

# Front Porch

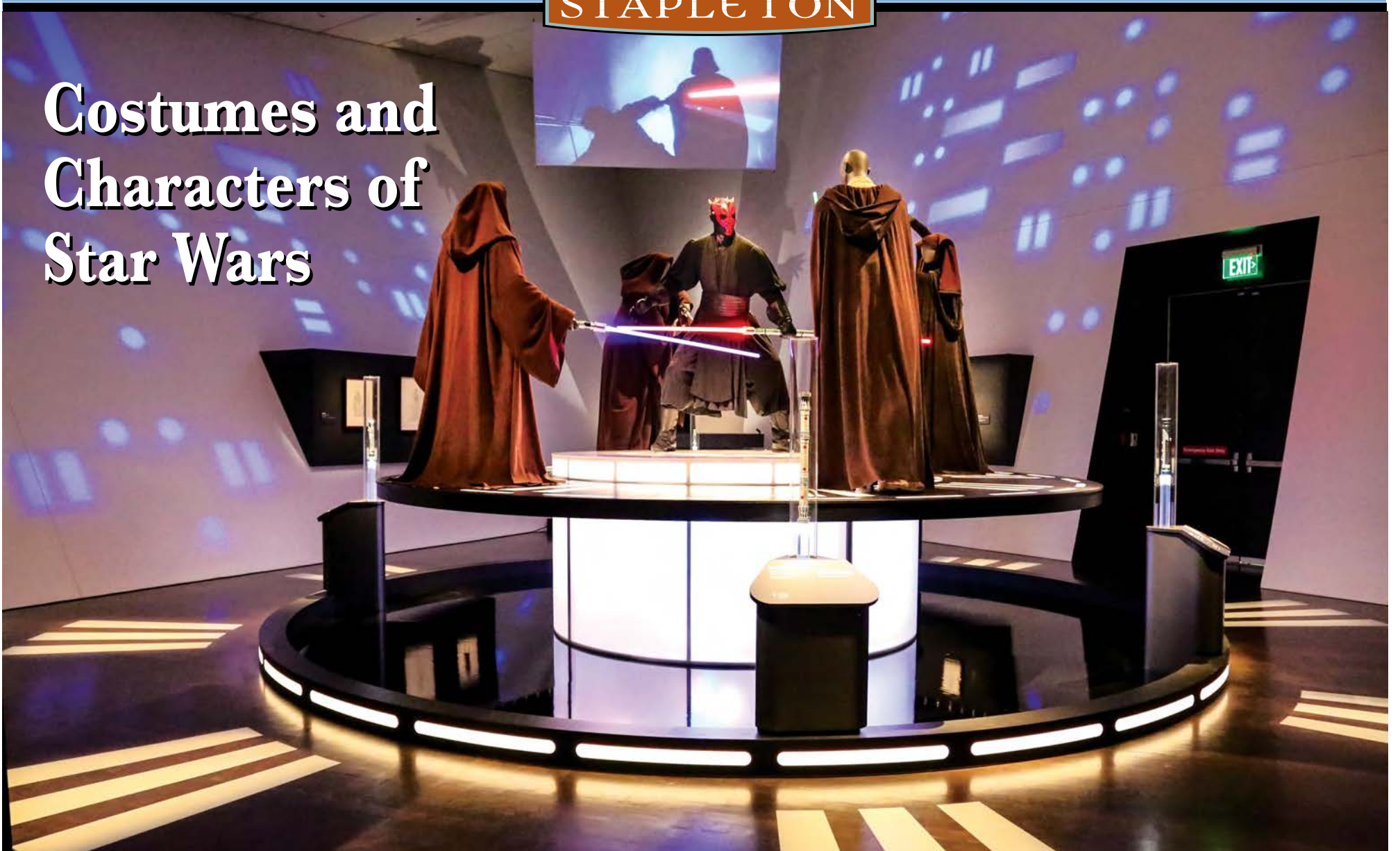
Distributed to the Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair and East Colfax neighborhoods

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

DECEMBER 2016

## Costumes and Characters of Star Wars



More than 70 original costumes from the seven films of the Star Wars series are on display at the Denver Art Museum now through April 2. Above, evil Sith Darth Maul, center, battles Jedi Knights. "Darth Maul's

By Laurie Dunklee

The discovery is in the details. *Star Wars and the Power of Costume* at Denver Art Museum, on exhibit through April 2, shows off the finer points

of the costumes—the real costumes—worn by Star Wars' iconic characters. From the evil Emperor's brown and broken fingernails, to the origins of Princess Leia's famous hairdo, the exhibition gives visitors a close look at the

makeup is like a scary clown," said concept artist Iain McCaig. "Black and red means danger in nature, like a black widow. Our creature maker added the horns, a devil symbol."

creative process of giving the characters visual credibility.

"I have to know a character in order to design him," said concept artist Iain McCaig, whose drawings guided the cos-

tumes in episodes 1, 2, 3 and 7. "Who's in there? The spirit that a character manifests."

*Star Wars* emphasizes the process of costuming, from concept to design. The exhibition (continued on page 8)

## Teens Take to the Streets



Maggie Roesink prepares to take her mother, Birgit Roesink-Miller, for a ride.

By Anne Hebert

While DPS has been scrambling to find seats for the many children who started arriving in Stapleton over 10 years ago, residents have been wondering what the streets will be like when those babies are teenage drivers.

Now the "baby bubble" is reaching the age for learner's permits—and parents may be finding things have changed since they learned to drive. "Getting a teen ready to drive (continued on page 38)

## Camp Guide

To be included in our annual February camp guide, summer camp programs should send information to FrontPorchEvents@gmail.com by Jan. 15.

## Holiday Events

starting on page 29



Lighting of the tree at the Winter Welcome.

Schools  
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Newspaper for updates  
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Denver Zoo Lights will be on from December 2 until January 1 from 5:30 to 9pm.



Most of the events listed below are FREE or support nonprofits.  
Additional events are listed on pages 29-34.  
Also visit [FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://FrontPorchStapleton.com) to view additional events and to submit events.

## DECEMBER

An extended list of holiday events starts on page 29.

### Thursday, December 1

Grand Opening of The Cube\*, The MCA's new office/performance space in north Stapleton. 4-7pm.  
Family-friendly happy hour. 8371 Northfield Blvd. The Shops at Conservatory Green, 303.388.0724

### Friday, December 2

Winter Movie, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas (Animated)* & *Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer*. 6:30pm, The Green\*

### Saturday, December 3

Sweet William Market, Holiday Market. 9am, The Cube\* [sweetwilliammarket.com](http://sweetwilliammarket.com)

### Tuesday, December 6

Colorado Gives Day [www.ColoradoGives.org](http://www.ColoradoGives.org)

### Thursday, December 8

Active Minds Seminar "Brexit: What Does the Future Hold for the UK and the European Union?" 6:45-7:45pm, Sam Gary Library\* [activeminds.org](http://activeminds.org)

## DECEMBER

### Thursday, December 15

Active Minds Seminar "Benjamin Franklin" 6:45-7:45pm, Sam Gary Library\* [activeminds.org](http://activeminds.org)

### Tuesday, December 27

Menorah Parade, 4:30pm register at [JewishStapleton.com](http://JewishStapleton.com) Menorah lighting, 5:30pm The Green (east end)

## JANUARY

### January 5 - 31

DPS SchoolChoice—SchoolChoice forms will be available at all DPS schools and at <http://schoolchoice.dpsk12.org/>. DPS recommends families register online with existing Parent Portal accounts. Pre-enrollment forms are available for new DPS families to register online. Choice ends at 4pm on Jan. 31

### \*Locations

More information on these events at [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com)  
\*E. 29th Ave. Town Center: 29th from Quebec to Roslyn St.  
\*Sam Gary Library: 2961 Roslyn St.  
\*The Cube: 8371 E. Northfield Blvd.

## Events & Announcements at Stapleton



### The Cube Grand Opening

Thursday, Dec. 1, 4-7pm

Come and see Stapleton MCA's newest indoor event venue at 8371 Northfield Blvd.! This new event space is perfect for an intimate concert, dance performance, theatre or even a sit-down dinner for 160 people. Join the Stapleton MCA on Thursday, Dec. 1 for drinks, appetizers, giveaways and prizes while exploring the new space!

### Winter Movie on the Green

Friday, Dec. 2, 6:30pm

*How the Grinch Stole Christmas (Animated)* & *Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer*

Join us for the winter movie on the Green at 29th & Roslyn. This year's movie will be *How the Grinch Stole Christmas (Animated)* & *Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer*. Fire pits will be roaring, s'more makings will be available and we will have hot drinks for kids and adults!

### Sweet William Market

Saturday, Dec. 3, 9am, The Cube

The Sweet William Market will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3 at Stapleton MCA's newest event venue, the Cube! The Cube is located at 8371 Northfield Blvd.

### 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, Dec. 8, 6:45-7:45pm

### Brexit: What Does the Future Hold for the UK and the European Union?

This summer, British voters elected to exit the European Union, sending global stock markets sharply down and provoking global reactions running the gamut from horror to congratulations. Join Active Minds as we place this pivotal event in its historic context and explore where this high-stakes path may lead, not only for the UK, but also the EU and rest of the world.

Thursday, Dec. 15, 6:45-7:45pm

### Benjamin Franklin

Perhaps one of the most colorful Founding Fathers, Benjamin Franklin lived a life of lasting impact. As politician, publisher, inventor and diplomat, Franklin left his mark on all he touched. Join Active Minds as we trace the life of this extraordinary man and tell some stories that mark his legacy.

### Santa's Best Christmas Trees

Visit your local tree lot for your 2016 Christmas tree! Santa's Best Christmas trees will be located at each of The Greens. The Greens are located at 29th Ave. and Roslyn St., and 49th Place and Valencia St.

### Snow Removal Policy

During Major Snow Events as defined by current Denver City & County standards, the Stapleton MCA will initiate its emergency snow removal plan for the alleys along with the city's plan for neighborhood streets. In the event of a major snow event, the snow removal plan will include the continuous use of heavy equipment, light equipment and hand work to remove the snow from alleys, intersections and major pedestrian paths. Alley work will be limited to the removal of enough snow from the alleys so residents can access their garages. This emergency-only procedure involves attempting to open up a single drive lane through each alley in the community. The drive lanes will not be scraped down to pavement, to eliminate the need to truck any snow off-site.

This procedure does not negate individual property owners from participating in the snow removal during these types of storms. Although we are unable to address the complete removal of snow on the roads, it is our goal during major snow events to remove enough material to allow for some level of travel in and out of the alleys. Paths and parks are done to open up some level of pedestrian travel. We will continue to address all the pocket parks and pathways to ensure that they are as snow free as possible to promote pedestrian access throughout the community. For detailed information about the snow removal policy, visit our website at [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com).

### The MCA Holiday Schedule

The MCA will be closed from Friday, Dec. 23 through Monday, Jan. 2. We will re-open on Tuesday, Jan. 3 at 9am. Please call 303.388.0724 for any emergencies.

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 Manager  
[jolsen@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:jolsen@stapletoncommunity.com)

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## Corrections from November Issue

**Bill Roberts Middle School's PARCC score** for English Language Arts (ELA) scores should have shown growth as 82%. It was incorrectly shown as 55%.

Also the scores for middle school math proficiency and math growth were reversed. The corrected chart is posted at [FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://FrontPorchStapleton.com) > search for PARCC Tests. Article is titled PARCC Tests: What Teachers, Principals, DPS and Parents Think.

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# Front Porch

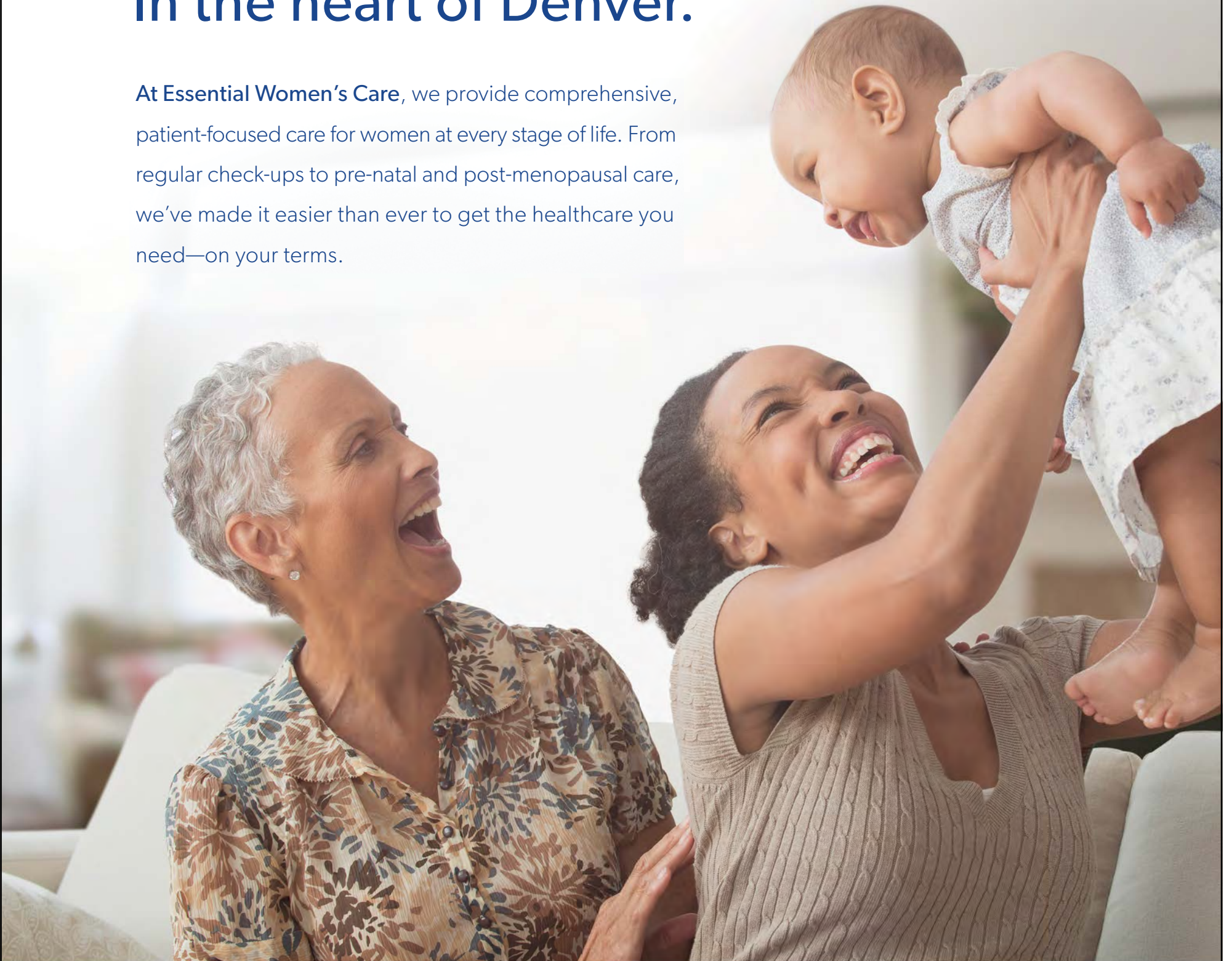
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## Awards & Community Celebration

### At the 7th Annual be well Awards & Community Celebration...

We want to salute those who volunteer their time or go above and beyond their professional responsibility to motivate others, initiate change and/or provide key services to advance healthy lifestyles in the be well Zone!

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Help us identify these incredible individuals who make a difference in our communities. A youth and an adult will be selected to receive an award (unless specified otherwise).

Anyone is eligible to make a nomination. Nominees must live, work, or make a significant contribution to "healthy living" (as it relates to the categories) in one of the be well Zone neighborhoods.

Complete an electronic form at:  
<http://www.bewellconnect.net/awards.html>

All entries must be received by January 4, 2017.

Sponsored by the be well Health & Wellness Initiative of the Stapleton Foundation. Learn more at [www.bewellconnect.net](http://www.bewellconnect.net)

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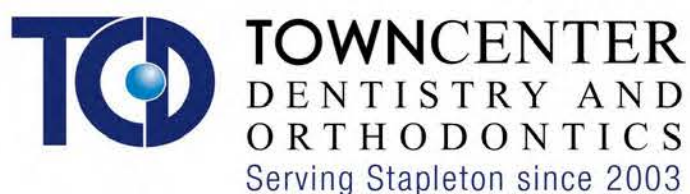


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# Winter Welcome



**W**inter Welcome on November 18 at the East 29th Ave. Town Center brought the coldest temperatures of the season to date—but that didn't dampen the spirits of 3,000 people who came out to view the lighting of the tree and celebrate the holiday season. Thirty-six vendors offered information about community organizations and businesses, many offering free treats. The sidewalks were crowded as attendees moved among the different activities making s'mores, taking carriage rides, and viewing reindeer. More than \$5,000 was raised at the event to be donated to Sand Creek Regional Greenway, Bluff Lake Nature Center, The Urban Farm and the Girl Scouts.

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## Star Wars and the Power of Costume

The exhibit explores the connections between costume and character with recognizable costumes in 13 thematic sections—including Jedi vs. Sith and the Galactic Senate. Focusing on the creative process of bringing characters to life, the exhibit features many original designs, as well as an art studio, costume shop and fitting room. In the foreground is the gown Queen Apailana wore at the funeral of Padme Amidala.

(continued from page 1) represents nearly 40 years of Star Wars, a seven-film, multigenerational telling of the hero's journey myth. Stephanie Van Dyke, DAM interpretive specialist, visited the archives of the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art at Skywalker Ranch to gather materials for the customized show. "We got to dig deep for original molds, paper patterns and original designer notes," Van Dyke said. "One of the special items we found was the concept for the planet

Naboo, based on the painting "Dream of Arcadia" by Thomas Cole, which resides on the sixth floor of the DAM. So there's a real connection between Star Wars and the DAM."

"The costumes are really well-made, unlike in some films," said Laela French, director of archives for the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art. "Costume details enrich the character, even if she is onscreen for mere seconds. Queen Amidala's black velvet gown features a handmade lace

front that took more than a month to weave."

Inspiration for costumes came from places like Mongolia, Tibet and Japan. Princess Leia's double-bun hair design was inspired by

Hopi women.

In addition to the costumes,



Watto, a junk dealer/human trafficker, throws the dice for young Anikan's freedom. Three-dimensional dice are among the hidden movie ephemera intended for Star Wars 'super-fans' and kids.

"easter eggs" are hidden throughout the galleries for super-fans and kids. Among the small ephemera are Leia's 1979



Chewbacca, a Wookiee warrior (a combination of a monkey, a dog and a cat) was a loyal partner to Han Solo, and a reluctant hero of the Rebel Alliance.

digital watch/communicator, a plastic and metal version of a device that hadn't been invented yet; and a three-dimensional view, at child-height, of a winged Ewok. A close look at a rebel pilot's vest reveals costume shop inside jokes, including a scribbled note: "When do we get out of here?"

Mc Caig said characters often change during the creative process—but not always for the better. He was disappointed in Jar Jar Binks, a silly-voiced creature that became a sore spot with some fans. "I long to go back to our original idea for Jar Binks," Mc Caig said. "He was silent, like Charlie Chaplin; he had all this energy and no way to get it out. He was funny. But at the last minute the idea fell off and he was given a voice."

Making Mc Caig's drawings real was the job of the costume shop, which employed as many

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# VIVE

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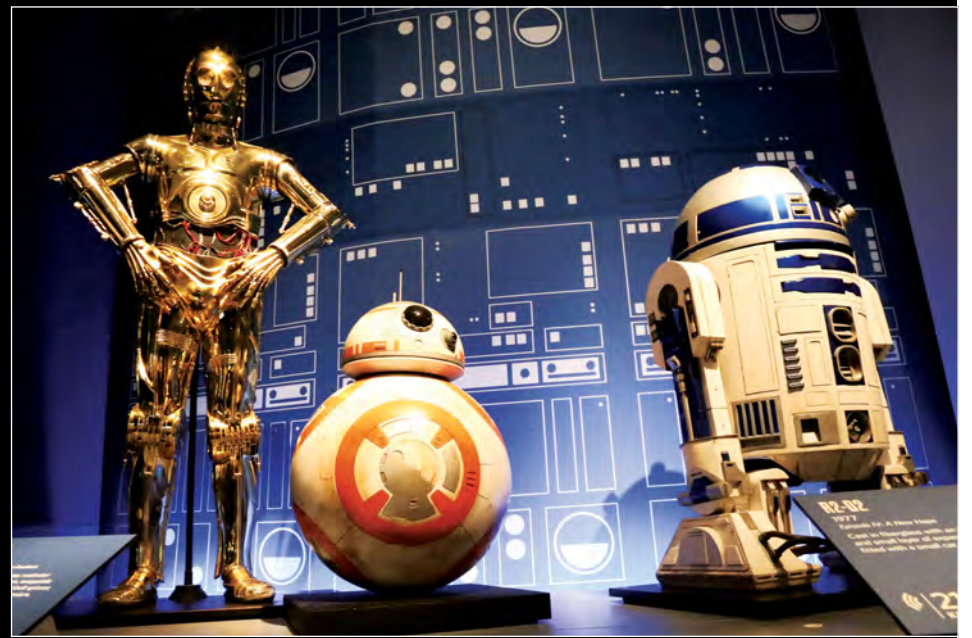




Queen Amidala wore a velvet robe with bronze metallic organza and seed pearls with a copper and gold-plated headdress.



Darth Vader, costumed in all black, was once a heroic Jedi Knight but was seduced by the dark side of the Force and led the Empire's near eradication of the Jedi Order.



Robots (left to right): C-3PO is made of 30 pounds of fiberglass; BB-8 is equipped with an accelerometer, surface sensors, and swappable tool bay disks; R2-D2 is made of fiberglass and expanding foam with a small car seat inside.

as 60 makers. "We made more than 1,000 costumes," said Star Wars creator George Lucas in a short film that is part of the exhibition. "It's one thing to draw something on a piece of paper,

and it's another thing to actually make it three-dimensional and make it work. We're always conscious of how costumes move on the actor. We want them to look better than on paper, and

that requires understanding fabrics and how they look under different lighting conditions."

Many costumes show the results of altered fabrics. "Cos-tume designer Trisha Biggar did

everything possible to the fabric to make it look a certain way," said French. "She heated rubber fabric and embedded stones in it. She did smocking on a velvet robe for a gathered effect, which

took six months to do. She dyed velvet fabric, graded from yellow to orange."

For more information, visit [denverartmuseum.org](http://denverartmuseum.org).



Left: The exhibit includes a re-creation of the studio where one of George Lucas' artist's worked on Star Wars characters. The photo shows Lucas surrounded by his team of artists.

Inset: A quote by concept artist Iain McCaig states, "George Lucas had described Darth Maul as a figure from your worst nightmare. So...I drew my worst nightmare for George. He then asked me to back off a bit and draw my second worst nightmare."



A visitor takes a selfie with Yoda, the small but wise, powerful and much revered Jedi Master.

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## A Top-Performing Alternative

*By Melinda Pearson*

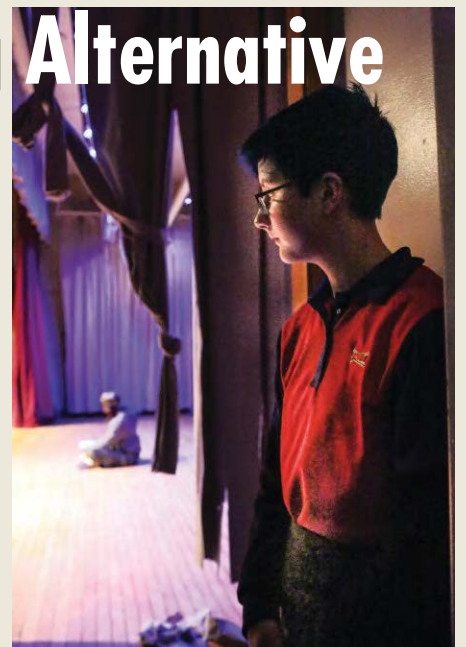
The top-performing alternative high school in the Denver Public Schools (DPS) district this year is Denver Online High School, which serves a surprisingly diverse array of students. It began in 2003 with just six distance learners, but now 240 students from the larger Denver metro region attend classes.

Principal Ian Jones has been a key factor in that growth. Jones came from an online charter school background two years ago and was excited to join the DPS system and make use of its considerable resources and support services. Denver Online gives Jones "inspiration," he says, with its diverse, friendly and open-minded student body, which includes dancers, soccer players, transgender people, teen parents, and even a student who plans to graduate with a BA by senior year.

### Nontraditional Model

The school operates on a blended model, where students spend some of their time online and some of the time on the Smedley Campus in northwest Denver. Ninth- and tenth-graders meet with teachers and other students on a weekly basis, where they lounge on couches for discussions or use laptops to continue working online. The school offers weekly speakers, extra-curricular clubs, a National Honor Society group and even hosted its first student-organized prom (theme "Express Yourself") last year. This is all part of a drive to promote community and school culture.

"We serve a variety of students, but most fall into categories that I call the 4 B's: Brilliant, Busy, Bullied, or Bombarded," says Jones, who is passionate about serving them all. Academically advanced students who can't find a challenge in a traditional school enjoy a tailored program that offers concurrent enrollment in real college classes. Likewise, kids who are dedicated to arts or sports gain the flexi-



Sophomore and choir director Adam Johnson observes drama and choir club rehearsal from the wings.

bility of working around their schedules. Students who have been socially marginalized in middle or early high school find a welcoming culture at Denver Online. The school is also a haven for teen parents, homeless students, and students who need to work to support their families.

Adam Johnson, a sophomore who sports a shock of bright blue hair, found himself "distracted" at the traditional high school he attended: "I decided to seek out something that was going to fit my needs better so I could further my education in a more productive way." He is able to take more advanced classes than he would have at public school and has also started a choir program, which meets weekly and participates with the drama club in performances.

### Tailored, Rigorous Education

Jones and his staff interview each prospective student at enrollment and closely monitor them, especially those who have had trouble at other schools. "It means the kids are really engaged. It is a very personalized experience for them," says Jones.

Many families are surprised to find out

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Johnson accompanies Denver Online student performers, who select their own songs and choreograph their own routines.

how rigorous the school is. Jones has re-vamped the curriculum, enhanced college-level offerings, and strengthened college/career readiness in collaboration with DPS. Since most coursework is conducted online in a Facebook-like forum called Schoology, writing is an essential part of every class, even math, which is particularly challenging online.

With this emphasis on rigor, Denver Online has been winning awards recently including a Mayor's Award for Innovation for the art program and a DPS Living Core Values award for Collaboration

for Jones. Bucking the reputation of alternative high schools, the school scores in the top 7 for ACT scores, according to Jones.

### "Do More"

The motto of the school is "Do More" and that is certainly what draws many students to it. Alyssa Maisel, a sophomore, is a classical ballet dancer who trains seven hours a day, five days a week, at the National Ballet Academy. The Aurora resident wasn't able to negotiate a schedule at a Cherry Creek School District high school but loves Denver Online. "It is so much freedom. I couldn't go back to a regular high school," she says. Maisel started taking college-level writing classes as a freshman and hopes to graduate with an associate's degree, which will support her in her plans to join a ballet corps directly after high school.

Likewise, Holly Sherman, a 17-year-old fashion model who spends part of the year in New York City, loves the flexibility of Denver Online: "When I work during Fashion Week, 6am-3am, I have no time to do school. My teachers are very flexible ... I don't do school for sometimes up to a couple of months ...

catching up isn't really that hard if you buckle down and do your work." Although Sherman is rarely on campus, she has met some really "cool, spiritual people" and especially appreciates its nonjudgmental culture, compared to the fashion industry where "98 percent% of it is rejection—you're judged hardcore."

Jones says, "The kids inspire me every day because they are starting to see the opportunities that our flexibility provides and take advantage of them." He ardently encourages his students to follow their passions both in and out of the school. And with a background in institutional systems, Jones has his eye on scaling up the school to share its remarkable curriculum with students across the region.

To learn more about Denver Online High School, visit their website at <http://online.dpsk12.org> or email community development coordinator Kaci Sintek at [kaci\\_sintek@dpsk12.org](mailto:kaci_sintek@dpsk12.org) or Principal Ian Jones at [ian\\_jones@dpsk12.org](mailto:ian_jones@dpsk12.org).

Field trips, on-campus meetings, and clubs like drama and choir give students the opportunity to interact and collaborate.



Principal Ian Jones and community development coordinator Kaci Sintek encourage the student performers by helping out with the choreography.



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# DPS Signals Change:

By Melinda Pearson

School Performance Framework (SPF) “stoplight” scores are out for DPS schools, for the first time in two years, and the results are surprising to many in the local community.

The color-coded school ratings are an important tool for parents, teachers and administrators to evaluate performance and choose schools. Scores are based on test results and parent-student satisfaction surveys.

### Fewer Schools Meeting or Exceeding Standards This Year

The only Northeast Denver school to receive an overall blue (“Distinguished”) rating this year is DSST: Stapleton High School. This is a striking decrease from the seven area schools that met distinguished criteria in 2014.

Many of the Northeast Denver schools performed very well on the challenging PARCC exams, demonstrating outstanding student proficiency and growth. Based on new formulas, these achievements do not directly translate into higher overall ratings. Other factors within the status (proficiency) and growth categories of the SPF are now more heavily weighted, such as equity measures.

Equity measures include comparing groups of at-risk students to their at-risk peers districtwide and also comparing them to their non-at-risk peers at the same school. This within-school comparison is new this year, and it has dragged down scores at area schools, causing concern with principals, teachers and parents. Seven local schools with historically high performance are now threatened with losing their green (“Meets Expectations”) status next year due to these gaps among learner groups.

### NE Denver Elementary Schools

School Name	% Earned Points	SPF Rating	Growth	Status (Proficiency)	Parent/Student Engagement & Satisfaction	Equity Indicator
Ashley	34.40%	Accredited On Priority Watch	38%	21%	44%	41%
Hallett Fundamental Academy	26.02%	Accredited On Probation	26%	14%	31%	25%
High Tech	66.38%	Meets Expectations	65%	68%	50%	58%
Isabella Bird Community School	42.98%	Accredited On Watch	42%	37%	56%	54%
Lowry	58.50%	Meets Expectations	65%	39%	56%	50%
Montclair	47.62%	Accredited On Watch	50%	36%	56%	30%
Park Hill	66.67%	Meets Expectations	67%	55%	75%	18%
Polaris at Ebert	67.42%	Meets Expectations	46%	100%	88%	50%
Smith	20.80%	Accredited On Probation	18%	24%	25%	35%
Stedman	40.00%	Accredited On Watch	55%	10%	19%	35%
Swigert	72.36%	Meets Expectations	68%	76%	81%	54%
Westerly Creek	72.34%	Meets Expectations	73%	61%	81%	47%

### NE Denver K-8 Schools

Denver Language K-8	50.69%	Meets Expectations	51%	40%	58%	54%
Odyssey School K-8	71.90%	Meets Expectations	74%	68%	71%	53%
William Roberts K-8	75.00%	Meets Expectations	72%	78%	83%	46%

### NE Denver Middle Schools

Denver Discovery	50.82%	Meets Expectations	52%	38%	56%	21%
Denver Sch of Science &Tech: Cons. Green	75.41%	Meets Expectations	73%	79%	81%	71%
Denver Sch of Science & Tech: Stapleton	71.11%	Meets Expectations	69%	79%	56%	52%
Hill Campus of Arts and Sciences	33.33%	Accredited On Probation	33%	24%	31%	23%
McAuliffe International	72.59%	Meets Expectations	76%	59%	69%	38%

Growth is now three times as important as status in the SPF calculation. According to Grant Guyer, executive director of the Department of Accountability, Research and Evaluation (ARE), this reflects DPS’s “fundamental philosophical belief” in promoting growth. As a result, equity gaps in growth are now multiplied by three.

### Equity Indicator

DPS is now placing student achievement gaps front and center in a way no one can ignore. Students at a school may show high proficiency and high growth on statewide tests—but if there is a wide gap between at-risk students and their high-performing peers, schools now get dinged on the newly added “equity indicator.”

At-risk groups include students living in poverty, English Language Learners (ELL), students with disabilities, and students of color.

“More affluent kids not only have higher status (proficiency) than kids of poverty, but the growth of the more affluent kids is higher than the kids in poverty, which means that schools are not only *not closing* gaps, but gaps are *widening*,” says Tom Boasberg, DPS superintendent. “... when your kids are behind there is a particular emphasis on the importance of them growing. And I think that’s what the equity indicator highlights.”

The equity measure is already built into the test-based calculation of growth and status on the SPF—the new equity category is merely a way to draw attention to those built-in factors. Those formulas are expected to remain the same next year.

To increase the impact of the equity factor next year, DPS has said that the equity indicator will override the overall SPF rating—schools must have at least a green equity rating in order to achieve an overall blue or green rating, *no matter*



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# SPF Ratings Highlight Equity

their performance in growth, status and family satisfaction.

Schools have been taken by surprise. Ken Burdette, principal of Park Hill Elementary, reports that there was little warning from DPS that the equity indicator would be used to override overall SPF ratings next year. “It’s like setting out to run a 26-mile marathon and then being told at mile 13 that you actually have to run 36 miles,” he said.

### Local Impact of Equity Indicator

If DPS had applied the equity indicator as a “trump card” this year, seven Northeast Denver schools would have moved from green to yellow (“Accredited/On Watch”), including Bill Roberts, McAuliffe, Westerly Creek, and Polaris. These schools are currently in yellow (“Approaching”) status on the equity indicator, which would

override their overall green rating. Two schools, Park Hill Elementary and Denver Discovery School, appear to be particularly at risk since they are currently in red (“Does Not Meet”) status on the equity indicator, despite green status overall. Districtwide, 33 high-performing schools appear

### Addressing the Gaps

Local schools will have to close the equity gaps, and do so quickly, in order to retain green status moving forward. Some schools are not deeply concerned, such as Bill Roberts. Its middle school (when separated from the elementary) met equity goals. It was also the highest-performing middle

Boasberg says DPS is addressing this inequality by giving more support to schools that have students from low-income families. DPS is providing professional development opportunities to teachers, increasing its social-emotional health support at schools, and also offering an “Equity Boot Camp” to educators focusing on detailed,

### Author’s Observations

There is much to admire in DPS’s bold and progressive emphasis on ensuring that all students in our city are receiving equitable, high-quality education. Highlighting the issue for schools through an equity indicator makes sense—families should be aware of how our schools are teaching their most at-risk students and schools should be working, as they are, to close that gap. However, mediocre growth that is uniform across groups is favored by the equity indicator more than higher growth that is unevenly distributed. It is unreasonable to put so much

weight on the gaps between at-risk students and their more affluent peers at the same school, when both groups are generally outperforming the district and state averages. The unintended consequence is an “Accredited/On Watch” label for schools whose students—all of them—are actually learning at accelerated levels. This sends the wrong message to parents, teachers and communities.

All the boats are being lifted in the rising tide of high performance and high growth that we see at so many Northeast-area public schools. It would be a shame for “Accredited/On Watch” status conferred by equity indicators to diminish the reputation of our schools, just at a time when economic integration is improving and higher-income families are choosing to keep their kids in public schools.

To learn more about SPF ratings and find detailed reports for schools, go to <http://spf.dpsk12.org/>.

## NE Denver High Schools

School Name	% Earned Points	SPF Rating	Growth	Status (Proficiency)	Student/Parent Engagement & Satisfaction	Post-Secondary Readiness Growth	Post-Secondary Readiness Proficiency	Equity Indicator
Denver School of the Arts (6 - 12)	75.17%	Meets Expectations	63%	85%	79%	81%	97%	70%
Denver Sch. of Science & Tech: Stapleton	83.71%	Distinguished	83%	81%	93%	67%	94%	87%
East	69.04%	Meets Expectations	71%	58%	57%	54%	82%	63%
George Washington	48.54%	Accredited On Watch	42%	50%	21%	33%	75%	50%
Northfield	50.43%	Accredited On Watch	45%	60%	42%	NA	86%	50%

to be at risk of losing their current standing.

Local school leaders strongly support the goal of equity but are worried about these unintended consequences. According to Burdette, “Equity is incredibly important. My concern is that equal does not mean equitable.”

For example, a school where both at-risk and other students are equally underperforming will earn a higher equity score than a school like Park Hill, where both groups are considerably beating DPS averages but the at-risk students are not improving as fast as the other students.

Burdette is also concerned about staff and community morale in response to the equity indicator. “Park Hill is an amazing school, so I worry about the perception it gives my teachers, the parents, my students.”

school in the area and second-highest in the district on the SPF.

Erik Cohen, assistant principal at Roberts, says he values the SPF much more than raw PARCC scores because it shows “a very intentional, comprehensive look at the school that takes into account the importance of growth, as well as status, and parent-student satisfaction.”

But even Cohen has questions about the use of equity comparisons, “When we look at our growth, it’s only a three-point difference [between Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) and non-FRL students]. That gap is extremely narrow, but unless the group on the bottom is accelerating higher, we’re always going to have a gap ....”

Part of the problem is that higher-income students simply have more resources than students living in poverty, which can translate to higher achievement.

specialized training for teaching ELL and students of color.

Burdette is sharply focused on closing the gaps with intentional instruction, but he has also forwarded his concerns about the equity indicator to his instructional superintendent and school community. He recently received a troubling, tongue-in-cheek question from a parent: “Is the surest way to close the equity gap giving high-performing students ‘a year off’ so others can catch up?” Burdette says he would never consider that.

“We’re doing a great job,” says Burdette, “... we were highest in math and third highest in English Language Arts for growth in the area.” He calls the new equity measure “an incredibly rushed indicator,” adding, “I don’t think it’s been well-vetted or well thought out.”

## SPF Ratings

**Status:** Proficiency—how a school is doing at a fixed point in time.  
**Growth:** How a school is doing over a period of time  
**Parent/Student Engagement:** How effectively a school connects with parents and families.  
**Post Secondary Readiness:** How well a high school is preparing students for college and career  
**Equity:** How at-risk students’ growth and status compare with other students in that school and in the district.  
**SPF Ratings:** *Blue*—doing very well. *Green*—doing well but has areas for improvement. *Yellow*—has quite a few areas that need improvement and receives extra support from DPS. *Orange*—has many areas to focus on and gets extra support from DPS. *Red*—performing significantly below expectations and needs significant support. The Board of Education may determine the school needs to be restarted.



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# Eleven Stanley Businesses Opening in December—More to Come in January

After great community anticipation, businesses are starting to open at Stanley Marketplace. Cheluna Brewing Co. has announced a firm opening date of December 1 and OpenAir Academy

is already open. The remaining businesses listed here are expected to be open by Dec. 15—check their websites for more information. Owner Mark Shaker says there is direct access to the opened businesses but he

requests people refrain from coming to visit the building until after Dec. 15 as there will still be a lot of construction during the first half of the month. He expects about 20 more businesses will open the first week in January.

that honors the owner's Oaxacan heritage. Customers are invited to bring food from other Stanley businesses to eat while they enjoy their beer at Cheluna brewery. [www.cheluna.com](http://www.cheluna.com)

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## Logan House Coffee

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## Stanley Beer Hall

Stanley Beer Hall pays homage to the old Stanley building, Colorado and the West. A rotating selection of about 30 product lines of craft beer from Colorado and the US will be offered. The food focuses on organic, locally sourced ingredients. [www.facebook.com/StanleyBeerHall](http://www.facebook.com/StanleyBeerHall)

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KIDS

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is inspired by the Reggio Emilia schools of Northern Italy, based on the idea that children are innately intelligent and need exciting and creative environments that encourage cultivation of this intelligence. [www.openairacademy.com](http://www.openairacademy.com)

Stapleton Bounce

Stapleton Bounce is a kids' gymnastics studio located at the Stanley Marketplace offering daily gymnastics classes,

open gym times, ninja warrior training, and birthday parties. [www.bouncestapleton.wordpress.com](http://www.bouncestapleton.wordpress.com)



Stanley Marketplace is located at 2501 Dallas St., Aurora. Approximately 50 locally-owned businesses will occupy the 100,000+ square feet. Owner Mark Shaker says he is excited to start the new chapter, operations, after the long construction phase. The public can visit Stanley after December 15.

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# A Line Train

*Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of three articles prepared by the Front Porch detailing development activity in and around Stapleton-area transit-oriented development (TOD) sites. TOD is a term used to describe dense, walkable, mixed-use urban development around high-frequency transit stations. TOD is a key element of the city's economic development strategy. The November Front Porch described new development planned at the Anschutz Medical Campus south of the Fitzsimons Parkway light rail station. The January issue will present information about the bus rapid transit (BRT) system planned for Colfax and early efforts by Denver to simulate TOD at BRT stops while preserving small businesses and existing affordable housing.*

By John Fernandez

Apparently, it takes a real train, not a promised one, to stimulate investment at a transit-oriented development (TOD) site. That seems to be the story at Stapleton's Central Park Station site. RTD's University of Colorado A Line commuter rail train started running in April and now development of the 50-plus areas of vacant land south of the station is showing the first signs of getting underway after a long period of dormancy.

## Central Park Station TOD Area



Here's a rundown on current activities at the Central Park Blvd. TOD:

**1** *Central Park Blvd. Townhomes.* Construction began at the end of October on this 40-unit, affordable for-sale project by the Northeast Denver Housing Center (NDHC). The project is 100 percent pre-sold with the first tenants projected to move in late next year. The units are similar in appearance to NDHC's other Stapleton projects such as the Spruce Townhomes on MLK west of the tower. However, with a deeper lot on a 3.7-acre site, designers were able to orient the units to internal open space, a big advantage for a residential project adjacent to busy Central Park Blvd.

**2** *2.4-Acre Affordable Housing Site.* Jim Chrisman, Forest City senior VP said there have been very preliminary inquiries from the city about possible involvement in a housing project at this site but nothing has been determined.

**3** *TOD Parcel 8.* Forest City holds 34 acres of prime developable land in five large blocks between 35th and 37th avenues west of CPB. Chrisman says they are contracted to sell this 7.2-acre parcel to a Denver area developer who plans to develop approximately 270 condominiums in two equal phases along with retail space. When contacted by the Front Porch, the developer was reluctant to provide additional information at this time. Chrisman said he understands the units will be priced in the \$200,000 to \$500,000 range to "widen the pool of potential buyers." Forest City has also required that 10 percent of the units meet the for-sale affordable requirements spelled out in the company's agreement with the city of Denver.

**4** *TOD Parcel 6.* Forest City is in the early design phase for two projects on this 6.3-acre parcel: a 180,000-square-foot, seven-story office building in the northwest corner of the parcel; and a rental housing project on the south half of the site in the range of 250 to 300 units. The apartment building would be five to six stories high and partially fronts public space. Forest City has no tenant yet for the office building but is actively marketing the project and wants a design in place to "shorten the gap" in time between concept and occupancy for a potential tenant. The office building would also feature a public plaza opening to Uinta St., which is considered the heart of the TOD. Chrisman hopes to submit plans to the Stapleton Design Review Committee in the next few months.

Chrisman said that when the office building is constructed, Forest City would also create urban plazas flanking Uinta St.: "Central Park station is a unique district. We want to take advantage of all the land that we have. We can be patient and develop it over time and create value long-term. We want to do things really well upfront and think of place-making elements." Chrisman said the public spaces at Uinta and 37th will be as important to the TOD district as Founders Green is to the town center on 29th Ave. Chrisman said the amount of affordable housing to be located on their 34-acre holding is undetermined at this time.

**5** *Xcel Parcel.* Forest City recently sold this small parcel to Xcel, which plans on using it to install a natural gas regulation station. The site is also being used as a staging area for installation of new lines to "provide gas service based on current load requirements and anticipated growth/future needs for this area."



# Stimulates Central Park TOD



Forest City's vision for transit oriented development (TOD) at Central Park station is illustrated by this rendering of office and residential buildings as described in item four at left. The buildings on the east side of Uinta St. are in preliminary design. Graphic courtesy of Forest City Stapleton.

**6** RTD Property. The Regional Transportation District owns about 20 acres of land between Smith Road and 37th Ave., immediately south of the commuter rail station. All the land is currently devoted to surface parking and the bus transfer facility. RTD is willing to work with developers on land swaps that would allow private development in combination with parking structures. However, such conversions may not be economically feasible until parking demand increases above its current average of 48 percent.

In its strategic plan, Denver classifies Central Park as an “energize” station, i.e., a station area where there are “above average market conditions for TOD and no significant development or infrastructure deficiencies impeding TOD from occurring.” Chris Nevitt, Denver’s citywide manager for TOD, says the next step is up to the property owner and developer (Forest City). He said the city has no plans at this point for capital improvement expenditures in the immediate station area. He said he had spoken with Forest City this summer and they are “holding their cards close to the vest.” Nevitt cautioned that while a train can be a game-changer, history tells us that development around stations takes many years; witness the Broadway/I-25 and Alameda stations.

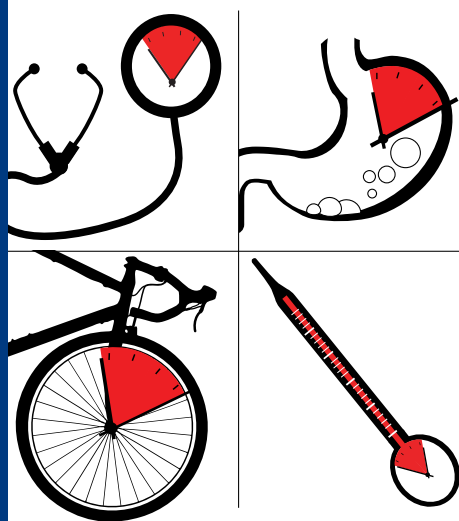
RTD itself moves slowly on station area development but is open to unsolicited proposals. Kate Iverson, RTD’s TOD manager, said four initial TOD pilot projects (Alameda, 29th and Welton, Old Town Arvada and the Federal Center) are in various stages of development and that her office is evaluating lessons learned, with a report to the RTD board planned for the first half of next year. She said RTD has not had any discussions with potential developers of their property except for general updates.

While the land at Central Park Station is largely free of development constraints, some issues remain: the abundance of nearby retail, the termination of Smith Rd, at Sand Creek, and the lack of north-south connectivity to enhance the development potential of industrial-zoned land north of the rail corridor. Denver’s station

area plan also cites challenges for pedestrians traveling to and from Quebec Square.

Nevertheless, Chrisman is optimistic over the long-term that the vision they created for the site is achievable. Forest City’s marketing material refers to Central Park Station as “one of Denver’s largest TODs, with unlimited opportunity to expand.” The company’s vision appears generally consistent with the station area plan adopted by the city in 2012. He expresses surprise that it’s taken this long for the real estate market to recognize the site’s potential: “I always thought there’d be a lot of focus two years ago when it was clear the A Line was going to be open. It really took it opening for three months before it began to generate interest.”

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Urban planners say communities with a diverse range of home prices and housing types (including a balance of rental and for-sale) are more sustainable and healthy over time than homogeneous communities. In that spirit, the Green Book declares, “Stapleton is expected to promote the integration of employment, housing and recreation, and insure diversity in age, income and ethnic groups.”

Where Stapleton development stands now:

- Stapleton is estimated to be 75-80 percent built out.
- Stapleton is halfway to the vision of one-third rental housing stated in the development plan (the Green Book).
- Affordable for-sale homes are halfway to the contractual goal of 10% of all for-sale homes.
- The contract between the city and Forest City expires when all the airport land has been sold to Forest City, which may be as early as 2018.

With only a couple years left in Forest City’s contract to achieve the stated goals, the *Front Porch* gathered a small group of concerned citizens to clearly identify open questions and missing information on how the city is responding to this impending deadline.

Information from the city indicates it is doubtful that the vision and goals will be met:

- One-third rental, as written in the Green Book, is not an enforceable requirement.
- If the agreement with Forest City expires, there would be no contractual obligation to provide any more affordable housing units (though it could be amended or extended).
- The new affordable housing program could fund Stapleton projects despite Stapleton builders not contributing to it, however Councilwoman Robin Kneich says it is not possible to make up the gap in the time available under the current contract.

# City Casts Doubt On Affordable Hous

By John Fernandez

The city of Denver will not enforce the Green Book vision for rental housing at Stapleton. Such housing was expected to be a key element in guaranteeing diversity and sustainability at this city-owned redevelopment site. In response to a question from the *Front Porch*, Rick Padilla, Denver’s director of housing and neighborhood development, said the development agreement between the city and Forest City “does not require a certain percentage of housing to be rental. While the Stapleton Development Plan (Green Book) is mentioned in the Development Agreement as “principles” to

be adhered to, the Development Agreement does not adopt those principles as enforceable terms.”

The Green Book envisioned rental housing to be one-third of housing stock at Stapleton. The Stapleton development agreement does require that 20 percent of whatever rental housing is built be affordable to renters at or below 60 percent of family median income (FMI). However, without a minimum amount of rental housing, the 20 percent affordable requirement has no effect.

Based on figures supplied by Forest City, as of July 31, rental housing makes up 18.6 percent of Stapleton housing. Depending on final build-out numbers, Stapleton is estimated to be 75 to 80 percent built out.

Padilla’s statement about rental housing was included in a written response to several questions presented to the city’s Office of Economic Development. The questions were generated by the *Front Porch* following a roundtable discussion convened by the newspaper in early November. Participants included three longtime Stapleton residents and activists along with Denver Councilwoman-At-Large Robin Kneich. The group agreed to meet because of growing concern that, as Stapleton approaches build-out, construction of affordable housing is lagging. The group also wanted to explore possible use of Denver’s new affordable housing fund.

## Stapleton’s Affordable Housing Plan

- Stapleton Affordable Housing Plan agreed to by Denver and Forest City, January 2001.
- At least 20% of Stapleton rental housing shall be affordable to renters at or below 60% FMI (family median income).
- Affordable housing shall be generally dispersed throughout Stapleton’s 2,935 developable acres, both north and south of I-70. However, the affordable housing should be located near public transportation and shopping areas, and consequently may be more concentrated in certain areas.
- Forest City shall develop or cause to be developed at least 10% of for-sale housing as affordable workforce housing (80% or less FMI).
- SDC (Stapleton Development Corporation) and the city acknowledge that public subsidy will be necessary for Forest City to fulfill the requirements set forth in this plan.
- Forest City shall endeavor to develop or cause to be developed affordable housing units at a pace reasonably consistent with the pace of development of market rate housing at Stapleton.

## For-sale Housing

Denver’s agreement with Forest City does include an enforceable requirement that 10 percent of for-sale housing be available as affordable workforce housing (80 percent or less FMI). Forest City’s second quarter 2016 “Housing Snapshot” indicates such housing is 5.4 percent of for-sale units in Stapleton. Forest City has stated that it will “probably not” meet the 10 percent requirement by project build-out but has promised to set aside the land needed to accommodate the required number of units. The Stapleton Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) has long

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# ing's Future at Stapleton



The reservoir of vacant developable land at Stapleton is rapidly declining. It is unknown how many affordable housing units will be located at this site south of Central Park station.

recommended to the Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC) scenario mapping to ensure that the set-aside parcels can accommodate the required number of units. Denver's agreement with Forest City may expire as early as 2018 when all land transfers from the city to the company are expected to be complete. Padilla said, "If the Agreement is not amended or extended and expires in 2018, there would be no contractual obligation to provide any more affordable housing units." He also said Denver and Forest City "have the legal option to extend or amend the existing Development Agreement prior to expiration" but provided no additional information as to how the existing requirement for affordable for-sale units could be enforced. Previous critiques by CAB members and others have questioned the logic of a development agreement that examines developer performance only at project completion.

## Denver's New Affordable Fund

Another factor bringing Stapleton to a new threshold in terms of affordable housing is Denver's affordable housing fund that takes

effect in January. Revenues to the \$15 million fund will be comprised of commercial and residential property taxes as well as a "linkage fee" (development impact fee) imposed on new development. Builders in Stapleton are exempt from the linkage fee because of the city's development agreement with Forest City. The group convened at the *Front Porch* roundtable discussed the fund's usefulness for Stapleton in view of that exemption.

Padilla did confirm the following:

- The linkage fee will apply in Stapleton when the development agreement expires or upon redevelopment of a property in Stapleton, whichever occurs first.
- Despite the linkage fee exemption, projects in Stapleton will be eligible for awards from the fund based on criteria such as location of affordable housing in proximity to high-frequency transit and as an area "at risk of gentrification."

The roundtable group discussed the possible use of affordable housing fund monies as a contribution to the "public subsidy" referenced in the Stapleton development agreement. The agreement assumes that a "Public Subsidy will

be necessary for Forest City to fulfill the requirements set forth in the Plan."

Forest City states it has provided some combination of land and/or cash to all the existing affordable housing projects in Stapleton. The Stapleton Citizens Advisory Board has repeatedly requested that information but Forest City has declined to provide it. CAB believes the information is relevant so that a comparison could be made of the Forest City contribution to the amount charged by the linkage fee imposed by Denver's new affordable housing fund program. Padilla said his office "is not privy to this

information."

## Stapleton Development Corporation Role in Meeting the Vision of Affordable Housing

Based on the roundtable discussion, the *Front Porch* questioned Padilla on the status of a city commitment last year to meet regularly with the SDC to discuss solutions to the gap in affordable housing supply in Stapleton. In response, Padilla said the "OED continues to meet quarterly with Forest City regarding their progress toward affordable housing goals and upcoming production. The most recent meeting was held in September 2016. At previous meetings, the CEO of the Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC) has attended on behalf of both SDC and the Citizens Advisory Board (CAB). As the leadership team at SDC transitions we expect the new CEO to attend future quarterly meetings."


Last December, the SDC chair said an action plan on affordable housing would be presented by the end of the first quarter of 2016. No such plan has been presented publicly.

## Possible New Role for the Stapleton Foundation?

Landri Taylor, Stapleton Foundation executive director, announced at the November CAB meeting a study into how the foundation could assist buyers in making down payments on affordable homes. The foundation is contracting with BBC, a Denver-based economics consulting firm, to inventory the existing and forecast supply of median priced-homes in Stapleton, said to be in the \$500,000 range. Taylor said that "gives us an idea of how many buyers will be able to access affordability at Stapleton." He said he looks at "unaffordable simply meaning the cash necessary to close the deal. Buyers typically in the 80 to 100 percent AMI (area median income) can indeed afford the monthly payment but they lack the resources to actually bring the down payment and closing costs to the table."

Taylor wants to test whether the foundation could act as a lender of last resort, contributing perhaps a five-year no-interest loan to assist a buyer in making some portion of the down payment. Taylor said the 90-day study will also examine other ways the Foundation can assist buyers and models from around the country for preserving affordable units long-term. In Stapleton, affordable for-sale units can transition from a deed-restricted condition to the open market in as little as 15 years.

Taylor said affordable housing has been the "number one conversation" for the past year with CAB and the SDC while the foundation has not been an active participant in the affordable housing issue. He said the foundation board identified affordable housing last spring as its number one priority: "It presented the perfect opportunity as we near completion of development at Stapleton for the foundation to jump in and start to convene a conversation that would actually produce a direction of increasing and preserving affordable housing at Stapleton."



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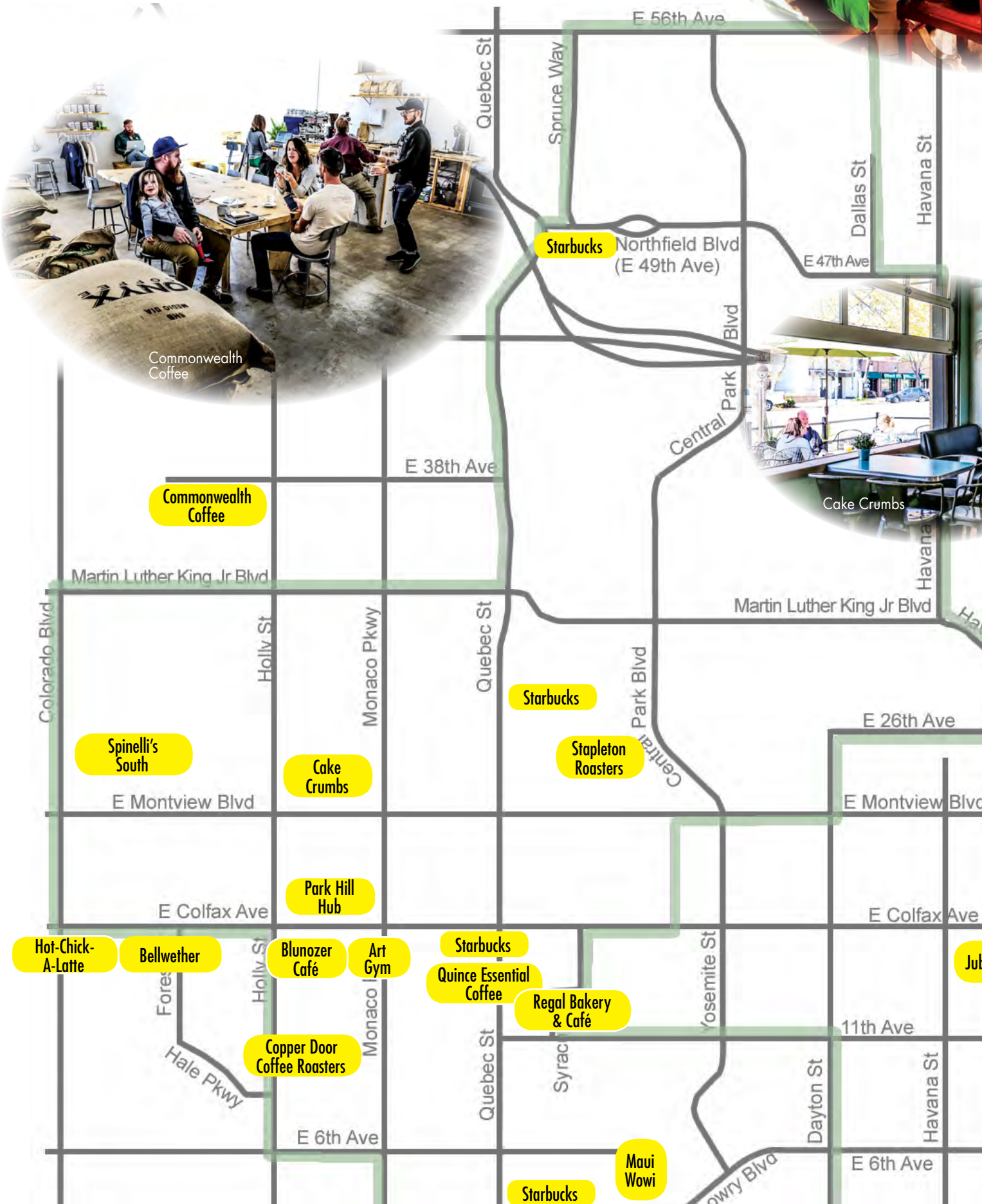
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### Park Hill Hub

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This cozy coffee spot also offers tea, pastries, vegan items, and panini in an old house with a wraparound porch.

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By Melinda Pearson and Carol Roberts  
Photos by Steve Larson

Unless otherwise noted, the coffee shops listed below are located in Denver and offer indoor seating, wi-fi and food.

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9am – 6pm, Tue – Sat  
1460 Leyden St.  
Adjacent to creative workspace and gallery, the café features artisan coffee, gourmet soda, pastries, pierogi, and desserts.

### Bellwether

7am – 7pm, Sun-Thu; 7am – 10pm Fri, Sat  
5126 E. Colfax Ave.  
Motorcycle-themed spot featuring espresso, cold brew coffee, and whiskey. Monthly membership provides access to workspaces, events, and drink specials. Also offers barbershop and clothing.

### Blunozzer Café

7am – 2pm, Mon-Sat  
1475 Ivy St.  
This cozy, family-run café features breakfast and lunch items in an eclectic ambiance.

### Cake Crumbs

6am – 6pm, Mon-Sat;  
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2216 Kearney St.  
Specializing in cakes and baked treats, this bakery also offers coffee and other light snacks.



Art Gym

### Commonwealth Coffee

7am – 3pm, Mon-Fri;  
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# In the Face of Hate, Neighbors Jump in to Spread Love and Support

By Melinda Pearson

Vandals defaced Stapleton's Isabella Bird school with a swastika and other offensive graffiti over the weekend of November 18th. The offensive messages appeared on the door and playground of the school. Police and school officials are working to find the perpetrators, but in the meantime the community has responded.

Within hours of discovering the offensive messages, community members turned out to paper the school with heart-shaped mes-



Photo by Shana Lurie



Photos by Lis Cohen



sages of support and remove the spray-painted graffiti. By Sunday evening, most of the graffiti was gone and messages of love and encouragement filled the school and social media.

Local Jewish residents and leaders are deeply concerned about this display of anti-Semitism. Liron Caplan's message to the perpetrator was, "This symbol that you placed on this wall is one of pure hatred and unadulterated pain. It is not cool. It is not the image of defiance, or power, or your power over others. It is not a symbol

of angst or your troubles. Just hate." Rabbi Mendel Popack of the Stapleton Jewish Life Center (SJLC) said, "We condemn this deeply offensive act and stand together with our Stapleton neighbors in opposition to this and all forms of hatred and discrimination. This type of hateful expression has no place in our society, and is not in any way a reflection of our neighborhood or of the Stapleton community."

In response to this incident, the SJLC and neighbors have organized a parade of

solidarity to take place on December 27. The parade will begin at Isabella Bird school, travel through Stapleton, and culminate at the east crescent of the Stapleton Founders Green for the annual community menorah lighting.

To show support for Jewish neighbors, some Stapleton residents are printing and taping menorah posters in the windows of their homes. To download and print a menorah to put in your window, please go to this article at <https://frontporchstapleton.com> or visit [JewishStapleton.com](http://JewishStapleton.com).

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- Christmas trees will not be collected by Extra Trash crews during the first two weeks of January.
- After January 15th, trees can be dropped off at the Cherry Creek Recycling Drop-off.

For more information visit [DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles](http://DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles) or call 720-865-6810.



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By Melinda Pearson and John Fernandez

The Northfield Apartments officially opened their doors to residents on Nov. 4. The 84-unit affordable-housing complex at the corner of Northfield Blvd. and Trenton St. features one-, two-, and three-bedroom units and serves households making less than 60 percent of the area median income, or \$48,060 for a family of four. Rents range from about \$650 to \$1,150 per month.

"This Stapleton community is special. More so than any other neighborhood that I get the privilege of working in across the city, this is a 'Yes in my backyard' neighborhood," said Robin Kniech, city councilwoman at-large, who attended the opening ceremony. "I have residents say to me, 'When are we going to get more affordable housing? Not because I need it, I'm a lawyer, I'm an architect, but I want it in my community, I want to be a part of that.'"

This development is the first for-rent affordable housing complex north of I-70 in Stapleton, and it represents an approximately 30 percent increase in for-rent affordable housing in Stapleton, bringing the total rental units to approximately 361, out of 8,181 total housing units in Stapleton as of mid-summer.

The majority of the Northfield Apartments are two- and three-bedroom units designed for families. The complex was 100 percent leased within a day and a half with over 500 interested parties, showing the incredible demand

for affordable housing in Denver.

An Ethiopian proverb holds that "one day's rain cannot get deep into the soil," said Gete Mekonnen, executive director of Northeast Denver Housing Center (NDHC), referring to the scope of the project in relation to the overall demand in Denver. Mayor Michael Hancock added, "In order for us to make a dent, we need not a one-day rain, but we simply need to flood this city with the commitment to affordable housing, and that's why it is the top priority in the city going forward." Noting that the complex will serve citizens making 30–60 percent of family median income (FMI), Hancock praised the project's many partners for digging deep to meet the considerable challenges it faced.

This \$19 million project is particularly notable because it is the first project completed using a \$1.7 million loan from the City of Denver's new Revolving Affordable Housing



## New Affordable Apartments Open in Northfield

The Northfield Apartments have a playground with a hilly play area, organic gardening planters and a community center offering classes for parents and after-school programs for kids. Photos by John Fernandez

and state credits, and home funds awarded from both the city of Denver and state of Colorado. Despite the complex layers of funding and participation, the project was completed on budget and on time, according to Mekonnen.

The property is place-based—within walking distance "there are over 6,000 jobs, a shopping center with a full-service grocery store, a pharmacy, movie theaters, an open pedestrian mall, and within a mile we have the Stapleton transit station," said Mekonnen.

Northfield Apartments features private patios, a children's play area and organic gardening planters. It is also sustainable, with xeriscape landscaping, solar panels and energy-efficient gas and electrical systems. According to Mekonnen, residents will have access to a community center

for classes on healthy eating, healthy cooking, gardening, and after-school programs for kids.

Speaking to the importance of affordable housing regionally, a number of elected representatives were on hand to mark the occasion including Rep. Diana DeGette, District 8 Councilman Christopher Herndon, Mayor Michael B. Hancock, and City Councilwomen At-Large Robin Kneich and Debbie Ortega.



Gete Mekonnen, executive director of Northeast Denver Housing Center (NDHC), speaks at the apartment opening event. Dignitaries in attendance include Mayor Hancock, Rep. DeGette and Councilpeople Herndon, Kneich and Ortega.

Loan Fund (RAHLF). The developer, NDHC, worked with the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHEA) to coordinate the collaboration of several entities, including subsidies from Forest City Stapleton, First Bank, federal



Interior of a unit at Northfield Apartments.

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## Dance and Culture for All—from Professionals to School Children



Left: Cleo Parker Robinson and her son Malik share the vision and the history of Cleo Parker Robinson Dance.

Above: A 1968 photo of Cleo by Earl Klammer.

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Cleo Parker Robinson is known both for her talent as a dancer and her tenacity in creating a cultural arts institution that serves more than 60,000 people each year. Through the power of art and dance, the non-profit Cleo Parker Robinson Dance (CPRD) organization has engaged 12,000 public school students each year, including gang members and many at-risk youth in a cross cultural arts experience.

Cleo Parker Robinson grew up in the arts in Denver's Five Points and Park Hill neighborhoods. Her parents were both musicians and her father was one of the first black actors in Denver at the former Bonfils theater. She studied with top dancers and choreographers in Colorado and New York, including Merce Cunningham and Alvin Ailey, an African-American dance pioneer. Forty-six years ago, Robinson started her own dance ensemble while a student at the former Colorado Women's College (now the campus of Johnson & Wales University). Eventually, she moved and expanded the school to its present location in

Five Points, creating a non-profit organization that now receives funding from the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) to help fund free and affordable programs including: a professional modern dance ensemble, youth ensemble, a professional and community dance, an international summer dance institute, a 246-seat theater and community outreach programs. Robinson has gone on to win many civic and academic awards, and she was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the National Council on the Arts in 1999.

Two years ago, Robinson, now 68, turned over the role of executive director to her son Malik. He started out by helping his father, Tom Robinson, who, for years, had been the organization's volunteer business manager while also working full time as a math teacher and as an official for NCAA football on the weekends. "He had his hands full!" says Malik, who then became the organization's booking manager, arranging for the ensemble's performances domestically and internationally.

Malik was born into the arts in the same neighborhood where his mother grew up. He

did a little acting as a child and was always around his mother's dance organization. But when asked about his own dance experience, he says, "I started dancing at an early age and I stopped dancing at an early age. Growing up, I had such a respect for the art form but I knew that I didn't have the will or the discipline (to be a dancer)." Still, Malik grew up fully entrenched in the world of dance, connecting with the likes of world-famous choreographer Alvin Ailey, who suggested he take up dance to help his performance as an athlete.

"I had a deep appreciation for what they did, but I also wanted to pursue sports and hang out in the neighborhood," he says, adding, "And I wanted my friends to have the same experiences I was having (in the dance studio)."

Malik has used his administrative strengths rather than dance abilities to serve his family legacy and the world of dance. He partnered with Metropolitan State University to create a dance major in an individualized degree program, the first dance major in Denver. CPRD students, who have always received help from

the Academy in preparing for college, now have another option for furthering their dance studies.

And Malik, remembering he wanted his friends to have the kind of dance experiences he had at his family's studio as a child, developed and directs CPRD's after-school programming.

"I'm so proud of Malik," says Cleo Parker Robinson, "He does things I could have never thought about or do." She says the hard part is knowing when to back off and when to get involved. "I want to allow him to find his own voice, but then for me to know when it's time for me to jump in," she says, adding that it's all part of the growth of the business. "As Malik goes around the country with the company, he carries himself with every bit of who we all are."

"Granny Dances to A Holiday Drum," a celebration of 15 cultures will be performed at CPRD from December 3 to 18. For more information, visit [cleoparkerdance.org](http://cleoparkerdance.org) and the *Front Porch* holiday events section that starts on page 29.

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# Announcements

## Jan. 14—Denver Preschool Showcase of Early Childhood Options

The Showcase is a free, one-stop opportunity for families to learn about preschool options, resources and tuition support available to all families of 4-year-olds living in Denver. Many of the options in the Denver Preschool Program (DPP) are in Denver Public Schools (DPS). Enrollment in a DPS preschool is through the DPS Choice process, which runs Jan. 5–31.

The NE Denver location will be Dahlia Campus for Health and Well-Being, 3401 Eudora St. on Saturday, Jan. 14, 10am to 2pm. Spanish translators will be available. The event will include free food and refreshments, family-friendly activities, entertainment, free dental screenings and storytime readings with the Denver Public Library. For families unable to attend the showcase, DPP’s online “Find a Preschool” tool at [www.dpp.org](http://www.dpp.org) enables families to search for a program by location and quality rating. For more about the Showcase, visit [www.dpp.org/showcase](http://www.dpp.org/showcase) or call 303.595.4377.

## TransitWatch App Lets Passengers Report Suspicious Activity

The Regional Transportation District (RTD) has an app called TransitWatch to help keep passengers safe. TransitWatch enables

passengers to report suspicious or criminal activity to RTD’s transit police command center. Users can send descriptions, photos and GPS locations. Once an incident report is received by the security operations center, they are able to quickly respond and broadcast travel alerts and safety information to subscribers. The free app now has over 5,000 subscribers. For more information or to download the app, please visit: [www.rtd-denver.com/TransitWatch.shtml](http://www.rtd-denver.com/TransitWatch.shtml).

## Volunteers Needed For Tax Preparation Assistance

The Denver Asset Building Coalition (DABC) is seeking volunteers to help provide free tax preparation services to low income families and individuals. In 2016, the DABC served over 5,500 clients from 130 zip codes around the Denver metro area and in the state. They were able to facilitate the return of \$7 million in federal refunds to the community and saved their clients approximately \$1 million in tax preparation fees. With only three paid staff members, the DABC relies upon volunteers to help meet the capacity of their tax site. For more information about volunteering, or to learn more about DABC services, please visit [www.denverabc.org](http://www.denverabc.org).

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# Just the Facts

## Rise and Fall of the Rockies

by James Hagadorn



Colorado has some of the strangest mountains and plains on earth. Their tectonic history underpins our ski industry, groundwater supplies, soil, and national parks.

We even have a couple of hidden mountain ranges, whose whereabouts are revealed in rock outcrops that millions of people drive by every day. These mountains were once as big as the Andes, and corrugated our state 300 million years ago when Colorado was a warm, tropical locale that straddled the equator. One range called Uncompaghria (rhymes with sangria) loomed over western Colorado. The other, called the Ancestral Rockies, towered over central Colorado.

Tropical weathering and millions of years of erosion eventually beveled the peaks of these mountains. Their relicts live on, though. The pebbly remnants of Uncompaghria make up much of the red dirt and rocks of southwestern Colorado. The sedimentary remains of the Ancestral Rockies make up the Flatirons, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Roxborough Park, and Garden of the Gods. The most famous leftovers of these mountains make up the Maroon Bells. To get these bottom-of-the-mountain sediments up to the top of Maroon Peak, another mountain-building interval occurred hundreds of millions of years later. Movement of earth's tectonic plates squeezed our modern Rocky Mountains into existence, opening them up-

ward like an accordion.

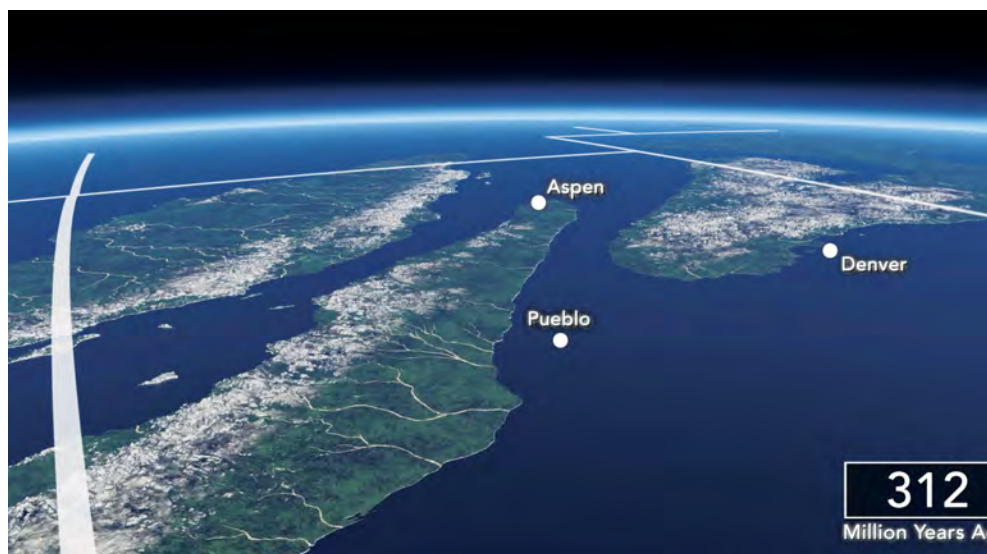
And those diamond-shaped peaks coveted by skiers and outdoorspeople? They owe their origin to ice ages that occurred during the last couple hundred thousand years. That's because as snow builds up on mountaintops, it compresses and eventually becomes ice. If enough of it accumulates, and if it persists for millennia, it forms a glacier that then flows downhill like molasses. But glaciers chisel a path through mountains like an ice-cream scoop carves through ice cream. The areas left between the glacial scoops formed the pointy peaks and knife-sharp jagged ridges that adorn our favorite ski and mountaineering epicenters. They also created all the depressions that became our alpine lakes, like Turquoise Lake near Leadville. As glaciers moved downhill and combined with one an-



This is what it would look like if you were standing at the foothills of the Ancestral Rockies, hundreds of millions of years ago. Wander through this landscape at <https://vimeo.com/coloradoigp> Image: P. Weimer.

other, they bulldozed long valleys with flattish bottoms. In some cases, we've shored up their bulldozed piles of debris with dams, turning them into drinking water reservoirs.

We also have two sets of mountains that



Satellite view of Colorado with the Uncompaghre Mountains in the distance and the Ancestral Rockies in the foreground, separated by inlets of a vast sea that covered most of North America. See animation of how Colorado evolved during this interval at <https://vimeo.com/coloradoigp> Image: P. Weimer.

break tradition. That's because they don't have pointy peaks, but rather are flat-topped. The most famous of these is near Coors brewery. Not too long after the dinosaurs bit the dust 65 million years ago, a volcano northwest of Golden spewed hot lava. It flowed southward, filling up valleys like a lake. Over time, the mountains surrounding this cooled lava lake eroded away, but the hardened lava rock was durable, and protected the underlying strata from erosion. Thus formed North and South Table Mountain. The same thing happened in an area between Steamboat, Meeker and Glenwood Springs. It formed our other rule-breaking mountain range, called the Flat Tops.

So why do we have so many four-teens, even compared to volcano-rich places like California and Washington? You'd think that only the edges of continents, where the tectonic plates are ramming into one another, would have giant mountains. Like the Himalayas, Andes and Alps.

Moreover, why are our "plains" a mile high?

It's because about 10 million years ago, Colorado and vicinity began to be uplifted like rising cake batter. Rivers and glaciers cut downward into the rocks and sediments underfoot, exposing them and sculpting the landscape we have today. In some cases, big

piles of sediment were washed out onto the plains, creating the largest reservoir of groundwater in the U.S.—the Ogallala aquifer. Where rivers got "stuck" in our mountains' resistant bedrock, they cut deep v-shaped chasms like Royal Gorge, Glenwood Canyon, and Black Canyon of the Gunnison.

Just last year, scientists figured out why this happened. Water from a melting tectonic plate that long ago got shoved under North America percolated upward beneath what's now our High Plains. It transformed the overlying minerals and rocks, making them less dense. And Colorado became more buoyant, rising like a marshmallow floating on the earth's inner hot cocoa. Nature's erosional processes did the rest, with rivers, wind and ice dissecting the landscape and redistributing its sedimentary bounty.

The Rockies will still periodically be punctured by volcanoes and cracked apart by tectonic movements, but not in our lifetimes. Yet our mountains and plains are still gently rising. As a result, the Rockies are slowly eroding away and being deposited on the High Plains, making our landscape less lumpy over time. But don't worry, you'll still have plenty of time to bag some peaks before the Rockies end up in Kansas.

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

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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 movie reviews.

### *Always Shine* (2016)

This stylish and atmospheric thriller is the second feature film directed by indie star Sophia Takal. Known mostly for intense parts in small, independent films, Takal seems to have absorbed everything she has seen in the indie world and added a dash of Brian De Palma and David Lynch. The result is an engaging and aesthetically pleasing mix of style and substance about the trials of actresses, their competitive juices, and the incessant objectification of women in Hollywood. The film is strongly directed, expertly acted, and so intricately structured that we are sometimes lost and sometimes grounded in this bizarre world. It all adds up to an interesting and worthwhile experience.

The story concerns two young actresses and friends, Anna (Mackenzie Davis) and Beth (Caitlin FitzGerald), who are constantly competing for the same parts. They decide to take a weekend trip to Big Sur to re-establish their friendship while relaxing and rejuvenating. But relaxing and rejuvenating turns into jealousy and competition at every turn and in every situation, no matter how little, and we get the feeling that things will not turn out well. Add a dash of Hitchcock here, and this entertaining film takes us directly where it wants us to go. Where does it go? Well, far be it from me to spoil the fun.

This is certainly an actor’s film, as Davis and FitzGerald give excellent performances guided by Takal. The women inhabit their parts perfectly, with Anna as the over-the-top emotional to the more measured Beth. Both have their moments, and they shine. Many times in independent films we get solid writing and very good performances, but the formal apparatus—cinematography, editing, sets, sound—can be inconsistent. That is not the case here: all of these aspects heighten the mood and add to the tension,

especially the excellent cinematography from Mark Schwartzbard (another indie staple). The music from Michael Montes is particularly good, recalling the great thrillers from the aforementioned De Palma and Lynch. All of the production elements are highly professional. Add to that the thematic aspect of women in Hollywood and the film gives us the total package: smart, entertaining, and layered.

Starts at the Sie Film Center on Dec. 2.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *Mulholland Drive*, *Lost Highway*, or *The Black Dahlia*.

### *Ray Donovan* (Showtime)

“Tip the country on its side, and everything that falls loose lands in L.A.”

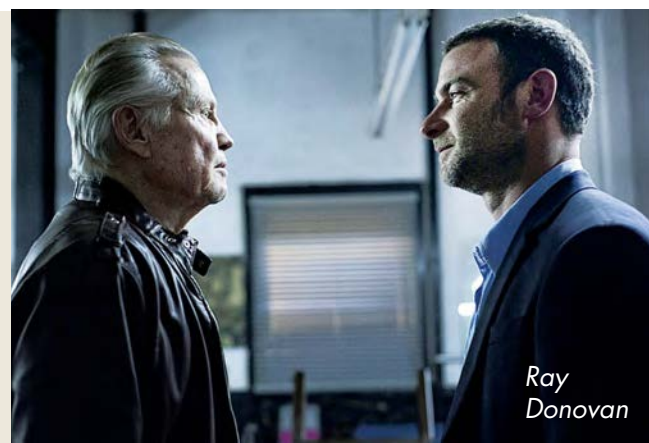
So says one of the main characters in Showtime’s can’t-take-your-eyes-away from gritty series, *Ray Donovan*. With four seasons in the can, the series has a devoted following and has been renewed for a fifth season. It has won several Golden Globe Awards and has been nominated for everything from Best Television Series to Best Actor in a Television Series.



*Always Shine*

That best actor nominee, Liev Schreiber in the title role, is outstanding as the Irish-American, Boston-born, now L.A. resident who is a “fixer” for the rich and famous. He arranges bribes, he makes payoffs, he makes threats, and he does whatever it takes to clear his clients. Schreiber is cool, tough, street-smart, clever, sexy, and downright devious as the bruising and brooding lead character. He is the Michael Corleone of his world, and he alone makes the series worth watching.

But there is much more to it than that. The entire ensemble cast is excellent: Jon Voight as the mercurial Mickey Donovan, Ray’s father; Paula Malcomson as Ray’s fiery wife Abby;



*Ray Donovan*

Eddie Marsan and Dash Mihok as his brothers Bunchy and Terry; Stephen Bauer and Katherine Moennig as his loyal associates Avi and Lena; Pooch Hall as his half-brother Darryl; and Kerris Dorsey and Devon Bagby as his son and daughter Bridget and Conor. There is not a weak link in the group and all the actors work off each other naturally and viscerally. If you’ve followed this column over the years, you know that I always say good acting and good writing go hand-in-hand, and that couldn’t be more true here—the writing is spectacular.

Beyond the writing and acting, the production values are also top-notch. The cinematography is particularly good, and the editing is sharp and fast—many times the film will cross-cut between multiple storylines and then find common ground between them in the final scene. Such sequences remind of the brilliant baptism from *The Godfather*, marrying theme to form.

Season 1 starts out fast and the series really never slows down. As we race through the L.A. streets, we move as fast as the main character rushing to his next fix. Ray fixes for movie stars, sports stars, executives, rap stars, and even one self-help guru. The cast of characters with whom he comes in contact is never-ending and endlessly fascinating. You will race through the first four seasons as well, just happy that Ray never knocks on your door.

There is quite a bit of harsh language, nudity, sex, and violence.

You will like this show if you enjoyed *Sons of Anarchy*, *Homeland*, and/or *Game of Thrones*.

Available on-demand at Showtime or on Amazon.

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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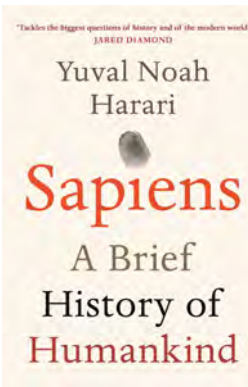


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# The Book Worm

Book reviews by librarians at the Schlessman branch, Denver Public Library.



## ADULT NON-FICTION

*Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*

by Yuval Noah Harari

At one time in history, there were more than half a dozen species of human, but now only our species—

homo sapiens—remains. If you are interested in reading the best theories about who we are and how we got here—and maybe even some ideas about where we might be heading—then this book is for you. Yuval covers a lot of ground in this accessible and surprisingly entertaining book, but the journey is so enjoyable that you won't mind. Yuval's writing is light and vivid, and the information he presents is eye-opening and thought-provoking. Highly recommended!



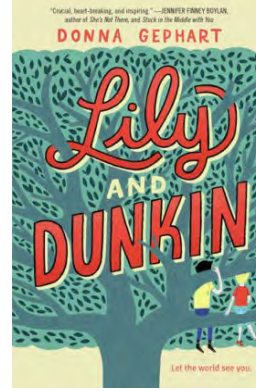
## ADULT FICTION

*The Last Painting of Sara De Vos*

by Dominic Smith

In 1637, a woman paints a landscape that somehow captures her pain at losing a child. In 1957, that same painting

is stolen from a private collector, and a forgery is left in its place. In 2000, a famous art historian is on the brink of being exposed as the person who created the forgery. These three narratives intertwine to create a book that is part historical fiction, part mystery and part art lesson. The novel moves forward and backward in time, building tension and deepening the reader's understanding of the characters and what drives them. This is a heartfelt, compelling read.



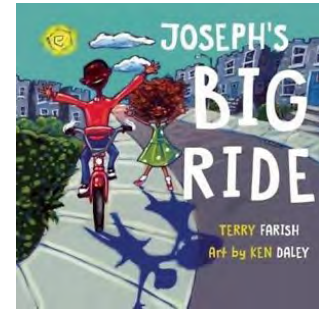
## YOUNG ADULT FICTION

*Lily and Dunkin*

by Donna Gephart

Lily has a secret. Everyone thinks that she is a boy, but deep inside, she knows that she is a girl.

Dunkin also has a secret. He has bipolar disorder, and something painful happened in his past. Secrets are very hard to keep, especially when they go to the heart of who you are. When the book opens, each secret is starting to unravel. When Lily and Dunkin meet for the first time, each wonders if the other holds the key to being oneself, while still getting along in the world. This is a beautiful and affecting book that tackles many difficult topics with calm authority. There is also a universality to its themes. All teenagers struggle to figure out who they are and how much of themselves to reveal, and they will find much to identify with in this book.



## PICTURE BOOK, AGES 6-8

*Joseph's Big Ride*

Story by Terry Farish, Art by Ken Daley

Joseph lives in a refugee

camp in Kenya with his mother and many, many other people. His friend Daau has a bicycle that Joseph longs to ride, but Joseph is too small for Daau's big bike. One day, Joseph and his mother travel far from the camp. They ride in an airplane. They arrive in America. In his new home, Joseph experiences different food, a new language, and a different kind of school. He also meets a girl who has a shiny red bicycle. Joseph's desire to ride the bike and the girl's kind, welcoming nature bring the two children together in friendship. This is a happy, beautiful book that touches gently on the refugee experience, but focuses more on how children become friends. Parents looking for books with diverse characters and settings will appreciate this book.



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# Holiday Events

## THE NUTCRACKER

Over 100 years old, The Nutcracker is the most widely performed ballet around the world and a time-honored holiday tradition. The score was composed by Peter Ilyitch Tschaikovsky and accompanies a ballet performed in two acts. The ballet tells the story of a young girl, Clara, her brother Fritz, and her family on Christmas Eve. The family hosts a party and the family is surprised by a visit from Clara's eccentric godfather, Drosselmeyer, who presents Clara with a beautiful Nutcracker. After bedtime, Clara dreams that the Nutcracker becomes a Prince after battling an army of mice. He takes Clara to the Land of Sweets where they are greeted by the Sugar Plum Fairy. The Prince tells of the daring battle and they are rewarded with a celebration of dances representing countries from around the world. At the end of the ballet, Clara awakens from her dream and finds herself by her Christmas tree with her beloved Nutcracker.

## HOLIDAY DANCE PERFORMANCES

**12/2 and 12/3—The Nutcracker by International Youth Ballet.** 12/2 at 7:30pm; 12/3 at 2:30 and 7:30pm. Newman Center for the Performing Arts, Denver University, \$30. Tickets: [www.newmantix.com](http://www.newmantix.com)

**12/3 to 12/18—Cleo Parker Robinson presents Granny Dances to A Holiday Drum,** a celebration of 15 cultures. \$30-\$40. 119 Park Ave. West. Tickets: [cleoparkerdance.org](http://cleoparkerdance.org)

**Through 12/24—Colorado Ballet presents The Nutcracker.** Tickets: \$30 to \$155. [www.coloradoballet.org](http://www.coloradoballet.org)

**12/9 to 12/11—Dance Conservatory of Denver Presents The Children's Nutcracker** at Colorado Heights University, 3001 S. Federal Blvd. Tickets \$25. Noon and 4pm. Dance Conservatory is located in Park Hill. [www.danceconservatoryofdenver.com](http://www.danceconservatoryofdenver.com)

**12/9 to 12/11—The Aurora Symphony & Aurora Dance Arts present the Nutcracker.** 12/09-12/10 at 7pm; 12/10 -12/11 at 2pm. <http://www.aurorasymphony.org/holiday.html>

**12/10 and 12/11—Dance Institute presents The Nutcracker.** 12/10 at 6:30pm; 12/11 at 1pm. Adams City High School. \$15. 303-525-0011. 20% of the ticket price is donated to your school's PTA.

**12/10 to 12/23—Ballet Ariel presents The Nutcracker** at Lakewood Cultural Center. Dec. 10, 11, 17, 18, 22 and 23 at 2 pm; Dec. 17 at 7pm. \$35/adults, \$25/children. 470 S. Allison Pkwy, Lakewood. Tickets: [www.lakewood.org/Tickets](http://www.lakewood.org/Tickets). <http://www.balletariel.org>



Hunter Rowe and Ella Young practice for The Nutcracker performance by Dance Institute on December 10 and 11 at Adams City High School. Dance Institute donates 20% of the ticket price to your school's PTA.

**12/16 Friday—Colorado Conservatory of Dance presents A Sensory Friendly Nutcracker.** 6:30pm. For families with special-needs family members; traditional theatre setting with sound modified, house lights up, guests are welcome to stand up, walk around and react to the performance in ways that feel right to them. Meet and greet with Clara, The Nutcracker Prince and other characters. Tickets \$10, special needs guests are free. [www.ccdance.org](http://www.ccdance.org)

**12/17—Park Hill Dance Academy 3rd Annual Nutcracker.** 6pm. \$12. East High School, 1600 City Park Esplanade. Tickets: [www.tututix.com/parkhilldanceacademy](http://www.tututix.com/parkhilldanceacademy) or 303-975-6111.

**12/18—Your Soul's Movment Student Showcase.** 2pm. 8216 E. 49th Ave. #1338 Denver. Admission: \$5/youth (17 and under), \$10/adults or families. [info@yoursoulsmovement.com](mailto:info@yoursoulsmovement.com)

## HOLIDAY MUSIC

**12/1 to 12/3—Denver Gay Men's Chorus Holiday Concert.** Merry and Gay! Central Presbyterian Church, 1660 Sherman St. Tickets: [www.rmarts.org](http://www.rmarts.org)

**12/2 to 12/3—Colorado Choir 40th Christmas Concert.** 7:30 pm. Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E. Alameda. Works by JS Bach; Randall Thompson; M Lauridsen, etc. Reception after Fri. performance. 303.892.5922, [www.coloradochoir.org](http://www.coloradochoir.org). \$20/adults, \$15/students/seniors/military.

**12/2 to 12/3—A Colorado Choir Christmas.** Holiday favorites performed by Colorado Choir. Augustana Lutheran Church. Tickets: [www.augustanaarts.org](http://www.augustanaarts.org)

**12/3 to 12/18—I'll be Home for Christmas.** Magical seasonal sounds with The Denver Brass. Free concert; donations accepted. [www.denverbrass.org](http://www.denverbrass.org)

**12/3 Saturday—Holiday BrassFest.** Sounds of the season vibrate thru Galleria at Denver Performing Arts Complex as brass players from the region gather with The Denver Brass to present free holiday concert. Brass players all levels invited to participate. [www.denverbrass.org](http://www.denverbrass.org).

**12/4 Sunday—Wonder: Glorious Sounds of the Season.** 5pm. Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia. [www.montview.org](http://www.montview.org)

(continued on page 30)

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## HOLIDAY MUSIC

(continued from page 29)

**12/9 to 12/11—Colorado Symphony Presents A Colorado Christmas.** With Colorado Children's Chorale. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. \$22-\$84. [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org)

**12/9 to 12/13—Beethoven and Brews with Call to Arms Brewery.** Beer tasting and sounds of Colorado Symphony small ensemble performed in casual setting. Tickets: [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org)

**12/10 Saturday—Holiday Pops: Jingle All the Way.** Mile High Freedom Band with Golden Concert Choir. Features Sleigh Ride, A Musicological Journey through 12 Days of Christmas, and Silent Night. Historic Grant Ave., 216 S. Grant Ave. 4pm and 7pm. Tickets: [www.historicgrantave.org](http://www.historicgrantave.org)

**12/16 to 12/18—Colorado Symphony Presents Handel's Messiah.** Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. Tickets: [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org)

**12/16 to 12/18—Holiday Brass at Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church.** Colorado Symphony Brass presents seasonal favorites. Tickets: [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org)

**12/17 Saturday—Colorado Women's Chorale and Men's Chorale Holiday Sing-Along.** 10:30 am. Augustana Lutheran Church. Tickets: [augustanadenver.org](http://augustanadenver.org)

**12/17 to 12/18—Brass & Angels Sing!** Celebrate holidays with majestic brass and angelic voices. The Denver Brass and The Colorado Chorale, Rocky Mountain Children's Choir and soloists. [www.denverbrass.org](http://www.denverbrass.org)

**12/18 Sunday—Gloria.** Stratus Chamber Orchestra and ALC Chancel Choir, Augustana Lutheran Church. 7:30pm. Tickets: [augustanadenver.org](http://augustanadenver.org)

**12/18 Sunday—Augustana Christmas Festival Concert.** Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E. Alameda Ave. 303.388.4678. [www.augustanadenver.org](http://www.augustanadenver.org)

**12/18 Sunday—Tuba Christmas Concert.** 1pm. Skyline Park, 16th and Arapahoe. Register 9am; rehearsal 10am. Auraria Events Center. FREE to public, \$1 participant fee. 303.556.8123 or [www.tubachristmas.com](http://www.tubachristmas.com)

**12/20 Tuesday—Celtic Woman Home for Christmas: The Symphony Tour.** Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. Tickets: [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org), [www.celticwoman.com](http://www.celticwoman.com)

**12/21 Wednesday—Frosty and Frozen.** Festive concert celebrates season with sing-along to your favorite winter tunes. Tickets: [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org)

**12/31 Saturday—A Night in Vienna.** Presented by Colorado Symphony. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. Tickets: [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org)

## HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES



**Through 12/11—Historic Gingerbread House Competition.** Created by Art Institute of Colorado culinary students. History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway. 303.447.8679, [www.historycoloradocenter.org](http://www.historycoloradocenter.org)

**Through 12/23—Colorado Railroad Museum's Polar Express.** Performances/train rides weekends and select days. Tickets \$45-\$100 adults; \$35-\$75 kids 11 and under. [www.coloradorailroadmuseum.org](http://www.coloradorailroadmuseum.org)

**Through 12/23—Denver Christkindl Market.** Vendors from Germany and other countries, local artisans, carolers, traditional German food and drink. Skyline Park, 16th and Arapahoe. Hours vary. [www.denverchristkindlmarket.com](http://www.denverchristkindlmarket.com)

**Through 12/24—Santa's Flight Academy.** Visit Santa at Cherry Creek Mall. [www.shopcherrycreek.com](http://www.shopcherrycreek.com)

**Through 12/24—St. Nick on the Bricks.** 11am-2pm. Visit Santa and Mrs. Claus on Pearl St. Mall. 1300 Pearl St., Boulder. [www.downtownboulderholidays.com](http://www.downtownboulderholidays.com)

**Through 12/24—The Nutcracker.** Presented by Colorado Ballet. Tickets: [www.coloradoballet.org](http://www.coloradoballet.org)

**Through 1/1—Blossoms of Light.** Denver Botanic Gardens York St. [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**Through 1/1—Trail of Lights.** Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms. [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

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**Through 1/2—A Hudson Gardens Christmas.** Holiday lights, wagon rides, Santa, music, etc.

Select dates, 5-8:30pm. [www.hudson-gardens.org](http://www.hudson-gardens.org)

**Through 2/14—Southwest Rink at Skyline Park.** FREE ice skating in downtown Denver; bring skates or rent: \$2/pair. [www.downtowndenver.com](http://www.downtowndenver.com)

**12/1 to 12/3—Denver Gay Men's Chorus Holiday Concert.** Merry and Gay! Central Presbyterian Church, 1660 Sherman St. Tickets: [www.rmarts.org](http://www.rmarts.org)

**12/2 to 1/1—Zoo Lights.** 5:30-9pm. Denver Zoo. 720.337.1400, [www.denverzoo.org](http://www.denverzoo.org)

**12/2 to 12/3—Colorado Choir 40th Christmas Concert.** 7:30 pm. Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E. Alameda. Works by JS Bach; Randall Thompson; M Lauridsen, etc. Reception after Fri. performance. 303.892.5922, [www.colorado-choir.org](http://www.colorado-choir.org). \$20/adults, \$15/students/seniors/military.

**12/2 to 12/3—A Colorado Choir Christmas.** Holiday favorites performed by Colorado Choir. Augustana Lutheran Church. Tickets: [www.augustanaarts.org](http://www.augustanaarts.org)

**12/2 to 12/3—9News Parade of Lights.** Marching bands, giant balloons, floats. Fri. 8pm and Sat. 6pm. FREE. [www.downtowndenver.com](http://www.downtowndenver.com)

**12/2 to 12/4—Holiday Flea.** Sports Castle, 1000 Broadway. One-stop source for locally made goods, crafts, drinks, etc. 11th pop-up marketplace and 3rd annual Holiday Flea. 12/2 Flea Holiday Party 5-9pm, \$30. Sat. 12/3 10am-6pm \$5; Sun. 12/4 10am-5pm, \$5. [www.denverflea.com](http://www.denverflea.com)

**12/2 to 12/4—Women's Bean Project 2016 Holiday Open House.** Treats, beverages, food, music, new products and free photos with Santa. Sat. 10am-3pm; 9am-5pm on Fri. 12/2, 9am-3pm Sat. 12/3 and Sun. 12/4. 3201 Curtis St. [www.womensbeanproject.com](http://www.womensbeanproject.com)

**12/3 to 12/18—I'll be Home for Christmas.** Magical seasonal sounds with The Denver Brass. Free concert; donations accepted. [www.denverbrass.org](http://www.denverbrass.org)

**12/3 Saturday—A Colorado Christmas.** Four Mile Historic Park. Celebrate Victorian-era Christmas, carols, sleigh rides, Father Christmas, etc. [www.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)

**12/3 Saturday—Holiday BrassFest.** Sounds of the season vibrate thru Galleria at Denver Performing Arts Complex as brass players from the region gather with The Denver Brass to present free holiday concert. Brass players all levels invited to participate. [www.denverbrass.org](http://www.denverbrass.org). <http://denverbrass.org>

**12/3 to 12/4—Christmas Mission Market.** 9am-3pm Sat. and 8:30-12:30pm Sun. Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia. [www.montview.org](http://www.montview.org)

**12/3 Saturday—Holiday Fest.** Mile High Freedom Band Freedom Swing performs holiday tunes with jazzy twist plus Harmony: A Colorado Chorale. 7:30pm. Historic Grant Ave., 216 S. Grant St. \$3-\$5, \$20 for groups 4-10. [www.mhfb.org/holidayfest](http://www.mhfb.org/holidayfest)

**12/3 Saturday—Lights of December Parade.** Holiday parade with community organizations, floats, high school marching bands and Santa. [www.downtownboulderholidays.com](http://www.downtownboulderholidays.com)

**12/3 to 12/11—55th Annual Georgetown Christmas Market.** European-type market: handcrafted gifts, carolers, horse-drawn wagon rides, roasted chestnuts, and St. Nicholas. First 2 weekends in Dec. 10am-6pm. FREE. [www.historicgeorgetown.org/Christmas\\_Market](http://www.historicgeorgetown.org/Christmas_Market)

**12/3 to 12/17—Olde Golden Christmas.** Historic Downtown Golden, Washington Ave. Santa, Christmas parades, carriage rides, dog cart rides, carolers, etc. [www.visitgolden.com](http://www.visitgolden.com)

**12/4 Sunday—Wonder: Glorious Sounds of the Season.** 5pm. Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia. [www.montview.org](http://www.montview.org)

**12/4 Sunday—Holidays in The Hangar.** Come for Brunch with Santa, reindeer, elves and festivities. <http://wingsmuseum.org/>

**12/4 Sunday—The Oxford Hotel Doll's Tea.** Classic tea with hot cocoa for kids and tea sandwiches and assorted treats. Bring your dolls. And whimsical ballet performance by Arvada Dance Company, meet the ballerinas and take free photos with them. 3 seatings, 10am, 12:30pm and 3pm. \$44 for kids under 12 and \$59 for adults + fees, taxes.

**12/6 Tuesday—History Buffs and Brews Eggnog Edition.** Wear your ugliest sweater to the Awkward Family Photos exhibit. Happy hour holiday cocktails, gingerbread creations. History Colorado Center. 4-7pm. Free admission; cash bar. [www.historycolorado.org/events?startDate=2016-11-04](http://www.historycolorado.org/events?startDate=2016-11-04)

**12/8 to 12/19—Governor's Mansion Holiday Tours.** Self-guided tours of Colorado's home, the Boettcher Mansion, decked out for holidays, Thurs. thru Sun. 10am-2pm. [www.colorado.gov/governor/residence](http://www.colorado.gov/governor/residence)

**12/6 Tuesday—City of Aurora Holiday Tree Lighting.** Musical performances, holiday goodies, visit from Santa. 5-7pm. [www.auroragov.org/events](http://www.auroragov.org/events)

**12/9 to 12/10—2nd Art Gym Holiday Fine Arts Festival.** Handmade items to give and share. 12/9 4-8 pm and 12/10 10am-5pm. Elke McGuire, Art Gym Denver, 1460 Leyden

**View more events or submit events**  
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St., 303.320.8347, [elke@artgymdenver.com](mailto:elke@artgymdenver.com) <http://artgymdenver.com>

**12/9 to 12/11—Aurora Symphony presents The Nutcracker Ballet.** Aurora Symphony and Aurora Dance Arts present Tchaikovsky's music and joy of 100 young dancers. Fri. 12/9 7pm; Sat., 12/10 2pm and 7 pm; Sun., 12/11 2pm. Aurora Central High School, 11700 E. 11th Pl. Tickets: [aurora-symphony.org](http://aurora-symphony.org)

**12/9 to 12/11—Colorado Symphony Presents A Colorado Christmas.** With Colorado Children's Chorale. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. \$22-\$84. [www.colorado-symphony.org](http://www.colorado-symphony.org)

**12/9 to 12/13—Beethoven and Brews with Call to Arms Brewery.** Beer tasting and sounds of Colorado Symphony small ensemble performed in casual setting. Tickets: [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org)

**12/9 to 12/18—Yuletide Teas.** Molly Brown House. Saturdays and Sundays. Sittings: 10:30am, 12:30pm and 2:30pm. [jwilms@mollybrown.org](mailto:jwilms@mollybrown.org) or 303.832.4092x17. [www.mollybrown.org](http://www.mollybrown.org)

**12/10 Saturday—St. Martins Chamber Choir presents Christmas in England: A Wilcocks Carols Tribute.** 7:30 pm. Montview Presbyterian Church. Tickets: \$10-\$35. [www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org](http://www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org)

**12/10 Saturday—Denver Botanic Gardens Family Gingerbread Workshop.** 10am-12pm. Discover plants that make gingerbread a delicious treat and build with gingerbread. Each family makes/decorates a gingerbread creation to take home. \$12/nonmember adult, \$10/member adult; \$17/nonmem-

*(continued on page 32)*

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# HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

(continued from page 31)

ber child, \$15/member child. Register: [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**12/10 Saturday—Holiday Pops: Jingle All the Way.** Mile High Freedom Band with Golden Concert Choir. Features Sleigh Ride, A Musicological Journey through 12 Days of Christmas, and Silent Night. Historic Grant Ave., 216 S. Grant Ave. 4pm and 7pm. Tickets: [www.historicgrantave.org](http://www.historicgrantave.org)

**12/10 Saturday—Nick's Annual Food Drive with Santa and Live Reindeer.** 10am-6pm. Free professional photo with Santa for every 10 cans donated. Reindeer visits 11am-4pm. Nick's Garden Center, 2001 S. Chambers Rd. [www.nicksgardencenter.com](http://www.nicksgardencenter.com)

**12/10 to 12/11—The Nutcracker Presented by Dance Institute.** \$15. Adams City High School, 7200 Quebec St. 303.525.0011. 12/10 6:30pm, 12/11 1pm. [www.danceinstitutedenver.com](http://www.danceinstitutedenver.com)

**12/10 to 12/18—Breakfast with Santa.** Downtown Aquarium, seatings begin at 8:30am; reservations required. Weekends. [www.aquariumrestaurants.com/downtown-aquariumdenver](http://www.aquariumrestaurants.com/downtown-aquariumdenver)

**12/10 to 12/23—Nutcracker 2015 from Ballet Ariel.** \$25-35. 470 S. Allison P'kway. Tickets/times: 303.987.7845, [www.balletariel.org](http://www.balletariel.org), [www.lakewood.org/tickets](http://www.lakewood.org/tickets)

**12/11 to 12/12—Denver Jackalope Indie Artisan Market.** McNichols Civic Center, 10am-5pm. Free admission. 150 local, curated and hand-selected artisans, crafters and DIY enthusiasts. [www.jackalopeartfair.com](http://www.jackalopeartfair.com)

**12/11 to 12/18 Sundays—Breakfast with Santa.** Maggiano's Little Italy. Reservations required; breakfast buffet, cookie decorating, Christmas crafts, visit from Santa. [www.maggianos.com](http://www.maggianos.com)

**12/15 Thursday—Pajama Christmas Carol and Hora Around the Menorah.** Little Man Ice Cream, 2620 16th St. in High-

lands Neighborhood. 7-8pm. [www.littlemanicecream.com](http://www.littlemanicecream.com)

**12/16 to 12/18—The Christmas Revels: A Scottish Celebration of the Winter Solstice.** Pipers, drummers, dancers, songs, stories, traditions of 18th-century Scotland. 12/16-17 7pm, 12/18 1:30 p.m. Dairy Arts Center, Gordon Gamm Theater, 2590 Walnut St., Boulder. 303.444.7328. \$20-28. [www.rockymountainrevels.org/tickets.html](http://www.rockymountainrevels.org/tickets.html), <http://rockymountainrevels.org>

**12/16 Friday—Colorado Conservatory of Dance Presents A Sensory-Friendly Nutcracker.** 6:30pm. For families with special-needs family members; traditional theatre setting with sound modified, house lights up, guests welcome to stand up, walk around and react to performance in ways that feel right to them. Meet with Clara, The Nutcracker Prince and other characters. \$10; special needs guests free. [www.ccdance.org](http://www.ccdance.org)

**12/16 to 12/18—Colorado Symphony Presents Handel's Messiah.** Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. Tickets: [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org)

**12/16 to 12/18—Holiday Brass at Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church.** Colorado Symphony Brass presents seasonal favorites. Tickets: [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org)

**12/17 Saturday—Colorado Women's Chorale and Men's Chorale Holiday Sing-Along.** 10:30 am. Augustana Lutheran Church. Tickets: [augustanadenver.org](http://augustanadenver.org)

**12/17 to 12/18—Brass & Angels Sing!** Celebrate holidays with majestic brass and angelic voices. The Denver Brass and The Colorado Chorale, Rocky Mountain Children's Choir and soloists. [www.denverbrass.org](http://www.denverbrass.org)

**12/17 Saturday—30th Annual Winter Solabration.** Celebration of Christmas and solstice customs, storytelling, dance, juggling, etc. Sons of Italy Hall, 5925 W. 32nd Ave. 6-11:30pm. Tickets: [wsolstice.org](http://wsolstice.org). Ends with mysterious Abbot's Bromley Horn Dance. Adult advance tickets \$25 (becomes \$32 1 week prior to event), Teens/Students \$19, Kids 6-12 \$9, under 6 free.

**12/18 Sunday—Augustana Christmas Festival Concert.** Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E. Alameda Ave. 303.388.4678. [www.augustanadenver.org](http://www.augustanadenver.org)

**12/18 Sunday—Gloria.** Stratus Chamber Orchestra and ALC Chancel Choir, Augustana Lutheran Church. 7:30pm. Tickets: [augustanadenver.org](http://augustanadenver.org)

**12/18 Sunday—Lunch with Santa.** Lowry Beer Garden. Tickets/info: [www.lowry-beergarden.com](http://www.lowry-beergarden.com)

**12/18 Sunday—Tuba Christmas Concert.** 1pm. Skyline Park, 16th and Arapahoe. Register 9am; rehearsal 10am. Auraria Events Center. FREE to public, \$1 participant fee. 303.556.8123 or [www.tubachristmas.com](http://www.tubachristmas.com)

**12/20 Tuesday—Celtic Woman Home for Christmas: The Symphony Tour.** Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. Tickets: [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org), [www.celticwoman.com](http://www.celticwoman.com)

**12/21 Wednesday—Frosty and Frozen.** Festive concert celebrates season with sing-along to your favorite winter tunes. Tickets: [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org)

**12/21 to 1/7—Living Lights at Butterfly Pavilion.** Twinkling tropical rainforest and glowing gardens, glowing bugs and entertainment. Tickets: [www.butterflies.org](http://www.butterflies.org)

**12/31 Saturday—A Night in Vienna.** Presented by Colorado Symphony. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. Tickets: [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org)

**12/31 Saturday—New Year's Eve Downtown Fireworks Display.** 2 shows: 9pm and midnight. 16th St. Mall. [www.downtowndenver.com](http://www.downtowndenver.com)

**12/31 Saturday—New Year's Eve Celebration in The Hangar.** 9pm-2am. Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum. Dance the night away with national/local DJs. Tickets: <http://wingsmuseum.org>, <http://wingsmuseum.org/event-calendar/new-years-eve-celebration-hangar/>

**12/31 Saturday—Noon Year's Eve at The Denver Children's Museum.** 9am-4pm. Ball drops on the hour from 10am-3pm. [www.mychilds-museum.org](http://www.mychilds-museum.org)

[museum.org](http://museum.org)

**12/31 Saturday—Zoo Year's Eve at Denver Zoo.** 5:30-9pm. Special New Year's activities included with Zoo Lights admission. [www.denverzoo.org](http://www.denverzoo.org)

## THEATRE

**10/12 to 12/30—Junie B. Jones the Musical.** Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada. [www.arvadacenter.org](http://www.arvadacenter.org)

**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)

**11/18 to 12/23—I'll be Home for Christmas.** Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada. [www.arvadacenter.org](http://www.arvadacenter.org)

**11/19 to 12/18—Radio Plays: It's a Wonderful Life and A Christmas Carol.** Radio Plays running in repertory. Spotlight Theatre Company at John Hand Theater. [www.thisisspotlight.com](http://www.thisisspotlight.com)

**11/25 to 12/24—A Christmas Carol.** The Stage Theater, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. [www.denvercenter.org](http://www.denvercenter.org)

**11/25 to 12/24—Santa's Big Red Sack.** Avenue Theatre, 417 E. 17th Ave. [www.avenuetheater.com](http://www.avenuetheater.com)

**11/25 to 12/24—The Santaland Diaries.** Denver Center for the Performing Arts. [www.denvercenter.org](http://www.denvercenter.org)

**11/25 to 1/1—The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess.** Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. [www.aurorafoxartscenter.org](http://www.aurorafoxartscenter.org)

**11/25 to 1/8—Beauty and the Beast.** Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St., Aurora. [www.vintagetheatre.com](http://www.vintagetheatre.com)

**12/2 to 12/23—Jacob Marley's A Christmas Carol.** Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. [www.vintagetheatre.org](http://www.vintagetheatre.org)



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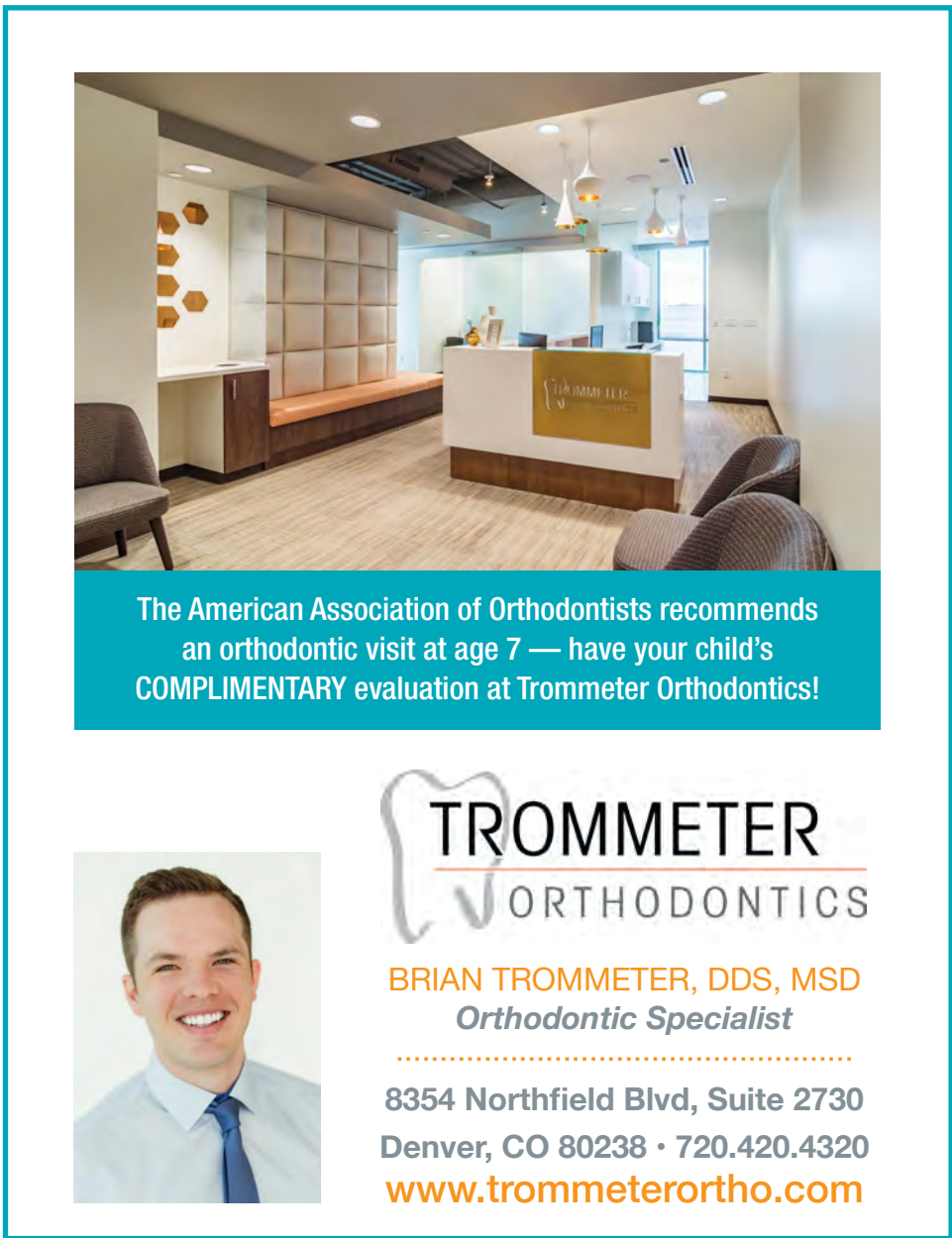
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**12/16 to 12/18—Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical.** The Buell Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. [www.denvercenter.org](http://www.denvercenter.org)

**12/20 to 1/1—Finding Neverland.** The Buell Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. [www.denvercenter.org](http://www.denvercenter.org)

**HOLIDAY SERVICES**

**12/18 Sunday—Festival of Lessons and Carols.** 9am and 11am. Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St. [www.montview.org](http://www.montview.org)

**12/24 Saturday—Christmas Eve at Montview Presbyterian.** 3pm and 5pm family services. 7:30pm traditional candle-light service. 10:15pm Westminster Choir. 11pm Prepare to welcome Christ Child as Christmas Day begins at midnight. Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St. [www.montview.org](http://www.montview.org)

**12/24 to 12/25—Augustana Christmas Worship.** Christmas Eve, 3pm, 5pm and 11pm. Christmas Day, 10:30am. Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E. Alameda Ave. 303.388.4678, [www.augustanadenver.org](http://www.augustanadenver.org)

**DENVER METRO EVENTS**

**Through 12/2—Denver Recycles Leafdrop 2016.** Free leaf compost drop-off last 2 days 8am-2pm. 720.865.6810 or website for drop-off locations and info. [www.denvergov.org/denverRecycles](http://www.denvergov.org/denverRecycles)

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

**12/1 to 12/4—Denver Potters Association Show.** Castle Clay Artists and guests. Wood, clay, ceramics, glass jewelry. 6th Ave. United Church, 6th and Adams. [www.castleclayartists.net](http://www.castleclayartists.net)

**12/2 Friday—First Friday Art Walks.** Santa Fe Arts District, Tennyson Art Walk, River North (RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Museum, Navajo Street Art District. [www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts](http://www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts)

**12/2 to 12/4—Colorado Symphony Presents All Beethoven.** \$13-\$25. [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org)

**12/3 Saturday—Young Entrepreneurs Marketplace.** 10am-2pm. Young Americans Center, 3550 E. 1st Ave. Repeats 12/10 Sat., 10am-2pm, Young Americans Center Belmar, 401 S. Pierce St. [www.yacenter.org](http://www.yacenter.org)

**12/6 Tuesday—Colorado Gives Day.** [www.coloradogives.org](http://www.coloradogives.org)

**12/10 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day.** Free with admission. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-2pm. [www.wingsmuseum.org](http://www.wingsmuseum.org)

**1/7-1/14 TreeCycle 2017.** Collections occur weekends of 1/7 and 1/14; no weekday collections. [Gov.org/DenverRecycles](http://Gov.org/DenverRecycles) or 720.865.6810.

**12/17 Saturday—5th Annual Denver Beer Festivus.** Beer festival showcasing 50+ Denver-area craft breweries. Wings Over the Rockies. 4-7pm. \$40-\$65. [www.denverbeerfestivus.com](http://www.denverbeerfestivus.com)

(continued on page 34)



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EVENTS (continued from page 34)

ART EVENTS

**12/1 Thursday—MADE 2.** Art Gym Denver presents MADE 2, exhibition of art made at and inspired by various artists at the Art Gym workspaces. 5-8pm opening reception, light refreshments/hors d'oeuvres. Live dance performance by Peter de Angelis and his Greek dancers. Free, open to public. 1460 Leyden St. 303.320.8347, <http://artgymdenver.com>

**12/17 Saturday—Artist Talk with Leslie Molen.** 12-4 pm: Talk and demo with Colorado textile artist's story of unique hats she designed while interpreting Chinese folk art. Elke McGuire Curator, Art Gym Denver, 1460 Leyden St. 303.320.8347, [elke@artgymdenver.com](mailto:elke@artgymdenver.com), <http://artgymdenver.com>

MUSEUMS—FREE DAYS

**12/3 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day.** SCFD Free Day. [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

**12/4 Sunday—Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys.** SCFD Free Day. [www.dmmtdt.org](http://www.dmmtdt.org)

**12/6 Tuesday—Children's Museum Free Target Tuesday.** 4-8pm. [www.cmdenver.org](http://www.cmdenver.org)

**12/8 Thursday—Aurora History Museum.** SCFD Free Day. Repeats 12/21 and 12/27 [www.clyffordstillmuseum.org](http://www.clyffordstillmuseum.org)

**12/9 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park.** SCFD Free day. [www.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)

**12/10 Saturday—Four Mile Historic Park Free Day.** SCFD Free 2nd Friday, 12pm-4pm. [www.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)

**12/12 Monday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science Free Day.** SCFD Free day. [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)

**12/30 Friday—Clyfford Still Museum Free Day.** SCFD Free Day. Free Fridays 5-8pm. [www.clyffordstillmuseum.org](http://www.clyffordstillmuseum.org)

NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS

**12/2 to 1/13—Youth at DAVA Holiday Show and Sale.** Downtown Aurora Visual Arts youth exhibit. Handmade holiday gifts for sale; 1405 Florence St. 1 block south of E. Colfax. Mon.-Fri. 10am-5pm and by appointment. [www.davarts.org](http://www.davarts.org)

**12/3 Saturday—Sweet William Market.** MCA Community Center, 8371 Northfield Blvd #C. 9am-6pm. [www.sweetwilliammarket.com](http://www.sweetwilliammarket.com)

**12/10 to 12/11—Bollywood Crazy!** East meets West in this musical with Bollywood-styled music, theater, dance. DSST Cole H.S. Auditorium, 3240 Humboldt St. 12/10 2pm and 6pm,

12/11 2pm. \$5. [www.neighborhoodmusicstapleton.com](http://www.neighborhoodmusicstapleton.com)

**12/12 Monday—Love Unbound.** A service of remembrance. Montview Presbyterian Church, Montview and Dahlia. 7pm. [www.montview.org](http://www.montview.org)

**12/12 to 12/15—Mary Poppins Jr.** McAuliffe International School 8th grade musical. 6:30pm, \$5 general, \$20 Spotlight Circle. Tickets at door and website. [www.McAuliffe.dpsk12.org](http://www.McAuliffe.dpsk12.org)

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

**12/12 to 12/17—Free Carriage Rides.** Northfield. Complimentary horse and carriage rides 12/17 1-7 pm and 12/24 10-6 pm. [www.northfieldstapleton.com](http://www.northfieldstapleton.com)

**12/2 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release.** Believe; Seasons. [www.harkinstheatres.com](http://www.harkinstheatres.com)

**12/9 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release.** Lion; Office Christmas Party. [www.harkinstheatres.com](http://www.harkinstheatres.com)

**12/16 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release.** Collateral Beauty; La Land; Rogue One; The Space Between Us. [www.harkinstheatres.com](http://www.harkinstheatres.com)

**12/23 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release.** A Monster Calls; Why Him?; Fences. [www.harkinstheatres.com](http://www.harkinstheatres.com)

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

**12/3 Saturday—Awesome Antlers.** 9:30am-12pm. RSVP required. Learn about seasonal behavior and antler growth of mule and white-tailed deer. [www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky\\_mountain\\_arsenal/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/)

**12/3 Saturday—Planting for Pollinators.** 12-2pm. Help Refuge staff introduce flowering plants into restored prairie. Ages 12+. [www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky\\_mountain\\_arsenal/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/)

**12/4 Sunday—Wildlife Viewing Tours.** 9:30-11am. Repeats 12/19. Free bus tour of refuge. RSVP required. [www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky\\_mountain\\_arsenal/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/)

**12/10 Saturday—The Masked Bandit.** 10am-10:45am. Learn about ferrets in refuge's one-of-a-kind ferret exhibit. [www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky\\_mountain\\_arsenal/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/)

**12/10 Saturday—Winter Raptors.** 9-11:30am. Learn to identify birds of prey native to the Refuge; bring camera and binoculars. RSVP required.

Lusher Recognized for Legislative Work

By John Fernandez

Ben Lusher received the Ruth and Warren Toltz Young Leadership Award at JEWISHColorado's annual meeting in September. The award was in recognition of his leadership in drafting and lobbying on behalf of House Bill 1284 in this year's session of the Colorado General Assembly. Signed by the governor in March, the bill prohibits the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA), Colorado's largest pension fund, from investing in international companies that engage in the economic boycott of Israel.



The award is given annually to recognize a young adult male who has demonstrated extraordinary service and leadership in the Denver Jewish community: "Ben demonstrated exceptional commitment and tenacity in his efforts to ensure that our Colorado community continues to stand with Israel."

Lusher is 32 and recently moved to Stapleton with his wife and two daughters ages 1 and 3. He is director of business development for Nexus BSP, an energy company. He previously worked in the Ritter administration for four years as a senior policy advisor for economic development.

Colorado is the fourth state in the country to pass what is known as anti-BDS legislation. BDS stands for boycott, divestment and sanctions. The "BDS Movement" website says it "works to end international support for Israel's oppression of Palestinians and pressure Israel to comply with international law." Lusher says the BDS Movement is "fraught with factual inconsistencies" and is underlain by anti-Semitism.

"If PERA were to invest in companies that have economic prohibitions against Israel, then we as citizens of Colorado would be indirectly supporting sanctions against our strongest ally in the Middle East, and the only one which shares our democratic values," said Lusher, "We applaud the General Assembly for taking this important step to ensure our investments reflect our priorities and our values."


Lusher undertook his work on behalf of HB-1284 in his capacity as chair of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), which advocates for domestic and international policy issues that affect the Colorado Jewish community. The JCRC is a program of JEWISHColorado.

HB-1284 was proposed by two state legislators, one Republican, the other a Democrat, who had toured Israel on an educational trip for public officials organized by JEWISHColorado. The bill passed overwhelmingly with bipartisan support and multiple sponsors.

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# Neighborhood Watch Captains Needed

By Lieutenant Ian Culverhouse  
Denver Police Department, District 5

Neighborhood Watch is one of the oldest and most effective crime prevention programs in the United States. Numerous studies have shown that thoughtful communication between residents and the police department reduces crime and creates safer neighborhoods.

The current Neighborhood Watch program in Stapleton is being updated. Some of your neighbors who are volunteers in police service (VIPS) are assisting in the development of this program. The primary role of a Neighborhood Watch captain is to act as a conduit between District 5 and the residents of your block. Specifically,

- DPD D5 will notify you of criminal activity in your neighborhood. You, in turn, will notify the residents of your block of this activity using email, text, or social media.
- DPD D5 will provide you with area specific crime prevention tips to share with the residents of your block. That's it!

Some blocks currently do not have a Neighborhood Watch captain so we need to recruit in every quadrant of Stapleton. Ideally, I would like to have one on every block!

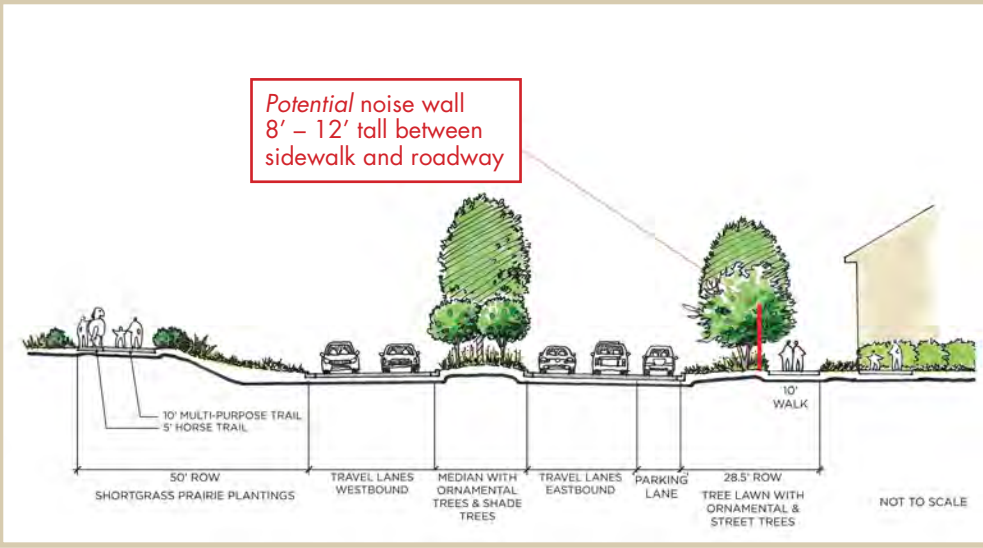
If you would like to be a DPD D5 Neighborhood Watch captain, contact VIPS Tracy Korabic at [tkorabic@gmail.com](mailto:tkorabic@gmail.com).

There is an overwhelming number of social media platforms and other places to get information, including our District 5 Facebook page and Nextdoor.com. But, moving forward, to have the best and most efficient lines of communication with the residents of Stapleton about what's happening in the community, the primary way we will be sending out information about criminal activity and crime prevention will be in the Neighborhood Watch Captains. So if you want to be in the know, please join as a Neighborhood Watch Captain!

Again, on behalf of the VIPS involved in this program and myself, thank you for your interest in serving as a DPD D5 Neighborhood Watch Captain.

## Stapleton Update

### Noise Wall Issue Delays MLK Extension



This cross-section looking east illustrates the design of the MLK extension. No decision has been made regarding the potential noise wall.  
Drawing courtesy of Denver Public Works.

By John Fernandez

The extension of Martin Luther King Blvd. in Stapleton has been delayed for perhaps a full calendar year. Originally slated to begin construction this past summer, Denver Public Works (DPW) says construction is "now anticipated to begin spring/summer 2017." DPW attributes the delay to a "combination of design changes, new federal and state noise regulations, and a 2011 environmental document that is now out of date." Unresolved at this point is whether the new regulations will require a noise wall to protect adjacent residential properties.

The MLK extension will run from Havana St. to Peoria St. and adds two through lanes in each direction along with medians and detached parallel bicycle/pedestrian facilities. On the existing stretch of MLK from Iola St. to Moline St., the project adds one lane in each direction.

The \$16 million project is subject to state and federal requirements because it will be funded in part with federal monies. A combination of updated traffic volume modeling and new noise regulations adopted by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has "produced new findings that noise walls may be both reasonable and feasible" along one stretch of MLK, according to Nancy Kuhn, DPW communications director. Denver is disputing the "feasibility" of the noise wall and Kuhn says, "We are discussing with CDOT/FHWA (Federal Highway Administration) right now and hope to have a resolution within a couple of weeks."

The walls under consideration would be located along the south side of the new MLK alignment from Havana to Moline St. where there are existing residential properties. Kuhn said wall height is dependent upon the level of noise to be mitigated and looks at factors including distance from the roadway to each house and the amount (decibels) of expected traffic noise. Because of the early stage of evaluation, any noise wall materials or appearance have not been determined. Cost is undetermined at this time but, if ultimately required, would have to be absorbed by Denver.

Formally, consideration of a noise wall has arisen through a 2016 Environmental Assessment (EA) reevaluation that is updating the original analysis done in 2011 as Denver prepared its application for federal funding. The 2011 EA found that noise walls were not feasible due to space limitations. In its discussions with CDOT and FHWA, Denver is making that case again along with these arguments:

- A solid noise wall would preclude direct access to the planned RTD bus stops near Kingston St. and Moline St.
  - The wall would preclude direct access to the parking spaces along the south side of the extension.
  - The wall would shade the sidewalk, resulting in the potential for icing during winter months.
  - An impact on views.
  - Potential for the walls to be graffiti targets.
- Kuhn says the "next step is whether CDOT and FHWA concur with Denver. If they don't agree and feel that the potential for noise walls is both feasible and reasonable, then the next step would require a vote of the affected property owners, where more than 50 percent of those homeowners/residents must vote for a noise wall. A vote will only take place if CDOT/FHWA do not agree with the City and County of Denver that noise walls are not feasible/reasonable. That is the next step of the evaluation process and we are waiting to hear what CDOT/FHWA have to say."
- Extension of MLK has long been sought by Denver as a necessary addition to the city's arterial street system. This "regionally significant" project will connect Stapleton to the Anschutz Medical Campus and provide walkers and bikers easy access to the FasTracks commuter rail and light rail stations. MLK currently accommodates an average of 15,000 vehicles per day with a projection of 29,000 average daily trips (ADT) by the year 2040.

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## THE GROVE

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# Education Expo—Development Updates—Noise at Dick's

## Recap from DPS/SUN Education Expo Nov 3

Speaking for Denver Public Schools (DPS), Choice and Enrollment Manager Roberta Walker summarized choice for 2017: choice will open Jan. 5 and close Jan. 31. Walker stated "At this point we still have a shared zone in Stapleton because growth is rapid and age distribution is disproportionate (6 elementary schools)." As there has been pressure from some families in DPS to implement boundaries, this seems to indicate that DPS has the phasing out of boundaries in a future plan for the Stapleton region, which currently has an open boundary. This is the first public meeting at which DPS has used language indicating that Stapleton's open boundary is because of capacity issues rather than to provide flexibility for families to choose between schools based on preferences for curriculum and philosophy.

The choice process is available for all school-age children. All students grades K-12 are guaranteed a seat in the shared boundary in Stapleton. Parents of children going into ECE3, ECE-K, sixth or ninth, or anyone seeking to change schools should participate in the choice process. In 2016, 100 percent of middle school students got their first choice. All Stapleton students are guaranteed a seat in Northfield High School (as well as Park Hill families east of Monaco).

Addressing capacity and need in Stapleton: in 2007, there were 187 kindergarteners; over 500 in 2016. Stapleton's newest elementary school, Inspire Elementary, will initially open sharing space with Northfield HS and then move into a building in Section 10 on 56th near Dallas; groundbreaking for this building will occur spring 2017. This school will even-

tually have five classrooms per grade. DPS has not yet decided whether the second school built in section 10, planned to open in approximately 2022, will be a middle or elementary school. Middle school-age children have expanded capacity at McAuliffe (360 seats per grade), in addition to 60 per grade at Bill Roberts, and DSST and Denver Discovery 150 per grade.

## Recap from Nov. 15 SUN Block Captain/Outreach Meeting and Board Meeting

### Denver Police Update

Lt. Ian Culverhouse, Denver Police Department (DPD), stated DPD has seen a spike in theft from motor vehicles, with may recent instances involving locked vehicles where valuables were left in plain sight. Please secure valuables out of site or preferably not in a vehicle.

### Northfield Blvd and CPB—New Retail/Commercial by Drake Development

Jon Hauser from Drake, developer of Northfield Commons, stated a May/June opening is planned for a new restaurant on his most recent four-acre project at the corner of Northfield Blvd. and Central Park Blvd. Confirmed tenants include Schwab, Freddie's Burgers and Custard, both freestanding, as well as 18,000 feet of shops including Costa Vida Mexican, Mod Pizza, Jimmy Johns, Anytime Fitness, a nail salon, a waxing salon, and ready-fit-go (healthy meal replacement). One vacancy remains on the west end facing the gazebo and will likely be a restaurant. In response to questions, Hauser stated Intersection, a breakfast/coffee restaurant next to 5 Guys Burgers and Torchy's Tacos, will open this year. Another project north or west might contain more from this builder team. Just south of the car wash will be a swim school, unrelated to this project. Just north of the CPB/Northfield corner project will be the fire station. Land adjacent to Macy's on the south side is being developed by a different group.

### Eastbridge—King Soopers Plans to Open June 2017

Joel Starbuck, for King Soopers in Eastbridge, described delays for the project (now planned to open in June 2017) are not site-specific. It is because Kroger wants to conserve cash. This store is one of four projects delayed until later in 2017 per Kroger's request. The store will still be a King Soopers (not another product from the Kroger family). While similar in size to the Quebec store, this site will have higher ceilings, skylights, more organics and natural products. King Soopers will fulfill exterior contracts (parking lot, curb) and then resume interior design and fixtures in early 2017.

## Eastbridge—King Soopers Gas Station

The gas station will start construction in December and likely open with the store. In response to a question, Starbuck stated King Soopers is considering a store north of I-70 and finds several sites interesting.

### Eastbridge—Constellation Ice Cream

Constellation Ice Cream in Eastbridge is named for The Constellation, an airplane designed in the 1940s made by Lockheed Martin, an iconic symbol of aviation. A portion of this building's construction will be an exact replica (some parts are salvaged, but some are made) of a large airplane wing with propellers. Portions of this wing will extend at 22 feet in the air, 10 feet over the right-of-way (sidewalk area, not road) on the southern side of the town center. In addition to meeting the community, part of the reason for meeting with the community was to gather input regarding the wing tip over the right-of-way. In response to the full-room consensus during the block captain meeting of this project, the SUN board voted to write a letter of support for the Constellation wing spanning the right-of-way.

### Eastbridge—Evergreen Development Update

Shops in Eastbridge are in the process of finishing shells, with some retail opening January, others Feb.-April. Los Chingones should open late March/early April. Evergreen reported that rezoning of the parcel on the north side of MLK passed, and they will be closing on this land with Forest City in December. A dentist and a salon have been confirmed as tenants.

### 29th Ave. Town Center—New Apartments at The Mint Available Spring 2017

SUN Outreach Committee Co-chair Gloria DuBois read updates from Tom Gleason of Forest City stating apartments at The Mint would be available spring 2017 for \$1,360–\$3,000 a month.

### Noise from Dick's Sporting Goods Park

SUN sent a letter to Commerce City saying efforts should be taken to balance the venue needs and prevent extreme disturbances in the surrounding community early 2017, before any further concerts take place.

Disturbances and complaints related to noise at DSGP have been reported throughout the Stapleton and Park Hill communities—with many impacted homes located south of I-70, 2 to 4 miles from the venue. Complaints have included: loud, clearly audible music from miles away, shaking windows, glasses rattling in cabinets, homes shaking, children awakened, earplugs and noise machines ineffective, unable to hear TV, concerts lasting after 11pm.

SUN supports actions being considered to mitigate the issue including: take decibel readings at the sound booth, not the property line; lower the maximum decibels allowed; lower the speakers and angle them downward; use physical sound barriers at the southern end of the venue; impose fines for running later than the cutoff time; staff a tip line during each event; keep parking off neighborhood streets.

### Future SUN Meeting

SUN meetings, typically held the third Tuesday, 6:30-8:45pm, are cancelled for December.

In January 2017, SUN's monthly meeting will be Tuesday Jan. 17. SUN would like to provide the community an opportunity to hear about and provide input on the central corridor in Stapleton during the outreach meeting. This discussion will cover: The Central Park Bridge (funding and projected timeline), current plans for transit-oriented development (TOD) around the Central Park Station, plans to make the area along Central Park Blvd. pedestrian-ready in advance or in tandem with these projects, and the timeline for Punchbowl/plans for the area around it.

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## Letter to the Editor

### Denver Discovery Parent Speaks Highly of School

I am a very satisfied parent at Denver Discovery School and am writing to encourage families to consider this excellent school during the upcoming School Choice process. I appreciate this school's size, diversity, and inclusiveness. Our daughter feels welcome and uplifted each day. The teachers show a rare passion and energy. There is a strong focus on building friendships and character. Their motto "large enough to serve you, small enough to know you" has truly been our experience. We have seen our

daughter grown in her accountability and perseverance.

Please consider attending their Open House on December 15. Staff, teachers, students, and parents will be available to help families explore why DDS may be the best choice for their student's middle school experience. Sign up on the website at [denverdiscovery.school.dpsk12.org/tours](http://denverdiscovery.school.dpsk12.org/tours). If you have questions about Open House or the School Choice process, contact the offices at 720 424 4790.

*Amy Smeester is a happy Denver Discovery School parent and can be reached at [amycrashed@hotmail.com](mailto:amycrashed@hotmail.com)*

## Meet Eirina

Eirina, an eight-year-old female Sumatran orangutan arrived from Germany's Zoo Dortmund in September and has made her home in the Denver Zoo's Primate Panorama. Zookeepers are hopeful that Eirina will breed with 14-year-old Bernas, nicknamed "Junie" by visitors and staff. Eirina came to Colorado upon recommendation of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Species Survival Plan, which ensures genetic diversity and healthy populations in zoo animals. Orangutan means "person of the forest" in the Malay language and the species is among the closest relatives to humans. Visitors to the zoo can see



Eirina in the Great Apes Primate Building in the Primate Panorama. For more information visit [www.DenverZoo.org](http://www.DenverZoo.org).

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# 2017 City Bond Planning Underway

Denver is expecting to place a half billion dollar general obligation bond before the voters in November 17 to pay for an extensive list of capital projects. This would be the first GO bond placed before the voters since the 2007 Better Denver Bond Program that totaled \$550 million and has funded 380 separate projects ranging from streets to libraries to fire stations, parks, trails and recreation center improvements.

Denver is seeking community input now to develop an initial list of projects that will be vetted and prioritized next spring. City Council will make a final determination on projects and total amount of the bond issuance next summer. The city has the capacity to issue between \$500 and \$600 million in GO debt without raising taxes.

Three public meetings have already been held, with the first occurring Nov. 15 at the Montbello campus. At the

Montbello meeting, Tykus Holloway, Deputy Chief Projects Manager in the Mayor's office, said the city's 2015-2020 Six-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), also referred to as Elevate 2020, is the starting point for what he hopes is a long list of project ideas to be generated through this public input process. Projects supported with a GO bond must be city-owned and –operated assets. Over the winter, he said he expects the mayor to form a stakeholder committee to winnow the initial list for presentation to the public in a second round of input meetings in the spring.

Comments will also be taken on-line through the end of the year at this web site: [www.denvergov.org/2017GOBond](http://www.denvergov.org/2017GOBond). Public comment forms can be obtained at submitted at any of Denver's libraries or recreation centers through December 21.

To get community input, public meetings co-hosted by Denver City Council members will be held:

**Thurs., Dec. 1,** 6-7:30 p.m.: Lincoln High School, 2285 S. Federal Blvd.

**Tues., Dec. 6,** 6-7:30 p.m.: Bruce Randolph School, 3955 Steele St.

**Thurs., Dec. 8,** 6-7:30 p.m.: South High School, 1700 E. Louisiana Ave.



Ryan Badger, owner of Badger Driving School LLC, instructs 15-year-old student Carolyn Elsner. Badger uses a

## Teens Take to the Streets

(continued from page 1) is a bit more complicated than many parents believe,” says Ryan Badger, owner of Badger Driving School LLC. “Road laws change over time. If you learned to drive 20 years ago, your knowledge gap may be much wider than you thought.” He also points out that driver training with an objective instructor can be less stressful for the student and the parents than teaching your own child to drive.

Teens who are accustomed to using their passenger time to communicate with friends on their cellphones are discovering it's another world when they are the driver. “The experience of riding as a passenger is different than actually driving,” says Jonah Landeck, age 15. “It's much harder to navigate and be constantly aware than I thought.”

“Behavior programming is important,” says Badger. “I recommend that students put their cell phone in driving mode and put it in the glove box or side console to avoid

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car equipped with a brake on his side if needed for safety when he is out instructing new drivers.

cognitive distraction. While there are several apps that disable a phone while a car is running—and these can often be helpful—I find it's better to train students to avoid having their phone easily accessible from the start."

Statistics from the U.S. Department of Transportation show that the use of cell phones while driving plays a role in 1.6 million auto accidents each year, causing 500,000 injuries and 6,000 deaths. Text messaging while driving is banned in 46 states, including Colorado, and the District of Columbia. Statistics show that people who text while driving are 23 percent more likely to be in an accident as compared to other drivers. Accident rates, which declined for years, are on the increase. Many experts believe distracted driving is contributing to that increase.

The cellphone may be safely tucked in the glove box, but it can be at work creating the log new drivers submit when getting their license. Landeck says he uses an app with GPS that tracks his miles, speed, road conditions and the weather. He will export this information into a spread-

sheet for the Department of Motor Vehicles when he takes his driving test.

Fifteen-year-old Maggie Roesink, who has four hours of online classroom drivers training under her belt so far, is discovering that parallel parking and highway driving are among the early challenges that she's nervous about. Landeck concurs, saying he'll be driving on city roads to achieve a comfort level before doing much highway driving.

Most parents suffer some anxiety about having new teen drivers behind the wheel. To ease some of that anxiety, Landeck and his parents already have an agreement that permits him to use their Uber account if he finds himself in an uncomfortable situation once he has his license.

On a more positive note, parents gain the benefit of another driver in the family. Both Landeck and Roesink will be expected to help transport younger siblings to their activities. Landeck thinks it will also be a ticket to employment opportunities that will cover expenses of having his own car. Meanwhile, he'll find a job he can walk or bike to.

With self-driving cars being predicted by some auto manufacturers as early as 2019, learning to drive may not be relevant for future teen drivers. Landeck agrees, adding, "I'm kind of a sci-fi nut. It would be really cool to have driverless cars—but in the meantime, it seems like a solid skill to learn."

## Colorado New Driver Rules

In Colorado, teens must hold a driver's permit for one year and complete 50 hours of driving to be eligible to take the driver's test. Ten of those hours must be done at night and a minimum of six hours must be completed with a certified driving instructor in the vehicle.

Drivers under age 18 may not drive with friends in the car unless there is an extenuating circumstance allowed by the law. Immediate family may ride with a driver under 18 as well as drivers over the age of 21 who have had a valid driver's license for more than one year.

Many auto insurers offer a discount for teens who have completed training. Some schools offer specialized skills training, giving new drivers a chance to practice what to do when they encounter icy roadways or an animal leaping in front of their car, minimizing the likelihood of incorrect reactions to such circumstances.

Jonah Landeck and his mother Nicole Landeck find some humor in behind-the-wheel practice.



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