

# Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

OCTOBER 2016

Pullout  
Ballot  
Section  
p.19



Denver Post Photo by RJ Sangosti

Front Porch photo by Steve Larson

Donald Trump held a rally at Wings Over the Rockies Museum in Lowry and Hillary Clinton, joined by Gov. John Hickenlooper, had a rally at Adams City High School in Commerce City. As a swing state, Colorado is being watched closely in the national election. And the outcome of state and local issues will set the course for Colorado and Denver's future in significant ways.

## This Election Is Big—for the Nation, the State and the City

By John Fernandez

Local voters next month get to re-write the state constitution, raise the minimum wage, create an alternative to ObamaCare, repeal slavery as a punishment

for crime, raise \$572 million for Denver Public Schools, allow another social marijuana experiment, and continue to financially support regional scientific, educational and cultural organizations. Or not, depending on how you vote or whether

you vote. The stakes are momentous and we're not even talking about that other race, the one with the two oldest ever candidates for President who are energizing the body politic of an increasingly polarized nation.

Our eight-page pullout section helps make sense of a complicated ballot, offering an overview of all the issues and background information to make you an informed voter, starting on page 19.

## Middle Schoolers to Mars?



McAuliffe 8th grader Rylie Leffingwell turns to look at the Mars landscape going by as she rides in a bus created by Lockheed to simulate the experience of being in a rover on Mars.

By Carol Roberts

Middle school students fill the seats of what could be an ordinary school bus — but as it starts up, the darkened windows become a continuous video screen with images of the Mars landscape passing by. A computerized voice offers a steady stream of information: “Radiation levels—normal. Ground speed 30 meters per hour. Warning, considerable dust expected. Solar power generation 75% and falling. Switching to battery power. Temperature negative 96 degrees Fahrenheit.”

Visibility of the Mars landscape deteriorates during the dust storm. As the bus slows and stops—the scenes in the video slow and stop. The bus turns left and the images in the video track with the turn.

Lockheed Martin created this virtual reality vehicle to replicate the experience of traveling 200 square miles on the Martian surface (continued on page 42)

## Washed Ashore



Sea animal sculptures made of debris found along the shore are on display at the Denver Zoo. Story on page 16.

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

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







Munchkins head out to trick-or-treat. See story and photos on page 10.

Most of the events listed below are FREE or support nonprofits. Additional events are listed on pages 33-35.

Also visit [FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://FrontPorchStapleton.com) to view additional events and to submit events.

## OCTOBER

### 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](http://www.dug.org/compost)

### Every Sunday thru Oct. 16

Farmers Market 8:30am-12:30pm. Final market is Oct. 16 and includes a pumpkin patch. For every \$5 spent at the vendor's booth, shoppers will receive a coupon to the pumpkin patch. The Green\*

### October 1-10

Stapleton Food Drive  
Sponsored by New Perspective Real Estate.  
For list of where donations are accepted, visit [www.StapletonFoodDrive.com](http://www.StapletonFoodDrive.com)

### Sat. & Sun., October 1 & 2

Japanese Kite Festival in Central Park\*  
Kite flying with kite masters Sunday 10am - 3pm  
Kite-making workshop Saturday 9:30am and 1pm, \$5.  
Registration required at [www.jascolorado.org](http://www.jascolorado.org) or call 303.592.5364

### Saturday, October 1

Farm Fest 10am-2pm at The Urban Farm at Stapleton, 10200 Smith Road, Denver. 303.307.9332, [www.theurbanfarm.org](http://www.theurbanfarm.org)

### Saturday, October 1

Night Market celebrating Hispanic and Asian heritages, 4-8pm, George Washington HS, sponsored by Denver Language School. Carnival games, performances, food trucks. [www.DLSPTA.org](http://www.DLSPTA.org)

### Saturday, October 8

Environmental Issues Forum, "Green Values and Political Choices" 10am-Noon, Messiah Community Church, ELCA, 1750 Colorado Blvd.

### Thursday, October 13

Active Minds "The Refugee Crisis" 6:45-7:45pm, Sam Gary Library\* [www.activeminds.com](http://www.activeminds.com)

## OCTOBER

### Saturday, October 15

Family Leadership Training Institute (FLT) Summit - "Improving Colorado Through Community Engagement" 8:30am to 4:30pm, Children's Hospital Colorado, 13123 East 16th Avenue, Aurora, 2nd Floor Conference rooms, \$15. (See page 12)

### Thursday, October 27

Active Minds "Yemen" 6:45-7:45pm, Sam Gary Library\* [www.activeminds.com](http://www.activeminds.com)

### Friday, October 28

Blue Bench Sexual Assault Glowga Fundraiser  
All level glow-in-the-dark class to benefit Blue Bench, a sexual assault prevention/support center. Tickets: Dakini Jaeger at 303.949.2782 or [dakini@blueworldyoga.com](mailto:dakini@blueworldyoga.com), Founder's Green\*, 7pm

### Saturday, October 29

Boo on the Bluff, Bluff Lake Nature Center, \$2/person  
Halloween activities and crafts, encounters with nature, 10am - 1pm. [KWimbish@BluffLake.org](mailto:KWimbish@BluffLake.org)

## NOVEMBER

### November 4, 5, 6

Park Hill Art Club Fall Show and Sale. More than 1,000 pieces of affordable art; family friendly live music, meet the artists. Park Hill United Methodist Church, 5209 Montview Blvd.; Reception Friday 4:30-8pm; Saturday 10-5pm; Sunday 10-4pm. More info: 720.949.0872, [horssns8543@comcast.net](mailto:horssns8543@comcast.net)

### Friday, November 18

Winter Welcome, 6pm at the 29th Avenue Town Center\*

### \*Locations

More information on these events at [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com)

\*The Green: E. 29th Ave. and Roslyn St.

\*E. 29th Ave. Town Center: 29th from Quebec to Roslyn St.

\*Central Park: MLK and Central Park Blvd.

\*Sam Gary Library: 2961 Roslyn St.

## Events & Announcements at Stapleton

### Pumpkin Patch & Final Farmers Market

The Farmers Market will run on Sundays, Oct. 2 and 9, from 8:30am-12:30pm at The Green on Roslyn Street, with the final Farmers Market of the season on Sunday, Oct. 16 at The Green, again from 8:30am-12:30pm. At the final market we will also have our annual Pumpkin Patch. For every \$5 spent at the vendor's booth, shoppers will receive a coupon to the pumpkin patch. Coupons can be redeemed at the pumpkin patch for a free pumpkin. There will be a variety of pumpkin sizes ranging from small to large.

1 coupon = 1 small pumpkin

3 coupons = 1 medium pumpkin

4 coupons = 1 large pumpkin

Pumpkin quantities are very limited and coupons are only valid while supplies last.

### Friday Beers & Cheers

Friday, Oct. 21, 6-8pm

The MCA will be hosting a series of beer tastings at our new space, The Cube! Each month will be a different theme and a variety of beers. Tickets are \$15 for residents and \$20 for nonresidents. Buy your tickets at [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com)! The Cube is located at 8371 E. Northfield Blvd.

### Saturday Night Live...For Kids Only!

The Stapleton MCA and Central Park Recreation Center are partnering to host a night of fun for kids ages 7-12 from 6-9pm. The third SNL will be held on Saturday, Oct. 22 at the Central Park Rec Center. Register at your ActiveNet account or at the MCA office.

### 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, Oct. 13, 6:45-7:45pm

### The Refugee Crisis

Millions of refugees are fleeing from danger zones in Syria, Iraq and elsewhere, creating a humanitarian crisis of epic proportions. Many are dying in transit and the nations receiving them are being overwhelmed. Join Active Minds as we explore how the migrants and the international community are struggling to cope with these challenges.

Thursday, Oct. 27, 6:45-7:45pm

### Yemen

The various conflicts in the Middle East are both troubling and complex. Recently, the country of Yemen has emerged as another stage upon which sectarian warfare is being played out. At its roots is the animosity between Sunni and Shia Muslims that, in turn, brings the involvement of other regional powers, including Saudi Arabia and Egypt (Sunni) as well as Iran (Shia). Join Active Minds as we seek to understand Yemen's current situation and broader implications for the region.

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

Jennifer Olsen  
Communications Coordinator  
[jolsen@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:jolsen@stapletoncommunity.com)

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# Front Porch

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# New Affordable Housing Fund Exempts Stapleton Builders

By John Fernandez

All Denver residents will pay a tax and most builders will pay a development impact fee under Denver's new affordable housing fund approved by Denver City Council Sept. 19 on a 9-4 vote. But Stapleton builders will be exempted from the fee because Stapleton has a pre-existing affordable housing agreement—and pre-existing agreements are exempted from the new program.

## Overview of the new fund

The fund, with a 10-year sunset, bankrolls a plan that calls for the preservation or construction of 6,000 units in addition to the 1,400 or so that its other housing programs are projected to support. The new program replaces Denver's current Inclusionary Housing Ordinance (IHO) that requires developers of projects with 30 or more units to set aside 10 percent of the units for affordable housing, with a payment-in-lieu opt out. (Forest City's affordable housing plan requires 10% of homes and 20% of apartments for the project as a whole to be affordable, but does not have a requirement for affordable units or payments-in-lieu by individual builders.)

The development impact fee, also known as a linkage fee, will impose a charge ranging from 40 cents to \$1.70 per square foot, depending on the type of new building or expansion project. These one-time fees, charged at the time of the building permit, would range from \$1,500 for a standard new house to six or seven figures for large hotels and office buildings. The linkage fee cannot be changed for three years.

The half mill property tax would cost \$12 a year for the owner of a \$300,000 home.

The two new revenue sources are estimated to raise \$156.4 million over the next 10 years with the linkage fee and property tax contributing roughly equal amounts.

Priorities for the first year's revenue are:

\$9.4 million – 533 income-restricted apartments or for-sale homes

\$3 million – land acquisition for 120 future units

\$1.5 million – emergency assistance to 250 households at risk of being priced out of their housing

## Implications & questions for the future

Even fund opponents describe Denver's affordable housing situation as a crisis and fund supporters acknowledge it will make only a dent in the problem of "housing burdened" households (lower-income families and individuals whose rent or mortgage expenditures exceed 30 percent of their income). The fund's impact on Stapleton raises its own set of questions.

### Will Stapleton benefit from the new tax revenue?

Left unanswered by Denver City Council's vote is whether any of the funds generated in Stapleton by the new property tax will be expended to build affordable housing in Stapleton. That uncertainty results from at least three factors:

First, actual expenditure decisions will be made by the executive director of the city's Office of Economic Development with advice from a new housing advisory committee, yet to be formed. One reason Denver sought to establish a permanent housing fund was to create maximum flexibility in how the locally generated monies could be spent. It is unknown at this time to what extent there will be any criteria for geographic dispersion of those funds.

A second factor creating uncertainty is the differential impact of the new legislation on Stapleton; builders are exempted from the linkage fee but property owners are not exempt from the property tax. With less money flowing from Stapleton to the city's new fund than elsewhere in the city, will the city be less inclined to return funds to Stapleton?

A third unknown is what effect the new program might have on Forest City's affordable housing efforts. The master developer has been making land dedications for affordable housing along with unspecified cash contributions. Forest City is not obligated by the agreement to actually provide funding for construction of affordable housing, only to "develop or cause to be developed" [emphasis added] such housing "at a pace reasonably consistent with the pace of

development of market rate housing at Stapleton." Through the middle of 2016, affordable for-sale and rental housing in Stapleton has been developed at half the rate of market rate housing.

Forest City's development agreement with the city assumes that a "public subsidy" will be required to implement affordable housing. The question now becomes whether Forest City will seek to replace its subsidies with revenue from the new fund. If that were the case, the city's new fund might not create any net benefit for affordable housing in Stapleton even while homeowners and landlords are footing a new property tax.

### CAB opposes builders' exemption

Stapleton's Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) approved a resolution in early September "strongly" supporting and endorsing the proposed Denver affordable housing fund "but only if Stapleton and other similar properties are not exempt from paying the linkage or development fee." CAB presented the resolution to the Stapleton Development Corporation requesting the SDC's support, however SDC took no action. CAB then shared their resolution with Denver City Council members, but it was not mentioned during the floor discussion at the time of the vote. Thus, the exemption language remained intact. Denver staff have not identified how many other developments have a similar exemption.

### Other possible revenue sources

Among the several speakers objecting to the linkage fees, Gene Myers, of Thrive Home Builders, urged the council to consider bonding based on revenues anticipated from the property tax, adding this could provide upwards of \$300 million in upfront monies at historically low interest rates. Assistant City Attorney David Broadwell reminded the council that bonding would require a public vote.

### Market rate home prices will increase

Myers, an active Stapleton builder, also asserted the linkage fee would raise housing prices, pricing out as many buyers of market-rate units as the city's new fund would support at lower income levels. Several supporters of the new fund disputed his contention, saying the cost increase would amount to less than 1 percent of construction costs.

## Application processing delays

CAB and its Housing Diversity Committee have protested alleged delays in the city's process for qualifying applicants to the city's affordable housing program. The Office of Economic Development has acknowledged this problem with this response: "Interest in the affordable housing program has grown significantly over the past four years, as our number of applications received has grown by more than 300 percent. While we don't have data available on the number of applications that have exceeded our target guideline of processing completed applications within 10 working days, our office has adopted measures to curb the backlog of applications."

The question is whether the \$600,000 set aside for administration of the fund will enable the city to keep pace with the expected growth in applications.

### Stapleton's deed-restricted units

The ordinance creating the new permanent affordable housing fund is silent as to how long subsidized units would need to remain affordable. Presumably, the new housing advisory committee will define the terms for the new program.

Affordable for-sale units in Stapleton were originally deed-restricted to remain in the affordable housing program for 30 years, though starting in 2014 some units could be changed to 15 years. CAB has expressed concern that these units will begin transitioning out of the affordable housing program even before Stapleton reaches buildout and Forest City achieves its affordable housing goals. Twenty-eight properties have been converted from 30 to 15 years and the first will phase out of the program in 2019.

### New fund doesn't address gap housing shortage

The affordable housing challenge in Stapleton is compounded by the lack of housing supply in the gap between the highest-priced affordable (subsidized) units and the lowest-priced market rate homes. A local realtor estimates the size of this gap in the \$100,000 range by comparing the highest-priced affordable units (\$238,000) with the lower-end market rate homes (\$350,000). These numbers are admittedly rough, but they do highlight the fact that even this new Denver program doesn't even begin to address a real-world problem: The incomes of many working-class buyers are too high for the affordable housing program but they can't afford market rate homes in Stapleton.

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Left: Doug Kingman begins to send his Western Colorado grapes into the destemming machine as Karen, his wife and business partner, and chemist, Michelle Nolker (by barrels) look on.

Doug Kingman watches as his brother in law, Mike Finnin, pulls grapes into the destemming machine.

# Winery as Retirement

By Courtney Drake-McDonough  
Visitors to Kingman Estates Winery are in the middle of the action. Although most tasting rooms are separate from the winery itself, owners Doug and Karen Kingman wanted their place to be different. While sampling wine in their tasting room, a guy driving a forklift may pass through. Or during “crush” time, a large hose may be pumping grapes from crates in the parking lot, through the tasting room,

into the winery. “When you’re there, you’re kind of part of the operation, even when you’re drinking,” says Doug Kingman. Wine is a passion for the Park Hill residents who love drinking it, talking about it and being around other people who enjoy it. But mostly, the couple wanted to have a business of their own, something Kingman says “we can enjoy as long as we want to do it!” Five years in, the Kingmans are hoping to turn the winery into their fulltime business within a couple of years. Until then, they

are keeping their day jobs with Doug in IT project management and Karen in human resources, working at the winery evenings and weekends while maintaining a small staff. The winery got its start with a wine kit Doug tried that yielded decent results. It was inspiration enough that the couple purchased property between Palisade and Grand Junction, with the vision of growing grapes and making wine. They commuted from their home in Denver every weekend over the course of a year. Despite extensive

testing and work on an irrigation system, it was determined that the land wasn’t going to be grow grapes successfully. In the meantime, the Kingmans developed relationships with other Western Slope vineyards and wineries, not only learning a lot in the process but also purchasing enough grapes to turn out 400 cases of wine in their first year in the garage on their property. Giving up the property was a painful decision but the long commute wasn’t sustainable. “If it wasn’t going to grow grapes, it just didn’t make sense,” says Kingman. Instead, the couple opened a winery in an industrial area north of downtown Denver, just 15 minutes from their home, purchasing grapes from some of the vineyards and wineries they had come to know. Except for zinfandel grapes, which Colorado doesn’t grow, all of the grapes used in

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Kingman Estates Winery's wines are from Colorado, which is one of the things that sets the winery apart. Because Colorado grapes are much more expensive than California grapes, they aren't used as often. In addition, Kingman explains that, instead of purchasing grapes, many wineries use juice produced from all over the world to then make their wine. "You can buy 200–300 gallons of juice and ferment it, operating more like a brewery than a winery," he says. "Wineries really have one shot to get grapes in and that's when we process them, so we have a huge infrastructure with thousands of gallons of storage, tanks and large equipment to process all that." Every part of the wine-making process is done at their winery, except growing the grapes.

Although they could pass along those extra costs to consumers, the couple is determined to keep their prices lower, starting at \$16 per bottle. "We want people to understand and know there are great Colorado wines so if people say 'that's reasonable,' they'll buy them and taste them and it will help the whole wine industry in Colorado," says Kingman. Their efforts are paying off. The winery has become the eighth largest in the state and produces 16 varieties including reds, whites and blends. In July, Kingman wines won two gold medals, two silver and one bronze at the Third Annual Governor's Cup Colorado Wine Competition.

In addition to their commitment to using Colorado grapes, there are other elements of Kingman Estates Winery that make them unique. In most tasting rooms, guests stand at the bar, getting their tastings. At Kingman, guests can also have a seat at small bistro ta-

bles, being served their samples. "We think wine is something where you should be relaxed and not in a hurry so you can enjoy it and enjoy your friends," says Kingman. They also use volunteers who anxiously sign up to help at various times throughout the year crushing grapes, bottling and labelling. "It gives people an opportunity to be part of the business," says Kingman. People can also join their wine club to get special pricing on bottles, exclusive vintages, free tastings and access to wine dinners, a harvest festival and other special events.

Despite the romance of living on a vineyard, the Kingmans are really happy with the way things turned out. "We really like the whole winery environment and just wanted to be part of that," says Kingman. "We're making great friends in the area we live in," Kingman says. "It's all good."

Right: Doug and Karen Kingman enjoy the fruits of their labors—a glass of wine at their winery.

Kingman estates winery has become the eighth largest in the state and produces 16 varieties.



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Front Porch - OCT

# Are Libraries Outdated

By Nick Hutchinson

Libraries and printed books—most of us grew up with them. The feel and smell of ink and paper are part of our collective experience. Spending time in the library stacks is a rite of passage for generations of readers and scholars. Yet libraries face increasing changes as eBooks, computers and servers replace traditional modes of reading and storage. Despite the arrival of the digital age, however, community libraries continue to thrive.

“We attract readers and learners of all ages,” says Denver Public Library Marketing Communications Manager Chris Henning. “In 2015, we had 4,195,777 visits to our 26 locations. We get more than 320,000 in-person visits per month and our Summer of Reading program attracts more than 45,000 children who log the books they read and attend special programs and activities that help keep their minds active.”

“Electronic materials can be accessed online, so a trip to the library isn’t always required,” he adds. “We get about 1,116,485 visits to our website per month. For customers who like accessing books

online, they can browse, check out or put a hold on a book wherever they are—at work, on the go or from home.”



Max Makovsky (top) and an adult patron settle in to read at the Sam Gary library opening event in August 2012.

Despite the convenience that computers allow, Henning says the Denver Public Library is the most visited cultural institution on the greater Front Range.

According to Kit Cusker of Stapleton’s Sam Gary Branch Library, the DPL system circulated over 9 million materials in 2015, with the Sam Gary Branch Library lending more

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# in a Digital World?

than 700,000 of those. Cusker says that after the central library in downtown Denver, Sam Gary is the most heavily used neighborhood branch for DPL with more than 300,000 visits during the first six months of 2016.

As communities such as Stapleton continue to grow and develop, the local library also plays a critical role as a center for intellectual life.

"I can't tell you how important it is for our residents that they live near the library," says Assistant Community Director Jennifer Otavsky at The Grove, an apartment complex in Stapleton for tenants above the age of 55. "They visit the library for different events as well as just to read and continue to learn. It lends to the overall quality of life."

While the draw of the library extends to all ages, children are among the most frequent library users in Stapleton.

"The Sam Gary branch offers programs for all ages, from birth to adults, with a strong emphasis on children's programming," says Cusker. "As the Stapleton neighborhood has lots of kids, it's no surprise that children's materials check out significantly more than adult materials."

Librarian Susan Bertsche at Lowry's Schlessman Family Branch Library is on the same page, so to speak. "We are currently in the middle of our Summer of Reading program, which gives us an amazing opportunity to get books in the hands of children. Every day we see children from birth all the way through high school light up when they get a brand-new book that they get to take home with them."



Librarian Kit Cusker sits at the front desk of the Sam Gary Library. The photo was taken when the library opened in August 2012.

As technology continues to evolve, people will no doubt continue to take advantage of what the electronic sphere has to offer, though the appeal of the traditional experience remains.

"Libraries walk a fine line between printed and online materials," says Henning. "To meet the needs of customers, we need to offer both and continue to add electronic resources as our budget allows and the demand warrants. Our Collection Development department works with our branch locations and monitors trends to determine what kind of resources are needed to make adjustments. We offer classes as well as one-on-one help with electronic devices to get people comfortable with and proficient in the use of laptops, tablets and smartphones. We often find that our customers want to try reading a book or magazine on their devices but need help with the particulars. Our Community Technology Center at the Central Library and many of our branch locations help customers navigate this new era and become comfortable with the technology and process to access our collections."

Find all the neighborhood libraries at [DenverLibrary.org](http://DenverLibrary.org)



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# Halloween — Not Just for Kids

With the ease and safety of homes in close proximity and neighbors who welcome the party atmosphere, Stapleton's sidewalks and streets fill with traditional ghosts and goblins on Halloween—along with less traditional characters like a stove. And the adults seem to enjoy the evening as much as the kids.

Mike Holtby says his wife Judy loves Halloween so much she flew home early from a conference in Florida last year to don her witch costume, green face paint, an iridescent green wig, broad-brimmed black hat with a spider on it, and black and orange striped stockings. Holtby says kids think he's Dumbledore in a Buddhist monk's robe he got in China. "We sit on our porch because the kids come so often, and so many,

there is no point waiting for a doorbell to ring. Our porch is decorated with a large, swinging bat over the steps, two cobwebs with purple lights, and a large spider on the red front door. We play the Witches' Party channel on Pandora for spooky music." Holtby gave away 20 pounds of candy to 459 trick-or-treaters until he ran out at 8pm last year. And that was down from 550 in 2014.

Kevin Hennegan says, "The zombie hordes have nothing on Stapleton on Halloween night!" When he lived on a busy street they had over 400 trick-or-treaters. Now on a "quieter" street, he still gets over 300 every year.

Kelly Petrash is trying to carry on a St. Louis tradition where kids had to "earn" their candy by providing a joke at the door—some would have group jokes, some had songs and simple performances.



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In St. Louis, she says, this brought a lot of laughter and kids took pride in creating their unique joke, and they developed confidence as they presented them. But when she tried it here she got "a lot of stares." Last year Petrash Googled "Halloween Jokes" and printed them out so kids could take them to other houses. "What is a ghost's favorite pie? BOO-berry!" or "What did the skeleton order at the restaurant? Spare Ribs!!" She says it made for a more enjoyable engagement with kids on her porch and adds, "Hey, kids might even



like more houses to ask them to give a joke! Maybe we could promote this as a Stapleton tradition?"

Kids get so much candy Tom Unterwagner and his partner Steve Janousky wanted to do something different and special. They visit a restaurant supply store



and buy large boxes of individually wrapped fortune cookies. "We give those to the kids instead of candy and they think it's a really cool alternative," says Unterwagner. "We also offer plastic cups of wine or beer to the adults and that has been a big success."



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### Jan. 21 - Jun. 2017— Family Leadership Training Institute (FLTI) Program

FLTI is a 20-week program that integrates personal and child development, leadership training, civic literacy and civic participation. The program increases your ability to work with and understand diverse perspectives and helps you to be the change you seek. Youth (11-15) attend with a parent or other adult.

Application deadline is January 8. Full scholarships are offered to the 17 youth and 28 adults who are accepted. The program is held at Manual High School on 14 Thursday evenings and three Saturday sessions. Application deadline is Jan. 8. Interviews Oct-Dec. Benzel. [jimmerson@denvergov.org](mailto:jimmerson@denvergov.org), 720-913-5274. Sponsored by the City and County of Denver, Colorado State University Extension, Colorado Department of Health & Environment

### Oct. 15—Family Leadership Training Institute Summit

"Improving Colorado Through Community Engagement," is a day-long event to provide on-going leadership development for parents and others who lead on behalf of children and families. All interested people are invited to attend.

The FLTI summit will be held Saturday, October 15, 2016 from 8:30am to 4:30pm at Children's Hospital Colorado in Aurora, 13123 East 16th Avenue, Aurora. It is presented by the Family Leadership Training Institute. The cost is \$15 (grants available) and includes breakfast, lunch, registration materials, and Certificate of Participation. For more information e-mail [lashay.canady@state.co.us](mailto:lashay.canady@state.co.us) or call 303.886.0673. Register at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com) > Family Leadership Summit.

By Melinda Pearson

When 16-year-old Jedidiah Johnson, who is African-American, was a freshman in high school, he and some friends were accused of taking his teacher's Adderall pills from the classroom. "He told the principal... and she called the police. The police came and they searched us. Obviously, they would have to do that," says Jedidiah. But, "one of my friends got upset and he got into a fight with the police. So then one of the police officers grabbed me and two of my friends and slammed us into the tables and put handcuffs on us." It turned out that the teacher had misplaced his pills in his car, but the incident left its mark on Jedidiah. He was left with a distrust of the police.

Such a feeling is not uncommon among teens of color in Denver.

Although he has never personally been targeted by the police, Langston Shupe-Diggs, a junior at East High School who is bi-racial, can recount stories of black friends who seem to be repeatedly pulled over by police, while white friends get a pass. His black friend, De'Von, "has been stopped by the cops driving in his car at night about five times since he's gotten his car - for doing nothing. He follows every traffic law - he drives better than most adults I know... They won't write him a ticket, they'll just look in the car and ask him if he's been drinking."

Langston notes that the issue is complicated, however, because other stops are justified. Another black friend, who smokes a lot of marijuana, has been stopped and even arrested. While this friend complains that the cops are targeting him, Langston notes that the police are just doing their job, since "he actually does illegal things." But, on the flip side, he says "I have a lot of white friends who smoke on campus, and I've seen

deans drive by in a golf cart and not even look at them, because they don't even think they're doing anything wrong. Even on a school police level, people don't assume that white people are doing those type of things."

Last year, Jedidiah and his twin sister, Jaida Johnson, a junior at East, attended the Family Leadership Training Institute (FLTI). A 20-week family civics program, FLTI integrates personal and child development, leadership training and civic partnership skills. The culminating event is a community project, and Jedidiah and Jaida chose police brutality, an issue close to their hearts, as the theme for their group. The goal was to connect and communicate with cops:



Langston Shupe-Diggs

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# Cops and Creating Change

“We got to eat, play, and talk about the issue of police brutality that’s going on in our society right now,” says Jaida. About fifteen police officers participated, and the group discussed “how the police were feeling about it, where they were coming from, how they feel about the issue and how we feel about the issue. They know that we’re trying to get our voice heard,” she says.

As a result of the “Youth and Cops Voice Opinions Event” they coordinated on August 6, 2016, Jaida and Jedidiah feel that they have raised awareness in both the community and among police officers. Jaida wants to continue to get the voices of young people heard through social media and other means, making sure that police understand the pain and fear that many youth of color feel. As for Jedidiah, “I realized all cops aren’t bad,

just like people don’t like to be stereotyped for their religion or their race,” he says, “having a positive interaction with police, it helps kids out here to see that there are cops out there that want to protect you.”

Sixteen-year-old Amy Garcia, who is of Hispanic heritage, agrees: “I feel it is incorrect to stereotype people, a whole group of people, based on a mistake. That’s an issue we deal with a lot nowadays,” she says, “But one action a police officer makes shouldn’t portray all police officers as brutal or as inhuman. The police officers I’ve been around are nothing like what is portrayed in the media.”

Amy knows this from experience. The DSST: Stapleton junior is also a graduate of Denver’s Police Explorers program, a rigorous training program for youth aged 15-20 to learn about law enforcement through a partnership between Learning for Life and the Denver Police Department. Police Explorers complete a 100-hour Explorer Academy in their first year, attend weekly training sessions, and contribute hundreds of hours of community service.

Although Amy had been drawn to the field of law enforcement since childhood, reports of police brutality in the media made her want to find out more firsthand. She heard of the Explorers program through the Northeast Denver



Amy Garcia



Jaida and Jedidiah Johnson



Youth and cops shared concerns at the August 6 event in NE Park Hill “Youth and Cops Voice Opinions.” Over 250 youth, adults and cops were in attendance. Jaida and Jedidiah Johnson, interviewed for this article, helped organize the event. Photo by Ken Grimes.

Leadership Week, run by Councilman Chris Herndon, and joined just over a year ago. “I was challenged. You get to see the unfortunate side of the world, but that also helped me to realize there’s the good, there’s the bad and, as police officers, you have to choose how you want to make the change,” she says.

And these young people are doing more than just talking about issues of race and police brutality - each of them is committed to continuing to make progress in their communities as they enter adulthood. Jaida sees her work with FLTI as putting her on a “path where I can be an even bigger part of change” and hopes to pursue her interests in business and social media in college. Jedidiah, who has his sights set on college at Morehouse or Louisiana State University, wants to raise awareness in the Montbello/Green Valley Ranch community where he

lives, hoping to dispel misunderstanding and show that cops are “people just like us.” Law enforcement still draws Amy, who will be the first in her family to go to college and wants to be “something big in the police department... it’s not common for my generation now, nor for a female Hispanic, to have a profession like that,” she says.

As for Langston, he hopes to inspire young people to express themselves as a creative writing instructor and to research micro-communities through graduate work in anthropology. “Change is right around the corner,” says Langston, “I’m very hopeful for the future because I think that we’re only going up. We’re definitely not taking any steps backwards. I know people think we are from time to time, politically, but I think that we are in an era of such colossal social change from every walk of life that it’s only going to get better.”

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# New Bluff Lake Dam Moves Full Steam Ahead



The bottom of Bluff Lake is being excavated and deepened to create a more hospitable nature habitat and lower permeability.

By Anne Hebert

**R**econstruction of the Bluff Lake Dam is well underway—its first major update in 132 years—with improvements that will help maintain the water level and prevent leakage.

The lake bottom is being dredged and deepened to create a better aquatic habitat, less permeability and to diminish algae. A pump is used to keep the area dry to facilitate the dredging process. Compact natural material will provide a solid bottom. A slurry wall made of bentonite and clay will extend four feet into the bedrock and around the perimeter to reinforce the dam.

A slide pump can pull water from the dam when necessary and pump water in when needed. Bluff Lake's storm water pro-

cedures have been noted as best practices since the 1950's. An agreement with the City of Denver will allow gray water to be introduced into the lake.

The improvements will ensure that the dam will remain for generations and will continue to attract wildlife and various bird species. The improved shoreline will feature new native vegetation and plants.

Bluff Lake has two miles of trails, including the main trail that loops around the lake. Thousands of visitors come to Bluff Lake each year, including nearly 5,000 elementary school students who learn to better connect with and appreciate nature. For more information about Bluff Lake Nature Center, visit [www.blufflake.org](http://www.blufflake.org).

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A bulldozer smooths out the top of the new slurry wall that will reinforce the 132-year-old Bluff Lake dam.



Left: Part of the excavated Bluff Lake is used as a drainage area and water source for the new dam slurry wall.

Below left: Water storage bladders are used to retain water that has been removed from the lake.

Below right: Pumps are used to drain Bluff Lake. The pumps can remove water or return it to the lake as needed.



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Above: Artist Angela Haseltine Pozzi points to “Flash,” the marlin created from flotsam, including fishing poles, fishing lures, Hello Kitty flip-flops, and Tonka truck tires. Below: The tiger shark, “Chompers,” weighs 850 pounds and is displayed at Toyota Elephant Passages Sycamore Island.

By Melinda Pearson

Widowed at the age of 47, artist and teacher Angela Haseltine Pozzi sought refuge and healing on the southern Oregon coast at an old family cabin. As she walked the beach reflecting upon her purpose in life, she kept trying to ignore the vast quantities of plastic strewn on the shore. During one walk, however, at the high-water mark, “as far as the eye could see, it was a mosaic of plastic. A mile out. I was sick to my stomach, and I thought, how is it possible that we are destroying this?” she says. But at that moment, her purpose became clear.

With her experience as an artist and an educator, Pozzi not only

saw the potential to make art with the plastic debris but also had the ability to bring together groups of people to join her in her efforts. She founded a nonprofit organization, Washed Ashore, to raise awareness of ocean pollution through community-built art. From her workshop in Bandon, OR, Pozzi now leads teams of volunteers in constructing elaborate sculptures made entirely from objects that have been scav-



enged from beaches, and the project has processed more than 20 tons of material into over 70 sculptures.

Denver Zoo is the first major inland, non-coastal zoo to host an exhibit of this work, entitled “Washed Ashore: Art to Save the Sea.” On display from Saturday, Sept. 24 through Jan. 16, 2017, the 15 sea life sculptures are spread throughout the zoo. They are vivid, detailed works of art, highly crafted without the use of any additional colorants or plastic materials, and each one has a name and a story. Displays will feature information and interactive features, such as scavenger hunts where viewers are challenged to find unusual construction materials, like flip-flops, rubber boots, or lighters.

Since nearly 80 percent of the plastic waste found in the oceans

# WASHED ASHORE



originates on land, “inland populations need to realize that they’re a vital part of this issue,” says Pozzi. She and her team constructed a chinook salmon sculpture (“Nora”) on-site in Denver to draw attention to the freshwater connection to ocean pollution, which comes “from rivers, from gutters and

streams, from creeks to oceans,” she notes. In fact, the works feature hundreds of plastic water bottles branded from the 2008 Beijing Olympics, which continue to wash up on the West Coast eight years later. “Nora” will be on display near the river otter exhibit to raise awareness of the watershed connection.

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Stapleton Front Porch



Left: Pozzi adjusts plastic bags on the "Anemone Garden" sculpture as it is being installed.

Right: Pozzi is shown with "Natasha" the sea turtle who is riding a wave of plastic bags that look like seafoam in the sculpture.

Far right: The yellow sea jelly, displayed on the Gates Center west entrance ceiling, is 10 feet tall, 6 feet in diameter, and weighs 350 pounds.



The zoo hopes to teach young guests "to love and value animals that live in the ocean," says Brad Parks, the senior director of guest experience. "Every kid in Denver should be able to come here and get excited about sea turtles and realize that some of the plastic

bags and plastic bottles that get away from us can actually harm those animals. What can we do to recycle, to make sure we're good environmental stewards? What can we do to help take care of nature?" Many families will also be excited to find the sculptures integrat-

ed into the holiday Zoo Lights tradition. For school groups, the zoo will have a self-guided field trip that teachers will be able to download from the zoo website so they can bring their classes and tour the zoo. Learning will come from observa-

tion and interaction: "Angela wants people to touch the sculptures, to get close to them. She wants to really have people recognize that what that's made of is a plastic bottle that could have been yours or mine," says Parks. Pozzi is also developing an art education

curriculum in conjunction with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that will be available in January 2017. Through her artwork, she hopes to teach visitors, old and young alike, that "everybody's small actions come together to make a big difference."



Visit our blog to see more great photography of this home!

## PARKWOOD HOMES

*"It was really fun to be able to take the base model of the Chesapeake and add/take away things to make it our own. Parkwood encouraged us to 'use our imaginations,' and that we did!"*

~Trent and Emily

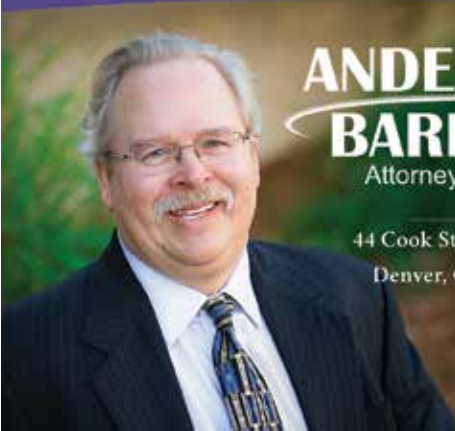

With true customization, the possibilities are endless. Visit our blog to learn how Trent and Emily worked with our home designer to build what they called "truly the perfect house for our family," and see some gorgeous pictures of the results!

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ColoradoFamilyEye.com



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Colorado Center for Eye Alignment


EyeAlignmentColorado.com

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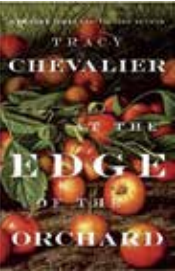
**ZEAL Optics**

\*Not available with insurance benefits



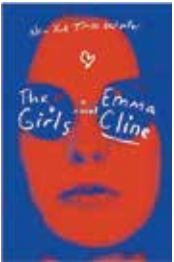
# The Book Worm

Book reviews by the Denver Public Library –  
Sam Gary branch librarians



**ADULT**  
*At the Edge of the Orchard*  
by Tracy Chevalier

Tracy Chevalier’s eighth historical novel introduces a family struggling to establish an apple orchard in the heart of Ohio swamplands in 1838. The novel bounces between 1836 and 1856 and is told in alternating voices, letters, and accounts. The characters are raw, the emotions real, and the details impeccable. As one reviewer said, you can smell the apples and damp earth. The rich narrative and the incorporation of historical figures, William Lobb and John Chapman, is intriguing. –Emily



*The Girls* by Emma Cline  
This mesmerizing book takes place in California in the 1960s. Our protagonist is a lonely teenager named Evie, who sees a group of free spirits in the park and soon becomes caught up in their world. Evie strikes up a close friendship with an older girl named Suzanne and starts spending time with a soon to be infamous cult and their charismatic leader based on Charles Manson. They spend a lot of time at an abandoned ranch and Evie is enchanted and desperate to be accepted by this strange group. This is a beautifully written and fascinating read. –Kelly



*All the Missing Girls* by Megan Miranda  
This is a great little mystery told in reverse chronological order over two weeks that includes a current missing woman and our main character Nicolette’s best friend’s disappearance

10 years earlier that was never solved. Is it possible they are related? Did her brother, father, or high school boyfriend have anything to do with it either then or now? When the bodies start turning up, what truths will Nick have to face? This is a psychological thriller in the same genre as Hawkins’ *The Girl On The Train* that will keep you guessing until the end. –Kristi



**TEEN**  
*2 Sisters: A Super-Spy Graphic Novel*  
by Matt Kindt  
This is a hefty book for a graphic novel, but it’s a quick read. Matt Kindt’s expressive drawings weave a narrative that threads multiple story lines across a diverse timeline, from ancient Rome, through the golden age of high seas piracy, and into a chaotic Europe deep in the throes of WWII. At the center of the book is Elle, a melancholy country girl who is recruited by His Majesty’s secret service. Violence, lies, and betrayal is commonplace in the life of a professional spy. But Elle has her own secrets. –Thane

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**KIDS**  
*Raymie Nightingale*  
by Kate DiCamillo  
Two-time Newbery Award winning author Kate DiCamillo is back. Her latest book uses details from DiCamillo’s own life to tell the story of a girl who enters a beauty pageant after her father abandons her family. As she comes to grips with this loss, Raymie meets new friends in unexpected places and learns that sometimes, life’s biggest questions have no answers. Told with DiCamillo’s signature quirky wit, with a mixture of the hilarious and the tragic, *Raymie Nightingale* is a memorable story of friendship, Florence Nightingale, and tuna fish. –Katie

*Dog Man* by Dav Pilkey  
Fans of *Captain Underpants* will recognize *Dog Man* from comics written by George and Harold within the *Captain Underpants* books. Now, Dog Man gets his own adventure as the world’s greatest detective. He’s half man, half dog, and ordinary criminals don’t stand a chance! Dog Man’s nemesis, Petey the Cat, concocts dastardly plans that involve giant vacuum cleaners, jailbreaks, and an evil pencil that sucks all the words from books. Kids won’t be able to stop laughing, and neither will their parents. Full of cleverness, hilarity, and poop jokes, *Dog Man* is a real treat. –Katie

## FREE Wellness Events

### Wellness While Expecting

November 1, 2016  
**5:30 – 7 p.m.**  
Anschutz Health and Wellness Center

**INTERACTIVE EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE:**  
Core strength exercise demonstration  
Mindfulness and relaxation techniques  
AND  
A University of Colorado Hospital midwife and OB/GYN will talk about birth plan options – from doulas to anesthesia – to discuss with your provider.

Space is limited. Please register by October 25 at [uchealth.org/wellnesswhileexpecting](http://uchealth.org/wellnesswhileexpecting).

### Wellness With Baby

October 18, 2016  
**10 – 11:30 a.m.**  
UCHealth Center for Integrative Medicine, Stapleton

**INTERACTIVE EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE:**  
Infant massage  
Core strength exercise demonstration  
Mindfulness and relaxation techniques

Space is limited. Please register by October 7 at [uchealth.org/wellnesswithbaby](http://uchealth.org/wellnesswithbaby).

October 2016

18

Stapleton Front Porch



# 2016 FRONT PORCH ELECTION GUIDE

Voting & registration information • Ballot issues overview • Candidates • League of Women Voters Guide



Three generations of the Bender family (back row left to right): Maryjean Hand-Bender, Tess Hand-Bender, Abby Wagner, 1, Aviva Siegel. Front row: Helen Hand, Mitch Siegel, 13, Liam Siegel, 6, and Michael Bender.

## Dates/Drop off Locations

The upcoming election is an all mail ballot. It is the responsibility of all voters to verify their voter registration record at [www.govotecolorado.com](http://www.govotecolorado.com).

The county clerk will start sending ballots to every registered voter on October 17. Early voting starts October 24 at Voter Service and Polling Centers except on Sunday. Ballots must be returned by 7pm November 8.

NE Denver drop off locations, opening Oct. 24, include:

- Central Park Rec Center
- Hiawatha Davis Rec Center
- Montclair Rec Center
- Denver Museum of Nature & Science
- Christ Church United Methodist Church

## Who can register?

- Must be a citizen of the United States
- A resident of a Colorado for at least 22 days
- Must be at least 16 years old, with the understanding that you must be 18 years of age to be eligible to vote

Must provide a valid Colorado Driver's License or Colorado ID card OR present one of the acceptable forms of identification for voting (acceptable ID forms include: valid Colorado driver's license, valid Colorado identification card, valid U.S. passport, valid U.S. military card, copy of current utility bill, bank statement, cable or phone bill, paycheck or government check showing name and current address).

## Your Vote Will Impact Future Generations of Coloradans

*Former Colorado Chief Justice Michael Bender reminds voters of what it means to change the state's constitution:*

*"The constitution represents "Super Law," setting forth fundamental values and rights that guide us and provide the framework for the operation of our state government. Legislated laws may not contradict the overriding principles expressed in the constitution. To solve problems facing Colorado, legislators must be nimble and responsive to the state's immediate needs; but to change core values and principles stated in our constitution, change should come about only after a long, deliberative process with future generations foremost in our minds."*

## Registration & Address Change

New to Colorado, moved, or not yet registered?

Update your registration online at [www.govotecolorado.com](http://www.govotecolorado.com). If you have a Colorado driver's license or ID card, you can register here until October 31, 2016 to receive a ballot by mail. For registrations received from October 24 to October 31, ballots will be mailed 72 hours after receipt of registration.

Up to 22 days before the election register by mail, at a driver's license exam facility, or through a voter registration drive. Find a link to the registration form at [FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://FrontPorchStapleton.com).

Up to 8 days prior to the election, including election day, register in

person any time voter registration is permitted at a County Clerk's Office or at a Voter Service Center. For a full list of service center locations and hours, download "2016\_GeneralElection\_Key-DatesandLocations" at [FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://FrontPorchStapleton.com)

## Helpful Information

- DenverVotes.org
- Denver Elections Div.: 720-913-8683
- Voter registration inquiries: [voterregistration@denvergov.org](mailto:voterregistration@denvergov.org)
- Mail ballot inquiries: [mailballot@denvergov.org](mailto:mailballot@denvergov.org)
- Vote411.org
- League of Women Voters' site. Enter address to build your ballot, register to vote and get other information.

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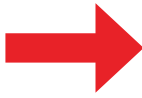


# UNDERSTANDING THE 2016 BALLOT QUESTIONS:

A key role of our state legislators is to be knowledgeable about the “state of our state” and pass or change laws that address current needs as times change.



Every other year we can send new legislators to the Capitol to suggest changes, study their future impact on the state, and vote on what they believe will best serve Coloradans.



Considering this, how are you going to vote?



The original Colorado constitution, with pages encased in plastic, can be viewed in the Supreme Court library of the Colorado Judicial Center. It took effect in 1876 and now has 152 amendments. By comparison, the U.S. constitution was ratified in 1788 and has 27 amendments.



Constitutional scholars believe a constitution should provide a framework to guide laws—and laws can be changed over time by the legislature. The US constitution is 8232 words. The Colorado Constitution is 72,982 words, with a level of detail that is not likely to be changed in the near future and is making the state more and more difficult to govern.



## SIX AMENDMENTS ARE ON THE STATE BALLOT. Which do you think should become part of

### CITIZEN INITIATED AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Colorado Constitution may be proposed by citizens using the initiative process. They are identified by a title and number.

Further information about these amendments is listed under the heading “Constitutional Initiatives” on page 23 and 24.

#### 69 State Health Care System

Adds article XXX to the Colorado Constitution to provide health care to be known as ColoradoCare to all the residents of the state. Establishes an independent governing board to administer ColoradoCare. Establishes a system to finance ColoradoCare through new taxes imposed on all Colorado taxpayers. Replaces the federal Affordable Care Act program (ObamaCare) in Colorado and allows waivers to be obtained from the insurance exchange program to create a unique Colorado health care system.

#### 70 State Minimum Wage

Amends section 15 of article XVIII of the Colorado Constitution to increase the current state minimum wage from \$8.31 to \$9.30 per hour beginning January 1, 2017, increasing the minimum wage annually by \$0.90 per hour beginning January 1, 2018, until it reaches \$12 per hour on January 2, 2020. It adjusts the minimum wage each year thereafter based on cost-of-living increases. Federal law allows states and cities to set a minimum wage at a higher level than federal law. The Colorado law does not allow a city to set a higher minimum wage than the state.

#### 71 Constitutional Amendments

Amends and adds a new sub-section to section 1, article V of the Colorado Constitution to make it harder to amend the state constitution by establishing a geographic dispersal requirement on petition signatures (requiring that at least two percent of the voters in each state senate district sign the petition) and increasing the threshold for voter approval from a simple majority (50 percent plus 1) to 55 percent.

#### 72 Cigarette, Tobacco Taxes

Amends article X, section 21 of the Colorado Constitution to increase cigarette and tobacco taxes, and distributes the new tax revenue by percentage formula to a variety of health-related programs (medical research, tobacco-use prevention, doctors and clinics in rural or low-income areas, veterans’ service, etc.) The state tax on a pack of cigarettes would rise from \$0.84 to \$2.59. The state tax on other tobacco products would rise from 40 percent to 62 percent of the manufacturer’s retail price.

### AMENDMENTS REFERRED

Amendments to the Colorado Constitution may be referred to the voters by a two-thirds vote of both houses of the General

#### T Repeal Slavery Exception

Amends article II, section 26 of the Colorado Constitution by removing archaic language that allows the use of “slavery” and “involuntary servitude” (forced labor) when used as a punishment for persons convicted of a crime.

## FIVE REGIONAL/LOCAL ISSUES WILL BE DECIDED.

### CITY & COUNTY OF DENVER

#### 300 – Cannabis Consumption Pilot Program

This citizen-initiated measure would allow the city to permit a business or a person to allow the consumption of marijuana in a designated consumption area for a businesses or an event pursuant to certain restrictions (e.g., location not visible from a public right-of-way or a place where children congregate or within 1,000 feet of a school, evidence of support of an eligible neighborhood association or business improvement district). Requires the city to create a task force to study the impacts of cannabis consumption permits on the city. See page 25 for further information.

#### 2A – Denver Preschool Program Funding

This asks voter approval to retain and spend all 2015 revenues from the Denver Preschool program originally approved by the voters on Nov. 4, 2014. Under the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR), another vote is required when revenues exceed prescribed limits, as occurred in this case. See page 26 for further information.

#### 2B – Permanent Independent Monitor

The office of independent monitor, including the citizen oversight board, would be strengthened by placing it within the city charter rather than by ordinance. As an independent watchdog, the office monitors law enforcement investigations, makes recommendations to the manager of safety, and conducts outreach programs to Denver communities. The independent monitor is appointed by the mayor with City Council approval. See page 26 for further information.



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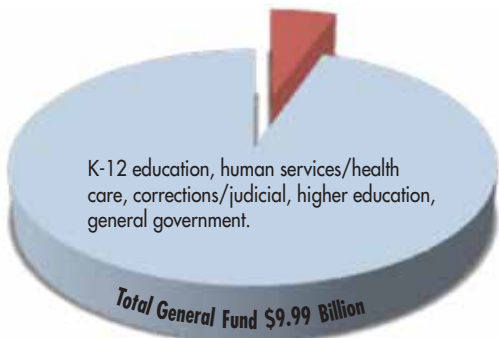
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[www.augustanadenver.org](http://www.augustanadenver.org).



# What did all those petitions mean and shall I vote for them?

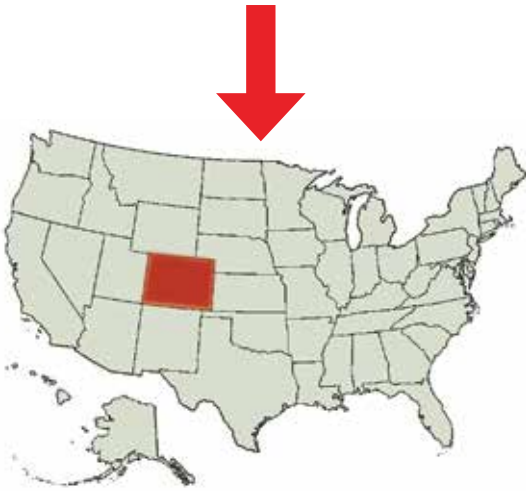
But in Colorado there is an easy way to get around this process—amendments on the ballot. Voters can amend the constitution without studying the fiscal impact or unintended consequences.



Voter-approved restrictions and federal mandates increasingly constrain state legislators. In the 2016-17 state budget, just 5.3 percent of the general fund revenues remained after allocating funds for the four largest expenditures and general government (.9%).



Colorado is a state with one of the easiest processes for amending its constitution—a simple majority vote; same process for amendments as for statutes; no requirement that signatures be gathered statewide.



One result of these citizen amendments is that Colorado is the only state where legislators cannot raise taxes and control revenue.

Colorado is now hamstrung by conflicting amendments that both limit revenue and require increased spending. The combination of these “direct democracy” amendments severely limits the ability of our elected representatives to legislate tax and spending decisions that affect services to Coloradans.

## our constitution?

### BY THE LEGISLATURE

Assembly. Further information about these amendments is listed under the heading “Referenda” on page 23.

#### U Possessory Interests Tax Exemption

Amends article X, section 3 of the Colorado Constitution to eliminate property taxes for individuals and businesses who derive a benefit worth not more than \$6,000 a year (adjusted in the future for inflation) from government-owned real property (e.g., grazing rights on government land) because the cost of collection exceeds the tax revenue.

## FIVE STATUTES ARE ON THE BALLOT. Which should become law?

### CITIZEN INITIATED STATUTES

Changes to the Colorado Revised Statutes may be proposed by citizens using the initiative process. They are known as “Propositions” and are identified by title and number. Although approved by voters, changes to the statutes may subsequently be made by the legislature. See “Constitutional Initiatives” on pages 24-25.

#### 106 Medical Aid in Dying

Adds a new section of article 48 to title 25 of the Colorado Revised Statutes to permit any mentally capable adult Colorado resident to request and receive from a physician a prescription for a medical aid-in-dying medication for self-administration to shorten the dying process. The physician must confirm the individual’s mental competence and that the request is voluntary. The individual must request the medication twice orally and then once in writing in front of two witnesses.

#### 107 Presidential Primary

Amends the Colorado Revised Statutes to establish a presidential primary to be held in March of each presidential election year (as was done most recently in 1992, 1996 and 2000). Allows unaffiliated voters to participate in the presidential primary without affiliating with a political party. This proposal does not change the existing primary election in Colorado held in June for other state, federal and local offices. Neither does the proposition prevent political parties from holding caucuses. However, parties will no longer use caucuses to determine the party’s choice for presidential nominee.

#### 108 Primary Elections

Amends the Colorado Revised Statutes to allow voters who are not affiliated with a political party to vote in a non-presidential primary election (Colorado holds primary elections that select party nominees for state, county and national offices, other than President, on the last Tuesday in June of even-numbered years). It also allows political parties to choose to not hold an open primary election if approved by at least three-fourths of the total membership of the party’s state central committee. Instead, the parties could select candidates at an assembly or convention.

### REFERRED MEASURE FROM SPECIAL DISTRICT

Question referred to the voters by the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District board of directors. See p. 25

**4B**  
Reauthorization of SCFD  
Re-authorizes the collection of the 0.1 percent sales and use tax that funds the seven county, metro-area SCFD grant program supporting regional scientific, cultural and arts organizations, extending the tax to June 30, 2030. It adjusts the formula for distribution of the tax revenues to provide additional revenues to smaller organizations. The district was created in 1988 and the tax was renewed in 1994 and 2004. Each county receives funds in proportion to the tax collected there. District excludes Castle Rock and Larkspur.

## DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### 3A – Mill Levy Override

This referral from the Denver Public School Board would allow DPS to raise \$56.6 million for educational purposes (e.g., childhood reading, mental health programs, expanding technology access, teacher recruitment and support). Voter approval is required to raise the mill levy, which would increase annual taxes on a \$330,000 home by about \$110/year. See page 26.

### 3B – \$572 Million Bond Issue

This referral from the DPS Board would allow DPS debt to be increased \$572 million for school maintenance and repairs, air conditioning, additional schools and classrooms, lab upgrades, security upgrades, and expanding early childhood programs. The bond question will not raise current taxes—it will maintain the current mill levy for bond payments. See page 26.



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GREEN VALLEY RANCH:  
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- \_\_\_ Hillary Clinton (D) – [www.HillaryClinton.com/Go](http://www.HillaryClinton.com/Go)
- \_\_\_ Donald Trump (R) – [www.secure.donaldjtrump.com](http://www.secure.donaldjtrump.com)
- \_\_\_ Gary Johnson (Libertarian) – [www.johnsonweld.com](http://www.johnsonweld.com)
- \_\_\_ Jill Stein (G) – [www.jill2016.com/](http://www.jill2016.com/)

### United States Senator

- \_\_\_ Michael Bennet (D) – [www.bennet.senate.gov/](http://www.bennet.senate.gov/)
- \_\_\_ Darryl Glenn (R) – [www.electdarrylglenn.com](http://www.electdarrylglenn.com)
- \_\_\_ Arn Menconi (G) – [www.menconi.us](http://www.menconi.us)
- \_\_\_ Lily Tang Williams (L) – [www.lily4liberty.com](http://www.lily4liberty.com)

### Rep. to the 115th U.S Congress – District 1

- \_\_\_ Diana DeGette (D) – [www.degette.com](http://www.degette.com)
- \_\_\_ Charles "Casper" Stockham (R) – [www.casperforcolorado.com](http://www.casperforcolorado.com)
- \_\_\_ Darrell Dinges (L)

## STATE OFFICES

### Regent of the Univ. of Colorado – At Large

- \_\_\_ Alice Madden (D) – [www.madden4cu.com](http://www.madden4cu.com)
- \_\_\_ Heidi Ganahl (R) – [www.heidiganahl.com](http://www.heidiganahl.com)

### Regent of the Univ. of Co. – Congressional District 1

- \_\_\_ Jack Kroll (D) – [www.krollforcolorado.com](http://www.krollforcolorado.com)
- \_\_\_ Jennifer Qualteri (R) – [www.qualteri4regent.com](http://www.qualteri4regent.com)

### State Senator – District 31

*[State Senate District 31 includes Lowry, E. Montclair, Montclair and Mayfair]*

- \_\_\_ Lois Court (D) – [www.loiscourt.com](http://www.loiscourt.com)
- \_\_\_ Bob Lane (R) – [www.laneforcolorado.com](http://www.laneforcolorado.com)

### State Senator – District 33

*[State Senate District 31 includes Stapleton and Park Hill]*

- \_\_\_ Angela Williams (D) – [www.angela4colorado.com](http://www.angela4colorado.com)
- \_\_\_ Raymon Doane (R)

### State Representative – District 6

*[House District 6 includes all of Lowry, E. Montclair, Montclair and Mayfair]*

- \_\_\_ Chris Hansen (D) – [www.hansonforcolorado.com](http://www.hansonforcolorado.com)

### State Representative – District 7

*[House District 7 – Park Hill from Quebec to Monaco and all of Stapleton except two precincts just north of Montview and east of Central Park Blvd.]*

- \_\_\_ James Rashad Coleman (D) – [www.colemanforcolorado.com](http://www.colemanforcolorado.com)

### State Representative – District 8

*[House District 8 – all of Park Hill from Locust to Colorado Blvd., Hale, East Colfax, and two precincts in Stapleton just north of Montview and east of Central Park Blvd]*

- \_\_\_ Leslie Herod (D) – [www.leslieherodforcolorado.com](http://www.leslieherodforcolorado.com)
- \_\_\_ Evan J. Vanderpool (R) – [www.votevanderpool.com](http://www.votevanderpool.com)

### District Attorney – 2nd Judicial District

- \_\_\_ Beth McCann (D) – [www.mccannfordenverda.com](http://www.mccannfordenverda.com)
- \_\_\_ Helen Morgan (U)

### RTD District A *[Lowry, Mayfair, Montclair]*

- \_\_\_ Regan Byrd – [Facebook.com/regan4rtd](https://www.facebook.com/regan4rtd)
- \_\_\_ Kate Williams
- \_\_\_ Aaron Goldhammer
- \_\_\_ Mike Cerbo

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## REFERENDA

### AMENDMENT T

#### No Exception to Involuntary Servitude Prohibition

An amendment to article II, section 26 of the Colorado Constitution which would remove the exception that allows the use of slavery and involuntary servitude when used as a punishment for persons convicted of a crime.

##### Major Provisions:

Eliminates the exception which allows the use of slavery and involuntary servitude as punishment for the conviction of a crime.

##### Background:

The language of article II, section 26 is consistent with the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution passed in 1865. It also prohibited slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime for which a person was found guilty. Twenty-five states do not have this slavery language in their constitutions.

Court decisions have approved work requirements as part of criminal sentences for incarceration in prison, community service and probation, based on provisions of the US and Colorado Constitutions.

The Colorado Correctional Industries currently employs more than 1800 inmates. Colorado Department of Corrections work programs are not compulsory, but an inmate's refusal to work may impact eligibility for prison privileges and parole.

The Colorado Legislature's resolution referring this measure to the voters expressly provides that the Legislature does not intend to withdraw legitimate work opportunities from convicted persons, but only to prevent compulsory labor by such persons.

##### Those in favor say:

The language to be eliminated is archaic. It was written in the 19th Century, when not all people were treated with human dignity or even considered human. Freedom and equality are fundamental human values which should be reflected in the Colorado Constitution.

##### Those opposed say:

Work programs have a legitimate place in the correctional system. Prison work programs build skills and help reduce recidivism, and provide a structure and purpose for offenders. Community service and probation work requirements engage offenders in a positive way with the community and help offenders make amends for their criminal conduct. Legal challenges under Amendment T could jeopardize these beneficial work practices.

### AMENDMENT U

#### Exempt Certain Possessory Interests from Property Tax

A referred amendment to article X, section 3 of the Colorado Constitution to eliminate property taxes for individuals and businesses who derive a benefit worth not more than \$6,000 a year from government-owned real property.

##### Major Provisions:

—Eliminates property tax for businesses and individuals who derive a benefit worth \$6,000 or less from the use of government-owned real property; and  
—Adjusts the exemption amount every two years to keep up with inflation.

##### Background:

Colorado does not tax real property owned by government entities (national, state and local). The Constitution, however, does impose a property tax on individuals and businesses that rent, lease or have other rights to use government property (a "possessory interest"). That property tax is based on the actual value of the possessory interest.

A possessory interest allows an entity to occupy, use, or control a plot of land but does not include ownership of the land. Common examples of possessory interests are ranchers who lease grazing rights on government land and rafting companies who use public waterways.

This proposal creates a new exemption from property tax for individuals and businesses who receive a benefit of no more than \$6,000 or less from their possessory interests in government land. If approved, the exemption would go into effect for property tax years beginning January 1, 2018. After that, the exemption threshold of \$6,000 can be increased in odd-numbered years to reflect changes in inflation. Projections indicate that the amendment would result in a total reduction of property taxes of up to \$125,000 per year from all possessory interests in the state.

##### Those in favor say:

Colorado counties pay more to collect and administer property taxes on possessory interests below the \$6000 threshold than they receive from those taxes. For example, a lease valued at \$5,000 to graze cattle on federal land may result in a property tax of \$25 (depending on local tax rates). The county tax authority must pay administrative costs to collect, maintain tax rolls, and enforce the tax. The proposed amendment recognizes that it does not make economic sense to pay more to collect a tax than the tax amount received.

##### Those opposed say:

The proposal is contrary to the Colorado Constitution requirement that taxes be charged uniformly for all taxpayers. The proposed exemption for small property tax amounts opens the door to more exemptions in the future. It also unfairly benefits those individuals and businesses whose possessory interests in government property are below the \$6000 threshold. The reduction in property tax revenue to each county – even though small, will unfairly shift the tax burden to all other property taxpayers.

## CONSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVES

### AMENDMENT 69

#### Statewide Health-care System

Adds article XXX to the Colorado Constitution to provide health care to the residents of the state.

##### Major provisions:

—Provides access to affordable health care to all residents of Colorado;  
—Establishes a governing board, first appointed and later elected, to administer Colorado health care;  
—Creates a taxing system to finance ColoradoCare;  
—Allows waivers to be obtained from the insurance exchange program to create a

unique Colorado health care system.

##### Background:

At this time, most Coloradans get their health care from private insurance companies or federal insurance programs. The Affordable Care Act (Obama Care) requires most people to have health insurance or face a tax penalty. While many Coloradans get their insurance through their employer, some people purchase private insurance through an insurance agent, the Colorado Health Benefit Exchange or directly from an insurance company. This proposal would create ColoradoCare as a unique Colorado health care system. It is a political subdivision of the state which is not under control of any department or agency in the state.

##### Board:

The board that will administer the health care system in Colorado will initially be appointed by the president of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the minority leader of the House, and the governor, each of whom shall appoint three trustees. The appointments will occur within 60 days after the effective date of the article. It allows the interim board to establish by-laws, procedures and rules of operation, to adopt a budget, to hire employees, to seek a waiver to suspend the operation of the Colorado Health Benefit Exchange, and to divide the state into seven compact, contiguous and relatively equal districts. The interim board shall schedule an election of the 21-member permanent board within three years of the date the proposal takes effect. Three trustees will be elected for four year terms from residents in each of the seven districts. The election will be non-partisan, each trustee may serve only two consecutive terms and trustees are not subject to recall. Once elected, the board will hire a CEO, a CFO, and a Chief Medical Officer. The board will establish a central purchasing authority, separate ombudsmen offices for providers and beneficiaries, and an office for prevention of fraud. The board will work to ensure financial stability and determine rules for independent annual performance and financial audits.

##### Health care benefits:

The board will contract with providers to provide primary, specialty, hospital, prescription drugs, durable medical equipment, behavioral health treatment,

emergency and urgent care services, rehabilitation services, pediatric care, laboratory services, maternity and newborn care, and palliative and end-of-life care. Workers' Compensation, Medicaid, and the Children's Basic Health Plan funds will be administered by ColoradoCare. Medicare, military and veteran's health care programs and other federal health care programs will continue to exist. ColoradoCare will offer supplemental coverage for these plans. The program will not charge beneficiaries deductibles, copayments for preventative and primary care services, and will allow beneficiaries to choose their own primary care providers.

**Funding:** Financing of ColoradoCare shall begin on July 1 of the year following the date this provision takes effect. The payments initially will be lower, transitional payments and then 30 days prior to ColoradoCare assuming responsibility for health care payments, the Colorado Department of Revenue will begin collecting higher, permanent payments. The permanent health care payments will consist of 6.67% of the total payroll of employers, 3.33% of payroll income of each employee, and 10% of all non-payroll income from all beneficiaries. If the board determines higher premiums are necessary, the premium taxes can be raised only once a year after approval by a majority of the members of ColoradoCare. ColoradoCare would be exempt from TABOR requirements (article X, section 20). An individual must pay the health care premium regardless of whether they use ColoradoCare insurance.

The Legislature, in the first regular session after the adoption of this article, shall pass legislation to allow the Department of Revenue to levy taxes to fund ColoradoCare, to suspend operations of the Colorado Health Benefit Exchanges, to transfer responsibility for administering Medicaid and the Children's Basic Health Plan to Colorado Care, to repeal the Workers' Compensation Act of Colorado, and any other legislation necessary to implement this proposal.

Any part of the act that is declared unconstitutional shall be severed from the remainder of the proposal. ColoradoCare can be shut down if waivers and agreements from the federal government are not sufficient to make its operation fiscally sound.

##### Those in favor say:

**1.** ColoradoCare will cover everyone. This proposal will make sure that all Col-

orado residents will have affordable, lifetime health care, including mental and behavioral health care. Residents will no longer have confusing yearly enrollment dates for their insurance plans. This proposal will allow Coloradans to choose their primary care providers and if they wish, keep the insurance that they currently have, however they will have to pay the tax. Those who have Medicare, federal insurance plans, military and veterans plans can use ColoradoCare for supplemental care.

**2.** ColoradoCare will expand access and improve the quality of health benefits that residents receive. Children will receive dental, vision, and hearing coverage. The proposal will provide health care to all residents regardless of their financial circumstances. Residents will no longer have to worry about declaring bankruptcy to take care of high medical bills.

**3.** ColoradoCare will save money for most residents. Out-of-pocket expenses will be reduced because there will be no deductibles or copayments for primary and preventative care visits. This measure allows ColoradoCare members to control tax increases because future increases must be approved by a majority vote of ColoradoCare members. This health care plan will cut administrative costs, and eliminate bureaucracy and fraud. Coloradans who currently have no insurance will no longer have to use expensive emergency rooms for their health care needs.

##### Those opposed say:

**1.** ColoradoCare would raise \$25 billion in new taxes to fund a state-level, government health care system. This would give Colorado the highest income tax rate in the country. For context, the entire state budget is about \$27 billion. All Coloradans would pay this new tax, whether ColoradoCare is their primary source of health care or not. This hurts seniors, members of the military, small business, jobs and our economy. And it would inevitably hamper the state's ability to make investments in other vital priorities such as education and transportation.

**2.** ColoradoCare will be run by an unaccountable board of 21 politicians with no guarantee of content area expertise, political balance or diversity. It would be the only group of elected officials in the state not subject to public recall. That board would have the authority to decide what treatments and medications are covered, what you pay out-of-pocket for those benefits, and how much providers are paid. It provides virtually no state oversight, jeopardizing patient protection. By creating so much (continued on page 24)



## Open House



Come for a tour of our picturesque campus, including our **NEW** dining hall and performing arts spaces.

When

**Friday,  
November 4** 2016  
**9 TO 11AM**

What

- 9:00 Welcome
- 9:15 Campus Tours
- 10:00 Comments & Questions
- 10:15 Panel Discussion

Where

St. Anne's  
Dining Hall  
2701 S. York Street  
Denver, CO 80210

### RSVP

Marcia 303.756.9481 x210 or [st-annes.org/open-house-rsvp](http://st-annes.org/open-house-rsvp)

If you are unable to attend the Open House but would like to schedule a tour of St. Anne's Episcopal School, please contact the Admissions Office at 303.756.9481 x210 or visit our website: [st-annes.org](http://st-annes.org).



# STATE BALLOT ISSUES

## CONSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVES

flux and uncertainty, ColoradoCare could drive the best and the brightest doctors out of Colorado and put local clinics and hospitals out of business. Decisions about our health care are too important to leave to inexperienced, unaccountable politicians

**3.** This first-of-its-kind health care system will be locked into the state’s constitution making it nearly impossible to fix, or even update it in the future. It is irresponsible to put another complex policy into our state’s constitution.

### AMENDMENT 70 State Minimum Wage

An initiated amendment to section 15 of article XVIII of the Colorado Constitution that would adjust the current state minimum wage.

**Major Provisions**

- Increases the state minimum wage from \$8.31 to \$9.30 per hour beginning January 1, 2017;
- Expands the minimum wage annually by \$.90 per hour beginning January 1, 2018, until it reaches \$12.00 per hour on January 1, 2020;
- Adjusts the minimum wage each year after January 1, 2021 based on cost-of-living increases.

**Background:**

The federal minimum wage is currently set at \$7.25 per hour for most workers and \$2.13 for workers who receive tips. It was last increased in 2009. Colorado’s current minimum wage provision was adopted in 2006. The minimum wage was set at \$6.85 on January 1, 2007 for most workers and \$3.83 for those who receive tips. Only \$3.02 of tip income may be used to offset the minimum wage of employees who regularly receive tips. The law requires that the minimum wage be adjusted each year up or down for changes in inflation. It is currently set at \$8.31 for most workers. The workers most likely to be paid the minimum wage include retail salespersons, food service workers, child care workers, janitors, and home health aides.

**Those in favor say:**

**1.** Low-wage workers are falling farther behind in Colorado. Full-time minimum wage workers currently earn \$17,000 annually, which is under \$300 a week after taxes. The minimum wage has not kept up with the cost of living, especially housing. The majority of Colorado workers who make less than \$12 an hour are women and 86 percent are over the age of 20, many supporting families. It isn’t enough to live on and raising the minimum wage would help people make ends meet.

**2.** When people have more money in their pockets, they spend it on Main Street and our communities thrive. Research consistently shows that raising the minimum wage gradually over time, as this proposal does, has little or no effect on jobs or prices, even in sectors most likely to hire minimum wage workers. Low and middle income workers are more likely to spend pay increases in the community helping local Colorado businesses and the economy.

**Those opposed say:**

**1.** Small businesses will be hit hardest by a 44% increase in the minimum wage, leaving them little choice but to let go or reduce the hours of low-wage workers, cut hours of operation, increase prices, or even close. Colorado’s minimum wage has gone up 61% in the last 10 years and will continue to rise with inflation every year, but another 44% goes too far for small and family-owned businesses.

**2.** This proposal is unfair for rural

Colorado, where the cost of living is different from large metro areas. Small businesses in rural Colorado simply can’t afford to pay as much as stores in urban areas of the state. This will hurt many of the very same people it is meant to help. A recent economic study found that a 44% increase in the Colorado minimum wage could eliminate 90,000 jobs and reduce wages by \$3.9 billion per year by 2022.

### AMENDMENT 71 Requirements for Initiated Constitutional Amendments

An amendment to section 1, article V which amends and adds a new section to make it harder to amend the Colorado Constitution.

**Major Provisions:**

- Makes it more difficult to amend the Colorado Constitution by requiring that at least 2% of the voters in each state senate district sign the petition;
- Calls for at least a 55% yes vote cast by Colorado voters to become part of the Colorado Constitution;
- Determines that the 55% yes vote requirement shall not apply to an initiated constitutional amendment that would repeal a current provision of the Colorado Constitution. The requirement for repealing an existing provision in the constitution would continue to be a 50% majority vote.

**Background:**

An initiative process to change the Colorado Constitution and Colorado statutory law passed by popular vote in 1910 and was first available to the voting public in 1912. Since that year, 70 total initiatives have been adopted by the voting public: 44 that amended the state constitution and 26 that have changed or added to statutory law. By contrast, the United States Constitution has been amended only 27 times. Currently in Colorado, the initiative process is the same whether the result is an amendment to the constitution or a change to state statutes. The same number of signatures is required and the same approval by a simple majority vote. This proposal would require a 55% vote for any new constitutional amendments. Any provision currently in the constitution could be repealed by a 50% majority vote.

**Those in favor say:**

- 1.** It should be more difficult to amend the state constitution than to change state law. The constitution is a foundational document where changes made are nearly impossible to reverse. Requiring 55% of the vote for passage of a new constitutional amendment ensures broad public support for what is likely a permanent addition to the state constitution.
- 2.** The current lack of a geographic requirement for petition signatures allows the most populous metropolitan communities to dictate access to the ballot for constitutional amendments to the exclusion of the rest of the state. Requiring signatures from each state senate district will ensure citizens across the state a voice in determining which measures reach the ballot.

**Those opposed say**

- 1.** If a proposal is needed to correct an existing constitutional provision, the correction or “fix” will be more difficult to place on the ballot because of new more stringent signature requirements. Creating two thresholds to approve constitutional changes, a simple majority (50%) for the repeal of existing provisions, but a super majority (55%) to pass a new constitutional amendment may confuse voters and raise legal problems leading to litigation.
- 2.** Requiring 2% of petition signatures

from each senate district in the state will make the process more expensive, more difficult and could discourage citizen grassroots participation. It could allow one part of the state to block proposals with strong support everywhere else in the state.

### AMENDMENT 72 Increase in Cigarette Tax

An initiated amendment to section 21 of the Colorado Constitution to increase cigarette and tobacco taxes.

**Major Provisions:**

- Raises the state tax on a pack of cigarettes from \$0.84 to \$2.59;
- Increases the state tax on other tobacco products from 40 percent to 62 percent of the manufacturer’s retail price;
- Distributes the new tax money for medical research, tobacco-use prevention, doctors and clinics in rural or low-income areas, veterans’ services, and other health-related programs;
- Exempts revenue from this from the state’s constitutional revenue limit.

**Background:**

Every pack of cigarettes sold in Colorado includes \$1.01 federal and \$.84 state taxes. Colorado’s excise tax on cigarettes is ranked number 33 out of the 50 states. The highest state tobacco tax is \$4.35 a pack in New York. The lowest is \$.17 per pack in Missouri.

In 2015, \$197.9 million in cigarette and tobacco taxes were collected in Colorado. The proposal would increase the amount to \$315 million per year. The money raised would increase health services for those affected by tobacco use and raise funds for research and smoking cessation programs. Of the \$.84 state tax on a pack of cigarettes, \$.64 is required to be spent on health-related programs as identified in the state constitution, as well as on disease prevention and treatment.

Since 1973, no local government has collected taxes on cigarettes but they have collected taxes on other tobacco products. These products, such as cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, dip, and chewing tobacco are taxed by Colorado at 40% of the manufacturer’s retail price. Half of this amount is spent on the same health programs as the cigarette tax while the other half is spent on other state government programs. E-cigarettes are not taxed.

**Those in favor say:**

- 1.** Smoking is the number one cause of preventable death in Colorado, killing more than 5,000 Coloradans and adding \$1.9 billion in health care costs a year. Smoking reduction has occurred but there are still over 650,000 adults and almost 24,000 high school students who smoke. The current 84-cent tax is lower than most states and in today’s economy it does not make a significant impact on reducing smoking. Nearly every state in the country has passed cigarette tax increases, resulting in lower smoking rates, especially among kids, and increased funding for important health programs.
- 2.** The proposed \$1.75/pack increase in Colorado will prevent more than 34,000 kids from becoming smokers, save over 20,000 lives and prevent \$1.4 billion in future health care costs. This is the most effective way to fight this deadly problem and stop more kids from getting addicted.

**Those opposed say:**

- 1.** This proposal will raise the Colorado tax far above the national average, and any new taxes are not necessary. Unless a new amendment is passed, this tax cannot be changed if the need for funds exceeds revenues. There will be a decreased revenue stream if consumption declines and state program spending may not be ready for this decrease. This is a regressive tax because the fixed amount of tax on a pack of cigarettes represents a larger share of the income of low-income smokers than of the wealthy and because low-income individuals are more likely to smoke.
- 2.** High excise taxes may increase smuggling from neighboring states with lower taxes; this activity may encourage

corruption among public officials and trigger violence against people, property and police, as well as increase law enforcement needs.

### PROPOSITION 106 Medical Aid in Dying

An initiated proposition adding a new section of article 48 to title 25 of the Colorado Revised Statutes to allow an adult resident of Colorado to request and receive from a physician a prescription for a medical aid-in-dying medication for self-administration.

**Major Provisions:**

- Allows an individual who is a Colorado resident, 18 years old, mentally competent, and who is diagnosed with a terminal illness, and has a prognosis of six months or less to live, to request an aid-in-dying medication for self-administration from the attending physician;
- Provides that the individual must request the medication twice orally and then once in writing in front of two witnesses, who can attest that the request is voluntary and that the individual is mentally competent;
- Requires the attending physician, after determining the patient is mentally competent and the request is voluntary, to refer the patient to a consulting physician;
- Requires the consulting physician to confirm the diagnosis and prognosis and to confirm mental competence and that the request is voluntary;
- Determines the patient must be aware of alternative treatments and the risks of aid-in-dying medication;
- Refers those determined to be suffering a mental disorder to a competent mental health professional for counseling;
- Establishes criminal penalties for causing an individual’s death by forgery, coercion, undue influence, or destroying or hiding a cancellation of a request for aid-in-dying medication;
- Provides that when a death has occurred by self-administration of an aid-in-dying medication, the physician signing the death certificate must list the underlying terminal illness as the cause of death.

**Background:**

Prior to World War II, although euthanasia had been widely discussed, no state allowed a physician to assist a person in ending his/her life. However, as improved medical care allowed the extension of life even though the patient was unconscious, and as anxiety over extending life through highly technical means increased, concern over the rights of patients to control their own treatment and their right to refuse treatment and die also increased. Soon, the discussion also included the concept of allowing a terminally ill patient to self-administer an aid-in-dying medication with some restrictions. (Restrictions for this proposal are outlined in the major provisions above.)

In 1994, Oregon passed a Death with Dignity law. In Colorado, similar legislation was introduced in the Legislature in 1995, 1996, 2015, and 2016 but failed to pass. Initiatives or legislation allowing physicians to prescribe aid-in-dying medication for self-administration have passed in Washington, Montana, Vermont and California and have been considered in several other states.

**Those in favor say:**

- 1.** The Colorado End-of-Life Options Act would allow terminally ill, mentally capable adult Colorado residents access to medication that would allow them to shorten the dying process if suffering becomes unbearable. For most people with a terminal illness, hospice and palliative care are the right fit. But sometimes even the best care cannot relieve pain and suffering, and people in that situation should have a range of options.
- 2.** The measure would take government out of personal end-of-life decisions and allow patients to make their own choices

about their health care with input from their families, their doctors and their faith. Medical aid in dying is now authorized in five states and the Colorado proposal is modeled after the successful Oregon law that has been in effect for nearly two decades.

**Those opposed say:**

- 1.** Passage of this proposal could lead health professionals, family members, or others to advise, encourage, or exert subtle pressure on vulnerable persons to request doctor-prescribed suicide. Insurance companies could also use this as a way to cut costs by denying payment for more expensive treatments while approving payment for less costly lethal prescriptions. Health care facilities that do not permit end-of-life options may not be able to prevent doctor prescribed suicides from taking place on their premises.
- 2.** A family member could engage in “doctor-shopping” until compliant physicians were found. A consulting physician may be a colleague or employee of the attending physician. Once a prescription is filled, there are no safeguards to ensure that the drug has been voluntarily taken. Also, the cause of death would not be accurately reflected on the death certificate.

### PROPOSITION 107 Presidential Primary Elections

Amend the Colorado Revised Statutes to establish a presidential primary to be held in March of each presidential election year.

**Major Provisions:**

- Establishes a presidential primary election in Colorado;
- Allows unaffiliated voters to participate in the presidential primary without affiliating with a political party.

**Background:**

Presidential nominees for major political parties are chosen by state delegates at each party’s national convention. In Colorado state delegates for the national party conventions have been selected in different ways over the years. In 1992, 1996 and 2000 delegates were selected by a presidential primary election. Since that time, political parties in Colorado have chosen delegates for their national conventions using a caucus/convention system. Only party members can participate in that party’s caucus or convention. Caucuses and conventions are paid for by the political parties.

Under this proposal, a presidential primary election will be held no later than the third Tuesday in March. The presidential primary election will be the only issue on the ballot. This election will be funded by state and local taxpayers. The winner of a party’s presidential primary will receive all of that party’s delegates to the national convention. Delegates will be bound to vote for that candidate at the party’s national convention.

This proposal does not change the existing primary election in Colorado held in June for other state, federal and local offices. Neither does the proposition prevent political parties from holding caucuses. However, parties will no longer use caucuses to determine the party’s choice for presidential nominee.

Voters who wish to be independent of political parties will not be required to affiliate with a political party to vote in the presidential primary election.

**Those in favor say:**

- 1.** This year only 13% of Democrats and 6% of Republicans attended Colorado caucuses. Unaffiliated voters had no voice in nominating presidential candidates. A presidential primary election open to all voters will increase public participation in the selection process.
- 2.** The caucus system in Colorado has resulted in the selection of extreme from each party. If all voters are engaged in the selection process, more centrist, pragmatic candidates will be selected. Without a presidential primary, Colorado is largely candidates ignored by the major party candidates.

**Those opposed say:**

- 1.** The political parties fund caucuses,



which are intimate political gatherings that foster close relationships and inspire grass roots activism. The presidential primary will cost the state's taxpayers \$5.4 million in the 2019-20 election cycle.

**2.** Since the purpose of the primary election is to select political party candidates, only members of the parties should vote in these elections.

## PROPOSITION 108

### Primary Elections

Amend the Colorado Revised Statutes to allow an unaffiliated voter to vote in a primary election.

#### Major Provisions:

- Allows voters who are not affiliated with a political party to vote in a nonpresidential primary election;
- Requires unaffiliated voters to vote in the primary for only one political party;
- Allows political parties to opt out of holding an open primary election and, instead, nominate candidates either by assembly or convention.

#### Background:

Colorado holds primary elections that select party nominees for state, county and national offices, other than President, on the last Tuesday in June of even-numbered years. County election officials run these primary elections. Primary elections are paid for by taxpayers. Presently, Colorado primaries are closed which means a voter must be affiliated with a political party before voting in a primary election. If an unaffiliated voter wants to vote in a primary election, that voter may affiliate with a party at any time including on Election Day.

Under this measure, voters who wish to be independent of the political parties will no longer be required to affiliate with a political party before voting in a nonpresidential primary election. Unaffiliated voters would be allowed to vote in a primary election for only one political party.

The proposal also allows political parties to choose not to hold an open primary election. Instead, the parties could select candidates at an assembly or convention. Unaffiliated voters would not be able to participate. This process would be funded by the political parties.

#### Those in favor say:

1. Turnout in primaries in Colorado is low. Just 1 in 5 Colorado voters in 2016 picked candidates to run in November. Winners of closed primaries tend to appeal to the extremes of each party. We need more people involved if we want the best candidate options.
2. More than a third (37%) of Colorado voters are unaffiliated and nearly 50% of voters age 40 and under are unaffiliated. It's not right to exclude more than 1.3 million Coloradans from primary elections.
3. This is about fairness. Because all taxpayers pay for elections, no one should be excluded from the primary election. Everyone, including unaffiliated voters, should have the right to have their voices heard.

#### Those opposed say:

1. Since the purpose of the primary election is to select political party candidates, only members of the parties should vote in these elections. Colorado voters already have the option of declaring a party so they can vote in a primary election. They can change their status back to unaffiliated after the election.
2. Opening primaries to unaffiliated voters will cost local and state taxpayers additional money. The state will have to produce and print separate ballots for unaffiliated voters. This may be a difficult financial burden on smaller and more rural counties.

## BALLOT ISSUE 4B

### Denver Metropolitan Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD)

This proposal will appear on ballots in the following counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Boulder, Denver, Douglas (except in towns of Castle Rock & Larkspur), and Jefferson.

An amendment to the Colorado Revised Statutes to reauthorize the collection of the 0.1% sales and use tax and to modify provisions for the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District.

#### Major Provisions:

- Extends the current 0.1% sales and use tax for 12 years to June 30, 2030;
- Outlines administrative procedures for the SCFD district;
- Adjusts the formula for distribution of the 0.1% tax revenues to participating organizations as follows: Tier I - 0.064%, Tier II - 0.022%, and Tier III - 0.014%.

#### Background:

In 1988, voters in the Denver Metro area created the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) to provide a consistent source of funding to scientific, cultural and arts organizations. Voters approved funding for the district by approving a tax of one-cent on every \$10 spent within the district. The tax was renewed in 1994 and again in 2004.

The recipients of district funds are divided into three groups or tiers. Tier I consists of the Denver Art Museum, the Denver Botanic Gardens, the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, the Denver Zoo and the Denver Center for the Performing Arts (DCPA). Their share of the funds is determined by statute. Tier II includes other significant local and regional institutions. Tier III recipients are smaller local organizations with cultural and scientific missions. Each county receives funds in proportion to the tax collected there, and the county cultural council recommends which organizations will receive funds.

The district is comprised of the seven-county Denver Metro area of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson Counties.

#### Those in favor say:

1. For the last 28 years, the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District has been an essential element in the increasingly vibrant arts, science and cultural scene across the metro area. Today, an average of 15 million visitors a year gain access to a broad array of offerings, making it a national model of public funding for the arts.
2. The \$54 million generated from a modest one-penny sales tax on every ten dollar purchase allows over 4 million students the opportunity to experience educational and cultural programming at more than 300 diverse SCFD funded organizations. Because of the SCFD, more than 100 free days are available at our regional institutions each year.
3. The SCFD boosts our region's economy and provides a huge return on investment throughout the seven counties that support the district. SCFD funded facilities deliver a \$1.85 billion annual boost to the metro region's economy by generating jobs, tourism and audience spending.

#### Those opposed say:

1. The government taxes everyone to pay for the SCFD, regardless of whether individuals support the district, or can afford the tax. Many of those taxed for the district do not use the facilities supported by the district. Those who patronize the cultural facilities are, in general, able to pay for them without taxpayer subsidy.
2. The SCFD distribution formula favors the five largest organizations (Tier I: Zoo, DCPA, Botanic Gardens, Art and Nature and Science Museums) and automatic payments to these organizations will increase exponentially. At the same time, the Tier II mid-size organizations will divide their quota of the tax money between a growing-number of mid-sized organizations, thus shrinking their "slice of the pie." Likewise, smaller organizations in Tier III will be penalized because the increasing number of these organizations causes a further division of funds and provides smaller grants to each individual organization.



## Denver League of Women Voters

### REGIONAL/LOCAL BALLOT ISSUES

## INITIATED

### ORDINANCE 300

#### Cannabis Consumption Pilot Program

Shall the voters of the City and County of Denver adopt an ordinance that creates a cannabis consumption pilot program where: the City and County of Denver (the "City") may permit a business or a person with evidence of support of an eligible neighborhood association or business improvement district to allow the consumption of marijuana ("cannabis") in a designated consumption area; such associations or districts may set forth conditions on the operation of a designated consumption area, including permitting or restricting concurrent uses, consumptions, or services offered, if any; the designated consumption area is limited to those over the age of twenty-one, must comply with the Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act, may overlap with any other type of business or licensed premise, and cannot be located within 1000 feet of a school; a designated consumption area that is located outside cannot be visible from a public right-of-way or a place where children congregate; the City shall create a task force to study the impacts of cannabis consumption permits on the city; the City may enact additional regulations and ordinances to further regulate designated consumption areas that are not in conflict with this ordinance; and the cannabis consumption pilot program expires on December 31, 2020 or earlier if the City passes comprehensive regulations governing cannabis consumption?

#### Background:

In November 2012, voters in Colorado approved Amendment 64 by 55.32%. It allows people 21 years old and older to use recreational marijuana. Commercial sales of recreational marijuana began January 1, 2014. The City and County of Denver has enacted rules that forbid consumption of marijuana in public areas. In 2015, a measure to allow consumption of marijuana at certain restaurants, bars and businesses (similar to the current proposal) was introduced. At the last minute (September 3, 2015), the measure was withdrawn because the campaign leaders were

optimistic that City Council was planning to consider a similar measure. The City Council did not bring this proposal forward in 2016, prompting the supporters to reintroduce it. This cannabis initiative is a way to allow consumption of marijuana in designated areas, approved by the City and County of Denver, with evidence of support of an eligible neighborhood association or business improvement district.

#### Major Provisions:

- Businesses or persons would obtain a cannabis consumption permit from the city for that business or for an event.
- The Director of Excise and Licenses will issue the permit and determine whether there is community support from a recognized neighborhood organization at least two years old.
- Permitted locations are required to be 1,000 feet from a school
- Hours of operation do not allow consumption of cannabis between 2:00 AM and 7:00 AM. The neighborhood organization may impose more restrictive hours.
- Permit holders will submit a responsible operations plan to the Director of Excise and Licenses.
- Permits will be valid for one year (or less if the community requires a shorter period).
- Application fee will be \$1,000 and annual permit fee will be \$1,000.
- City Council will create a Cannabis Consumption Task Force to study the impacts of the consumption permits on the city.
- This article will be repealed December 31, 2020 or when City Council passes regulations governing cannabis consumption, whichever comes first.

#### Those in favor say:

1. In Denver, we've legalized the purchase and possession of cannabis for adults but have not provided them with a safe and discreet place to consume it away from city sidewalks, parks and places where children congregate. This Pilot Program is a responsible approach to solving this problem that won't remedy itself.
2. Many residents of Denver live in HOA or landlord-controlled properties that disallow cannabis use on the premises, while more than 70 million tourists come to Colorado each year, also with no place to consume cannabis. This has led to a 500% increase in public consumption tickets issued in Denver since the

passing of Amendment 64 in Colorado, with African-Americans being arrested at a rate 2.6 times higher than whites.

3. The Pilot Program will provide designated spaces in certain City-permitted business establishments where adults 21 and over can consume cannabis in accordance with the Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act and out of view of the public.
4. The Pilot Program is designed to mutually serve the interests of both cannabis consumers and Denver neighborhoods by requiring a prospective permit holder to garner formal support from an eligible neighborhood organization prior to applying with the Denver Department of Excise and Licenses.
5. To allow neighborhoods the ability to slowly step into this new territory, the proposed permits could be issued for a short duration of time, such as for a single event, allowing for a phased integration of this program that adjusts to current unknowns as they are realized and best practices are developed.
6. Neighborhood organizations will have the ability to mandate certain restrictions on the businesses to ensure they operate in a manner that is most appropriate for the neighborhoods in which they operate, empowering neighborhoods to be part of the process and set high standards of responsibility for cannabis consumers and cannabis consumption permit holders.
7. Ultimately this is a pilot program that will sunset in 2020 if not extended by city council or an additional voter initiative.

#### Those opposed say:

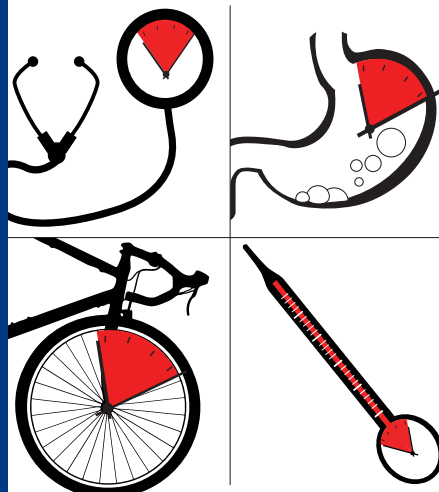
1. It sends the wrong message to children that marijuana is harmless
2. It would directly undermine what Coloradans approved in approving Amendment 64 in 2012 by allowing consumption to be conducted openly and publically
3. It will inevitably lead to a dangerous increase in drugged driving
4. This initiative will allow individuals to hold events where marijuana would be consumed – even in non-business locations
5. This initiative, if passed, will replace conflicting provisions in the current Revised Municipal Code of Marijuana ordinances in Denver, such as protecting distances from childcare centers, alcohol and drug treatment facilities and any residential neighborhood.

(continued on page 26)

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Father-daughter team Steven and Sierra Seidel dreamed up and implemented the funnel cake business idea together.



## Father, Daughter Funnel Creativity into Restaurant

By Laurie Dunklee

The aroma of fresh deep-fried funnel cakes is hard to resist. Steven Seidel, owner of Funnels restaurant in Northfield, counts on tempting shoppers for a sweet treat. Funnels opened in May near the Harkins Theatres, next door to Marco's Pizza. "Northfield was our first choice when we decided to open a brick-and-mortar location," said Seidel, who operated a food truck since 2013. "We wanted a high-traffic area, and what is better than being near a movie theater?"

Seidel and his daughter, Sierra, came up with the idea for a funnel-cakes business in 2008 at a Colorado National Speedway event. "We were standing in line at a funnel cake stand and

it took about half an hour to get served. The cakes weren't very good either. Sierra was 12 at the time and we thought it would be nice to get good funnel cakes anytime, not just at public events. So we wrote a business plan."

The Funnels food truck started rolling in 2013, when Seidel converted an Orion II mass transit bus into a food truck. "It rides on air bags that lower down to the ground, which allows our shorter customers to see inside and watch us make the funnel cakes," said Seidel, whose background includes accounting and finance in the hospitality industry.

The food truck caters at festivals, community events, weddings, company events and private parties. Funnels' first event in 2013 was the Hot Rod Hill Climb in Georgetown.

"In a 20,000-pound truck, it took a while to get up the mountain. After that we decided to stick to events in the metro area."

Funnel cakes are made with batter poured through a funnel into the deep fryer. The sweet fried dough is traditionally topped with powdered sugar or cinnamon, but Funnels offers various creative toppings. "We have the Elvis with peanut butter and banana," said Seidel. "We also serve the Fundae, like a

## THE SHOPS AT NORTHFIELD

banana split with funnel cake on either side instead of banana. Bacon fries are bacon strips dipped in funnel cake batter and served with maple syrup."

He said the most popular offering is strawberry cheesecake, invented by Sierra. Now 21, Sierra works at Funnels restaurant in the afternoons.

For more information, see [funwithfunnels.com](http://funwithfunnels.com).

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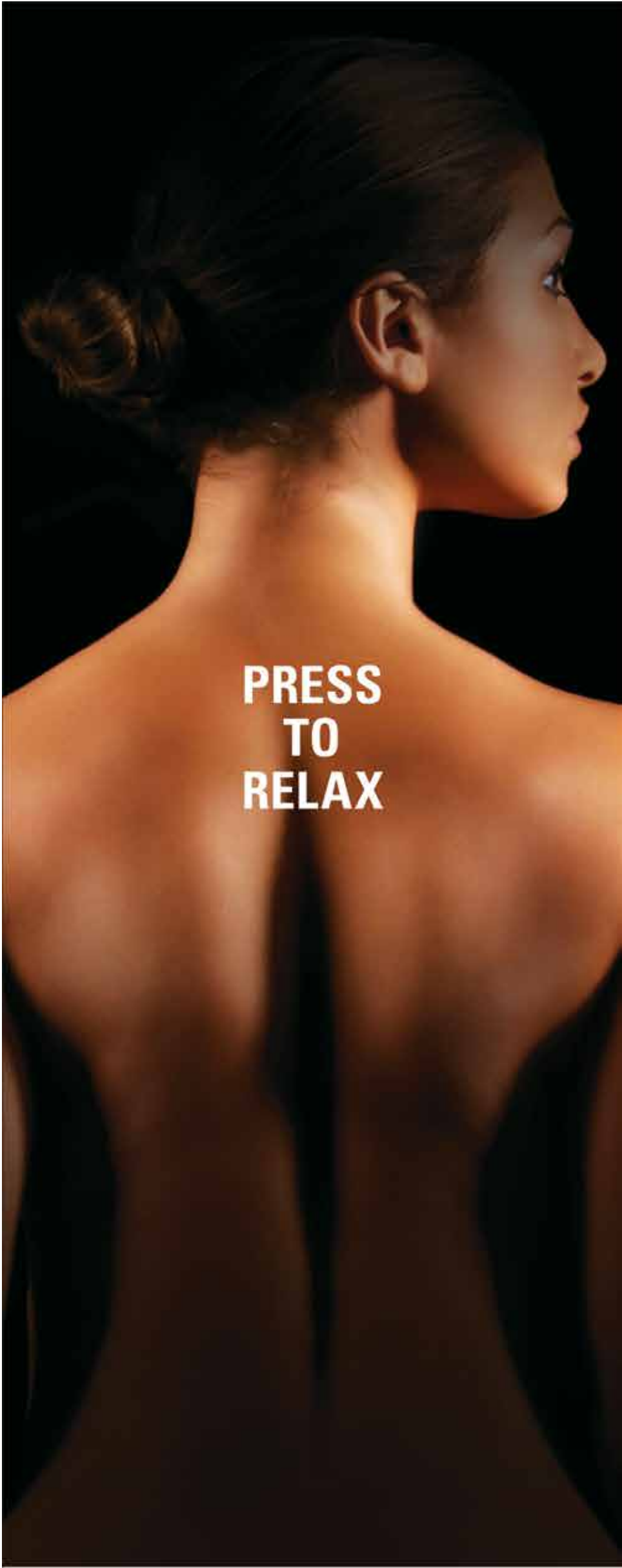
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**STANLEY MARKETPLACE**  
**Fourth-generation Barbers**

*By Laurie Dunklee*  
Opening their own barbershop is the fulfillment of a dream for brothers Semion and Roman Kikirov, fourth-generation barbers who emigrated from Tajikistan, formerly part of the Soviet Union, in 1999.

“We couldn’t have our own shop in Tajikistan, a Communist country where everything was owned by the government,” said Roman. “It’s satisfying to have our own shop where we can implement our own ideas.”

Roman and Semion grew up in the tradition of barbering, where the skill was passed down through the generations. “In our family, we do hair,” Roman said. “Our tradition is to learn through apprenticeship with experienced barbers. Semion learned from our father and I learned from Semion.”

The brothers, both Aurora residents, opened their first Semion Barbershop for All at 507 Lincoln St. in 2011 and will expand to the Stanley this fall. Semion offers services for men, women and children, including haircuts, shaves, hair color and brow waxing. “We got into the Stanley after Mark Shaker [Stanley developer] came in for a haircut and saw families coming into our place together,” said Roman. “He was looking for a community feel and he saw that in us.”

Roman was 11 and Semion was 18 when their family left Tajikistan for New York in 1999. Tajikistan became an independent nation in 1991 after the breakup of the Soviet Union. “We were in the midst of a political crisis, a fight for power between the religious and secular Tajiks,” Roman said. “It was very difficult, with the constant bombings and shootings. We experienced economic hardship and persecution as Jews. Most of the people we knew left and we were among the last to leave.”



He said the move to the U.S. was a culture shock. “It’s hard enough to be 11 years old but I lost my friends and everything I knew.”

Ultimately it was worth the struggle. “When we got here I was shocked that the schools had current books, computers and warm classrooms. Here I can wear my yarmulke openly. It’s been an amazing opportunity to work hard and do our best.”

The Kikirovs moved to Denver in 2001 because of the climate. “Dushanbe, where we



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# Find their Dream in Denver



Roman Kikrov playfully tips his brother Simion's cap revealing a mostly hairless head in their downtown Denver barber shop. The brothers plan to expand to Stanley Marketplace.

came from, is a sister city with Boulder. Both have mountains and four distinct seasons."

Roman got a master's degree in accounting/finance from the University of Colorado Denver. He applies his degree to managing the shop's books and marketing, as well as cutting hair now and then.

Along with the shop, the brothers run Semion Academy, a training program for hairstylists and barbers. "We want to raise

the number of quality professionals in the area," Roman said. "We learned from people who shared their skills with us, so we want to share our knowledge with everybody. Our goal is not to take these skills to the grave, but pass them on like they were passed on to us."

For more information or to make an appointment, see [semionbarbershop.com](http://semionbarbershop.com) or call 303.284.8954.

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Photo by Erin Bird, courtesy of Denver Botanic Gardens

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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 an instant-streaming service.

Follow “Indie Prof” on Facebook for updates about film events and more reviews.

### *Girl Asleep* (2015)

This gem comes to us from Australia and first-time director Rosemary Myers. It tells the story of Greta, a 14-year-old girl on the cusp of her 15th birthday. She and her best/only friend Elliot are outsiders in their teenaged world, yet Greta is reticent about leaving her childhood behind as she gets older. When her parents throw a surprise party for her, the film turns: she enters a parallel

world that is at times scary, odd, and even disturbing. Rarely in movies do we get the portrayal of interesting and thoughtful teenagers; too often we see caricatures of reality that demean the characters and play into banal stereotypes.

*Girl Asleep* goes beyond the

banality and speaks to the true inner world of the teenager. Step in to the forest if you dare.

The setting is '70s suburbia, and the production

design captures the drab era perfectly in its palette of browns, tans, and muted warm colors. The cinematography toggles between the long takes and deep focus of the realistic scenes to a highly formalist surrealism in the parallel world—splashes of color, faster editing, and



*Girl Asleep*



*Better Call Saul*

symbolic imagery that speaks to the inner world/imagination. The entire package from director Myers shows a highly skilled director who has a bright future ahead.

Her skill shines through in many ways. The material comes from a recently staged play written by Matthew Whittet (Greta's father in the film). Adapting a play to the screen is problematic for several reasons: plays are dialogue heavy and visually static where films must do the opposite and tell the story through images. Myers infuses those images with a magic realism that lends itself to an otherworldly experience.

The whole film is quite the trip. It starts out as a coming-of-age story and then midway through it turns into a very different film—one that becomes darker, more menacing, and even uncomfortably erotic. The mind of the teenager is certainly a dark and mysterious place, and the pivot to that portion of the film mirrors the quick mood swings of a teenager. If you were ever such a teenager, or (gasp!) the parent of a teenager, you understand the dynamic. *Girl Asleep* allows us direct access into that mind. Beware.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *Little Miss Sunshine*, *Muriel's Wedding*, and/or *Clueless*.

Opens at the Sie Film Center on 10/7.

### *Better Call Saul* (AMC/Netflix)

*Breaking Bad* is considered one of the best TV shows to ever grace the small screen. It ran for five seasons beginning in 2008, concluding in 2013. It told the story of high school chemistry teacher Walter White (Bryan Cranston), who finds out he has cancer and subsequently transforms into a meth-maker/dealer. It won a Golden Globe for Best Television Drama in 2014, and it also won multiple Emmys—taking home 134 awards and 218 nominations during its run. One of the recurring characters on the show was White's lawyer, the unscrupulous and enigmatic Saul Goodman (Bob Odenkirk). In one of the more anticipated spinoffs in recent memory, Saul was given his own show—*Better Call Saul*. It debuted in 2015 on AMC and just finished its second season. Rarely do spinoffs ever come close to their older sibling's aura, but *Better Call Saul* does just that. It exceeds expectations.

The show follows Saul Goodman before he became Saul Goodman, when he was simply Jimmy McGill, a mailroom worker in his big brother's law firm. Over the course of the show, Jimmy finishes his law degree and sets up his own practice. It covers the years before Saul meets Walter White, so it effectively serves as a prequel that focuses on just a few of the characters we knew from *Breaking Bad*. In addition to Saul, we also get the story of Mike, the enforcer/cleaner from *Breaking Bad*.

The hallmarks of *Breaking Bad* are all here: the quirky and lush cinematography, the interesting and dynamic characters, the non-linear storytelling, the excellent writing, and the superb acting. Odenkirk is sensational as McGill/Goodman, bringing a vulnerability and quiet intelligence to the role that was missing in his limited *Breaking Bad* scenes. As we get to know the character more, we grow to like and respect him. The same is true of Jonathan Banks as Mike—we learn his entire backstory, and we come to understand his motivations and actions.

Overall, the series is both heartwarming and endearing, even as it moves from brutal action to sheer drama. There is quietness to the whole that seems to build from the charisma of the parts—the writing, the acting, and the filming. All work together to provide a unique landscape of stories that never pander to its audience. This is intelligent drama that is so rare on the little screen. Thank goodness.

You will like this show if you enjoyed *Breaking Bad*, *House of Cards*, and/or *Daredevil*.

Seasons 1 and 2 are available at Amazon; Season 1 is on Netflix as well.

Vincent Piturro, Ph.D., is an associate professor of Cinema Studies at Metropolitan State University of Denver. He can be reached at [vpiturro@msudenver.com](mailto:vpiturro@msudenver.com).

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# Just the Facts

## Mile High Snakes & Myths

by James Hagadorn

.....

I remember the first time I stepped over a snake. Mid-stride, the round rock below me moved. It wasn't a rock, but a coiled-up rattler. Yikes!

Colorado is full of snakes, as well as snake myths. Snakes have lived here since the Jurassic, and today about 30 snake species call Colorado home. They base-camp from serpentine lairs of the southeastern plains and occur all the way up to 11,000-ft.-high Rocky Mountain valleys. Our snakes are diverse too. They include constrictors like the kingsnakes, pit vipers like rattlesnakes, water-loving snakes like garter snakes, and underground ones like threadsnakes.

Snakes are a key part of our landscape because they're



Cannibalism! Adult yellow-bellied racer swallowing a younger version of the same species in Douglas County, CO. Photo by Joe Farah.

food for many other creatures like foxes, eagles and raccoons. They're also predators on smaller animals, from insects to lizards and even fish, worms or other snakes. Some snake prey can be pests, like plague-bearing prairie dogs, hantavirus-bearing mice, crop-eating grasshoppers, and rodents that carry disease-bearing ticks.

Human activities aren't generally helpful for snake survival. Development diminishes their abundance, because these cold-blooded animals like to warm up in these sunny, open spaces like roads and trails, where they are prone to be run over. Cats and, to a lesser extent, dogs are common snake killers. But some places like Chatfield Reservoir or gently sloped irrigation ditches can provide regular habitat for snakes like the northern water snake.

Snakes also have economic value. For example, some snake venoms, after modification, have anticancerous or therapeutic qualities akin to those of a Gila monster's venom. The latter's new Type II diabetes aid—because it suppresses appetite and regulates blood sugar. Plus, there's the pet trade, where snakes and other venomous reptiles are part of a billion-dollar U.S. "herpetoculture" economy.

This time of year, snake sightings often increase as snakes return to their overwintering dens, or "hibernacula." Sometimes they migrate en masse. Because it's warmer during the day, that's when they primarily travel—thus increasing our propensity to spot them more frequently in the early fall. Ditto for the spring when they emerge.

Colorado's snakes are generally quite shy, especially toward larger animals like humans. Witness their great defensive or avoidance strategies. They camouflage, they play possum when threatened, and some even shake their tails, as if feigning that they're rattlers. They have complex sensory systems that can include infrared (heat-reading) vision, vibration-sensitive "hearing," and incredible chemical scent detection that they use to "smell"—that's why they often flick their tongues out.

Like bears, snakes snuggle together in winter dens, and males exhibit mating displays and fights akin to bighorn sheep. They feed in interesting ways—killing their prey by constricting them, wolfing them down whole, or poisoning them.



Fortunately, the three dangerous types of venomous snakes here are easily recognized. All of them have stubby or rattle-bearing tails, as opposed to the pencil-tip tails of their nonpoisonous brethren.

And those pet boa constrictors that get dumped by owners? They can't survive winters here, even on the plains. So Colorado snakes aren't much of a risk to humans, pets or livestock.

The experts' advice: If you encounter a snake, leave it alone. If it's a rattler, move away slowly. None of our snakes are aggressive unless they're threatened. Most attempts to play with, rescue, or kill the snake end up with a hand being bitten. Or worse, being covered in the stinky musk a garter snake releases when it's trying to slither out of your grip.

What if you do get bitten? Don't use a snake bite kit—they have been shown to be ineffective. Don't try to kill or catch the snake—most folks that do this just get bitten again, and having the snake won't help your doc heal you. What should you do? Get to the nearest hospital and ask for antivenom. Today's antivenom, brewed from the antibodies of sheep, is quite effective compared to



Photographing a bullsnake on a back country road in Colorado. Photo by K. Garten.

the stuff of old. The shorter the time between the bite and the antivenom, the better.

And that urban legend about baby snakes being deadlier? Not true. Whereas their venom might be twice as potent as an adult's, they inject a twentieth to a hundredth as much when they bite. And, they *do* control their venom release—they can release a small amount or even none at all, producing a dry bite.

Colorado snakes reduce pests (if only they ate mosquitos!), they're a key part of our ecosystem, and are harmless unless provoked. No need to scream or run away next time you see one. It's probably thinking "Don't tread on me."

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

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# Using an App to Teach Your Baby Spanish

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

In the course of a parent's day, they find themselves repeating things over and over: "Get dressed," "Brush your teeth," "What would you like to eat?" etc. With a smartphone app, MamaLingua, those repetitious phrases become learning opportunities, teaching children as young as newborns to become bilingual. "They have discovered that in kids from birth to 2 or 3 years, their brains can identify by the accent if it's Spanish or English or French or German, for instance," says Stapleton resident Sofia Cruz Davila of MamaLingua. "If you teach a baby two languages, their brain changes and makes it easier to learn any other languages later on. That's why our goal is to try to introduce a second language in the earliest year."

Cruz Davila says there were a lot of smartphone apps geared toward preschoolers and elementary school kids. But there was a need to provide an app for the first years of life and language learning. Although babies and toddlers are the focus, Cruz Davila says the app is still effective and helpful even in older children.

The MamaLingua app is currently only available for iPhones and iPads. It has a free, introductory version and a full version costing \$7.99. The app is organized alphabetically and by day-to-day categories such as reading, sleeping, eating, changing and playing. Users can also create lists of words or phrases they may need to focus on.

Cruz Davila became involved with MamaLingua after meeting Aileen Passariello-McAleer, co-founder of the app when they were both living in Stapleton, raising bilingual



Sofia Cruz Davila uses the MamaLingua app with sons, Pablo, 4, and Daniel, 15 months. An example of the screen is shown at right.

children. Passariello-McAleer, who now lives in Texas, asked Cruz Davila to be the person focusing on teaching English to Spanish-speakers while Passariello-McAleer focuses on Spanish to English-speakers. The opportunity allowed Cruz Davila to do something for herself while still being able to be a full-time parent to her two young children. "With Aileen living in Austin, we are still able to work together," says Cruz Davila. "It's the advantage of new technology that we can connect and most of the work we do is online."

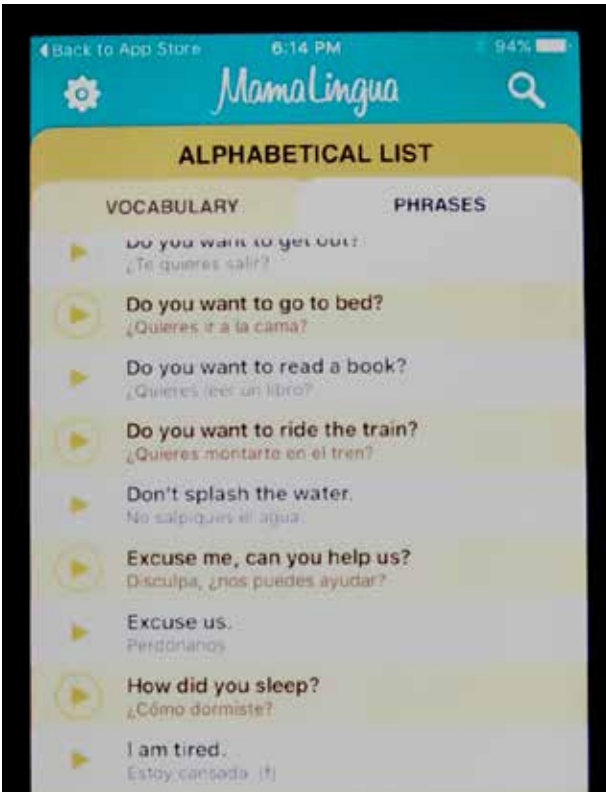
The target audience for MamaLingua is families all over the world interested in both teaching their children and themselves a second language. "The app is meant to be interactive," says Cruz Davila. "It's for parents to talk to their kids—it's not just to play the app for the kids so that they'll learn."

While the app can be a stand-alone tool, encouraging community is also part of the effort. The app is being introduced to area foreign language schools, such as La Academia Marie Sandoval, as a suggested way parents can continue bilin-

gual education outside the classroom. In addition, a line of Spanish children's books is expected to be available for sale on the [www.mama-lingua.com](http://www.mama-lingua.com) website early next year for both native Spanish-speakers and those learning the language.

The primary means of growing community, though, is through MamaLingua's Facebook and Instagram pages (each with English and Spanish versions), providing vocabulary, phrases and daily tips. Parents from multiple countries connect, ask questions and communicate about teaching their children a second language. Cruz Davila also participates in a separate Stapleton Facebook group not affiliated with MamaLingua, Stapleton Spanish Babies and Toddlers, which, although a "closed" group, welcomes new members who can request to join online. The group is an opportunity for bilingual families to meet face-to-face, practicing language skills with each other and their children.

"Learning a second language is easier if you start in the early years," says Cruz Davila, "but it's never too late."



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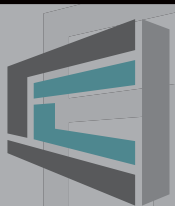
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## SEASONAL/HOLIDAY EVENTS

**Through 10/30—Botanic Gardens Corn Maze.** Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield, 8500 W. Deer Creek Canyon Rd. [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**Through 10/31—Fritzier Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch.** 7 miles south of Greeley on U.S. 85. [www.fritziermaze.com](http://www.fritziermaze.com)

**Through 10/31—Anderson Farms Fall Festival.** Corn maze, pumpkin patch, hayrides, barrel train, etc. 6728 County Road 3 1/4 Erie. [www.andersonfarms.com](http://www.andersonfarms.com)

**Through 10/31—Rock Creek Farms Pumpkin Patch and Corn Maze.** U pick-em pumpkin patch, straw bale maze, corn maze with 5 miles of paths, farm animals. 2005 S. 112th St., Broomfield. [www.rockcreekfarm.com](http://www.rockcreekfarm.com)

**Through 10/31—Cottonwood Farms Pumpkin Patch and Fall Festival.** Farm animals, straw bale maze, 1½-acre corn maze, wagon rides, etc. Daily 10am -6pm. 75th and Arapahoe, Boulder. [www.cottonwoodfarms.com](http://www.cottonwoodfarms.com)

**Through 11/12—13th Floor Haunted House.** Tickets \$26.99-46.99. [www.13thfloorhauntedhouse.com](http://www.13thfloorhauntedhouse.com)

**Through 11/15—Miller Farms Fall Harvest Festival.** Corn maze, petting zoo, tractor rides, etc. 9am-6pm daily. 9040 Hwy 66, Platteville. [www.millerfarms.net](http://www.millerfarms.net)

**10/1 to 10/2—18th Annual Estes Park Elk Fest.** Bond Park. Free. Bugling contests, Cabela's Archery Range, elk exhibits. [www.visitestespark.com](http://www.visitestespark.com)

**10/1 to 10/2—Lakewood Cider Days.** Lakewood Heritage Center. 10am-5pm, \$4-\$7. [www.lakewood.org](http://www.lakewood.org)

**10/1 to 10/2—Pumpkin Harvest Festival.** Four Mile Historic Park. Horse-drawn wagon rides, pumpkin patch, build a scarecrow, etc. 10am-4pm. 715 S. Forest St. [www.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)

**10/1 to 10/30—Rocky Mountain Pumpkin Ranch Pumpkin Carnival.** Weekends thru Oct. 9057 Ute Hwy/CO 66, Longmont. [www.Rockymtnpumpkinranch.com](http://www.Rockymtnpumpkinranch.com)

**10/1 to 10/31—Harvest Fall Festival and Corn Maize.** Wellington, Colo. 10-acre corn maize, pig races, corn cannons, petting zoo, etc. Adults \$15, seniors \$10, kids 4-12 \$13. [www.harvestfarm.net](http://www.harvestfarm.net)

**10/1 to 10/31—Mazzotti Farms Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch.** Weekends in Oct. 10am-5pm. Petting zoo, corn maze, working farm, pumpkin patch; 1 pumpkin per \$10/person admission. 303.536.4089. 24120 Weld County Road 8, Hudson. [www.mazzottifarms.com](http://www.mazzottifarms.com)

**10/2 Sunday—Arts Coalition of Erie Harvest Festival.** 625 Pierce St., Erie. Pumpkin patch, crafts, games, craft fair, treats, cider. [www.artcoalitionoferie.org](http://www.artcoalitionoferie.org)

**10/8 to 10/9—18th Annual Punkin Chunkin Colorado.** Arapahoe Horse Track, 2600 E. Quincy Ave., Aurora. [www.auroragov.org](http://www.auroragov.org)

**10/11 to 10/29—Victorian Horrors at Molly Brown House.** 6-8:45pm. Tours leave every 15 minutes, \$16-\$19. Advance reservations required. Suitable for ages 12 and up. [www.mollybrown.org](http://www.mollybrown.org)

**10/19 to 10/27—Glow in the Garden.** Select Wednesdays/Thursdays in Oct. 6-9:30pm, last admission 9pm. Denver Botanic Gardens lights up the night with jack-o-lanterns and luminarias, storytellers, scavenger hunts, more. Adults \$14/members \$12, children \$10/member \$8; children 2 and under free. [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**10/22 Saturday—11th Annual Denver Zombie Crawl.** 12-6pm. Skyline Park. [www.eyehartbrains.com](http://www.eyehartbrains.com)

**10/22 Saturday—5th Annual Brighton Harvest Festival.** Downtown Brighton, trick or treat street, games, street fair, food trucks, etc.

**10/22 to 10/30—Boo at the Zoo.** Two weekends, Sat. and Sun. Trick or treat stations, animal demonstrations, family-friendly entertainment. Free with admission. [www.denverzoo.org](http://www.denverzoo.org)

**10/23 Sunday—Morrison Nature Center Trick or Treat Trail.** Star K Ranch, Booths, scavenger hunt and more. 1-4pm. 16002 E. Smith Rd. Rain date 10/30. [www.auroragov.org/nature](http://www.auroragov.org/nature)

**10/29 Saturday—Hauntings at the Hangar.** Halloween festivities at Wings Over the Rockies Museum. 12-4pm. Free with museum admission. [www.wingsmuseum.org](http://www.wingsmuseum.org)

**10/28 Friday—Forney Museum Fall Festival.** 5:30-9pm. Games, magician, prizes, trick or treat inside. Adults \$5, 12 and under free. [www.forneymuseum.org](http://www.forneymuseum.org)

**10/28 to 10/29—Boo After Dark.** Denver Zoo after dark. Trick or treat stations, animal demonstrations, family-friendly entertainment. \$17/adults, \$12 children. [www.denverzoo.org](http://www.denverzoo.org)

**10/28 to 10/30—Trick or Treat Street at The Children's Museum.** 9am-7:30pm. Trick or treat stations, Halloween activities/entertainment included in admission. [www.mychildsmuseum.org](http://www.mychildsmuseum.org)

**10/29 Saturday—Boo on the Bluff- Trick or Treat Trail at Bluff Lake Nature Center.** 10am-1pm. Come and learn about nature while enjoying treats and crafts. Costumes encouraged. \$2/person. [jlamontagne@blufflake.org](mailto:jlamontagne@blufflake.org). [www.blufflake.org](http://www.blufflake.org)

**10/29 Saturday—Historic Halloween at History Colorado Center.** 11:30am-2pm. Trick or treat around the museum; meet famous Coloradans including Buffalo Bill and Molly Brown. Free with admission. [www.historycolorado.org](http://www.historycolorado.org)

**10/29 Saturday—Lowry Halloween Festival and School Expo.** 3-6 pm. Trick or treat, carriage rides, mini train rides and kids activities. [www.lowrydenver.com](http://www.lowrydenver.com)

**10/29 to 10/30—Colorado Railroad Museum's Trick or Treat Train.** Rides and activities. 10am-4pm. Adult \$15, child \$5, Seniors \$10. [www.coloradorailroadmuseum.org](http://www.coloradorailroadmuseum.org)

## DENVER METRO EVENTS

**Through 10/2—Stories in Sculpture: Selections from the Walker Art Center Collection.** Denver Botanic Gardens, 13 sculptures throughout the gardens. Free with admission. [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**Through 10/2—Rhythm and Roots: Dance in American Art.** 90 paintings, photographs, sculptures and costumes 1830-1960 portray dances from sacred dances of indigenous North Americans to Irish jigs and Spanish flamencos. Included in general admission. [denverartmuseum.org](http://denverartmuseum.org), <http://denverartmuseum.org/exhibitions/rhythm-and-roots>

**Through 10/5—Third Annual Beer Flights at DIA.** Beer garden 11am-7pm daily. On open-air plaza adjacent to Westin Denver. Tickets at door for \$10; must be 21 or older with valid ID to enter. Includes souvenir glass for 10, 2-oz. beer samples from 10 Colorado breweries. [www.flydenver.com/enjoy\\_relax/eventsden](http://www.flydenver.com/enjoy_relax/eventsden)

**Through 10/8—Denver Beer Fest.** Tastings, tours, paired dinners and more. Multiple locations. [www.denverbeerfest.com](http://www.denverbeerfest.com)

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

**Through 1/16/17—Washed Ashore, Art to Save the Sea at the Denver Zoo.** Featuring 15 giant sculptures of sea life made from trash collected from beaches. Free with admission. [www.denverzoo.org](http://www.denverzoo.org)

**Through 5/28/17—Shock Wave: Japanese Fashion Design, 1980-90s.** View gorgeous works of Japanese designers who started a fashion revolution in Paris in 1980s-90s. [denverartmuseum.org](http://denverartmuseum.org), <http://denverartmuseum.org/exhibitions/shock-wave>

**10/2—Colorado Tattoo Convention and Expo.** National Western Complex. [www.coloradotattooconvention.com](http://www.coloradotattooconvention.com)

**10/5 to 10/9—30th Pastoral Anniversary—Rev. Dr. Jules E. Smith.** Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church, 1500 S. Dayton, celebrates its pastor. Nightly services 7pm; Sun. 7:45 am

**To view more events or to submit your own, visit [FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://FrontPorchStapleton.com) > Events**

and 10:30am. Pastoral luncheon 10/8, 1pm at Hyatt Regency Hotel, 13200 E. 14th Pl., Aurora. Luncheon ticket donations \$50 seniors, \$25 ages 12 and under. Fairy Hanley: 303.261.5086. <http://risingstarmchurch.org>

**10/6 to 10/8—Franchise Expo West.** Premier franchise event in western U.S. to meet 200+ franchise brands at all investment levels. 60 free seminars, 5 in-depth workshops, 1-on-1 consulting, financial discounts, and speakers such as host of CNBC's The Profit, Marcus Lemonis. <http://franchiseexpowest.com>

**10/7 Friday—Chocolate Crisis Center Choctoberfest 2016.** Win Oktoberfest beer stein filled with chocolate; pre-order your client/employee holiday gifts; eat ridiculous amounts of Belgian Chocolate; and laugh in photo-booth session with deranged psychiatrist at RiNo Art District's First Friday. 5-9pm. <https://chocolatecrisiscenter.com/events/chocolate-crisis-center-april-first-friday>, <http://facebook.com/chocolatecrisiscenter>

**10/7 Friday—Road to Reading Fundraiser for Reading Partners Colorado.** Denver Botanic Gardens. Ticket includes beer, wine, appetizers and auction items. For info on sponsorships, donate auction item or tickets: [marjorie.thirlby@readingpartners.org](mailto:marjorie.thirlby@readingpartners.org), 720.409.9909.

**10/8 Saturday—Big Head Blues Club featuring Big Head Todd and the Monsters.** With Colorado Symphony. \$25-\$69. Boettcher Concert Hall. 7:30pm. [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org)

**10/8 to 10/9—Forney Museum Book Sale Fundraiser.** Free admission with purchase of 2 books. Forney Transportation Museum, 4303 Brighton Blvd. [www.forneymuseum.org](http://www.forneymuseum.org)

**10/15 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day.** Free with admission, Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-2pm. [www.wingsmuseum.org](http://www.wingsmuseum.org)

**10/15 Saturday—Night of the Living Brass.** 7:30pm. Newman Center for Performing Arts. Concert features spirited evening of ghoulishly good music and ghostly attire. Kids/parents encouraged to dress in costume. Tickets start at \$22; discounts for kids, students, seniors, and groups: Denver Brass office at 303.832.4676, at Newman Center Box Office, and [www.newmantix.com/denverbrass](http://www.newmantix.com/denverbrass). <http://denverbrass.org>, <http://newmantix.com/denverbrass>

**10/22 to 10/23—Appalachian Spring.** Ballet Ariel-created original classical ballet set to Aaron Copland's Appalachian Spring. 10/22 at 7:30pm and 10/23 at 3pm. 303.945.4388 or [www.balletariel.org](http://www.balletariel.org). \$15 kids, \$20 students/seniors, \$25 adults. [www.balletariel.org](http://www.balletariel.org)

**10/22 Saturday—12th Annual Denver Gorilla Run.** 11am. The Westin, Westminster. [www.denvergorillarun.com](http://www.denvergorillarun.com)

**10/22 Saturday—Subaru VeloSwap.** World's largest consumer bicycling/sports expo for all things cycling. <http://veloswap.com>

**10/29 to 10/30—Westernaires Annual Horsecapades Show.** Professional performance of largest precision drill team in world. National Western Complex. Tickets at door or from Westernaires members. [www.westernaires.org](http://www.westernaires.org)

**11/2 to 11/4—Denver International Wine Festival.** Westin DIA. Tickets: [www.denverwinefest.com](http://www.denverwinefest.com)

**11/5 Saturday—Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Celebration.** Mexican celebration to remember loved ones who have passed. Traditional Aztec (continued on page 34)



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(continued from page 33)

dancing, crafts, face painting (\$5), etc. 9am-3pm. Free with admission. Denver Botanic Gardens. [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**11/5 Saturday—Spreading Wings Gala.** Tickets and tables can be purchased at <http://wingsmuseum.org/spreadingwingsgala/>

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

**10/1 Saturday—Dogfest Walk n' Roll.** deKoevend Park, Centennial. [www.cci.org/dogfest](http://www.cci.org/dogfest)

**10/9 Sunday—The bRUNCh Run.** Stapleton Central Park, 5K and 10K. Race 9:30am, festival 10am-noon. <http://www.brunchrunning.com/race-series>

**10/21 Friday—Scream Scram 5K.** Benefits Boys and Girls Clubs of Denver. Washington Park. 6pm. Prizes for best costumes, Trick or Treat Street, 100-meter dash for kids. [www.bgcmd.org/events/scream-scam](http://www.bgcmd.org/events/scream-scam)

**10/27 Thursday—Surrogacy and Egg Donation Information Seminar.** The Family Room, 6279 W 38th Ave., Suite 1, 10-11am. Find out how to earn money while helping someone else to create a family. Free babysitting, light refreshments provided. <http://coloradosurro.com>, <http://angeleggdonation.com>

## KIDS AND FAMILIES

**Through 10/9—Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Presents Out of This World.** Denver Coliseum, 1-70 and Brighton Blvd. Tickets from \$15. [www.ringling.com](http://www.ringling.com)

**10/1 Saturday—Home Depot Kids Workshop.** 9am-12pm. FREE how-to clinics first Sat. monthly, ages 5-12. Get Home Depot apron, wooden project and project pin. Metro-area Home Depot stores. [www.homedepot.com](http://www.homedepot.com)

**10/2 Sunday—ALAS: Explorando Oportunidades en STEM.** Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum will host free ALAS event on opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) designed for Latina and Latino students and their families to explore STEM careers in space and aviation. Fun workshops, interesting speakers, demonstrations and variety of make-and-take projects. Register to attend at [WingsMuseum.org/STEM](http://WingsMuseum.org/STEM). <http://wingsmuseum.org/stem/>

## 10/4 to 10/25—Tuesdays in October 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](mailto:education@fourmilepark.org). [www.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)

**10/8 to 10/22—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](http://www.lowesbuildandgrow.com)

**10/12 Wednesday—Children's Museum Workshop: Pumpkin Party.** All things pumpkin family workshop: pumpkin stories, explore pumpkin parts, taste pumpkin treats, use pumpkins to make spooky art. Tickets: \$10/member; \$20/nonmember and include museum admission. Melanie Lewis ([melaniel@cmdenver.org](mailto:melaniel@cmdenver.org)), <http://mychildsmuseum.org/events/EventDetail/fee-based-workshop-pumpkin-party-in-joy-park/>, <http://mychildsmuseum.org>

**10/14 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Hay Bales and Tall Tales.** 12-1pm. Free with admission. 715 S. Forest St. [www.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)

**10/25 Tuesday—Inside the Orchestra Tiny Tots Concert.** Temple Emanuel, 51 Grape St. Performances 9:30am and 10:45am. Check website for other performances and ticket info. [www.insidetheorchestra.com](http://www.insidetheorchestra.com)

## LECTURES AND CLASSES

**10/6 Thursday—League of Women Voters Ballot Issue Discussion.** Discussion/overview of state and local ballot issues. 5:30pm. Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia. [info@lwvdenver.org](mailto:info@lwvdenver.org). [www.lwvdenver.org](http://www.lwvdenver.org)

**10/11 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—Brexit- What Does the Future Hold for the UK and the European Union?** 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S. Dahlia St. 303.316.6359. [www.ActiveMinds.com](http://www.ActiveMinds.com)

**10/13 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)—The Refugee Crisis.** 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325. [www.ActiveMinds.com](http://www.ActiveMinds.com)

**10/14 Friday—Active Minds (Free)—Spooky Music.** 2-3pm. Schlessman Library, 100 Poplar St. [www.ActiveMinds.com](http://www.ActiveMinds.com)

**10/15 Saturday—Active Minds (Free)—Colorado Ballot Issues 2016.** 11am-noon. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. <http://activeminds.com>

**10/17 Monday—League of Women Voters Minimum Wage Discussion.** Ballot issue on minimum wage discussion. 5:30pm. Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia. [info@lwvdenver.org](mailto:info@lwvdenver.org). [www.lwvdenver.org](http://www.lwvdenver.org)

**10/17 Monday—Lecture Series by The People: The Making of Colorado Past and Present.** 3rd Monday monthly at 1pm and 7pm, History Colorado Center. Denver's Anti-Chinese Riot and American Politics, presented by Dr. Liping Zhu, Eastern Washington Univ. [www.historycolorado.org](http://www.historycolorado.org)

**10/24 Monday—Active Minds (Free)—NASA and Future of Space Exploration.** 2:30-3:30pm. Springbrooke, 6800 Leetsdale Dr. RSVP required (limited seating). 303.331.9963. Fills up so must RSVP well in advance. No groups,

please. <http://activeminds.com>

**10/25 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—Monsters and Legends.** 5-6pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727, [www.ActiveMinds.com](http://www.ActiveMinds.com)

**10/25 Tuesday—Lowry Foundation Speaker Series.** Speaker on Tuskegee Airmen. 7-8:30pm. Eisenhower Chapel, 293 Roslyn St. First black servicemen to serve as military aviators in U.S. armed forces, flying with distinction during World War II and subject to racial discrimination at home and abroad. Their success paved way for integration of U.S. armed forces under Pres. Truman in 1948. Free, no reservations required. Karen House: 303.757.7658 or [ekhouse@jherzog.com](mailto:ekhouse@jherzog.com), <http://lowryfoundation.org>

**10/27 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)—Yemen.** 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325. [www.ActiveMinds.com](http://www.ActiveMinds.com)

**10/27 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)—Oil.** 9:30-11:30am (9:30 reception, 10 program). Rosemark at Mayfair Park, 833 Jersey. RSVP: 303.770.7673. <http://activeminds.com>

## MUSEUMS—DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE

**Through 1/8—Extreme Mammals.** Free with admission. [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)

**Through 2/9—IMAX.** Wild Africa 3D, Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaohs (begins 10/14). [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)

**Through 2/9—Planetarium.** Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity, Cosmic Journey: A Solar System Adventure, Destination Solar System, One World One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure. [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)

**10/14 to 2/5—Mummies: Secrets from the Tombs.** Special ticket required. [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)

**10/20 Thursday—Science Lounge: You're So Dead.** Cocktails/entertainment every 3rd Thurs. monthly. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/nonmembers. [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)

## MUSEUMS—FREE DAYS

**10/1 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day.** SCFD Free day. [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

**10/4 Tuesday—Children's Museum Free Target Tuesday.** 4-8pm. [www.cmdenver.org](http://www.cmdenver.org)

**10/14 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Free Day.** SCFD Free second Friday, 12pm-4pm. [www.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)

**10/24 Monday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science Free Day.** SCFD Free day. (Fossil Day). [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)

**10/28 Friday—Clyfford Still Museum.** SCFD Free day. Free admission last Friday monthly all day. Free admission every Friday 5-8pm. 1250 Bannock St. [www.clyffordstillmuseum.org](http://www.clyffordstillmuseum.org)

**11/1 Tuesday—Children's Museum Free Target Tuesday.** 4-8pm. [www.cmdenver.org](http://www.cmdenver.org)

**11/5 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day.** SCFD Free day. [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

## NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS

**10/1 Saturday—7th Annual FarmFest at The Urban Farm.** 10am-2pm. Horse

riding, sheep shearing demos, alternative gardening presentations, feed a goat, gather eggs, etc. \$10/person ages 2+ or \$35/ family. [www.theurbanfarm.org](http://www.theurbanfarm.org)

**10/1 Saturday—Denver Language School Night Market.** Unique blend of our Hispanic and Asian heritage. Food booths, merchant booths, carnival games, performances, etc. Open to public. George Washington HS, 655 S. Monaco Pkwy.

**10/1 to 10/10—Stapleton Community Food Drive.** Bring donations to sponsor locations or fill white collection bags dropped at homes. Bags picked up 10/8. [www.StapletonFoodDrive.com](http://www.StapletonFoodDrive.com)

**10/2 Sunday—Art Show at Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church.** Local artists in The Gallery Room, basement at 1980 Dahlia St. Open during church hours. Paintings/photography for purchase by directly contacting artist. 10% of sales goes to art guild.

**10/9 Sunday—Adolesco Youth Exchange Info Meeting.** Info meeting re flexible, affordable not-for-profit program of 3-week to 3-month short-term language immersion and cultural exchanges for kids 9-17 to learn French in France, German in Germany and Spanish in Spain. Open to qualifying English-speaking students. Applications for 2017 and 2018 exchanges due 10/23. 2-4pm, Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. RSVP: [colorado@adolesco.org](mailto:colorado@adolesco.org). Sign up for newsletter: [adolesco.org/contact](mailto:adolesco.org/contact) - <https://adolesco.org>, [www.facebook.com/events/326488674364072/](http://www.facebook.com/events/326488674364072/)

**10/15 to 10/16—The Aurora Symphony Orchestra and Opera on Tap Colorado Present Die Fledermaus.** 10/15 7pm; 10/16 3pm, North Middle School Auditorium, 12095 Montview Blvd., Aurora. \$20 gen. admission; \$15 65 and over; \$15 military; free for students 18 and under. Tickets: [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2589656](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2589656) or at door. [www.aurorasymphony.org/masterworks.html](http://www.aurorasymphony.org/masterworks.html); or 303.873.6622, [info@aurorasymphony.org](mailto:info@aurorasymphony.org)

**10/21 Friday—Lowry Uncorked.** Fall wine tasting at Eisenhower Chapel. 6-8:30pm. [www.lowrydenver.com](http://www.lowrydenver.com)

**10/22 to 10/23—Repticon 2016.** Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, featuring vendors offering reptile pets, cages, merchandise, live animal seminars, etc. Adults \$10, kids 5-12 \$5. [www.arapahoegov.com](http://www.arapahoegov.com)

**11/5 Saturday—Spreading Wings Gala.** Join us for an evening as we honor the Determination and Valor of the American Fighter Aces. <http://wingsmuseum.org>, <http://wingsmuseum.org/event-calendar/spreading-wings-gala-2>

## NORTHFIELD EVENTS

**10/7 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release.** The Girl on the Train; Middle School: The Worst Years of my Life; Under the Shadow; Voiceless. [www.harkinstheatres.com](http://www.harkinstheatres.com)

**10/14 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release.** The Accountant; Kevin Hart: What Now. [www.harkinstheatres.com](http://www.harkinstheatres.com)

**10/21 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release.** Boo! A Medea Halloween; Jack Reacher: Never Go Back. [www.harkinstheatres.com](http://www.harkinstheatres.com)

**10/28 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release.** Inferno [www.harkinstheatres.com](http://www.harkinstheatres.com)

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

**10/1 Saturday—Kids Fishing Clinic.** 10am-1pm. Ages 6+ poles available for loan. [www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky\\_mountain\\_arsenal/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/)

**10/1 Saturday—Wildlife Viewing Tour.** 9:30-11am, bus tour of refuge. Repeats 10/9, 23 and 29.

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RSVP required. [www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky\\_mountain\\_arsenal/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/)  
**10/1 to 11/27—6th Annual Refuge Amateur Photo Contest.** Vote for your favorite in the Visitors Center; winners announced in early Dec. [www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky\\_mountain\\_arsenal/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/)  
**10/8 Saturday—Seed Gathering.** 9:30-11:30am, ages 8+. [www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky\\_mountain\\_arsenal/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/)  
**10/8 Saturday—Wild about Ferrets!** 9:30-11am for families, ages 6 and up. [www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky\\_mountain\\_arsenal/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/)  
**10/15 Saturday—Refuge Day.** 11am-2pm. [www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky\\_mountain\\_arsenal/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/)  
**10/22 Saturday—Fall Hike ‘n’ Bird.** 9-11:30am. Be comfortable hiking up to 3 miles. RSVP required. [www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky\\_mountain\\_arsenal/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/)  
**10/30 Sunday—Halloween Build a Bison.** 1-2:30pm. Explore real bison bones as you work in teams to assemble a bison head to tail. All ages. [www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky\\_mountain\\_arsenal/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/)

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

**10/13 Thursday—International School of Denver Open House.** Preschool and kindergarten, Email [admissions@isdenver.org](mailto:admissions@isdenver.org) to schedule a tour.  
**11/2 Wednesday—William “Bill” Roberts Middle School Open House.** Learn about our educational journey, inclusive extracurricular activities, athletics and new SMART lab. Tours into January. Hilary Afshary, [brmarketing\\_communications@yahoo.com](mailto:brmarketing_communications@yahoo.com). <http://billroberts.dpsk12.org/parents/take-a-tour/>

THEATRE

**Through 10/3—Sister Act.** Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. Arvada. 720.898.7200, [www.arvadacenter.org](http://www.arvadacenter.org)  
**Through 10/16—The Glass Menagerie.** Ricketson Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. 303.893.4100, [www.denvercenter.org](http://www.denvercenter.org)  
**Through 10/23—The Oldest Boy.** Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. [www.vintagetheatre.org](http://www.vintagetheatre.org)  
**Through 10/30—Roald Dahl’s Willy Wonka.** Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. [www.vintagetheatre.org](http://www.vintagetheatre.org)  
**Through 10/9—Cabaret.** Buell Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. 303.893.4100, [www.denvercenter.org](http://www.denvercenter.org)  
**Through 10/30—Frankenstein.** Stage Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. 303.893.4100, [www.denvercenter.org](http://www.denvercenter.org)  
**10/7 to 10/16—Gilbert & Sullivan’s Comic Operetta “Ruddigore” (or “The Witch’s Curse”).** Classic Victorian operetta, fully staged with chamber orchestra. 10/7, 8, 14, 15 at 7pm; 10/9, 16 at 2pm. Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St. <http://elps.org/ruddigore-or-the-witchs-curse/>, <http://elps.org/tickets/>  
**10/7 to 10/23—Swan Lake.** Presented by Colorado Ballet. Ellie Caulkins Opera House. [www.coloradoballet.org](http://www.coloradoballet.org)  
**10/7 to 11/6—Dracula.** Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. [www.aurorafoxartscenter.org](http://www.aurorafoxartscenter.org)  
**10/8 to 11/5—The Crucible.** Firehouse Theater Company at John Hand Theater, 7653 E. 1st Place in Lowry. [www.firehousetheatercompany.com](http://www.firehousetheatercompany.com)  
**10/8 to 11/5—Wait Until Dark.** Avenue Theatre, 417 E. 17th Ave. [www.avenuetheater.com](http://www.avenuetheater.com)  
**10/15 to 3/12—An Act of God.** Garner Galleria Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. [www.denvercenter.org](http://www.denvercenter.org)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Ongoing—Reading Volunteers Needed.** Volunteers needed to share reading with students, one-on-one, once a week. Times: 8:10-8:55am. Days: Tues.-Fri. Email [Julie@partnersinliteracy.org](mailto:Julie@partnersinliteracy.org) or 303.316.3944 ext. 241  
**10/1 Saturday—Neighborhood Partners Environmental Team (NPET) Volunteer Project Along Sand Creek Regional Greenway.** Protect trees from beavers, weed, pick up trash, etc. 10000 E. Smith Rd. 9-11am. RSVPs appreciated but not necessary. RSVP: Mollie at [mhayden@sandcreekgreenway.org](mailto:mhayden@sandcreekgreenway.org) or [mollie.hayden@gmail.com](mailto:mollie.hayden@gmail.com). <http://sandcreekgreenway.org/>

MORE EVENTS

Now open – Extreme Mammals

A new exhibition, “Extreme Mammals,” opened at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science on Sept. 23. Spectacular fossils, vivid reconstructions and lifelike models trace the ancestry and evolution of mammals, showing how and why some of them could attract the attention of carnival barkers and curiosity seekers. In “Extreme Mammals,” the animals are compared to their ancestors, closest relatives or contemporaries to document and explain what is normal and what is extreme.  
From the largest land mammal ever—a 15-foot-tall, 20-ton extinct vegetarian named Indricotherium—to the tiny 50-million-year-old, 1-inch Batodonoides, visitors will find many surprises including: the biggest marsupial to walk the earth, a giant pig whose teeth grew through the top of its snout, “walking” whales and seals and a car-sized relative of the armadillo.  
Admission to “Extreme Mammals” is free with general admission. For more information, visit [dmns.org/mammals](http://dmns.org/mammals).

Through October 5 – Beer Flights

Denver International Airport (DIA) will host its Third Annual “Beer Flights” beer garden from 11am to 7pm daily beginning Sept. 30 through Oct. 5. Tickets are available at the door for \$10 to visitors 21 and older with a valid ID. Cash and most major credit cards will be accepted. The event will be held at the airport’s open-air plaza adjacent to the Westin Denver.  
Admission includes a souvenir glass for 10 two oz. samples of beer. Colorado breweries represented at the event are: Avery Brewing, Boulder, Boulder Beer, Epic Brewing, Denver, Odell’s, Fort Collins, Oskar Blues, Longmont Elevation Beer Co., Tommy Knocker, Idaho Springs, SKA Brewing, Durango, Telluride Brewing, Telluride and Renegade Brewery - Denver.

The Dinosaur On Your Dinner Table

A new and innovative online experience by Google, the Denver Museum of Nature & Science and other natural history institutions worldwide brings rarely seen collections to the public for free. The interactive online discovery tool enables web users to discover natural history treasures by using state-of-the-art technology. Viewers can come face-to-face with Jurassic giants in 360 degree videos to give them a better understanding of how these animals lived.  
The Denver Museum of Nature & Science created “The Dinosaur on Your Dinner Table,” a multimedia exhibit experience designed specifically for Google Cultural Institute. Through video, archival photos and interpretive text, viewers are treated to the story of the wild turkey, the largest living dinosaur that escaped a giant asteroid and natural selection only to land on our dinner tables at Thanksgiving.  
In addition to the exhibit, Google Arts & Culture visitors can view 150 items from the Museum’s collections. These items are not on display, so the online display allows access to these objects that few others have been fortunate enough to see. Google Arts & Culture works together with more than 1,000 organizations to put the world’s cultural treasures at the fingertips of Internet users and is building tools that allow the cultural sector to share more of its diverse heritage online.  
The online exhibition is available at [g.co/naturalhistory](http://g.co/naturalhistory) and is open for all online, for free on the web and through the new Google Arts & Culture mobile app on iOS and Android. All the 360 degree videos are available on YouTube.



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New bike lanes on Montview will be separated from motor vehicle lanes by a painted buffer.

By John Fernandez

The City of Aurora is moving forward with a pilot project to install bike lanes on Montview Blvd. to improve mobility options for all travel modes in this heavily travelled corridor. Before the end of October, bike lanes will be installed on Montview Blvd. between Havana and Oswego streets. The installation is happening in conjunction with a street repaving project for that segment of Montview.

While Montview Blvd. will remain two lanes in both directions along that stretch, the project will eliminate on-street parking where bike lanes are installed. The center two-way turn lane also will be preserved. The bike lanes will replace the “sharrows” installed a few years ago. One key safety feature is the “buffering” of the bike lanes by separating them from adjacent motorized traffic by striping the pavement.

Depending on the success of the pilot project, the city will evaluate the potential extension of the lanes west to the city limits at Yosemite St. (Central Park Blvd.) in summer 2017. This extension would provide continuity to the bike lanes on the Denver portion of Montview. The stretch of Montview from Peoria to Oswego St. would not be restriped pending re-evaluation of and possible reconstruction of that major intersection.

Aurora has not established a timetable for that potential project.

“Montview Blvd. is a key transportation corridor between the Anschutz Medical Campus and all points west,” said Karen Hancock, planning supervisor for the city of Aurora. “These improvements are about creating a safer passageway for all modes of travel on Montview Blvd. The new facilities will not only provide a dedicated lane for cyclists to address past conflicts caused by shared use of the drive lane, but also will provide a buffer for pedestrians on the sidewalks.”

The Montview bike lanes will be complemented by two new facilities being installed as development of the Aurora portion of Stapleton gets underway: bike lanes along 26th Ave. and a multiuse path through the 26th Ave. Park and the residential development taking place in the blocks bounded by Fulton St., 26th Ave., Moline St. and 25th Ave.

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## Stapleton Update

### Lt. Ian Culverhouse Takes Over Stapleton Precinct

By Melinda Pearson

Message to neighborhood thieves taking packages from porches and items from cars: the police are doubling down on their efforts to catch you.

Stapleton's new Lt. Ian Culverhouse says they will continue to put decoy packages with GPS tracking devices on porches—though unfortunately they have not yet caught a “porch pirate” with this method.

And after theft from motor vehicles increased to 23 from seven in the prior month in Precinct 511, Culverhouse met with mall management at the Shops at Northfield, and they have now stepped up patrols of the parking lots. “They noticed some juveniles who were wearing gloves and walking by and checking door handles,” says Culverhouse, “Thankfully, mall security made contact with them, and they got in a car and fled, but I’m convinced that because of their pro-active behavior they prevented some customers from having their stuff stolen.”

Culverhouse is picking up where Lt. Robert Wyckoff left off as Precinct 511 lieutenant. After serving in Stapleton for two years, Lt. Wyckoff has moved on to work under Deputy Chief of Operations David Quinones at DPD central headquarters.

Wyckoff set up an active community policing program in Stapleton based on engaging busy citizens at the places where they go—community outreach tables at outdoor movie nights, the Farmers Market, and MCA events. He partnered with Stapleton resident Andres Chaparro, the president and general manager of Telemundo 25 Denver,

to develop public service announcements to increase awareness and encourage responsibility. He says Stapleton now has “the most active and robust Neighborhood Watch” and “the nicest cop shop” in Denver. In his new position, Wyckoff hopes that he can encourage other area lieutenants to use similar measures to promote engagement within their communities.

Lt. Culverhouse grew up in Littleton and lives in the south metro area with his wife, three children and German shepherd. He feels a strong connection to Stapleton through friends and family and is very excited to be working with this community after having served in District 2 for nine and a half years, covering the Park Hill/NE Denver area.

As the population of Stapleton expands to the north, Culverhouse hopes District 5 can get more officers: “I do know that they are looking at re-doing some boundary lines within Stapleton that would potentially add more officers.” Such decisions are data driven, he says, so it is important to call in all incidents and information, including seemingly small things such as suspicious vehicles or behaviors. Culverhouse advocates the use of the “Text a Tip” program (720.723.8911), which messages the police non-emergency line and is reviewed at monthly meetings.

The Neighborhood Watch program is growing under the leadership of Ed Corvack at “The Hub” in Northfield. To join or get more information, call Ed at 720.865.2356. Culverhouse also notes the value of using social media, such as Nextdoor.com and the Stapleton Community Watch and District 5 Facebook pages, to communicate with neighbors about preventable crime. (Anyone can sign

up at Nextdoor.com using your street address and email.)

Following Wyckoff's efforts, Lt. Culverhouse aims to continue engaging with citizens and businesses on preventing crimes of opportunity. Thefts from motor vehicles,

thefts from front porches, and residential burglaries, particularly open garage door burglaries, continue to trouble the neighborhood. Culverhouse strongly advocates preventive measures, including the



Robert Wyckoff, former lieutenant in Stapleton, moves to DPD central headquarters.

use of porch lights, neighborly communication, cameras, delivery tracking apps and getting to know neighbors who can hold a package for you. He also highly recommends automatic garage closing devices, which are now widely available at affordable prices.

“We have to work as each other's keepers,” says Culverhouse, “If you're the one that's really vigilant about closing your garage door, but your neighbor isn't, it's still attracting that criminal element. Encourage your neighbor to close their door.”



Lt. Ian Culverhouse stresses preventive measures by residents but also says police are actively pursuing those stealing items from cars and porches.

### Funding Announced for CPB Bridge Widening



Pillars to support a four-lane bridge were built during original construction, though only two lanes were completed. Above, the additional pillars are visible on the west side of the bridge.

By John Fernandez

The 2017 city budget proposed in September by Denver Mayor Michael Hancock includes \$8.4 million to complete the widening of the Central Park Boulevard (CPB) bridge as it passes over Sand Creek and the rail corridor used by the Union Pacific Railroad and RTD's A Line commuter rail facility. City Council will adopt the budget in November. If the CPB bridge project remains in the budget, construction will begin in November 2017 with completion a year later (late fall 2018).

The project completes the final 0.65 mile section of Central Park Boulevard south of I-70, extending from 36th Avenue to 40th Avenue. It will eliminate the lane shifts necessitated by the connection of the existing two-

lane bridge to multiple lanes north of 40th Avenue. The new section of the CPB bridge will be a mirror image of the existing facility – two through travel lanes and an attached multi-use path for cyclists and pedestrians.

The source of funds is the City Retained Tax (CRT) via an annual transfer from the General Fund. Essentially, CRT is a portion of the property and sales tax collected in Stapleton. For 25 years, those taxes are spent only in Stapleton through a mechanism known as tax increment financing (TIF). CRT is currently 30 percent of TIF revenue paid to the City of Denver to provide city services for Stapleton. In June, 2025, TIF revenue for Stapleton development ends.

### 2016 SOLD in Stapleton

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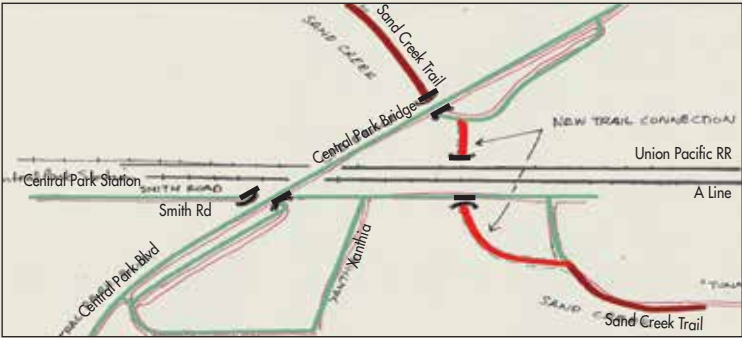


## Missing Link Under Construction



A new section of the Sand Creek Regional Greenway trail is being constructed under Smith Rd. and adjacent railroad bridges. In this wider-than-180-degree panorama view taken from Smith Rd. looking southwest, the roughed in trail is visible at left with Smith Rd. and the Central Park Blvd. bridge at right.

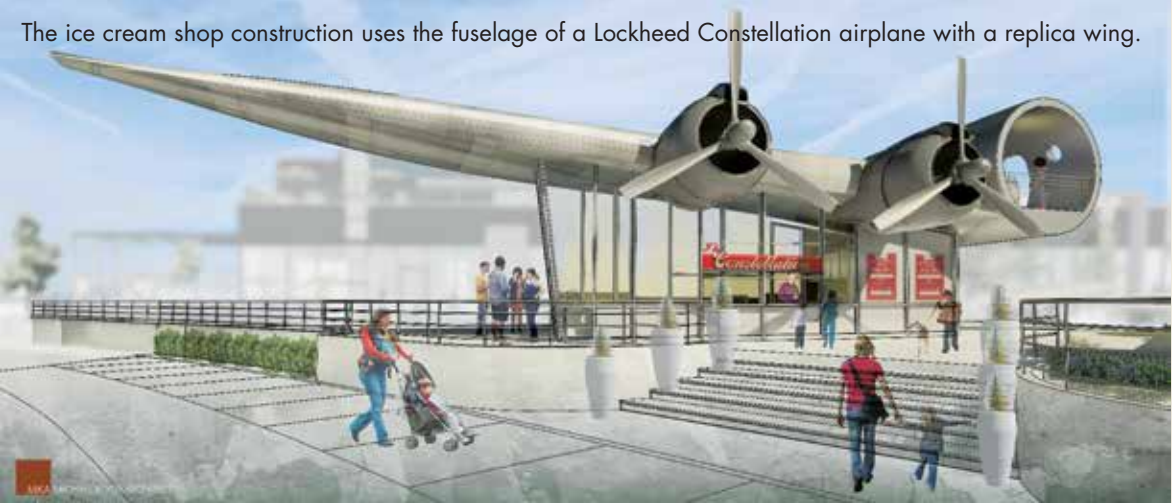
The Sand Creek trail is shown in deep red with the new portion in bright red. Other bike/ pedestrian routes are shown in green.



Construction is underway that will remove the gap in the Sand Creek Regional Greenway (SCRG) trail, with plans for an opening by Nov. 1. The new trail segment passes under the A Line and Union Pacific Railroad bridges and will allow trail users to travel east and west without disruption and without having to use the sidewalk on the Central Park Blvd. bridge. The concrete trail will be 10 feet wide with three-foot-wide shoulders. The longitudinal

grade along the trail will be five percent or less. The new trail segment will connect the SCRG trail where it passes under the north abutment of the Central Park Blvd. bridge to the segment of the trail that emerges from the “tunnels” section of the regional trail farther east (see map). This segment was closed about six years ago when construction began on the A Line commuter rail corridor. SCRG Executive Director Kate Kramer says, “We are so excited and grateful that the work is underway. The new trail will provide great access to the new RTD Central Park Station and is much safer for trail users. Also, it provides a safe, off-road link that is an alternative for bicycle riders and pedestrians going over the Central Park Boulevard Bridge. Although that bridge is very safe, with the guardrails and wider sidewalk, some people, especially children, find the climb and length challenging. Now there is a good alternative!” The trail is being constructed by Denver Transit Partners (DTP), which built the A Line. Replacement of the trail became DTP’s obligation when the prior soft-surface trail was obliterated by the construction of new bridges for the Union Pacific Railroad and RTD’s passenger rail facility.

## Different Topping for Ice Cream Shop Coming to Eastbridge



The ice cream shop construction uses the fuselage of a Lockheed Constellation airplane with a replica wing.

intended to “surprise and delight” and is a “celebration of the history of Stapleton Airport.” It will undoubtedly heighten local awareness of the 354-square-foot Constellation ice cream shop that it surmounts. The ice cream “kiosk” is located in the central plaza of the retail, restaurant and service center under construction west of Geneva Court and between the east and west legs of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. The new business is scheduled for opening in spring or summer of 2017.

The owner and developer of the project is Paul Tamburello who is known for his properties in the Lower Highland neighborhood of Denver. The Eastbridge store will offer Little Man Ice Cream flavors. The Constellation will be open year-round, supplementing its ice cream with hot beverages and soups during the colder months. The project is currently seeking a right-of-way encroachment permit from the city of Denver because the wing “roof” extends over the sidewalk. At 22 feet above grade, the structure will allow fire trucks to pass under. The wing will have to meet standard building code requirements for snow load and will include heat tape to minimize snow buildup. The fuselage will have an operable door but with a railing for safety. It will be accessible by a spiral staircase from plaza level. The airplane replica is being built by an airplane specialist who has done similar projects for Wings Over the Rockies and the film and entertainment industry.

The ice cream shop proposed at the Eastbridge retail town center will feature a replica wing and partial fuselage of the Lockheed Constellation airplane that frequented Stapleton Airport in the 1940s and 50s. In his presentation to the Stapleton Citizens Advisory Board (CAB), architect Michael Koch said the sculpture is



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## Alternative Transportation to Northfield

The Shops at Northfield Stapleton and the Northeast Transportation Connections group (NETC) have collaborated on a campaign encouraging shopping center patrons and employees to take alternative transportation from the Central Park station to the Shops at Northfield. Wayfinding signage is the most visible aspect of the campaign. Options now



Landri Taylor of the Stapleton Foundation, Angie Malpiede of NETC, Diana Fiore, general manager at the Shops at Northfield Stapleton and City Councilman Chris Herndon gather to announce alternative transportation between the A Line and Northfield. include Car2Go, which has home lots at Northfield, and Lyft, which is offering a 25% ride discount the first week of October (enter ALINEDENVER in the Lyft app).

## Control Tower Moves Toward New Life as “Eatertainment” Center



Punch Bowl CEO Robert Thompson and City Councilman Chris Herndon officially broke ground on Sept. 14 at the old Stapleton Air Traffic Control Tower located at Martin Luther King and Central Park boulevards. Stapleton Punch Bowl is expected to open in Spring 2017. Left: Councilman Herndon and Robert Thompson in an April 2016 photo announcing Punch Bowl.

## Map of Finished Trails in North Stapleton

With construction continuing in the north, Forest City advises pedestrians and cyclists to use the many open trails and stay out of areas that are not open to the public. A map of open trails is posted under this headline at FrontPorchStapleton.com.



## Saint Joseph Hospital Certified Nurse-Midwives in Stapleton & Uptown

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# The SUN Spot

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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](http://www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com). To contact SUN or confirm meeting time, email [stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com)

## Education Expo – Safety Meeting – Kickball Results – Bylaws change

### Save the Date: 6th Annual Stapleton Education Expo on November 3rd

The sixth annual Stapleton Education Expo will be held the evening of Thursday November 3rd, Northfield High School (5500 Central Park Blvd, Denver, CO 80238) in the Wicker Park Neighborhood of the Stapleton Community. There will be an informational presentation with updates on issues specific to Stapleton, followed by the expo which will feature local preschools, elementary schools, middle schools and high schools. The expo is designed both to give parents new to the area exposure to local school options and to allow students and parents of students in transition years to meet with staff from schools in the choice boundary. Additional agenda updates will be available in the November SUN spot article of the Front Porch.

### Safety-Focus planned for October 18th SUN outreach meetings – 6:30-7:25pm Central Park Recreation Center Multipurpose Room

The SUN block captain/outreach meeting in October's planned safety-focused agenda will be a more in-depth opportunity to engage and discuss local safety-related concerns with representatives from Denver Police Department, beyond that provided by the 10 to 15-minute dedicated time at each monthly SUN outreach meeting. Concerns regarding sound being carried across the community during events at Dicks Sporting Goods Park could be discussed as part of this meeting, in the context of discussions between Denver Police and Commerce City Police. Additionally, if your block is not yet participating in neighborhood watch, please contact DPD Community Resource Officer Sherikera L. Heflin ([Sherikera.heflin@denvergov.org](mailto:Sherikera.heflin@denvergov.org)) to get started.

### Results from SUN's 13th Annual Kickball Tournament and Dining out for SUN

For the first time in 2016, SUN's annual kickball tournament took place in the evening on Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup>, which provided a beautiful sunset backdrop for the Kingston Kickers as they became champions of the 13th annual kickball tournament. Although the HUB/COP shop will benefit from funds raised both via the tournament and the dining-out for SUN effort, the Denver Police-affiliated team, Team Blue Crew, provided strong competition but did not go home with the trophy.

### Potential Addition of Operating Principles to SUN bylaws

At the September monthly meeting of the SUN board, an addition to the SUN bylaws was discussed, whereby a third section would be added to Article 2 to publicly state the principles by which SUN seeks to operate. The proposed language reads "Section 3: Operating Principles. SUN does not support any aspect of discrimination in any form. SUN seeks to foster an environment free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, religion, national origin, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. veteran, in this community, at our meetings, on our affiliated social media pages and message boards." The final revision must be voted on by the community at the Annual Spring Forum in 2017.

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# Op-Ed

## Denver's New Affordable Housing Fund

Editor's Note: The Front Porch received the op-ed below in opposition to the new affordable fund and solicited the piece in favor so readers can consider opposing views side by side.

### In Favor

Denver's Affordable Housing Fund proposal creates economic prosperity

As Denver considers a permanent revenue proposal we need to remind ourselves of what affordable housing actually means. Affordable housing benefits residents, communities, and the overall economy of our city.

Affordable housing does not mean cheap housing. It is housing that a person could reasonably pay for within their price range (without skipping on medical necessities or forgoing food to make the rent) and feel safe and comfortable in their new home. Right now, approximately 80,000 residents of Denver are paying more than 50 percent of their income on rent and utilities. That means far too many families are making unthinkable trade-offs every day to keep a roof over their heads.

Affordable housing affects people at many income levels, not limited to those who are working for low wages. Many of us have read news articles describing teachers, young people, and seniors who can no longer afford to live in Denver. Households that pay less from their paychecks for housing will spend more on other items like groceries, clothing, and healthcare. They can also afford to save for emergencies or for major purchases like a new home, car, or for education.

The mayor's proposal will ease this burden for approximately 6,000 families across Denver and those families will finally be able to think beyond day to day survival and start planning for their economic future.

Affordable housing benefits communities. Studies have shown that affordable housing has either no effect on property values, or it can raise property values in some circumstances. When affordable housing replaces abandoned or distressed properties there will usually be a positive effect on the community.

Construction of affordable housing as well as rehabilitating existing stock creates economic opportunity. Affordable housing production creates jobs. When new structures are produced that means a higher demand for building materials, construction labor, and architects to name a few. It also means that local governments reap their own economic benefits from new construction, like revenue from building permits.

Beyond property values, the Mayor's proposal asks that all members of Denver's communities pitch in to solve a community-wide problem. We are being asked by our Mayor to come together to stop this crisis from becoming an epidemic. We all have a stake in solving this crisis and we, as residents, property owners, and business owners of Denver are willing to come together, roll up sleeves, and tackle this problem together.

Terrell Curtis Resident, NE Park Hill  
Executive Director, The Delores Project

### Opposed

Denver's proposal to keep wages low

Denver's Mayor Michael Hancock wants to spend \$150 million to fund 6000 affordable housing units. That's \$25,000 per unit to help people that can't afford housing in Denver. But who really benefits?

Just about everybody assumes an affordable housing crisis in Denver. There are two reasons: First, some people can't afford housing. Second, employers can't find workers because housing in Denver is too expensive.

What makes housing affordable? The ability to pay, which is largely dependent on income. If I have no income, housing costs as low as \$10 per month is not affordable.

Government subsidies for affordable housing help keep wages low. If businesses do not pay enough to afford housing near work, employees have to find work where they can afford to live. When employees leave to take jobs elsewhere, businesses have two options: automate, or raise wages to attract workers. Now Hancock is offering a third option: use taxpayer money to pay for low wage housing. If automation is not possible or practical, Hancock's scheme allows employers to pay lower wages.

Of course, the "increased minimum wage crowd" believes they have the answer to that: make the businesses pay higher wages! Is there a limit to what we can make businesses pay?

How else does subsidized housing hurt? People in subsidized housing often receive other subsidies – Medicaid, SNAP (food stamps), earned income tax credits (federal and state), heating assistance, and the list goes on and on. If a person receiving those subsidies were to make more money, some of the subsidies go away. A person can become trapped, either working the same low-income job for fear of losing subsidies, or unable to move for fear of losing the "affordable housing."

Owners of affordable housing units don't participate in market increases. If they wish to sell their homes, the government establishes a maximum resale price. My research shows that in one area of Denver, homes that do not have government maximums on sale prices sold for about 40% more than government-priced affordable homes. That might keep housing affordable for the next buyer, but what was the benefit for the seller?

This ill-conceived scheme allows low wage employers to continue paying low wages, and will hurt those that it is intended to help.

Brian Vande Krol is a director of the Colorado Republican Business Coalition, which advocates for small business, but not for subsidies. He ran for State representative in 2010 and 2012, and is a residential real estate appraiser.

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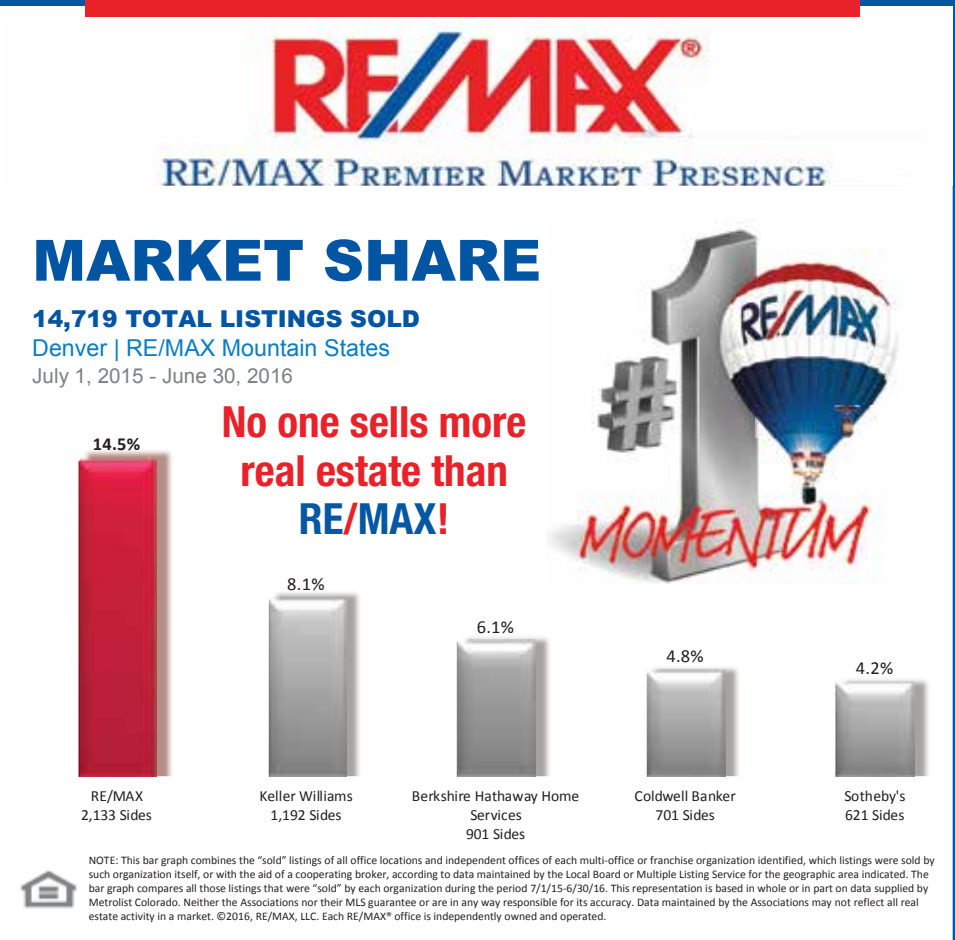
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Above: McAuliffe eighth grade students line up for a virtual reality experience of a Mars rover in a school bus created by Lockheed Martin.

Right: Engineers from Lockheed Martin show students a replica Orion spacecraft and talk about their work on a manned mission to Mars in the 2030s.



# Lockheed Looks to Middle Schoolers for 20

(continued from page 1) and seeing what the base camp might look like. In all likelihood, a middle school student today will be one of the first human travelers to Mars in the mid-2030s—and Lockheed created this Mars rover simulation to inspire middle school students to pursue that goal.

Through a partnership with Denver Public Schools, Lockheed brought their “Mars rover” to McAuliffe Middle School where over 400 students experienced the simulated ride in early September. Lockheed engineers volunteered their time to talk to students and encourage them to take STEM courses (science, technology, engineering,

math) and consider a career working on the Mars mission.

Engineer Jim Paradise says not enough engineers are graduating to fill the need and Lockheed Martin is bringing in engineers from other countries. “Half of our engineers are baby boomers and the mass exodus of baby boomers is beginning. There’s a huge

shortage looming unless we can pump up that pipeline.

“When the dot com boom happened, a big chunk of kids went that way instead of engineering school—and engineering school enrollment went down for about a ten-year period,” says Paradise. Engineering enrollment has started increasing again,

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Above: Lockheed engineer Jim Paradise introduces the Mars rover experience.

Left and right: Students on the Lockheed bus ride see actual NASA images of the Mars surface and a simulated base camp that Lockheed expects to build on Mars. GPS programming in the video simulates turns and stops the bus actually makes during the 8-minute ride.



# 30s Mars Journey

he says, but not enough to fill the need.

After the rover experience, students agreed it got their attention. Jill Vanderport says, “Before this I never thought about going to space.”

Maddie Carson-Cotton added, “I like to do experiences rather than build things. Staying up there for two years you’d really get


a good feel for what Mars is like—exploring what people haven’t explored yet—it would be pretty worth it.”

Ben Kaufman says he would like to be on the engineering side—building but not going into space. “Personally I don’t think I’d risk my life and I wouldn’t like to be trapped in a small capsule for nine months out.”

But Devon Rutledge says he’s all in for such a mission. “I’d like to be an on-board engineer because it sounds like on the Mars mission, no matter how many extra precautions they have, something is going to go wrong, and I’d be the person who would fix that on board so the mission wouldn’t fail. I feel like we’d still have


communication with home, and I’m not all that social a person so it doesn’t really matter.”

More about Lockheed Martin’s mission to Mars and their efforts to interest young people in the project can be found at [LockheedMartin.com/GenerationBeyond](http://LockheedMartin.com/GenerationBeyond).



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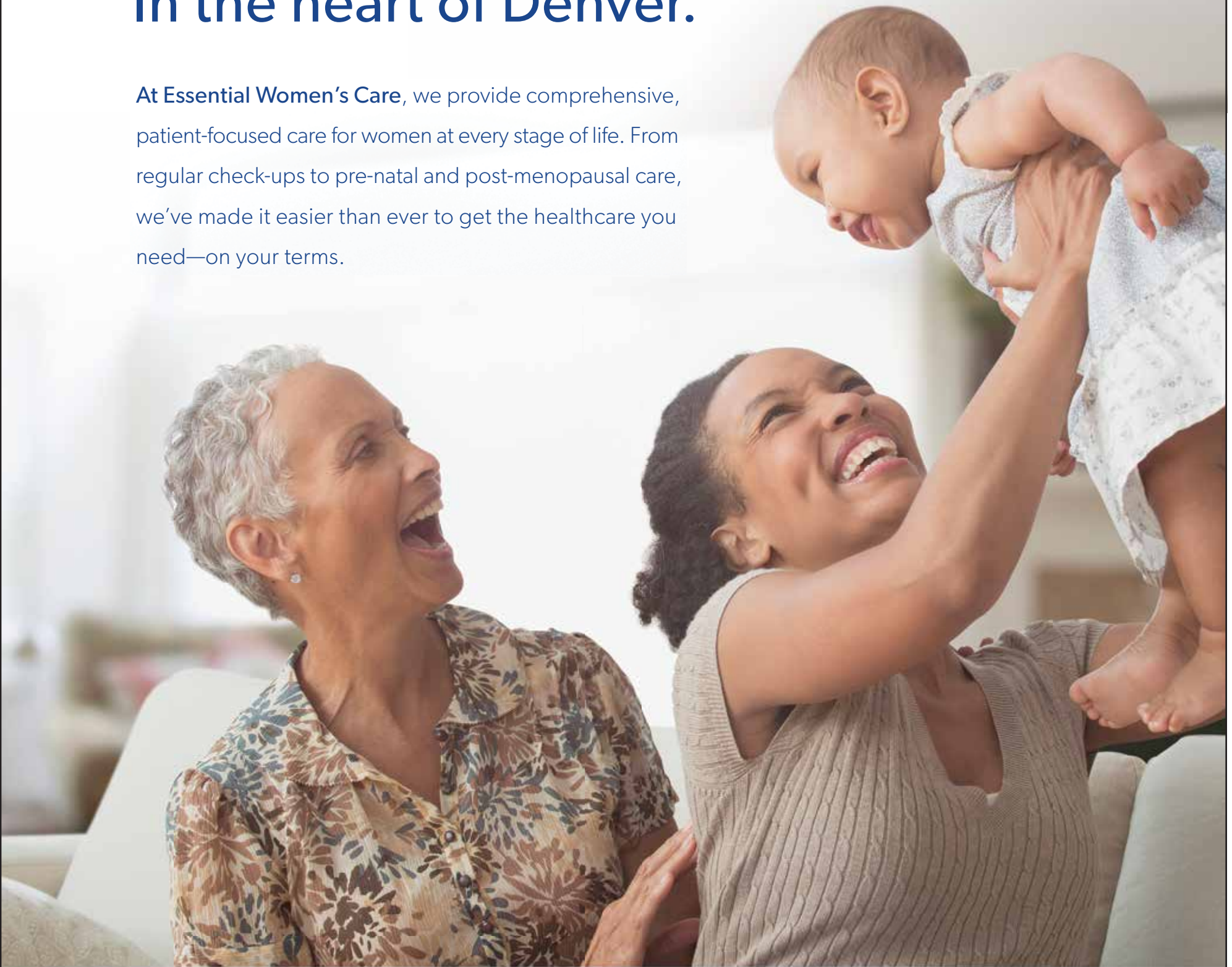


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