivers, Ashley’s parents decided to have her undergo a hyster-

The difficult decision: Stunt the Growth of a Disabled Child to Provide Better Care?

ectomy. Their decision received national attention. Due to the overwhelming attention, the therapy became known nationwide as the “Ashley Treatment.” Despite the backlash, parents of severely disabled children began asking their doctors about growth attenuation. As Jones read the article from her friend, her spirits lifted. She had had no idea growth attenuation existed; Daniel’s doctors had never mentioned the therapy. She imagined the benefit of Daniel being a size she could lift on her own. When she brought it up to Daniel’s doctors it had been a year since the Ashley case. There had been few cases at the time, and research was limited. And the backlash deterred many providers from discussing the treatment. Daniel’s doctors were tentative, but agreed to consider the case with an ethics committee. More than 20 people, including community members, attorneys, doctors and specialists, met to examine Daniel’s case. The committee only focused on Daniel’s medical conditions; they never brought up any benefits to the family members. For several hours they discussed the pros and cons. Ultimately, they decided it was an ethical treatment. Before the scheduled treatment, Daniel’s endocrinologist backed out. “It really saddened me,” Jones says. She believes he backed out because he feared the media’s reaction and how it would affect his career. Jones reached out to about 150 doctors around the country asking about growth attenuation. Some did support it but had never administered the treatment; others said it was against their personal beliefs. Jones thought she was out of luck, until she coordinated with Dr. Philip Zeitler and Dr. Michael Kappy at Children’s Hospital Colorado. Zeitler is the head of Pediatric Endocrinology at Children’s and Kappy is a practicing pediatric endocrinologist. Together, they have administered growth attenuation therapy to about 20 children. They are well aware of the negative opinions

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A caregiver uses a lift to move a disabled person to a customized showering area. Photo from iStockPhoto.com

about growth attenuation but reiterate the therapy is only for a very specific population. Disability rights advocates argue how can you really know the cognitive functioning of these children? What if they are more aware of what's happening than you realize?

Developmental disabilities fall on a massive spectrum, encompassing everything from attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, cerebral palsy, autism, and vision impairment. Candidates who qualify for growth attenuation fall on the most severe end of the spectrum, where IQs are so low there is no way to even test cognitive capacity.

Like Jones, families within this network oftentimes struggle to find a doctor who will administer the therapy. Families have come from all over the U.S. and abroad seeking growth attenuation at Children's Hospital Colorado. "We are not going to people saying we need to make your child smaller. They are coming to us," Zeitler says. "These are people who are recognizing their child is profoundly affected and not going to improve." Zeitler and Kappy also have a few colleagues outside of Colorado who are willing to do the therapy.

They are aware of the lack of evidence for the therapy. Because of the limited number of cases, there have been no randomized trials, so many answers remain unclear. How much height is reduced and how quickly varies case by case. Most treatments so far have taken two to three years. Because many children with developmental disabilities start puberty early, the ideal age to begin treatment is elementary school age.

Although exact results cannot be predicted or guaranteed, Children's Hospital Colorado has made a conscious decision to administer the therapy anyway. Without evidence in the medical literature to guide them, the

endocrinology team at Children's practices what they call "compassionate use." This refers to a treatment or drug that has not been widely tested, and therefore is restricted to people who meet very specific conditions, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. With the help of an ethics committee, Children's Hospital Colorado endocrinologists and the family discuss whether the child is an appropriate candidate. And if the child is a good match, do they proceed with the treatment even though there is not a guaranteed effect?

Of the 20 cases at Children's Hospital Colorado so far, all the families have said it was a success and they are grateful for the treatment. One family decided to stop treatment after their son developed breast buds. Neither Children's nor their few colleagues who administer the therapy perform breast bud removal or a hysterectomy on these children.

"We don't have a lot of information because hospitals are not collecting and sharing results. Our hope is that if we can make this a little less controversial, there could be a sharing of outcomes for folks who are doing this," Zeitler says.

Daniel completed growth attenuation therapy six years ago and is 5 feet tall, a foot shorter than his predicted height. "His height has no correlation with his cognitive abilities," Jones says. "Just because we attenuated his height doesn't mean we attenuated his brain. My son continues to mature." Every year, friends comment on how much Daniel has grown and she chuckles to herself. "The reason why they think that is because he continues to mature. He's developing into a young man." She is grateful for the treatment, as she can care for Daniel on her own. They even travel.

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Stapleton Weather Balloon Program Still Going Strong after 79 Years

By John Fernandez

When it was an airport, Stapleton hosted a three-pronged National Weather Service (NWS) office: an upper atmosphere weather balloon program; a weather forecasting office; and weather observations related to the airport. Only the weather balloon program remains of what used to be called the Denver Weather Forecast Office headquartered on and adjacent to Stapleton International Airport. When Stapleton closed in 1995, official weather observations moved to DIA. In 1995, Stapleton's forecast function moved to Boulder's NWS facility.

But the weather balloon program persists and is now in its 79th year. Balloons are launched at zero hundred and 12 hundred hours "zulu" time every day of the year from a rundown brick building topped with a mini dome located a few hundred feet south of The Urban Farm administration building next to Smith Road. Those zulu times translate to 5am and 5pm taking into account daylight savings time. The Stapleton station is one of 92 operated by the NWS in North America and the Pacific Islands and is part of a global network of more than 800 stations.

The instrumentation carried aloft measures temperature, pressure, relative humidity, position, wind speed and direction. The data are inputs to computer-based weather forecast models, weather and climate change research, and local severe storm, aviation, fire weather and marine forecasts. Data geeks can access the information within 12 hours on a website such as Unisys Weather, which posts colorful "thermodynamic" maps.

Chris O'Brien, a NWS contractor, arrives for his daily shifts at 4:15am and 4:15pm. He assembles the helium-filled balloon, calibrates the electronics and attaches the radiosonde, a one-pound,

expendable instrument package. Depending on wind conditions, he launches the balloon from the south- or north-facing side of the observation building. He also checks to make sure neither lightning nor nearby thunderstorms will interfere with the launch.

A simple hand toss gets the balloon ascending at a rate of a thousand feet a minute. The radiosonde follows the balloon by means of a 100-

foot tether, a separation mandated by the need to minimize contamination of the temperature measurements from heat shedding off the balloon skin. As the balloon rises, O'Brien monitors the arrival of data and checks against "frequency drift" in the signals coming from the radiosonde. A launch reaching an air pressure level of 400 millibars or about 23,000 feet is deemed acceptable. Failure to reach that level requires the launch of a second balloon.

The flight typically continues to about 100,000 feet where the five-foot diameter balloon at ground level has expanded to the size of a two-car garage. There, it bursts and

Koopmeiners monitors the data feed from the weather



Byron Louis, who retired as a Data Acquisitions Program Manager in 2013, recalls his NWS career with fondness and gratitude.



Above: National Weather Service contractor Chris O'Brien prepares the radiosonde for attachment to the weather balloon.

Left: NWS Meteorologist Robert Koopmeiners exits the observation building with weather balloon and parachute in tow, radiosonde in hand. Photo by John Fernandez

the radiosonde returns to earth by parachute. Perhaps a quarter of the radiosondes are returned to the NSW. Landing sites for Stapleton-launched balloons have been as close as the other side of I-70 and as far away as Kansas.

Weather balloon launching at Stapleton has been a constant for going on 80 years. What has changed are the organizations and technology used to acquire, disseminate and analyze the weather data. The first official weather observation in Denver occurred Nov. 20, 1871, under the auspices of the U.S. Army Signal Service. NWS was made a bureau in 1891 and, in 1931, a weather observation office was established at Stapleton Airfield. Upper air observations began in 1939 at Stapleton and have continued uninterrupted except when transferred to the Air Corps at Lowry Field during World War II.

Meteorological observers such as Byron Louis and Paul Gard, who both began work at the Stapleton office in the 1970s, recall that the job of the balloon launcher was far more manual and hectic in the days before computer automation. Louis, who retired from the NWS in 2013, described the challenge of doing data analysis with a temperature slide rule directly on the recorder printer sheets spitting out numbers at the rate of a quarter inch per minute. He also shook his head in remembering the need to squint at the balloon through a theodolite to record elevation and azimuth each minute of the two-hour flight. This was done monthly to crosscheck the accuracy of the radar used to track the position of the balloon. Now this is all done automatically using GPS and the meteorological data are transmitted each second to the ground station—a volume not possible in a manual system.

Paul Gard, who rose through the ranks to become lead forecaster at Stapleton before retiring in 2007, chuckled when he reminisced about one proposed change in technology that he says is explicable only as a result of the mysteries inherent in a complex bureaucracy, namely, to convert the gas used to fill the balloons from helium to hydrogen.

Local staff were ordered to remove the electric-powered overhead doors and replace them with manually operated “blast doors.” The locals dutifully complied, installed the heavy doors and worried about the dangers of hydrogen in a dry climate. Gard was especially sensitized to the issue owing to the fact that a prized family possession is a postcard mailed by his father from Frankfurt, Germany, and delivered to the Gard family via the Hindenburg dirigible. Fortunately for the people working with the balloons, the mysterious directive was just as mysteriously reversed.

Louis and Gard fondly recall their years at Stapleton, either next to the east-west runway when at their Galena Street office, or in eyeshot of the north-south runway at Smith Road. Co-location with a major international airport brought its own buzz to an office focused on data collection. One day it might be the landing of a 747 carrying the space shuttle cross-country. The next it might be news station helicopters “hovering like vultures” at reports of an expected crash landing for a plane with malfunctioning landing gear. Being literally on-site heightened the sense of responsibility for forecasting, especially in major events such as the Christmas blizzard of 1982.

For his part, Louis looks back on the hectic data-collecting and storm crisis management responsibilities with a great sense of gratitude. As a self-described “troubled inner-city kid” from Kansas City, the NWS’ Upward Mobility Program that gave him his first job opened his eyes to life’s possibilities. He describes the escape from his upbringing as “miraculous” and said that positive things continued for him in Denver where he “loved it and guys made me feel so welcome.”

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Construction Starts on 165 Affordable Homes



Photo by John Fernandez

Thrive CEO Gene Myers says bringing the "Elements" affordable housing project to market has been a "four-year odyssey."

By John Fernandez

Construction has begun on the single largest affordable for-sale homes project in Stapleton. Thrive Home Builders hosted a groundbreaking at the project site on June 13. Thrive CEO Gene Myers said the first 11 units have been pre-sold and he expects "strong demand and to sell out as fast as we build."

Thrive will build 165 affordable town homes in Stapleton's Conservatory Green, Willow Park East and Wicker Park neighborhoods. The

homes will be located on the west and east sides of Central Park Blvd., north of I-70 between Northfield Blvd. and 56th Ave.

Starting price points will range from \$172,000 (two-bedroom units) to \$199,900 (three-bedroom units). Under Denver's inclusionary housing guidelines, purchasers' incomes cannot exceed \$44,750 for a one-person household up to \$74,150 for a six-person household.

Myers said the first residents will be moving in around the first of the year.

Delays Still Plague A-Line

By John Fernandez

For the first half of June, the University of Colorado A line averaged three trains a day with delays exceeding 15 minutes. That is about two percent of the daily average total of 143 trains. News reports indicate this performance level does not satisfy either the RTD Board or its general manager, Dave Genova. June 15 experienced the highest number of delayed trains: 19. Eight of the first 15 days of the month experience no defined delays. However, overall on-time performance declined from

about 90 percent the first week of operation in April to about 80 percent. The A Line runs on 15-minute headways during peak hours. Only one of the delays in early June was attributable to a lightning strike. Neither RTD nor its concessionaire, Denver Transit Partners, has provided an explanation for the delays other than lack of full operational status of its cutting-edge positive train control system (PTC). Flaggers remain on-site at 11 at-grade crossings pending resolution of the PTC issues and implementation of the quiet zone for the 23-mile corridor.

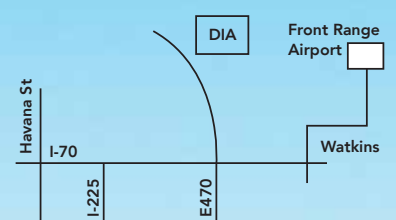
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Wizard of Oz on the Green July 21-23

By Laurie Dunklee

Everybody loves a trip down the yellow brick road. This summer our favorite characters—Dorothy, Scarecrow, Lion and Tin Man—will trip through Stapleton’s Green in The Wizard of Oz.

The cast of 23 kids and 12 adults is mostly comprised of Stapleton residents, according to director Eric Peterson, a Stapleton resident since 2007. “My 8-year-old twins and my 10-year-old are in the cast—they are munchkins,” Peterson said. “It’s fun to have lots of kids in the show. Many of them play the nonhuman roles, like flying monkeys and crows. We pick shows that offer opportunities for both big and little people.”

A third evening has been added this year because of the popularity of the annual Theatre on The Green productions. “Last year more than 1,000 people came each night,” Peterson said. “A third night means we get to

spend more time performing.” Peterson said this production is quite similar to the movie, with the addition of several songs that were written for the movie but were cut out. “One recovered song is The Jitterbug. The wicked witch sends magical ‘jitterbugs’ that cause Dorothy and her friends to dance frenetically until they collapse and the flying monkeys subdue them. It’s a great tune.

“All the music written by Harold Arlen, with lyrics by E.Y. Harburg, is tremendous. We’ll encourage the audience to sing along—but not with Dorothy’s solos, of course.”

The sets and costumes will have the look of the movie, with a black-and-white tone at the beginning that turns to color once Dorothy is in Munchkinland. “Everybody has two costumes. Dorothy’s black and white gingham dress turns to her signature blue and white in a quick costume change.”

Similarities to the movie won’t include



Zelda Rogers, 16, who will play Dorothy, is surrounded by cast members at their first rehearsal.

a real dog playing Toto, however. “As W.C. Fields said, ‘Never share the stage with kids or dogs because they get all the attention,’” Peterson said. “The kids are super cute enough.”

The one-and-a-half-hour show is co-produced by MCA and The Three Leaches theatre company. “The Three Leaches do good quality

stuff all over town,” Peterson said.

The Wizard of Oz has a timeless quality about it,” said Peterson, who has acted in the musical and directed it twice before. “You could become cynical about it, but there’s a reason people love it. It’s great to be able to put our stamp on something so iconic.”



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

July is Sci-fi month. This year marks the fifth anniversary of the Science Fiction film series at the Sie Film Center and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. I host the series, and we have a scientist from the museum on hand to talk about the actual science (or lack thereof) in the film. It makes for great film viewing, an educational experience, rewarding discussion, and a fun time for all. This year’s installment starts on July 13 with an interesting and eclectic five-week program. Find more information on the Film Center website or the DMNS website. Hope to see you there!

In honor of the series, I am reviewing two Science Fiction films this month, both of which are small-budget, interesting, and thoughtful films. Please enjoy.

Advantageous (2015)

Women do not get treated equally in the workforce. Yes, this is common knowledge, and yes, it is an outrage that should be corrected. Yet seeing the machinations of that dynamic in action is still shocking, frightening, and well, just plain outrageous. Science Fiction has not been the most progressive of genres when it comes to gender equality, with women usually relegated to second-

ary roles or stock characters that merely served the males. *Alien* (1979) began to change that, but the genre has always been slow to join the rest of society. *Advantageous*, directed by Jennifer Phang, takes film, and Science Fiction film, one giant step forward.

Jacqueline Kim stars as Gwen, a 30-something single mother working as the PR face of a large, multinational corporation sometime in the near future. Her daughter is of the age where she must enter a prestigious school or her own future will be grim. The society is facing record unemployment, men who are beyond misogynistic, and aging women are rapidly replaced by younger versions. Gwen loses her job and fails to find another. Desperate, she is given a choice by her former employer—they can take her consciousness and place it into a younger body. She can

then get her job back and offer her daughter a positive future. But she will not be herself.

It’s an intriguing plot. But stop. If you enjoy movies that explain themselves in the first five minutes, this film is not for you. If you enjoy movies that have complicated plots with complicated people in complicated situations, you may very well enjoy this one. Kim’s performance is intimate and alluring—she is able to draw you into her situation and keep you there. Phang’s direction is precise and timely—she is able to let the story and the acting do the work. The camera is always well



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placed, the lighting in particular is very good, and the settings give us just enough to satisfy our need for verisimilitude. It is a solid film in every way.

Science Fiction has always been good at placing contemporary issues in the future, just far enough away that we don't get squeamish about their proximity. We have time. But *Advantageous* takes away that advantage. It presents us with issues we are dealing with now. Time to get squeamish.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *Primer*, *Moon*, and/or *Upstream Color*.

Available on Netflix, Amazon, and iTunes.



Advantageous

Approaching the Unknown, a small-budget, intimate, heady

Approaching the Unknown (2016)

"The mission is a failure, and I can't go back."

Mark Strong may be the best actor you don't know—his turns in *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* (2011), *Zero Dark Thirty* (2012), and *The Imitation Game* (2014) were noteworthy and memorable. He seemed destined for A-list, leading roles, but that has never really come to fruition. He is a thoughtful, intense, and emotive actor who eats screen time and leaves us wanting more. In

Sci-Fi film from first-time director Mark Elijah Rosenberg, we get more. Now we want more.

Strong plays William D. Stanaforth, an astronaut/engineer who is sent to Mars on a one-way ticket; his mission is to start colonizing the red planet. Another mission with a lone astronaut sent directly after his own quickly fails, and now he is really alone in space. The loneliness and monotony of space, along with several system failures, takes its toll on the lone explorer. He is forced to make some difficult decisions.

There is not much else to the plot, save the ending. The real draw is Strong, his performance, and how he is able to captivate us while much of the film simply has him alone in the craft. There is a heavy dose of real science, a sense of the starkness and languid rhythms of such a mission, and an intimate character study. The visuals are tense and claustrophobic, the brief CGI shots are passable, and the editing is



Approaching the Unknown

nicely compatible with the inner workings of our hero. This film rewards.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *Europa Report*, *Moon*, and/or *Monsters*.

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



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DPS Board Approves \$572M Bond and \$56.6M Mill Levy Override for Ballot

By Carol Roberts

Denver voters in November will decide separately on two DPS ballot questions: a \$572 million bond and a \$56.6 million mill levy override to raise a total of \$628.8 million. The bond question will *not* raise current taxes—it will maintain the current mill levy for bond payments. The mill levy override *will* increase annual taxes. On a \$330,000 home taxes will increase about \$110/year.

Seventy-five parents, community members, students and teachers met about ten times between February and May to learn about and prioritize the needs in DPS schools and recommend what projects should be in the bond. The *Front Porch* asked one of these committee members what he learned and what he would want voters to know about these ballot questions.

How did the prioritization process work?

Chet Seward, the Stapleton father of a 7th grader and a 10th grader who works in health care policy, called this a thoughtful and thorough process. The participants divided into subcommittees: one for the mill levy override (primarily programming) and three for the bond, which included new construction and renovation, maintenance, and technology.

Seward served on the capacity committee. As a resident of NE Denver, the fastest growing part of town, Seward already understood the capacity issues here. But after listening to presentations and studying the data he observed, “There are lots of needs elsewhere. And prioritizing them was really hard.” But, he says, it was encouraging that the committee had really thoughtful dialogue—passionate but not shrill. “It was heartening given the politics of the day.”

Seward says they used a rubric that kept them focused. They plotted projects on maps to ensure

they were being equitable around the city. And they watched “the line”—the number of bond programs they could recommend under the existing bond mill levy and not increase taxes.

Why vote for the bond and mill levy override?

Seward explained what he would want skeptics to know about these upcoming ballot questions.

- Lots of new businesses are coming here and the city is growing. To be sure this isn't just a blip, we need to have a really good K-12 system in place.
- Colorado is 42nd in the nation in per pupil funding, spending \$2,060 less per student than the national average. The state financing system is not keeping up so bond and mill levy override funds are necessary.
- The committee was cognizant of their responsibility to taxpayers to prioritize in a way that would meet the greatest needs but maintain the bond mill levy at its present level.

\$44.4 million in capacity and renovation projects are proposed for NE Denver. What are they and why were they selected?

\$22.40M	Sandoval Campus	new 500-seat classroom bldg
\$ 6.66M	George Washington HS	renovation of aging facilities
\$ 5.40M	Montclair Elementary	100 new seats
\$ 4.40M	Conservatory Green Campus	100 new seats
\$ 2.90M	Denver Language School	100 new seats
\$ 2.64M	Hill Middle School	renovation of aging facilities
NE Denver capacity/renovation = \$44.40M		

Seward explains the rationale for some of these projects:

With the huge growth in NE Denver, capacity simply doesn't exist at the high school level so an additional building at the Sandoval campus (one of the largest single expenditures on the bond) is necessary. GW and East won't be able to accommodate the numbers that are coming and kids have to go to school.

The inclusion of Denver Language School is a good example of how the process was used to

prioritize requests from 58 schools. As a K-12 school, with proven demand and currently split campus that forces K-2 students to go to one building and everyone else to go to another three miles away, it was clear that an investment is necessary.

Hill Middle School, originally built when President Eisenhower was in office, ranked high because the building is in serious need of upgrades in order to bring the learning environment into the 21st century.

How do bond and mill levy projects differ?

Bond projects are capital improvements in the areas of construction/renovation, maintenance and technology.

The mill levy override is primarily used for programming. Voters must approve a 4.2 mill increase to implement the following programs:

\$ 6.80M	Early literacy (training teachers and support for struggling readers)
\$15.00M	Whole student needs (psychologists, social workers, nurses, partner programs to be determined by the schools)
\$ 6.60M	Classroom technology (replace outdated devices, increase students with devices, build eBook library)
\$ 8.07M	College & career readiness opportunities (students to leave DPS prepared for career opportunities in growing Denver industries)
\$14.50M	Attract, develop & retain high quality teachers & leaders
\$ 4.88M	Cleaner and more comfortable learning environments
\$ 400K	Increased transportation for high school students
\$ 480K	Bond investments that require coordinated mill investments
Total mill levy override \$56.6M	

How do Denver's bond and mill levy override rates compare to other metro Denver school districts?

Mill levy overrides in 12 districts range from 6.0 to 19.89. Denver's FY15-16 mill levy is 10.98.

Bond mill levies in 12 districts range from 6.75 to 21.67. Denver's FY15-16 is 10.25.

For more information, download a pdf linked to this article at FrontPorchStapleton.com or visit bond.dpsk12.org.

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By Anne Hebert

Calling themselves the 'Girls on the Green,' three women-owned businesses look forward to operating adjacent to one another in Stapleton's Conservatory Green.

Veterinary

Dr. Shelly Sandel and Jen Weston are the co-owners of Northfield Veterinary Hospital and saw the need for a small, intimate veterinary practice in Stapleton. "There are other great veterinary hospitals in the area, but we wanted to offer a unique practice approach that allows us to really get to know all of our patients and provide personalized and compassionate care to each pet family," said Sandel.

While the office location was under construction, Sandel and Weston operated a mobile clinic that allowed them to provide pet health services and build their clientele before their permanent facility opened its doors. House calls by appointment remain an important part of their practice for animals that are fearful of trips to the vet or for older animals that no longer travel easily. Home visits are also particularly convenient for many pet owners with busy schedules. "Aside from surgical procedures, we can do almost everything in a client's home that we can do here at the office. From wellness checks and vaccinations to caring for a pet who is under the weather, we can accommodate the patient and owner's unique needs, Sandel said."

The hospital is a full service facility for dogs and cats. To learn more or make an appointment, visit www.northfieldvethospital.com.



From left: Veterinarian Shelly Sandel, liquor store owner Stephanie Cloven and dentist Preet Clair are opening adjoining practices in the new business plaza at Northfield Blvd. near Xenia Street.

Dentistry

Dr. Preet Clair is opening her new location and will start seeing patients in Conservatory Green on July 11.

Clair Family Dentistry is moving from Quebec Square where it has been a fixture for the last 12 years. Dr. Clair's practice rapidly outgrew its existing space and she found the opportunity to relocate ideal.

The Northfield office will be a beautiful, serene space that is reflective of Dr. Clair's love for

her former home in Nova Scotia. Patient comfort has been the top consideration in the office design. All patient treatment rooms have a view of the park and are infused with beautiful, natural light. "Many of my patients know where I'm from and will gain some additional insight into who I am when they visit," said Clair.

"The emphasis at Clair Family Dentistry is on building long-term relationships with patients," said Clair. "We are conservative and overall health centered. Our patients have been very supportive and are as excited about our new space as we are – maybe even more so!"

Dr. Clair will host an Open House sometime before school starts in the Fall. She also plans to host combined events with the other two businesses. For more information, visit www.clairdental.com.

Girls on the Green

Liquor Store

Ace's High Spirits, owned by Stephanie Cloven, is open for business. Carrying a full inventory of wine, beer and spirits, the store also makes a point to carry local favorites and products that are regularly requested by customers. "We want to be able to uniquely serve our clientele by offering what we know they like," said Cloven.

Cloven, a former flight attendant, saw the need for a liquor store in Conservatory Green. She decided to fill the void by opening a store that focuses on a shopping experience that differs from the standard liquor store. "I decided that a visually appealing store with pops of color would create a more pleasant shopping

environment for women and men. It's just a less utilitarian approach than other stores provide," Cloven said. Customer service is also a big emphasis in the store. "Having been a flight attendant, I know that great customer service is what brings people back," said Cloven. She emphasizes that her favorite part of the workday is having the chance to meet new people.

In addition to regular customers, Cloven says she also sees lots of visitors from out of town. Cloven states, "Our proximity to the sports complex in Commerce City brings in lots of visitors. It's fun to meet them and get their perspective." For more about Ace's High Spirits, visit their website at www.aceshighspirits.com.




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STANLEY MARKETPLACE

New Preschool to Open at Stanley

By Laurie Dunklee

OPENAir Academy Early Childhood Learning Center, for children ages 6 weeks to pre-kindergarten, will open its third location at the Stanley this fall.

OPENAir's curriculum is inspired by the Reggio Emilia schools of Northern Italy, based on the idea that children are innately intelligent and need exciting and creative environments that encourage cultivation of this intelligence.

"Because each of our schools is inspired by the way children learn, and is built specifically for the neighborhood in which they exist, the Stanley location will be unique in structure, environment and aesthetic," said OPENAir co-owner Heather Eversley, a Stapleton resident. "Classrooms will connect easily to outdoor learning space, where an abundance of natural light and natural materials will create a bright, inspiring environment. "The school will give each child an opportunity to thrive within the larger community of the Stanley development."

OPENAir opened in the Reunion District of Commerce City in 2006 and in River North/LoDo in 2011. Eversley invites parents of prospective students to visit the LoDo school: "We are offering tours of our LoDo location for those who would like to learn more about the Reggio approach and get a sense of what the Stanley location will be like." She said hours and specific policies for the new location are still being determined.

OPENAir at the Stanley is accepting registrations and spaces have been filling quickly, Eversley said. The LoDo school is handling registrations and can be contacted at info@openairacademy.com or by calling 303.296.8300. For more information, see openairacademy.com.



OPENAir Academy will have creative learning environments that encourage cultivation of children's intelligence.

Fashions of the World

By Laurie Dunklee

Danielle Van Ede traveled all over the world before landing in Denver. Her Sterre boutique in the Stanley will carry clothing, jewelry and shoes informed by her fashion background in Johannesburg, South Africa; Amsterdam; Athens; and Denver.

Van Ede, a native of Amsterdam, lived in Greece when she was in her 20s. "I learned a lot about fashion and retail there," she said. "The owner of the Armani store where I worked took me on buying trips to Italy. I lived with a Lebanese family whose business was in precious and semi-precious stones, so I learned a lot about that, too."

In the 1990s, she moved to Johannesburg, South Africa, with her husband, where they had two children. They settled in Denver in 2001. She continues to travel and find fashion ideas to bring back.

Sterre at the Stanley will feature a rotating selection of items, with brands including Zoe Karssen, a line from The Netherlands; French jewelry label Poupette; and Baske shoes from California.

"Sterre," pronounced Sterr'ah, is named for Van Ede's 18-year-old daughter. Sterre translates to "star" in Dutch. "Our fashions are accessible and fun; they are not so trendy as to be out of style in two months," Van Ede said.

Sterre boutique will occupy 500 square feet close to the event hall. Van Ede will show her wares at The Big Wonderful this summer, before Stanley Marketplace opens.

For more information and updates, see sterre-denver.com, or check them out on Facebook or Instagram.

FOR KIDS (continued)



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Brenda Lane, co-owner of eXL Learning Center at Lowry, will open MindCraft at Stanley. Students are studying the electrical conductivity of pencil lead and fruits to complete a circuit that will play a tune on the computer.

Creating Creators

By Laurie Dunklee

“Bob Stanley would approve of our program and our spirit of innovation occupying his building,” says Brenda Lane, co-owner of MindCraft, a new “maker space” for kids and adults to invent and explore. Bob Stanley designed his inventions, most notably military aircraft ejection seats, in the building that will become Stanley Marketplace.

MindCraft, co-owned by Lane and Adriana Santacoloma, will be a do-it-yourself space for people to create whatever they can think up, using traditional and high-tech tools including 3-D printers, scanners, laser cutters, glass-fusing kilns and sewing machines that will weave LED lights into fabrics. “We create creators,” Lane said.

MindCraft is a spin-off of Lane and Santacoloma’s tutoring center in Lowry, eXL Learning, which already offers high-tech summer camps.

“Our programs support kids’ ability to think creatively and problem-solve,” said Lane. “Helping them get up to speed in coding and programming assists them through school and into their careers.”

Students will receive hands-on instruction from experts, including electrical and mechanical engineers and fabricators, in MindCraft’s classroom. Classes and lab time will be open to all ages. “Students can work in areas like robotics, 3-D animation, even jewelry design and production,” Lane said.

MindCraft will occupy 1,700 square feet on the Stanley’s mezzanine level. The space will accommodate a classroom, lab and retail area. “We’ll keep the industrial look of the space,” Lane said. “It will look like grandpa’s clean, organized garage.”

Memberships in MindCraft will run from \$50 to \$100 per month.

For more information, see exllearning.com or call 303.364.9581.

Kevin Taylor Restaurant Postponed at Stanley

By Nick Hutchinson

Stanley JV, the developer of Stanley Marketplace, has decided to postpone the building of an on-site kitchen and beer garden by Kevin Taylor in the hangar event space until a subsequent phase of construction, and will instead utilize off-site caterers and restaurants at the marketplace to service the space. Kevin Taylor Restaurant

Group & Catering had planned to operate both entities initially, but when building plans were adjusted, both the developer and KTRG mutually agreed that another yet-to-be announced group should operate the restaurant, as the proposed project did not line up from an operational perspective. Taylor remains an owner and adviser in the project.



Torchy's staff gather at their newly opened restaurant on Northfield Blvd. at Conservatory Green. From left: Tammy Alexander, kitchen manager, Lauren Rosemond, assistant manager, and Beth Bennett, general manager.

Tacos—Morning, Noon and Night

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

How about an ahi tuna taco at 7am or a breakfast taco at 10pm? Or maybe a taco with fried chicken around noon? Described as “all tacos, all the time,” Torchy’s Tacos started humbly as a food truck in Austin, Texas. After blanketing the Texas market with its restaurants, Torchy’s chose Colorado as its first out-of-state market. The company found Stapleton appealing because, like the company, it’s in growth mode.

With a total of five Torchy’s slated to open in Colorado by the end of the year, the company chose the state because of all the Texas transplants who, they suspected, would be excited about the expansion. It was also appealing to seasoned staff like General Manager Beth Bennett, who was excited to make the move. “When I found out the company was expanding here, I said, ‘Sign me up, I want to go to Colorado!’”

Before the location in Northfield Stapleton opened in June, potential diners were peeking in the windows, monitoring progress. The glitzy décor designed around white and red reflector tiles (an homage to their start in a taco truck), Sputnik-like light fixtures and marquis-lit “Torchy’s” sign outside and “Damn Good Tacos” inside, were a draw. With a different demographic than the first Torchy’s location on Broadway at 11th Ave., which drew lines around the building for weeks, the Stapleton

opening was eagerly anticipated but a little more understated. Bennett is grateful for the mellower vibe allowing for downtimes mid-morning and mid-afternoon to prepare for the next rush.

“I feel like it’s a taco nobody else does,” says Bennett, of her employer. “We have some of your traditional items like chicken and beef fajita, some really authentic ones like barbacoa, and then you have modern-day, contemporary options like fried chicken.” Vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free

options are also available.

With indoor and outdoor seating, Torchy’s features a two-sided bar with one-half facing in and the other facing out onto the patio. Diners can skip the line and belly up to the bar to order and eat there for a full-service experience.

Bennett says the Stapleton location sells more “Little Devils,” peanut butter and banana deep-fried quesadillas, off the kids’ menu than the Broadway location, a nod to the family-oriented demographic. Being able to provide a family-friendly experience is important to Bennett who hopes to move her family to the neighborhood soon. Her 3-year-old daughter is just happy to have an easy supply of “chips and wacamole,” says Bennett. “She loves mommy’s wac.”

Hours are Mon.–Thurs. 7am–10pm; Fri. 7am–11pm; Sat. 8am–11pm; and Sun. 8–10am.





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RECOGNITIONS

McAuliffe Champs



The McAuliffe girls soccer team ended their 11-0 season as winner of the City championship. They won a hard-fought semi-final game against Slavens in the last minute of the second overtime—then won the Sun Devils first ever City Championship in a shut out against Morey. “The winning was fun,” observed Coach Linsey Olesiak, “but the part that I enjoyed most was how these girls became a family throughout the course of the season. They were an absolute joy to coach.”

Photos courtesy of McAuliffe



The McAuliffe Sun Devils baseball team had their second straight 12-0 season, with dominant pitching and clutch hitting from the beginning to the end of the season. They swept through the playoffs, beating DCISMB, Greenwood, and Merrill by a combined score of 36-2. Their last game of the season was a 12-1 game against Merrill. The Sun Devils baseball team has now won 24 straight games.





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Spelling Bee

By Nick Hutchinson

After making it to all the way to the 15th round at the Scripps National Spelling Bee near Washington, D.C., Sylvie Lamontagne finally met her match with the word “chaoborine,” a type of gnat. Lamontagne finished in fourth place at the national contest and was awarded \$10,000 for her efforts. The fourth-place finish marked her second year in a row to place in the top 10 at the event, which drew almost 300 contestants. “I was much more nervous this year because I had higher expectations following my performance last year. I wanted to do better, and as a result I felt like I had trouble breathing properly at times,” she says. Lamontagne placed ninth last year in the national spelling contest. She first demonstrated

her spelling skills in the third grade, when her teacher administered a written spelling test on which she performed flawlessly. She says she prepared for the grueling national bee using an online program called Quizlet. The 13-year-old, who will attend Lakewood High School in the fall, is the daughter of Bluff Lake Nature Center’s Executive Director Jeff Lamontagne. “It’s really unique in terms of how extremely competitive it is,” he says. “These kids put in more hours than anyone can understand. To be in the top 10 two years in a row is really lofty. But the kids make friends there. It makes for a neat study between competition and camaraderie.” Sylvie says she plans to use some of her winnings to return to the bee next year just to watch.



Sylvie Lamontagne high fives eventual co-winner Jairam Hathwar. Photo courtesy of Jeff Lamontagne

Central Park Rec Director Retires

By Nick Hutchinson

Having overseen the opening of the busiest public rec center in Denver, Central Park Recreation Center Supervisor Kelly Kitts retired in June. Kitts was selected as the first supervisor to manage the Central Park center, which opened in January of 2011 and is the largest of 27 such facilities in the city. “There was not a center in this particular part of the city, so when we opened we were looking to be more of a regional hub and a cornerstone of the community,” she said. “While lots of folks from the Stapleton neighborhood frequent the facility, people from nearby communities also use it for their healthy lifestyle.” Kitts says Central Park is Denver Parks and Rec’s flagship public recreation center. Ben Hens-

ley, an operations coordinator at the center for the past three years, shadowed Kitts for a few weeks in June before taking her place as the new supervisor. Hensley, a resident of Wheat Ridge and an employee of Denver Parks and Rec for the past 14 years, says he looks forward to meeting the needs of the growing community and maintaining the high standard of service established by Kitts. “I’m very happy about his selection,” Kitts said about Hensley. Kitts worked for the City of Denver Parks and Rec for 30 years. She says her future plans include traveling with her husband, Tom, who is now semi-retired. Kitts is a Denver native who graduated from Mesa State with a degree in recreation administration.



Central Park Rec Center staff bid farewell to Director Kelly Kitts (front center). Ben Hensley, her successor, is next to her.

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Local Entrepreneurs Win Contest

By Anne Hebert

The Quick Zip Sheet Company, founded and operated by Stapleton area women Elizabeth Sopher and Caroline Portis, won the Capital Championship Tournament. They competed against nine other finalists in Los Angeles to win the \$250,000 grand prize.

Quick Zip won the prize for its patented two-piece fitted sheet with a base that stays on the mattress and a sheet that rips off in seconds. The company started with crib sheets and now offers sizes to fit all beds.

The company plans to use their winnings to increase their market share in the juvenile market and to increase awareness and appeal in new markets. "We want people to know Quick Zip and what an awesome product our sheets are," said Portis.

Founder Elizabeth Sopher was inspired to invent the easy-to-change sheet after struggling with



Caroline Portis (left) and Elizabeth Sopher demonstrate a Quick Zip sheet.

her newborn daughter's crib sheets. She partnered with Portis, former CFO of The Boppy Company, to grow the business. The Quick Zip product line is available on the company's website and Amazon.com as well as in select retail stores. To view their entire product line, visit www.quickzipsheet.com.

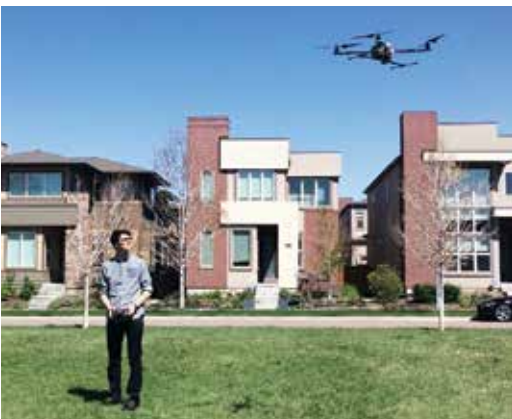
DSST Students Build Drone for Rwanda

By Nick Hutchinson

It wasn't long ago that Stapleton resident and recent Denver School of Science and Technology graduate Nathan Lepore knew nothing about building drones. But that didn't stop him and a classmate, Max Alger-Meyer, from using the robotics lab at DSST to create a small, unmanned aircraft that will be used to monitor wildlife at Akagera National Park in Rwanda.

"We had a good design sense, but we had to do a lot of research on electronics, wiring and programming," says Lepore, who left for Africa on June 14, along with a group of juniors from DSST. "Max was at Akagera last year and he got to check out what they had in place there for monitoring poaching. He looked at it and said you know what, I feel like there's something I could do here using my engineering skills."

With some input from a student at the Colorado School of Mines and a few contacts that he met through internships, Lepore says they were able to troubleshoot a few problems and build a successfully functioning drone. The recent grads are donating the craft to the African park this summer for use in spotting brushfires, monitoring lions, elephants



Recent DSST student Nathan Lepore, who helped build a drone for a national park in Rwanda, flies a drone in his Stapleton neighborhood. Photo by Molly Lepore

and leopards and for keeping an eye on rare bird activity. Lepore and Alger-Meyer raised funds for the drone's construction and their travel expenses with the online crowd-sourcing site GoFundMe.com. They also received some financial assistance from Denver's Global Livingston Institute. Lepore plans to attend Olin College of Engineering in Massachusetts this fall.

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This Is What A Hero Looks Like

By Anne Hebert

Park Hill resident Kyra Kaviani wants you to know what a hero looks like to survivors of child abuse. She and a group of 14 teens involved in the PlatteForum's ArtLab program worked with local artist Brian Corrigan to bring the Hero Mirror concept to life.

The Hero Mirror stemmed from a collaboration between the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) and local arts nonprofit PlatteForum to join forces to create an art installation that would give voice to the issue of child abuse and raise public awareness about the Colorado Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline (1-844-CO-4-KIDS).

The Hero Mirror includes a cabinet with curtains that open to reveal a mirror that says, "This is what a hero could look like." The hotline number is also included on both sides of the cabinet.

The mirror was unveiled in April to kick off Childhood Abuse Prevention Month at the state Capitol. It is currently a traveling exhibit in the metro area and statewide to raise child abuse

prevention awareness. "The goal of the Hero Mirror is to send a positive, empowering message to adults and children," says Kaviani. The project is intended to encourage reporting abuse by calling the hotline number.

As a victim of child abuse herself, Kaviani asserts that reporting abuse is a lifeline for many children. Often, the stigma of witnessing or suspecting abuse or neglect prevents people from reporting it. "The Hero Mirror puts people in a place where they see themselves as a true hero for taking steps to stop child abuse from continuing," Kaviani states. The emphasis is on the positive things a person can do to help a child.

In addition to her recognition for working on the Hero Mirror project, Kaviani is the winner of the Mayor's Adversity Award. The award was presented April 16, 2016, at the Wellington Webb Building. Kaviani is a 2016 graduate of East High School. She is looking forward to earning a degree in political science and a future in politics.



Kyra Kaviani (back left) and members of the PlatteForum's ArtLab team pose beside the Hero Mirror. The cabinet's curtains open to reveal a mirror with the words "This Is What A Hero Looks Like"—encouraging people to see themselves as an advocate for child abuse prevention. Photo courtesy of GroundFloor Media.

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7/1 Friday—Old Fashioned July 4th Celebration. 5-10pm. Modern take on an old-fashioned July 4th celebration! 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.civiccenterconservancy.org

7/4 Monday—2016 Freedom Run 5K. 8am. Registration opens 6:45am. Evergreen Middle School, Evergreen. www.freedomrunrace.org, www.mtevans.org

7/4 Monday—4th Annual Park Hill July 4th 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 Parkway. 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 Fourth 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—Elitch Gardens. Fireworks at dusk.

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

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

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

DENVER METRO EVENTS

Through 8/14 Why We Dance: American Indian Art. Multi-sensory exhibition of motives behind Native American dance highlights museum's annual Friendship Powwow and American Indian Cultural Celebration. Historic DAM American Indian art collection and contemporary dance regalia from regional Native American community. Visitors invited into dancing circle video art installation. Free with admission. [denverartmuseum.org](http://denverartmuseum.org/exhibitions/why-we-dance), <http://denverartmuseum.org/exhibitions/why-we-dance>

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

Through 10/15—Free Composting Classes. Denver Compost Demonstration Site at Gove Community Garden, 13th Ave. and Colorado Blvd. Sign up: 303.292.9900, www.dug.org/compost.

7/1 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Santa Fe Arts District, Tennyson Art Walk, River North (RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Museum, Navajo Street Art District. www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

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

7/6 to 7/27—Shady Grove Concert Series. Wednesdays in July. Four Mile Historic Park. 6:30pm. www.swallowhillmusic.org, www.fourmilepark.org

7/7 to 9/6—Film on the Rocks. 7 pm. Red Rocks Amphitheatre. Live music and movie on select evenings thru summer. Tickets from \$12. Schedule: www.redrocksonline.com

7/8 to 7/10—Colorado Black Arts Festival. City Park West. www.colbaf.org

7/8 to 7/10—Colorado Irish Festival. Largest Irish celebration in Rocky Mountains. Traditional Irish music, dancing, drama, storytelling, games, food/drink. Littleton, Clement Park. www.coloradoirishfestival.org

7/9 Saturday—Cat Fest at Denver Dumb Friends League. 10am-3pm. Denver Dumb Friends League, 2080 S. Quebec. 303.751.5772. www.ddfl.org

7/9 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. Free with admission. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-2pm. www.wingsmuseum.org

7/9 Saturday—Colorado Symphony Arvada Center 40th Anniversary Concert. Presented by Colorado Symphony. www.arvadacenter.org

7/9 Saturday—Drums Along the Rockies. 6:30pm. Sports Authority Field at Mile High. Tickets: www.ascendperformingarts.org

7/11 to 7/25—Monday Movie Madness at Infinity Park. Free movies at Infinity Park, Glendale. 7/11 Mamma Mia!; 7/18 The Goonies; 7/25 Mrs. Doubtfire; 8/8 Aladdin. Gates open 7pm; movies 8pm. www.infinityparkatglendale.com

7/16 to 7/17—Evergreen Summerfest. www.evergreenarts.org

7/16 to 7/17—Pearl Street Arts Festival. Downtown Boulder, Pearl St. Mall. www.boulderdowntown.com

7/18 Monday—JJ's Gentleman's Club: Cigars, Cocktails and Cards. Molly Brown House. 21+. 6-8pm. \$26-\$30. 303.832.4092x17 or www.mollybrown.org

7/21 to 7/24—Cirque du Soleil: Toruk, The First Flight. Pepsi Center, www.cirquedusoleil.com

7/28 to 7/31—Arapahoe County Fair. Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, Aurora. www.arapahoecountyfair.com

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7/28 to 7/31—Denver Post Underground Music Showcase. S. Broadway. 400+ bands play in more than 30 venues. www.theums.com

7/29 Friday—Mozart Under Moonlight at Arvada Center. Presented by Colorado Symphony. www.arvadacenter.org

7/29 to 7/31—Buffalo Bill Days. Wild West show, car show, mutton bustin', arts/crafts. Parfet Park, downtown Golden. www.buffalobill-days.com

7/29 to 7/31—Denver County Fair. National Western Complex. www.denvercountyfair.org

7/29 to 7/31—Evergreen Jazz Festival. www.evergreenjazz.org

7/30 to 7/31—Denver Dragon Boat Festival. 14th annual at Denver's Sloan's Lake Park. www.cdbf.org

8/5 to 8/7—3rd Annual Denver Vintage Jazz Festival. Live swing and traditional jazz music from '20s '30s and '40s. City Hall Events Center, 1144 Broadway. Tickets: www.denvervintagejazzfestival.org

8/6 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. Free with admission. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-2pm. www.wingsmuseum.org

8/6 Saturday—Denver Beer Olympics. Civic Center Park. www.denverbeerolympics.com

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

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

7/9 Saturday—Corner Store Country Run 5K. Farm-themed 5K with something for everyone; encourage dress in country duds. Stay for country fair with free sponsor swag, live music, food, carnival games, face painting and two free beer tickets for adults. Benefits Big Brothers Big Sisters and local kids' charities. National Western Complex. \$10/adult; free kids under 12; \$5 optional chip timing; \$5 fair only. www.cornerstorerun.com/race-schedule-5k/denver-colorado

7/9 Saturday—Sand Creek 1/2 Marathon and 5K/10K. Stapleton Central Park. www.featonthetstreet.com

7/10 Sunday—Yoga Rocks the Park. Sunken Gardens Park. Register 8am. FREE. Radiant Beginnings yoga camp for kids ages 5-10 while parents practice. FREE. www.yogarocks-thepark.com

7/17 Sunday—Drop-In for Charity at CrossFit Barkada. Raising money for Cancer League of Colorado thru 9/10. Team to rappel down 29 stories, finishing on rooftop bar of Earl's downtown. The league is all-volunteers; funds go to those who need it most. Also hosting drop-in sessions on third Sunday monthly at 11:30am. To participate, make a donation to the team. www.denverovertheedge.com/teams/donate/team.cfm?teamid=D823DF1B-A462-043B-729F7C7272D0B71A. Portion of pro shop sales that day will be donated.

7/31 Sunday—4th Annual Dash for Smiles Walk/Run. Stapleton Central Park. www.dashforsmiles.org

KIDS AND FAMILIES

Through 7/23—Welcome to the Dahl House. Family film screenings of Roald Dahl's novel adaptations: 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

Through 8/7—Colorado Renaissance Festival. Weekends, mid-June thru early August. Larkspur. www.coloradorennaissance.com

Through 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

Through 9/5—History Colorado Free for Kids. Kids FREE this summer at History Colorado Center thru Labor Day for youth 18 and under. www.historycolorado.org

7/1 Friday—Home Depot Kids Workshop. 9am-12pm. FREE how-to clinics first Sat. monthly, ages 5-12. Get Home Depot apron, wooden project and project pin. Metro-area Home Depot stores. www.homedepot.com

7/5 to 7/26—Tuesdays in July and August—Four Mile Historic Park Small Settlers. Ages 2-5 accompanied by parent/caregiver. 9-10am. \$5/child, adults free. Members free. 715 S. Forest St. Advance register: 720.865.0814 or education@fourmilepark.org. www.fourmilepark.org

7/6 Wednesday—Preschool Story Time. 9:30-10am, kids 2-5 and caretakers. Free with admission. www.historycolorado.org

7/7 Thursday—Bluff Lake Fireside Chat. Live raptors with Nature Center educators. 6:30-8pm. All ages welcome. \$1 suggested donation. Bluff Lake Nature Center, 3400 Havana Way. Keith@blufflake.org. www.blufflake.org

7/8 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Hay Bales and Tall Tales. 12-1pm. 715 S. Forest St. 720.865.0800. Free with park admission. www.fourmilepark.org

7/9 and 7/23 Saturdays—Lowe's Build and Grow Kids Clinics. Bring kids to Lowe's stores to build FREE wood project: Monthly, 2nd and 4th Saturdays. Free apron, goggles, project-themed patch, merit certificate on completion. 10am. www.lowesbuildandgrow.com

7/10 Sunday—Junior Rangers. 1:30-3:30pm. Ages 6-12. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. Reservations required. 303.739.9428, www.auroragov.org/nature

7/18 to 7/22—Vacation Bible School. Augustana Lutheran Church. \$35/student, \$60/household. 5000 E. Alameda Ave. www.augustanadenver.org

7/21 Thursday—Youth Journalism Day. For 4th-8th grade students. 7:30am-5pm. Metropolitan State University. \$60, includes breakfast/lunch. Work with professionals learning about story writing, interviews, writing tips and photography. 303.954.3974 or www.ColoradoNIE.com

7/23 Saturday—Denver Botanic Gardens Family Fun Night. Explore nature at night in Mordecai Children's Garden. Themes, snacks by campfire, other fun activities. www.botanicgardens.org

7/24 Sunday—Chris Botti and Joshua Bell with Colorado Symphony. Red Rocks Amphitheatre. Presented by Colorado Symphony. www.coloradosymphony.org

7/30 Saturday—100 Kids That Cook. Looking for 100 kids who want to showcase their culinary skills. Open to kids 7-14. \$250 Grand Prize, 2nd and 3rd place prizes. 11am-2pm. Family Life Center of New Hope Baptist Church. \$15 fee. Register: <http://100kidsthatcook.com>, <http://kids-cook-2.com>

7/30 to 7/31—Rocky Mountain Train Show. Forney Transportation Museum, over 80 tables of trains, all scales and gauges. 4303 Brighton Blvd. www.rockymountaintrainshow.com

LECTURES AND CLASSES

7/5 Tuesday—Active Minds presents: The Refugee Crisis. Jewish Community Center, 350 S. Dahlia St. 10-11am. Free. Lil Shaw: 303.316.6359. <http://activeminds.com>

7/10 Sunday—Active Minds presents: Cuba: Past, Present & Future. Schlesman Family Library, 100 Poplar St. 2-3pm. Free. <http://activeminds.com>

7/13 Wednesday—Active Minds presents: Water in Colorado. Park Hill Library,

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4705 Montview Blvd. 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. <http://activeminds.com>

7/14 Thursday—Active Minds presents: Women of Denver History: Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 6:45-7:45pm. Free. <http://activeminds.com>

7/28 Thursday—Active Minds presents: Coffee: A Brief History. Rosemark at Mayfair Park, 833 Jersey. 9:30-11:30am (9:30am reception, 10am program). Free. 303.770.7673. <http://activeminds.com>

7/28 Thursday—Active Minds presents: History of the Atomic Bomb. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 6:45-7:45pm. Free. <http://activeminds.com>

8/7 Sunday—Four Mile Class Series: Horno (Oven) Construction. Learn to build traditional Native American wood-fired oven in course at Four Mile Historic Park, 715 S. Forest St. Ages 16 and up. 8am-12:30pm. \$15/members, \$18/nonmembers. Register: www.fourmilehistoricpark.eventbrite.com.

MUSEUMS—DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE

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](http://dmns.org)

Through 9/2—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>

7/21 Thursday—Science Lounge. Cocktails/entertainment every 3rd Thurs. of month. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/nonmembers. [www.dmns.org](http://dmns.org)

MUSEUMS—FREE DAYS

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

7/8 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Free Day. SCFD Free second Friday, 12pm-4pm. www.fourmilepark.org

7/26 Tuesday—Denver Botanic Gardens Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.botanicgardens.org

7/29 Friday—Clyfford Still Museum. SCFD Free day. Free admission last Friday monthly all day and every Friday 5-8pm. 1250 Bannock St www.clyffordstillmuseum.org

8/2 Tuesday—Children's Museum Free Target Tuesday. 4-8pm. www.cmdenver.org

8/6 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.denverartmuseum.org

NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS

Ongoing—Art Gym Exhibits and Artist Talks. FREE.

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

See website for details on shows and speakers. Art Gym, 1460 Leyden St. 303.302.8347, www.artgymdenver.com

7/9 Saturday—Walk to Celebrate Activist Jane Jacobs. Join Denver Public Library, Stapleton MCA and Walk2Connect as part of worldwide celebration of writer/urban activist Jane Jacobs. Begin 10am at Sam Gary Library. Stroll with her grandniece and discuss Stapleton life through Jacobsean lens. End at Founders Green (11am) with cookies and raffle. Route info: <https://www.plotaroute.com/route/227318>, www.denverlibrary.org/event/adult/celebrating-100-years-jane-jacobs

7/26 Tuesday—Lowry Speaker Series: Phil Goodstein on History of Lowry and Montclair. Denver's "crankiest historian, sniffing out stories of scandal, taking his audience on a journey into civic corruption, greed and corporate malfeasance" will provide tales of Lowry and Montclair. Free. 7-8:30pm. Eisenhower Chapel, 293 Roslyn. khouse@jherzog.com or 303.757.7658.

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

7/1 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Releases. The Legend of Tarzan; The Purge: Election Year; Swiss Army Man. www.harkinstheatres.com

7/8 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Releases. Hunt for the Wilderpeople; Mike & Dave Need Wedding Dates; The Secret Life of Pets; Wiener-Dog. www.harkinstheatres.com

7/9 Saturday—Mile High Wine Festival. 11am-5pm. Unlimited wine tastings from 25+ Colo. wineries, live music, retail and food vendors, etc. The Shops at Northfield. Tickets: King Soopers and milehighwinefest.com

7/15 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Releases. Captain Fantastic; Ghostbusters 2016. www.harkinstheatres.com

7/22 Friday—Tots and Folks Yoga on the Plaza. 11am. Your Soul's Movement presents yoga on Northfield Stapleton's Main Street Plaza for all ages (including infants) and ability levels. Mats provided. www.northfieldstapleton.com

7/23 Saturday—Adult Yoga on the Plaza. 3pm. Your Soul's Movement presents adult yoga on Northfield Stapleton's Main Street Plaza) for all ability levels. Mats provided. www.northfieldstapleton.com

7/29 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Releases. Bad Moms; Jason Bourne. www.harkinstheatres.com

8/6 Saturday—Horsefeathers Classic & Denver Police Public Safety Expo. The Shops at Northfield. 303.375.5475, www.northfieldstapleton.com

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

7/9 Saturday—Noxious Weed Knockout. 9:30-11am. Assist Refuge staff in removing noxious weeds. Work 1-1.5 hours. Wear pants, long-sleeve shirt and closed-toe shoes. Gloves and other supplies will be provided. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/. Repeats Sat., 8/6.

7/9 Saturday—The Masked Bandit. 10-10:45am. Meet the Refuge's black-footed ferrets. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

7/10 Sunday—Wildlife Viewing Tour. 9:30-11am. Naturalist-led bus tour thru refuge to view bald eagles, bison, coyotes, deer, raptors, wildflowers in bloom, etc. RSVP required, 303.289.0930. Repeats 7/24 and 30. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

7/16 Saturday—Summer Hike N Bird. 9-11:30am. Must be comfortable hiking up to 3 miles. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

7/23 Saturday—Stream Splashers. 10-11:30am. Get wet and search for mayflies, stoneflies, water striders and other critters in Refuge ponds with nets, magnifying glasses and bug jars. Wear closed-toe shoes. Kids 6 and up. RSVP required. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

7/30 Saturday—Kids Fishing Clinic. 10am-12pm. Ages 6 and up; poles available for loan. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

THEATRE

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

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

Through 7/15—Rock of Aging. Presented by Firehouse Theater Company at the John Hand Theater, 7653 E. 1st Place, Lowry. www.firehousetheatercompany.com

Through 8/7—Colorado Shakespeare Festival. University of Colorado Boulder. www.coloshakes.org

Through 8/13—No Sex Please, We're British! Presented by Spotlight Theatre at John Hand Theater. www.thisisspotlight.com

7/22 to 8/14—The Big Bang. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

7/29 to 9/4—Frankie and Johnny in the Claire de Lune. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

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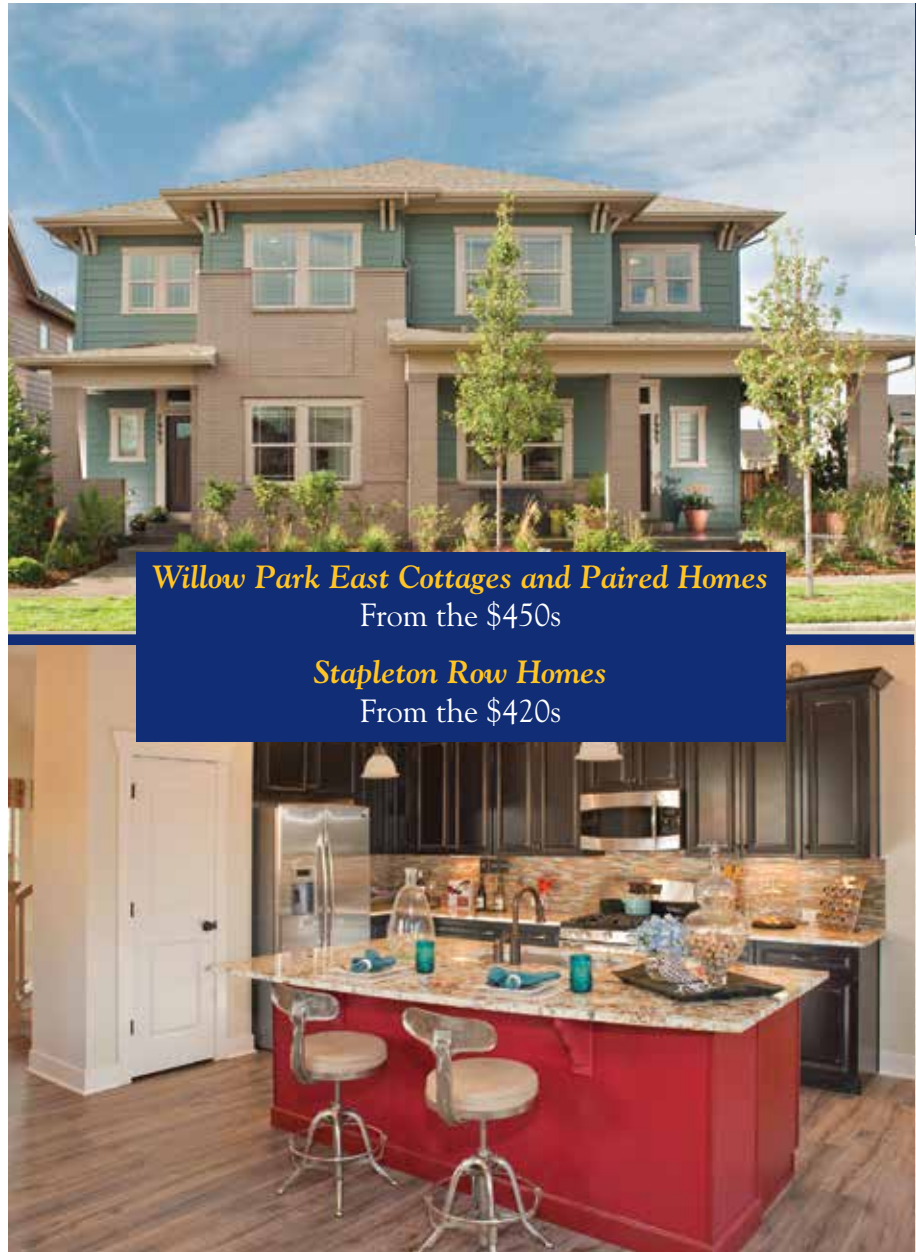
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MISC. NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Denver Wastewater Rates to Increase

Area residents will see their storm and sanitary sewer rates increase as a result of action taken by the Denver City Council in June. The average residential customer will pay roughly \$23 more per year for the next five years for storm and sanitary bills combined. Denver’s storm and sanitary bill rates are currently about \$100 lower than the average for other larger Colorado cities. With these proposed rate changes, Denver would be about \$60 below the average in 2017, when the first full year of the rate change takes effect.

Despite these statistics, the rate increase proposal generated significant controversy and public comment from those opposed to the Platte to Park Hill Stormwater Systems program. Opponents believe the project facilitates CDOT’s plan to widen I-70 in central Denver east of I-25. They also decry the impact of the project on the City Park golf course where a large detention pond would be constructed in an area currently occupied by the clubhouse.

RTD Commuter Rail: B Line to Open July 25

A second commuter rail line will open for passenger service on July 25: the “B” line extending six miles from Denver Union Station to the Westminster station at W. 69th Avenue and Grove Street. The 11-minute ride will be offered every 30 minutes during peak hours (6-9 am and 3-6pm, Monday through Friday, and every 60 minutes during non-peak hours). The B line will eventually extend to Longmont and Boulder when funding becomes available.

Free Summer Meals to All Youth ages 18 and Younger

Meals will be provided to all children ages one to eighteen without charge and without discrimination regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Locations shown are in or near the Front Porch distribution area. Meals are served Monday - Friday except July 4.

- Denver Rec Center locations** sponsored by Denver’s Office of Children’s Affairs. For more sites visit denvergov.org/YouthEatFree or call 1.855.4626.

Hiawatha Davis Recreation Center
3334 Holly St. June 6 – Aug 19;
M-F 9:30 – 10:30am; 4-6pm

Montclair Recreation Center
729 Ulster St; Jun 6 – Aug 19;
M-F 11am-12:30pm

Montbello Recreation Center
15555 E. 53rd Ave; Jun 6 – Aug 19;
M-F 11:30 – 1pm

Denver Public Schools locations sponsored by DPS Food & Nutrition Services in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture). For more sites visit <http://foodservices.dpsk12.org>. Adults can purchase lunch for \$3.00 at school and \$3.25 to go. Breakfast is \$2.25 for adults.
- DSST –Conservatory Green
8499 E. Stoll Place; Jun 10 – Aug 10
8am – 8:30am; 11am – 12pm

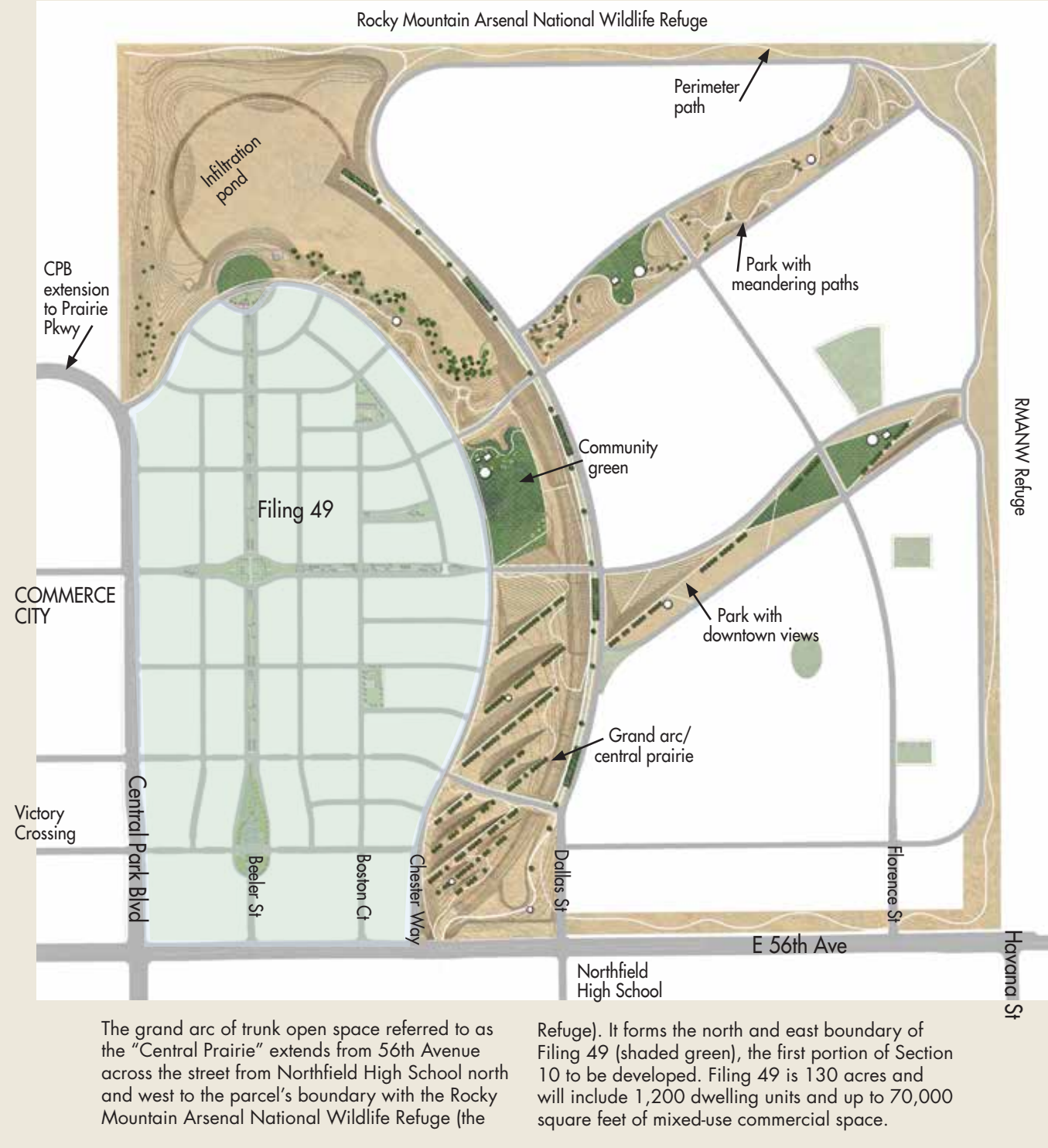
Hallett
2950 Jasmine St.; Jun 6 – Jul 15;
8am – 8:30am; 11 – 11:30am

Isabella Bird Community School
2701 N. Lima St.; Jun 6 – Jul 22;
8 – 9am; 11am – 12pm

Montclair
1151 Newport St; Jun 13 – Jul 8;
8:15 – 8:45am; 11:45am – 12:30pm

Northfield High School
5500 Central Park Blvd; Jun 7 – Jul 22;
7:15 – 8am; 12 – 12:30pm

Stedman
2940 Dexter St; Jun 13 – Jul 22 8 – 8:45am; 11am – 12:15pm



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Plan Unveiled

By John Fernandez

An 800-foot-wide “grand arc” will be the signature open space feature in Section 10, the northernmost portion of Stapleton. Developer Forest City and its consultant, Civitas, unveiled a concept plan for the 620-acre parcel at a public meeting held June 14 at the Central Park Rec Center. Grading of the site is well underway. Lots in the first portion of the development, Filing 49, will be delivered to builders in September and the first residents are expected to move in after the first of the year. When fully developed, Section 10 is projected to have more than 2,000 homes and 400 apartments.

The grand arc will include a promenade, land forms reminiscent of those found in the wind-driven Sand Hills, a turfed “great space” midway along its length, and a drainage corridor that terminates in an infiltration pond. Section 10 is unique in that it is wholly self-contained in terms of storm drainage. It neither receives off-site drainage nor does it discharge storm waters downstream. Instead, the infiltration pond is designed to accommodate the 100-year flows and to percolate those waters within 72 hours.

Other key features of the plan include two major “fingers” of open space extending northeast from the Central Prairie to the Refuge, a perimeter trail, and a buffer of at least 75 feet from the Refuge.

Mark Naylor of Civitas said the section is unique in that it is surrounded by prairie. Landforms and tree plantings in the grand arc will mimic wind-breaks. One open space “finger” will focus on Front Range views and downtown Denver and the other will feature meandering paths.

Questions and concerns raised by the approximately 25 members of the public who attended included:

Pools: Charlie Nicola, senior vice president with Forest City, said one pool will be located in Vista Garden. The pool site will be three acres, making it the largest in Stapleton.

Schools: Nicola said two sites will be preserved for Denver Public School sites, both east of the Central Prairie.

Linkage to regional trails: Naylor said the con-

sulting team will continue to work with the Refuge and Commerce City to ensure those linkages. One specific suggestion was to complement the perimeter multi-purpose trail with on-street bike lanes adjacent to the Refuge.

High Point: A proposal for a high point viewing area in the northwest corner of the site, which appeared in the original site planning (GDP or general development plan), appears to have been omitted. Civitas’ Naylor said he would look into that issue.

Tunnel Enhancement: Interest was expressed in enhancing the lighting and aesthetics of the tunnel under 56th Ave. that connects the Paul Sandoval DPS campus to Section 10.

Phasing: Nicola said improvements to the trunk open space will “follow development” although the storm drainage features found in the grand arc will be in place before house building begins.

Bar Chadwick of Denver’s Department of Finance and who serves as the mayor’s Stapleton liaison, said the amenities in the Section 10 trunk open space are “currently unfunded and we are working with our partners to figure out a solution.” The original plan for Section 10 included a golf course that was to be “funded by others.” It was later determined that a golf course couldn’t be economically sustainable and new open space plans were developed. Chadwick said meetings are planned in July between the city, Forest City, the Park Creek Metro District, Denver Public Schools and the Denver Urban Renewal Authority to discuss financing options. She was unwilling at this point to describe those options. She did point out that Forest City can choose to proceed with development “at its own risk.”

Nicola said Forest City “recognizes that it (infrastructure financing) has to happen” and expressed optimism that a solution will be forthcoming soon. He said the build-out of Stapleton has been “amazingly quick and we think it will continue.”



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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

Considerations upon Entering the Last Mile in Stapleton

By Amanda Allshouse

It would help potential buyers to have the priority list for projects to begin as funding becomes available and an anticipated timeline (park space, schools, trail connections) and an updated map of projected traffic volumes. Forest City has presented on aspects of Filing 10 twice in public settings however Forest City did not cover any aspects of Section 10 plans during development updates at the annual Stapleton United Neighbors forum in May 2016, and information is not available electronically nor upon request. Potential buyers should carefully consider some aspects of the Section 10 plan.

Housing on the western edge will be minimally buffered from Dicks Sporting Goods Park. Although residents who have moved nearby in Stapleton in the Willow Park communities have signed agreements to acknowledge anticipating sound coming from some events during the year, there are also murmurs of displeasure with the arrangement. After a recent meeting between concert organizers, Commerce City Police and Denver police, the event schedule for 2016 was released which included four high-profile events, two of which allow camping

on grounds. SUN will work with residents and Denver police to address concerns about traffic patterns for events, however no plans are in place to advocate for a modified concert schedule at this event venue.

Plans for the second phase of Section 10 have not changed dramatically during iterations since 2013, with housing on the east and majority of the north near the edge of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (RMANWR). During the June public meeting Forest City indicated that RMANWR's fencing might change from a large chain fence to a split rail style, however there was no mention of proactive measures to educate buyers on keeping domestic animals out of the wildlife space. Residents in Stapleton south of I-70 receive community encouragement and face clear signage requesting that pets are kept out of both Bluff Lake Nature Center and areas undergoing refurbishment along Westerly Creek, yet off-leash dogs are commonly observed in these designated wildlife areas. Proactive efforts to inform the community of the importance of respecting the RMANWR wildlife preservation habitat are needed.

During the Q/A at the June meeting, one attendee asked about a natural grocery store. Responses from Forest City included that housing density would need to fill in first, and that anyone with contacts at grocery stores should refer them to Forest City. It should also be noted however that when the location is analyzed using 3 and 5-mile concentric circle methodology, only the 1st mile will include housing on the north and beyond that is a wildlife refuge on 2 sides with an industrial area directly south. These geographic constraints could be a challenge in attracting grocers who use these methods. At the ZAP meeting 10/2015 Jim Chrisman indicated that Forest City anticipates a non-grocery anchor in Section 10: approximately 70,000 sqft of retail space with likely tenants including a 20,000ft pharmacy anchor, a daycare, a professional services building, a main-street feel is being targeted for the entry to retail from the south where two 3000 and 7000 sqft shops line the road on either side.

October 2015 it was stated that DPS would like to see two K-8 sites in Section 10. At the Jan 2016 ZAP, it was stated that the additional school desired by DPS will be funded by DPS not the City. DPS stated at the May 2016 forum that with only 40 students across grades 6-7-8 north of I-70 presently, DPS's currently focus is on elementary school space, with middle school being a more distant need. Two sites are reserved for schools, neither in the 1st phase of Section 10.

There will be one fire station in Stapleton north of I-70, at 50th avenue on Central Park Blvd, City of Denver has not announced a timeline for the fire station.

As the site of the pool planned for section 10 is east of the arc, it will not be built in the first phase. No information is currently available about what other spaces, might be utilized for MCA programming in Section 10; the largest pool in Stapleton however would be managed by the MCA as are all of the Denver pools in Stapleton. The current trunk space plan includes neither athletic fields directly north of 56th ave as were on the Master plan in 2013, nor the golf course from the original master plan. The golf course at Peoria between Montview and Fitzsimons blvd remains slated for removal as part of the Fitzsimons redevelopment.

The name "Section 10" will be replaced with neighborhood names starting with Beeler Park. All floorplans will be new, and will include options from current and new builders, most of whom will have models. Market rate apartments will be located along 56th Avenue. Income-qualified apartments will be located along CPB north of the mixed use development on 56th, and income-qualified for-sale homes are planned for several parcels in the residential neighborhood. . With full buildout, the total population of Stapleton will reach nearly 40,000 and might merit splitting zip codes where 80238 would remain residential, and businesses, retail, and other facilities would use a new zip code.

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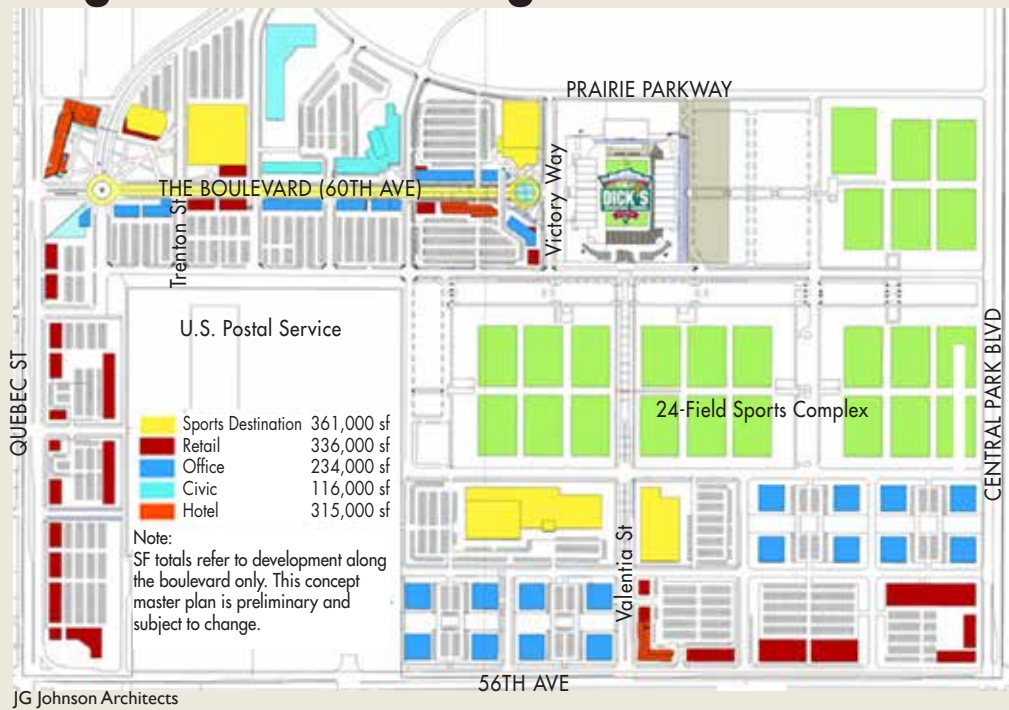
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Victory Crossing: Legislation Allowing Residential Stalls



By John Fernandez

A proposal by Colorado Sens. Michael Bennet and Cory Gardner and Rep. Ed Perlmutter to allow residential development on portions of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal transferred to Commerce City has failed in the U.S. Senate. The proposal was contained in an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act.

Because the proposal was included in the House version of the bill, Bennet's office maintains hope that the amendment could be included in a final version of the bill prepared in conference committee.

The land in question is known as Victory Crossing, a 917-acre parcel transferred to Commerce City in the early 1990s. Existing development at the site includes municipal facilities as well as the Dick's Sporting Goods athletic complex. Commerce City believes the success of the Victory Crossing development "could be strengthened with multifamily housing (owner occupied and rental) and ground floor retail, particularly along the site's Central Park Blvd. and 56th Ave. frontages." That area is adjacent to the first filing of Section 10 in Stapleton.

Commerce City's hopes for continued growth at Victory Crossing are also wrapped up in the extension of Central Park Blvd. north from 56th Ave. to

Prairie Parkway. That extension is under construction with the roadway scheduled to open for traffic in September. The cost for the extension is being shared between Commerce City, Denver and Forest City. A new RTD bus route, number 62, will use the CPB extension when it opens for service in October.

Julia Emko with Commerce City told the *Front Porch* that once the land use restriction is removed, the city would initiate a rezoning, plan amendment and re-platting to allow residential uses, a process requiring about 12 months.

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Visitors Take Flight at “Wings”

Sweaty palms attest to the reality of the simulator. I couldn't keep my F-16 fighter jet on the DIA runway centerline during the takeoff roll. But the plane took off anyway—one of several concessions to the “-tainment” part of the “edutainment” equation. Another such concession is that a plane that craters during landing immediately “pops up” again at the same speed parallel to the ground.

The simulation got very real during a loop maneuver. I became disoriented and couldn't find the ground for several seconds, hanging upside down all the while. The loops and rolls are not simulated. The simulator provides full movement along two axes (pitch and roll but no yaw). With a throttle and joystick, pilots can choose among 10 “intensity levels,” flying as gently or as aggressively as desired engaging in dogfights or just enjoying the scenery. In my five minutes, I couldn't return to DIA quickly enough to try a touch-and-go but I did get to sweep past downtown Denver skyscrapers in total violation of real-world airspace rules. Mission accomplished: edu-tainment attained.

—John Fernandez

“Wings” Museum Events

- Open cockpit days 2nd Saturday of every month
- Story time in the Hangar (Fridays)
- Summer Camps (June and July)
- Distinguished Lecture Series (July 20)
- Oshkosh Tour (July 27-28)
- Hops in the Hangar – Blues Brews and Barbeque (August 13)
- Artists in August (August 27)
- Soaring Pallets Food Event (September 16)
- Vintage in the Hangar (September 23-24)
- Latino STEM Summit (October 2)
- Hauntings at the Hangar kids event (October 30)
- Spreading Wings Gala Honoring America's fighter aces (November 5)
- Holidays at the Hangar (December)



By John Fernandez

The new MaxFlight simulator at Wings Over the Rockies gives visitors their own wings. For that matter, it's wings over downtown Denver skyscrapers, Coors field, Stapleton, the foothills, DIA—anywhere your joystick can take you in five minutes at \$7.50 per flight. The two-seater moves, pitches and rolls while the “pilot” navigates in reference to visuals projected through the cockpit window.

The simulator pilot can choose among 10 rides, the most intense of which is similar to a roller coaster. Aerial combat is also one of the options. Those wanting a more sedate experience can choose to fly a 737 airline. Simulator pilots can also choose among different venues including Denver, Honolulu, San Francisco and the Grand Canyon. The \$150,000 MaxFlight machine was acquired through

a donation by the son of a stunt pilot named Ben Lowell who wanted to honor his father. Visitors who want to extend their simulator experience can rent the Aviation Xtreme facility and engage in dogfights or fly in formation with other participants in a group exercise.

The “wildly popular” aerobatic simulator is the most recent new exhibit at Wings Over the Rockies, says new COO Mark Hyatt. It is emblematic of new energy at the museum. It is



Top: The MaxFlight Simulator rolls and pitches behind Ryan Gibbs, who shows visitors how to operate the controls. **Below:** Gibbs sits at the flight controls that allow “pilots” to select one of 10 different aircraft and “intensity levels.” He is flying an F-16 fighter jet over Denver.



bringing in more visitors, it is increasing overall revenues and it is helping change the image of the museum as a place with static displays of famous aircraft to one that is a hub of activity. Hyatt is especially excited about the growth in educational offerings, ranging from flights for STEM teachers in a Stearman bi-plane to a charter middle school, Wings Aerospace Academy (WAA), serving 47 students.

WAA offers a “blended learning” format, flipping the usual regime: students do their academics online at home and their “homework” at school, i.e., the museum. There, they do hands-on learning with their mentor teachers. Hyatt: “I’ve had two plane kits donated and the kids will build them.” WAA

is tuition-free. In the fall, the program will expand to grades five through nine. The goal is to add one grade each year until the program reaches through 12th grade with the class of 2020 being the first graduating class.

Hyatt, who started at Wings in February 2015, has brought in one new exhibit a month during his tenure. The retired Air Force colonel, who graduated from the Air Force Academy and served as a fighter pilot, says his job is “to make this good museum a great museum.” In retirement, Hyatt has focused on education including service as the executive director of the Colorado Charter Schools Institute.

Its 160,000-square-foot Hangar One space is crammed full of military aircraft, traveling exhibits, uniform and equipment displays, the Harrison Ford Theater, the Apollo 13 space capsule, and unique items such as the Star Wars X-Wing Starfighter

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COO Mark Hyatt is flanked by Colleen Murray (left), director of marketing, and Heather McCallin, director of advancement, in this view of the Hangar One display floor.

with Centennial to be its vocational technology center for hands-on learning. It will be called Exploration of Flight.

And then there are the events, the museum's major source of revenue. This year, 193 events will be held including the November 5 Spreading Wings Gala to honor America's living fighter aces. Hyatt points out that changes in technology such as drones make it very unlikely that the U.S. will have any aces in the future.

All the growth metrics for the museum are up: visitors (165,000 in 2015 compared with 135,000 in 2014), memberships (up 25% over the same time period), volunteer hours (27,428) and number of events (193). By comparison, the museum's 2006 annual report listed regular admissions at less than 35,000. For the 21-year-old museum, 2015 represented big steps forward in delivering on its mission: to educate and inspire people of all ages about aviation and space endeavors of the past, present and

future. Wings Over the Rockies is Colorado's official air and space museum.

Hyatt speaks like an urban planner when he calls his vision for the museum a "third place" for Lowry and its neighborhoods. He explains that third places supplement home and work and are places "to do things, to hang out. I'd like to put in a coffee shop not to make money but to give people a place to go." With a staff of 20 and a budget exceeding \$4 million, the museum is poised for continuing growth and program expansion.



Wings Aerospace Academy students fly an aircraft in the AviationExtreme flight simulator. Angelica Harvey is at the controls as Brandon Holleman (left rear) and Rocket Haverland stand beside her.

used in several Star Wars movie releases. Funds earned from the sale of Hangar 2 were used to purchase 15 acres of land at Centennial Airport. The "Wings for Tomorrow" master plan calls for the Lowry site to be the museum's "heritage center"

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