

Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

JANUARY 2017

“Discussion” on Sandoval Campus Sharing



Photo by Laura Mahony for the Front Porch

Over 300 people attended a meeting called by DPS in response to its proposal to build a DSST high school on the Sandoval campus, where Northfield High School is located. Parent Grant Covington expresses a concern echoed by others that that would take away space and resources

from NHS. “I can’t believe how hard it is to get a comprehensive school built! I mean, we’re not asking for the world, right? We’re not asking for anything but a high school with a cafeteria, maybe an auditorium....maybe a library?”

By Carol Roberts and Melinda Pearson

On Dec. 15, 2016, the Denver Board of Education took two votes that will impact the future of Northfield High School (NHS) and the Paul Sandoval Campus,

located in north Stapleton.

The board unanimously approved a controversial proposal by DPS to use bond money to build a 500-seat school for DSST: Conservatory Green High School on the (continued on page 10)

“Ain’t gonna happen”

Special District Boards Clash Over Their Powers



Park Creek Metropolitan District President King Harris repeated three times, “Ain’t gonna happen,” when asked by the Westerly Creek Metropolitan District board to rescind a “cease and desist” letter. Harris’ letter says WCMD has no authority to hire its own legal counsel. The citizen board wants independent legal and financial advice when considering PCMD bond issues paid for with Westerly Creek tax dollars.

Story by John Fernandez on page 18.

Beeler Park: Where Urban Meets the Prairie



Beeler Park is the first neighborhood in the 620-acre parcel of Stapleton land north of 56th Ave. A total of 2,000 single-family homes and 400 apartments will be built on this land that adjoins the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. Read more in this article by John Fernandez on page 34.

Camp Guide Is Coming

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

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on D.C.

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Newspaper for updates
on local news and events.



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A forlorn snowman starts to melt away as the very cold spell eases.



Most of the events listed below are FREE or support nonprofits.
Additional events are listed on pages 26-28.
Also visit FrontPorchStapleton.com to view additional events and to submit events.

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

Thursday, January 12

Active Minds Seminar "The Nuremberg Trials"
6:45-7:45pm, Sam Gary Library* activeminds.org

Saturday, January 14

Fifth Annual Preschool Showcase, 10am–2pm.
Dahlia Campus for Health and Well-Being
3401 Eudora St. Denver, CO 80207
www.dpp.org/showcase

JANUARY

Sunday, January 15

Family-Friendly Bike Ride, 9:30–11:30am. Stanley Marketplace OPENAir Academy Entrance.
9:30 bike decorating; ride begins 10am. 1 – 4 miles.
Each family is responsible for their kids. Kids may be in bike seats or on their own bikes. Helmets required.
All are welcome. 2501 Dallas St., Aurora

Friday, January 20

Friday Night Films – Cinema series at The Cube,*
6–9pm. Visit stapletoncommunity.com for film details.

Thursday, January 26

Active Minds Seminar "Football"
6:45-7:45pm, Sam Gary Library* activeminds.org

Locations

*More info. on these events at www.stapletoncommunity.com
Sam Gary Library: 2961 Roslyn St.
The Cube: 8371 E. Northfield Blvd.

Events & Announcements at Stapleton



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, Jan. 12, 6:45–7:45pm

The Nuremberg Trials

Seventy years after the world brought charges against individuals for their actions in World War II, crimes against humanity are still part of the fabric of the world in which we live (ISIS, Syria, etc.). Join Active Minds as we look back at the series of trials known as the Nuremberg Trials and trace its impact on the creation of the International Criminal Court and how the world views war crimes. We will discuss how this legacy applies to events in the modern world as well as the current challenges of implementing this area of international law.

Thursday, Jan. 26, 6:45–7:45pm

Football

The most popular sport in America, football is both entertainment and big business. Join Active Minds as we trace the history of the game from Johnny Unitas to Peyton Manning, telling a few of the great stories of the game along the way. We'll also cover some of the sport's current challenges and opportunities, including player concussions and the rise of fantasy football.

Friday Night Films

Friday, Jan. 20, 6–9pm

Join the MCA for our Cinema series at The Cube that will explore the thought-provoking interpretations in the world of film. Dr. Vincent Piturro, the "Indie Prof," will lead a discussion before and after the showing of the film. The event will start at 6pm. This event will be held at The Cube at 8371 E. Northfield Blvd. and is free and open to the public. Visit stapletoncommunity.com for film details.

Friday Night Tastings-Beers & Cheers

Friday, Jan. 27, 6–8pm

The MCA will be hosting a series of beer tastings at our new space, The Cube! Each month will be a different theme and a variety of beers. Visit stapletoncommunity.com for ticket and event details.

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.

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

Jennifer Olsen | Communications Coordinator
jolsen@stapletoncommunity.com

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Corrections from December Issue

"City Casts Doubt on Affordable Housing's Future at Stapleton"—The article incorrectly stated the Green Book envisioned rental housing to be one-third of all housing at Stapleton. That proportion is actually in the Stapleton Development Agreement between the city of Denver and Forest City.

"Teens Take to the Streets"—Driving rules vary by time of day, but the rules printed in the article just apply from midnight to 5am. For complete information on teen driving regulations, please visit www.coloradogov/pacific/dmv/minor-license.

A poster for a play titled "Becky's NEW CAR" by Steven Dietz, directed by Lorraine Scott. The poster features a woman's legs in high heels sticking out of the back of a car. The text includes the dates "JANUARY 7-FEBRUARY 4, 2017", the times "FRIDAY/SATURDAY 7:30 PM, SUNDAY 2:00 PM", the location "JOHN HAND THEATER, 7653 E 1ST PLACE, DENVER", and the website "FIREHOUSETHEATERCOMPANY.COM (303) 562-3232". The Firehouse Theater Company logo is in the top left corner.

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Defending the Most Marginalized is Defending All of Us



A roundtable of women discussed the upcoming Women's March on Washington, D.C.: their reasons for supporting it/marching in it, their perspectives on current issues, and their plans to continue political activism through the next election cycle. For these women, the march is just the beginning.

By Melinda Pearson

An estimated 200,000 women from all 50 states and more than 12 countries will march on Washington, D.C., on Jan. 21, 2017. The Women's March is expected to be the largest demonstration occurring in D.C. in response to President-elect Trump's inauguration. Drawn together in the wake of a surprise election win by Trump, the participants have united under a comprehensive mission statement and five guiding principles.

The core of the mission statement states: "The Women's March on Washington will send a bold message to our new administration on their first day in office, and to the world that women's rights are human rights. We stand together, recognizing that defending the most marginalized among us is defending all of us." The guiding principles for the newly fledged movement center around

nonviolent resistance and community, in the spirit of historical movements such as those of Martin Luther King Jr.

The *Front Porch* convened a panel of marchers and march supporters from Denver. The participants have been thinking deeply about their roles in the community and how they can act to protect rights and promote equal justice. In a two-hour conversation, this diverse group of seven women shared the reasons they are marching or supporting the movement,

and their plans to continue to take action afterwards.



Ruth Clevenger

Called to Action

Jen Woolf, a former school administrator who has a background working with diverse families, said, "the rhetoric around families (during the election) was so upsetting to me." Two days after the election, the Stapleton resident was reading an article by Gloria Steinem that echoed Martin Luther King Jr.'s words, "If you're

being called to do something, you have to do it." Woolf recognized that she was being



Wendy Rochman

called and booked her tickets.

"It's easy as a middle-class to upper-middle-class white woman to say that things are getting better, but I think that a lot of things have come to light," said Stapleton resident Tiffany Spector. Whether it is swastikas painted on a local elementary school or police brutality against African-Americans, "all this is not something we can brush aside unless we show up and we do something."

Several of the women present expressed a fear that rights that have long been taken for granted are under threat. Wendy Rochman grew up in Memphis, Tenn., in the 1950s, "where Jews were not allowed in the public pool, and I was the only Jewish girl in my school, and that was my reality." Wendy Rouser recalled accompanying a friend of hers to a back-alley abortion and being asked to give her name after she assisted the doctor with the procedure. "A year later, the D.A. called me, because he (the doctor) had been arrested."

Park Hill resident DeRonn Turner won't be going to the D.C. march but feels that her biggest role is "remembering to create a voice for black women," who are often invisible. To Turner, a mother of four, "it is critically important that all of these groups remember to listen to what other people say ... No matter what we look like, we are in this together," a sentiment shared by many at the table. "*We* and *they* are not the reason to march—it is *us*," echoed Woolf.

The March

"This election has just mobilized people in a way I haven't seen since the '70s," said Wendy



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Tiffany Spector

DiLivio, one of three statewide organizers for the national march. A former child psychologist and novice organizer, DiLivio is leaning in with help from over 500 volunteers. Nearly 2,000 Colorado women have committed, she said, and organizers anticipate the numbers from our state could reach five or ten thousand.

Recognizing that many women who want to participate cannot afford to, the organizers are working on scholarships and selling T-shirts. So far, fundraising will allow five Colorado women to go to D.C. But for those without the time or means, there are “sister marches” occurring across the country, including a rally that will take place in downtown Denver on the same day.

“The march is a show of strength—and just the beginning,” said DiLivio. Ruth Clevenger, a West Washington Park officer of the Democratic Party for District 2, added, “There is this huge upsurge of energy, commitment and concern and a recognition that we have to form strong alliances with all of the groups, whether it’s for racial justice, LGBTQ, women’s issues.” Clevenger believes that acting locally is key. Rochman agreed, invoking a metaphor of a national tree, “where each branch is a state and each twig a community—you’re not going to get the energy from the leaf in those faraway

communities into the roots unless you go out there” and listen and act locally, she said.

The Conversation

The animated and at times emotional conversation covered a wide range of topics and ideas, politically and personally.

For example, Clevenger described the anger she felt after the election, “I can feel it physically. I have no room in my life anymore for people and things that add no value.” In contrast, Turner relayed her belief that anger is a destructive force, that even in the face of extreme bigotry, “I have to go and walk with that person, in spite of how they feel about me. It’s not about taking sides, it’s about learning to come around and work together,” she said. Turner thinks back on the hardships of her grandfather, the son of a former slave, and of Nelson Mandela, and recognizes that with love, compassion, and truthful acknowledgment of the problems, there can be reconciliation.



DeRonn Turner

“If our government works the way it is supposed to work, if it is not gerymandered or driven by dark money,” said Clevenger, “then every citizen is guaranteed the same rights, freedoms, privileges, and responsibilities.” Around the table there was a consensus that a shared belief in “Equal Justice Under the Law” and

working toward shared goals can offer a way forward. Linking arms and walking through the door together will prove a powerful approach over the next four years.

The Next Four Years

When asked about their plans after the march, through the next election cycles, the women at the table are committed to channeling their energy and vision into concrete actions. DiLivio says march organizers are reaching out to other organizations to work on common goals. A list of these organizations can be found online.

In our neighborhood, Spector suggests working with organizations such as Planned

Parenthood and the Refugee Welcome Center at Isabella Bird Community School. Turner feels that strengthening connections between Stapleton and Park Hill residents—across racial lines—is a place to start. “Outreach looks like something just as small as saying hello to somebody at the grocery store,” she says, or getting

involved with groups like Northeast Denver for Racial Justice and Showing up for Racial Justice (SURJ).

“While there are these big national issues, a lesson we should learn from the opposition is that you start with local and state offices,” says Clevenger. “Organizations are identifying people with the interest and the potential to take leadership roles, to run for office, to help organize these movements. But we’ve got to have a really tangible action plan.” She hopes to recruit and mentor young, diverse talent to run for state and local offices.

“Education seems to me the absolute core,” says Rochman, a former educator, and many agreed with her. Turner is committed to continuing her work in local schools, advocat-



Jen Woolf

ing for cultural sensitivity and equitable gifted education programs. Woolf, with her background in education, hopes to keep pushing at the local school-board level to make change, as well as getting involved with national anti-gun organizations.

Spector, who underwent a long cycle of treatment for breast cancer in 2015, uses her experience as an analogy: “Going through cancer, people identify it as a time when you’re given a gift. That’s not how I saw it. But something comes out of going through an experience that is difficult that you can learn from,” she said. Likewise, the election and all the ugly

rhetoric and actions that arose “woke up a lot of people that weren’t paying attention to the fact that this was going on the whole time. It wakes you up to want to take action. And I feel like I’ve been woken up ... The time is right for me to take my life in a different direction and do things that I can be proud of, to make me feel like there’s a

reason for me to be here.”

To learn more about the Women’s March on Washington – Colorado, go to <https://www.womensmarch.com/colorado> or search on Facebook.



Wendy DiLivio

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By Courtney Drake-McDonough

The concept of “work-life balance” has new meaning when couples form a business partnership. Choosing to spend practically every waking and sleeping moment together is a big decision, one that presents challenges right along with the benefits. *The Front Porch* talked with several local couples who are working through the issues for the common good of their relationships and their businesses.

Characteristics of Couples Who Work Well Together

Before moving to Denver, Scott and Kim Lewis worked together at a university. Now, the couple is opening Anytime Fitness in Stapleton this spring, sharing their common passion for fitness and wellness. Kim feels one of the most important characteristics co-working couples should have is a passion for what they are going into. “If one of you is passionate about it but the other is just going along to be supportive, not sharing that enthusiasm, it isn’t going to work.”

The ability to turn your differences into strengths is also key, according to Scott. “If you both have the same strengths,

you’re going to have a gap in your business, so recognizing that those strengths are complementary is important,” he says. “What she’s really good at, I’m not and what I’m really good at, she’s not as strong at.”



Karen and Doug Kingman started a winery for their retirement, though they haven’t quit their day jobs yet.

Couples Working Toge

The Reality Can Be Different Than You Imagined

“Our plans were informal and are always changing,” says Sally Petterson, who owns Stapleton Roasters with her husband, Ryan. “But you can do that when you start your own business and don’t have outside investors. We winged it and figured it out as we moved forward with the idea.” For example, the Pettersons went into their partnership thinking that owning their own business would allow them freedom to travel and spend more time with their boys, but the reality was only half true. “As owner-operators without outside employees, everything falls on us,” she says. “We have to really plan for the times that we travel, and pay someone to manage our business in our absence.”

Sometimes, the different strengths that are supposed to be complementary can clash. Initially, the Pettersons thought their partnership was ideal because Ryan is a CPA, knows numbers and risk assessment and Sally is more of the saleswoman and people-person. Sally says that at first, she felt Ryan was shooting down some of her ideas when in reality he was utilizing his risk assessment skills. “And that’s so valuable, but I was taking it all personally,” she says.

Work Life Will Affect Home Life

Whether working together all day or splitting time between “day jobs” and the family business, home life will change. Park Hill residents Doug and Karen Kingman, who own Kingman Estates Winery, have found they eat out a lot more. They also found they had to divide the chores in different ways than they were used to. When one of them needs downtime, the other supports that by picking up the workload or shifting things to another day.

For Kurt Pletcher, who with his wife Sarah and their neighbors Tim and Genefer Thornton, owns Four Friends Kitchen in Stapleton, working with his wife was a wakeup call. “Frankly, I never realized how much I didn’t help with our personal life until Sarah jumped in at the restaurant and then it was clear how much I missed her when she had to focus on the business,” he says.

Genefer says it started to feel like all of her conversations with her husband Tim revolved around the restaurant. “It became exhausting,” she says. “We finally found our groove of talking about the important things at the restaurant, or even just giving me a few minutes to vent ... and then putting it away and focusing on the other parts of our life.”

There Will Be Challenges

As Genefer describes, trying to create a division between home life and work life can be one of the biggest challenges.

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ther: The Challenges and Benefits



Four Friends restaurant owners Tim and Genefer Thornton, left, and Sarah and Kurt Pletcher, right, are shown in their restaurant with their head chef Larry Shore.

“There have been a few times when one of us had to just stop and say, ‘OK, no more restaurant talk, agree?!’” says Kurt. Sally Peterson and her husband can relate but have found a solution. “We’ve embraced it. We can laugh at each other, as in, ‘Oh, you were awake at 3am thinking about marketing? I was awake at 4am wondering if we should create a prettier bag!’”

Musicians Josie Quick and Tom Carleno of Park Hill perform together and give private music lessons from home and are together 18–20 hours every day. All that togetherness can have a limit. While they feel their similar personalities help them co-exist well, Tom says, “Neither one of us is good at handling stress, so we have to give each other space.”

The Kingmans try to not take each other for granted. “We often are hardest on those we love because we, at times, don’t have the same inhibitions with them as with others,” says Doug.

But There Will Be Benefits Too

the studio and helped keep me focused.” The album wound up getting rave reviews, airplay around the world and winning an international music award. “Since we’re in a creative field, whenever an idea hits we can immediately go bounce it off each other,” adds Josie. Karen Kingman feels she and her husband have gained increased respect for each other’s professional capabilities. “That’s something



Josie Quick and Tom Carleno are musicians who perform together and give private lessons from their home.

Working together, and all that goes with it, can be a good example when couples have kids. Sally and Ryan Peterson feel they are teaching their 7- and 10-year-old sons a lot of life and business lessons. Says Ryan, “We want to show them that you can always change course in life and follow your passions.”

Working together can also bring out the best in each other, pushing the other to be as good as they can be. For Tom and Josie, this came to fruition when Josie served as producer on Tom’s solo CD. “She knew how to get me to play my best in

often not seen if you don’t work together in a business setting,” she says. “We have an opportunity to share the joys and frustrations of striving to make a business successful and in doing so have come to rely on each other more than ever before.”

Kurt Pletcher agrees. “It’s really cool to see someone you have known so well in one part of your life work in another part, in this case in the business. It just adds to the list of

things you like about your partner.” Kurt’s wife, Sarah, now sees her husband as a business mentor but also a more equal partner in life. “Prior to this business venture, we operated in quite different realms. I truly believe that taking this risk together has strengthened our relationship in so many ways.”

Tips from these Couples for Working Together

1. Keep the business interests in the forefront, making decisions based on what’s good for the company. It’s not about who’s right or wrong, it’s about what works best for the business.
2. Remember you love each other every day and say so.
3. Make sure to consult with each other on anything significant.
4. Mentally separate work from your personal life. If you disagree on anything work-related, don’t let it spill over into family life.
5. When you disagree, pick your battles. If it’s really worth arguing over, then do. If it isn’t, let it go and move on. There are a million other things you can focus on.
6. Work with people you trust completely. Set expectations and recognize the skills that each person brings to the table then let them run with those skills.
7. Be prepared to walk away from the business if it becomes more important than your relationship.
8. Be willing to learn together—it can be an amazing journey to share.

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Sharing Sandoval Campus



Superintendent Boasberg speaks at a community meeting about his recommendation to build a 500-student classroom building on the Sandoval Campus for DSST:Conservatory Green High School.

(continued from page 1) Sandoval campus. Nearly 300 community members had attended a Dec. 5 meeting about the vote. Many expressed fear that a second high school on the campus would prevent NHS from reaching its full, planned potential—and the community would never have a comprehensive IB high school large enough to accommodate all boundary students who want to attend.

Stapleton’s new board representative, Rachele Espiritu, hearing the strong feelings in the community, met with the NHS parent organization to better understand the concerns. With that information and the support of other board members, Espiritu drafted a resolution spelling out how DPS would support NHS in becoming the comprehensive International Baccalaureate (IB) high school residents envisioned. That resolution also passed unanimously.

The day after the meeting, Superintendent Boasberg, in an interview with the *Front Porch*, reiterated DPS’ full commitment to support a comprehensive high school, even if enrollment requires 2,500 seats on the

the Sandoval campus to meet that enrollment demand, however high that it grows.” He further said DPS would consider relocating the middle school proposed for the campus or increasing the footprint of existing buildings to accommodate NHS enrollment.

Differing Perceptions of DPS’ Plan

A week and a half before the board voted, DPS had held a community meeting, inviting Stapleton boundary families to hear its proposal to build a 500-seat DSST: Conservatory Green High School on the Paul Sandoval campus. They were asking the board to vote on that proposal just 10 days later.

At the meeting, almost 300 people filled the NHS commons building with a standing-room-only crowd of parents, teachers and students. Many were surprised by the plan, which included not only using current bond funds to build a DSST high school, but building a feeder middle school on the campus with 2020 bond funds. Supporters of a big comprehensive high school at Northfield believed that such a decision would mean NHS would have neither the resources nor the space it needed

Sandoval campus. Boasberg unequivocally stated, “There has not been, there is not, and there will not be any cap on Northfield High School’s enrollment. They will continue to welcome every kid in the boundary plus 35 percent choice, and we will ensure that there is high-quality, permanent space on

to grow. And they criticized DPS for a lack of transparency, accusing the district of misleading them to believe that the next phase of build-out at the campus would be for NHS.

At the same time, parents and staff of DSST: Conservatory Green Middle School expressed dismay that the plans for their high school at Sandoval appeared to be both surprising and unwelcome to so many at the meeting. It appeared they had, for a long time, been expecting they would have a space on the campus, a placement that DSST had been lobbying the district for over several years.

The striking contrast of perception and understanding between these two groups of stakeholders was on full display at the contentious meeting.

Board Resolutions: For DSST and for Support of NHS and Its IB Program

The board’s approval of the campus-sharing resolution means DSST: Conservatory Green High School will open its doors at Sandoval in fall 2018 after spending a year in temporary quarters at the Samsonite Building in Northeast Denver. DSST representatives have said that they expect to work collaboratively with NHS administration to make the transition

as smooth as possible.

Board representative Espiritu’s communication with Northfield’s parent committee, Principal Bringedahl and Assistant Principal Houston, as well as with her fellow board members resulted in a resolution with 16 very specific items spelling out how the district will support the nascent high school and its International Baccalaureate program. These include enrollment and budgeting issues, financial and facilities support for IB programming; the construction of classrooms, offices, a library, a parking lot and a full kitchen; and the provision by DPS of communication and marketing resources. Many of the resolutions contain timelines, giving a clear and accountable framework for implementation. The resolution also stated DSST: Conservatory Green Middle School shall continue

to operate at the Conservatory Green Campus.

“There have been very, very few resolutions put before the board specific to a school,” said Espiritu in an interview with the *Front Porch* after the board meeting. “It is unique ... I heard the frustrations from the community in the process and the failure of the district to be timely and to be transparent, so I thought it would be very important for us as a board to show that commitment to the high school.” Espiritu sees the resolution as a “first step” in an ongoing process of ensuring that

Northfield reaches its promised potential of an IB-for-all school that serves a diverse community. She will continue to be engaged with school leaders, community members and DPS to monitor implementation.

A PDF of the resolution is posted online with this article.



DPS Board Representative Rachele Espiritu (shown at her board swearing in) proposed a unanimously-passed resolution to fully support the program at NHS. Board Representative Mike Johnson is shown behind her.



Participants at the December 5 community meeting broke into groups to discuss Sandoval campus sharing.

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—How we see it—

Front Porch Observations on the Sandoval Situation

After 16 years producing this newspaper, attending countless community meetings about Stapleton development, and covering them as factually as we are able, we at the Front Porch have decided to periodically add our observations and conclusions about some of the issues we follow in the community.

One of the reasons people move to Stapleton is because they believe there will be good public schools. But in a developing community, the list of school-related unknowns has been long. Decisions have had to be made on everything: geographic location, determination of boundaries, programming, principals, when funds would be available and when buildings would open. With so many unknowns and so many decisions to be made, it's not surprising there has been miscommunication and misunderstanding along the way.

Now students have reached high school age and families have lived through many issues related to school startups. Misunderstandings today don't feel like single new issues to work out one by one, they are associated with past experiences. With the recent announcement of a plan to build a DSST high school on the Sandoval campus, we think the very strong feelings expressed at the meeting were based not only on the current DPS announcement, but on what families consider a pattern of poor communication with DPS in the past.

Superintendent Tom Boasberg pushes back on the idea that DPS hasn't been transparent. Based on what was stated in the 2008 and 2012 bonds and DPS's statements

about a comprehensive high school for all who want to attend, Boasberg says, "We've been very clear this campus would have multiple schools and one of these schools would be a comprehensive high school. I don't know how we could have been more clear..."

Boasberg also says it's clear DPS did not promise another building for NHS in the 2016 bond. (The language in the bond said \$44.40M for NE Denver capacity/renovation, and a 2013 board decision had been made to place a DSST middle school in Conservatory Green with a DSST high school in the same general area.) With low in-boundary attendance at NHS the past two years, DPS explains their projections indicate NHS will not require another classroom in the next four years, so it would be an unwise use of taxpayer funds to build one now.

But in a neighborhood where 84 percent of sixth graders attend in-boundary schools, Stapleton United Neighbors projects a high percentage of boundary students will choose Northfield in the future, even though attendance in the first two years was depressed due to new school start-up fears and the resignation of the first principal.

The need for face-to-face communication about options and obstacles for the community's boundary high school is essential. Communication such as language in the bond, board votes, and periodic statements of policy may seem clear to DPS, but without face to face discussions, clear messages don't reach families in their homes. Discussions with the community need to happen on a regular basis before decisions are made.

(continued on page 13)

Mixing Media: Art and Academics in the IB Programme



IB art educators met at Northfield HS for a training workshop.

Story & Photos by Melinda Pearson

"Art is a language, not just a craft," said Mike Jaramillo, an art instructor from Fairview High in Boulder. "Students learn to tell stories with images."

Jaramillo was one of over 20 art teachers from around Colorado who gathered at Northfield High School for a special conference on the International Baccalaureate (IB) art programme. The day consisted of a morning hands-on class and an afternoon roundtable, designed for teachers to reflect upon the morning's work and share ideas for teaching.

Helping Students Become Innovative and Creative Thinkers

The teachers explored ways to get students out of their comfort zone through collage, taught by Loveland mixed-media artist Sandy Fritz.

"IB art is a structured program, with rubrics ... and I love helping the students understand how each of those components enhances them as artists. But it is also very student-centered and student-led,"

said Dawn Deming, an art teacher from Centaurus High School in Lafayette. Students create the themes and research, and the art teacher facilitates it for them. "I think, honestly, that's the future of education. We need to help

students become innovative and creative thinkers, regardless of what field they go into. The IB program is ideal for that."

Visual culture has always been important in society, noted Jaramillo, the teacher from Fairview, and we are acutely aware of that today in an increasingly image-driven culture. Ian Judd, visual arts instructor at Northfield, suggests that since the IB curriculum focuses on global connections, "having a wide variety of exposure to different media really emphasizes where we are going when studying other cultures."

Professional Growth Opportunities for IB Art Educators

"The IB art curriculum allows for a lot of interpre-

tation but it can be hard to put in an academic setting," Jaramillo pointed out. Workshops, such as the one at Northfield, offer learning opportunities where "Teachers can get together and talk about what works, what doesn't work and promote their particular content area," said Micah Porter, the IB coordinator at Northfield, who offered to host the session at Northfield. He explained that the IB Association of Rocky Mountain Schools (ARMS) is a regional organization in which IB schools support and network with each other to offer professional growth opportunities for educators—four roundtables in different content areas were held in Colorado this year.

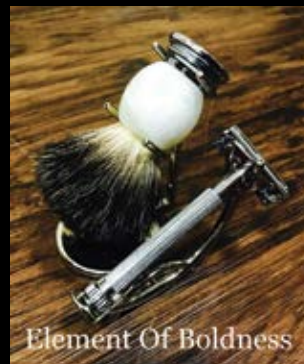
"Bringing IB educators to Northfield not only helps highlight what we're doing here," said Porter, but it also helps showcase Northfield's unique niche as "a robust, IB-Access-for-All program. We offer a comprehensive, fully IB-integrated program to our community ... and we have a beautiful building, so we were excited to offer this opportunity."

As for the controversy brewing in the community about the school's future, Porter said, "It's becoming increasingly clear that DPS is committed to the success of Northfield as an IB school." Northfield is moving ahead in enhancing its IB offerings through programs like the IB Art workshop and roundtable.



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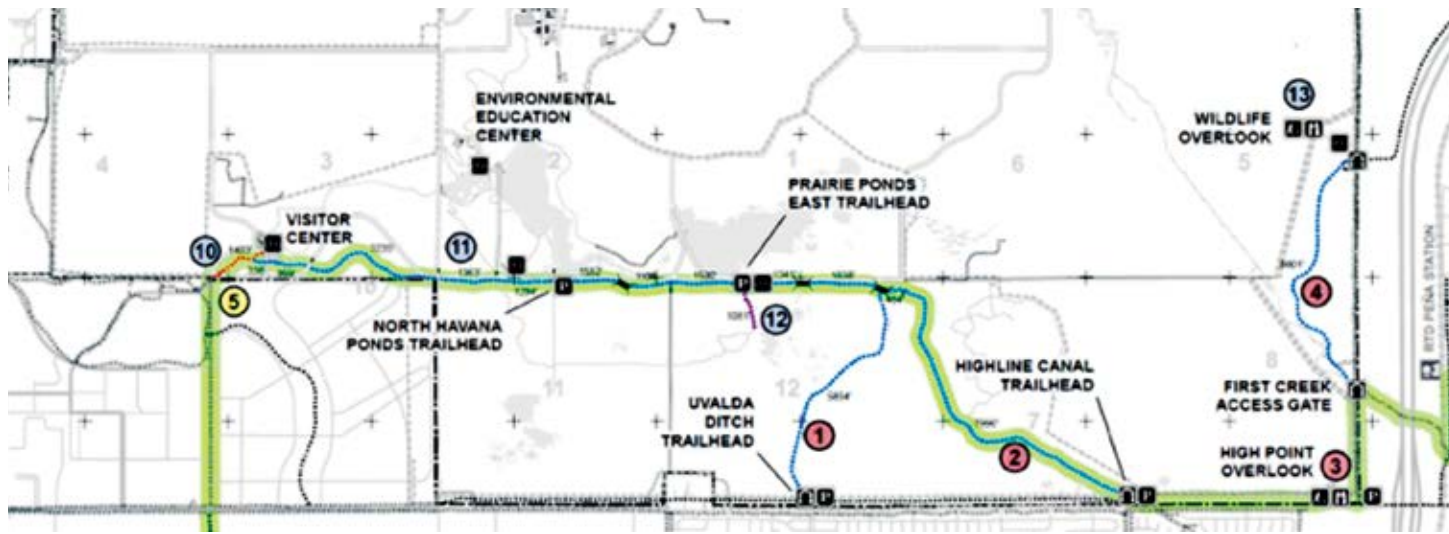
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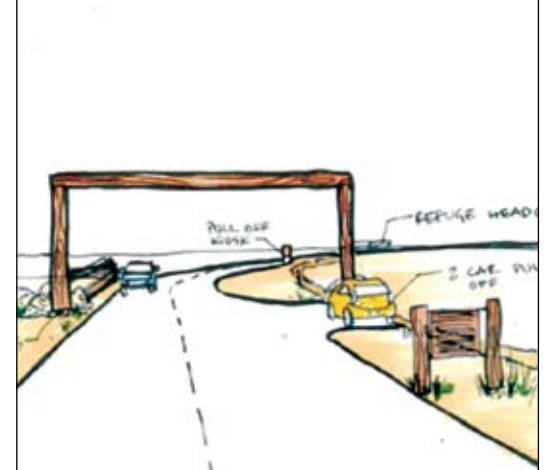
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Over \$4 Million in Grants to Provide Outdoor Education for Youth and Better Access to the Wildlife Refuge



A federal grant and local contributions will improve foot and bicycle traffic to the RMANWR. Along this southern boundary of the refuge, trails will be added (Nos. 1, 2, 4, 11 and 12) and trail heads constructed next to 56th Avenue (Nos. 1, 2 and 3).



The Refuge main entrance will be enhanced with an architectural timber archway, new sign, auto pullout and reconfigured trail/roadway alignment (Nos. 5 and 10 in map to left).

By John Fernandez

A \$2.7 million grant, announced by Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) on Dec. 8, will fund outdoor education and recreation programming for 37,000 youth and 13 organizations serving them. The programs focus squarely on improving access for these youths to Northeast Denver-area outdoor assets such as the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (the Refuge), the Sand Creek Regional Greenway, Bluff Lake and The Urban Farm. A small portion of the grant will fund capital improvements such as a “modest welcome and information center” at Bluff Lake and improvements to the community garden at The Urban Farm.

A separate \$1.6 million project will create seven new pedestrian access points (trail heads) on the Refuge perimeter to serve surrounding neighborhoods including Stapleton, Montbello and Green Valley Ranch (see locator map). The grant will also provide nine miles of new trails connecting to the Refuge. The improvements are intended to “promote a greater sense of welcoming to the Refuge,” says Refuge Manager David Lucas, and, for the first time, will allow the Refuge to accommodate bicyclists. A federal grant of \$705,000 from FLAP, the Federal Lands Access Program, is being supplemented by contributions from Denver, Commerce City and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Design work will begin next fall with construction in 2018.

The GOCO grant flows from a new program called the “Inspire Initiative” designed to “invest in places, programs, and pathways to get kids outside in communities across the state.” The GoWild coalition was selected last year as one of six pilot communities that used

\$100,000 in planning grants to consolidate their coalition and submit an implementation grant. The coalition includes the cities of Denver, Aurora and Commerce City as well as local organizations such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver and Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK). David Lucas serves as coalition leader while the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership will assist with administrative operations.

Local outdoor groups receiving funds include:

- Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership \$93,000: The funds will support environmental education and field trips to the Greenway for youth from four area Boys & Girls Clubs to supplement their after-school programs. Field projects will include construction and installation of bird boxes and milkweed planting to support the monarch butterfly population.
- The Urban Farm \$140,000: Funds will sponsor low-income families who wish to have a community garden plot at The Urban Farm. The funds will also improve the community garden at the farm. Increased program funds will bring more youth to the farm for horsemanship programs and other programs such as All Around the Farm, designed for older youth, and Storybook Farm, designed for younger children. The Urban Farm and Bluff Lake Nature Center will also share a paid intern each summer.
- Bluff Lake Nature Center (BLNC) \$238,000: Funds will support construction of a “modest” welcome and information center and a new nature play area. BLNC will fund more Nature Exploration Teams (NETs) where youth get in-depth

environmental education on-site at BLNC. Also, BLNC will host family fun days at the nature center.

Despite serving in a leadership role and hosting many of the youth programs, the fed-

eral refuge cannot accept any GOCO funds.

Funds from the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grant are expected to begin flowing in early 2017. The grant is for three years and will end in late 2019.

**Jessika Aerni
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Sandoval Observations

(continued on page 13)

DPS wanted a new high school that offers the same robust curriculum to all students, avoiding the opportunity gaps created by tracking. And they wanted it to reflect the larger community of taxpayers who fund it, so they added 35 percent choice-in seats to ensure diversity. Stapleton-boundary families at Northfield strongly support that vision.

Rachele Espiritu, who represents NE Denver on the school board, heard the concerns about campus sharing and saw the communication gap—and got a unanimous resolution of support for NHS from the board. Boasberg has clarified that DPS will “unconditionally build and provide additional permanent capacity on the Sandoval campus for NHS, even if that means the [proposed] middle school is in a different location.”

Stapleton families, through choice, will now determine how fast and how large Northfield grows.

If staff or board actions don’t support the unanimously-approved list of items as the school grows, the community now can bring forward the resolution to have issues addressed by the board.

A pdf of the resolution is posted with this article at [FrontPorchStapleton.com](#).

A Line Maintenance in Jan. May Cause Delays

Between 11:30 pm and 4:15 am, passengers should expect minor delays and allow extra travel time to arrive at their destinations. Passengers might also be asked to board a bus shuttle in some instances.

Between the University of Colorado A Line and the B line, there are more than 50 miles of track. Crews are performing long-term preventive maintenance and adjustments on the overhead catenary system (OCS) wires. Adjustments have been completed on approximately 70 percent of the track. This has dramatically reduced the likelihood of power related service delays.

These nightly work windows are also being used to perform software upgrades and to make improvements to the tracks themselves.

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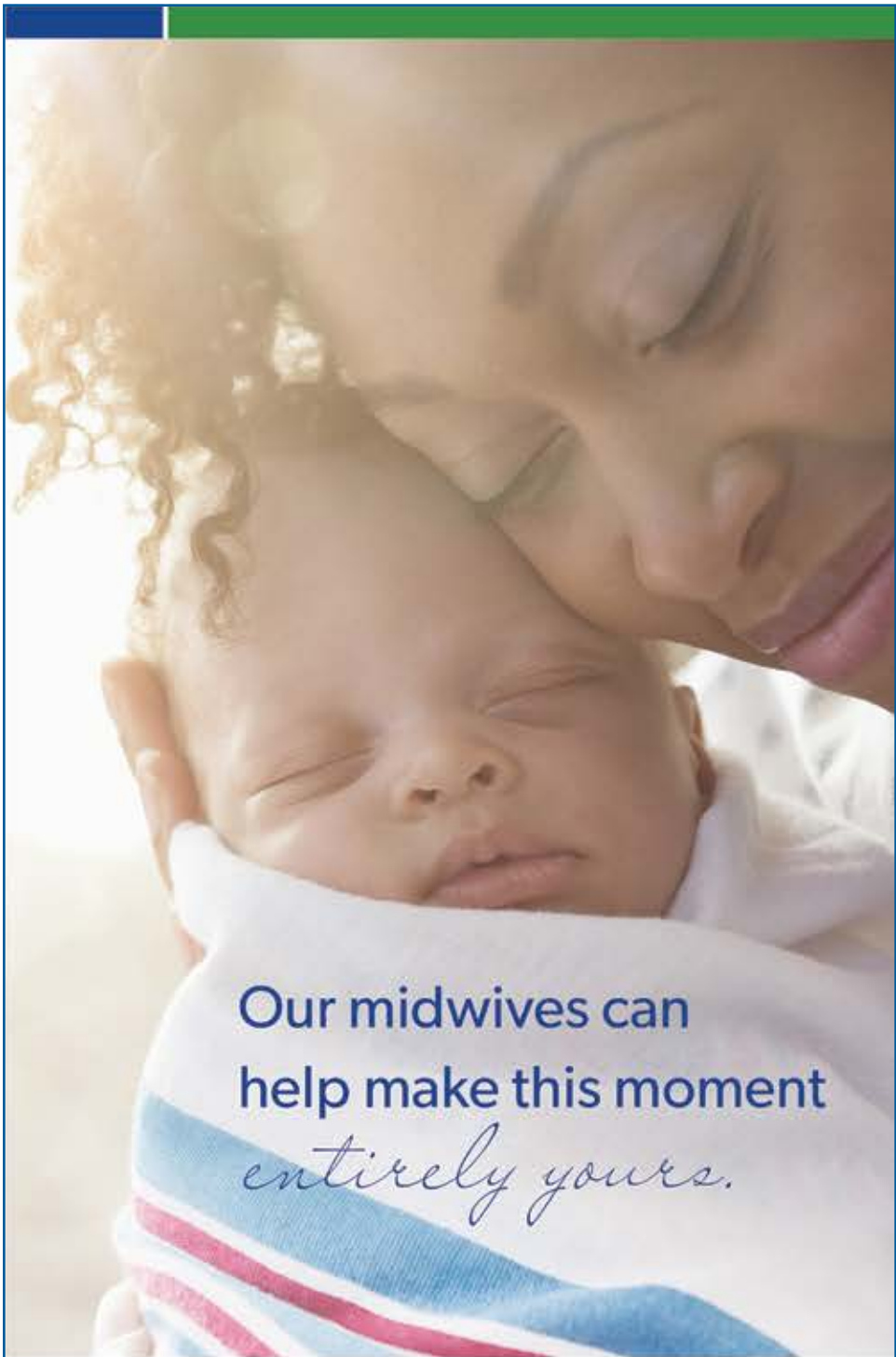
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Construction begins on the downstream segment or "reach" between 12th Avenue and New Freedom Park. Work will proceed south through a middle and upstream reach extending to 11th Avenue.

By John Fernandez

Another "reach" of Westerly Creek is being rehabilitated as the long-term plan for a greenway from Lowry to Sand Creek continues its slow march. Contractor mobilization began the week after Thanksgiving for a \$2.01 million channel improvement project for the stretch of Westerly Creek that runs from 11th Ave. near Willow St. to the New Freedom Park located between 12th and 13th avenues near Xenia St.

The proposed restoration includes re-establishing a healthy riparian channel with wetlands, native uplands and a functioning floodplain. Project elements include realigning the existing trail for safe access, realigning the alley in the middle section to create "buffer uplands," and installation of new trees, shrubs, ground cover, benches and a low-water crossing near New Freedom Park. The creek itself will be realigned to create more curves, or sinuosity, to both increase flood capacity and reduce stream bank erosion. Denver Parks & Recreation is managing the project.

One million dollars for the project comes from the Natural Resources Damages Fund administered by the State of Colorado. That fund was created from a natural resource damages settlement associated with

the Rocky Mountain Arsenal and is intended for Northeast Green Corridor projects such as those along Westerly Creek. The creek is considered a "biological steppingstone" through the urbanized core before it reaches the South Platte River corridor. Other funders are Denver (\$435,000) and the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District (UDFCD) (\$575,000).

In the city's application for the NRDF grant, a support letter from UDFCD described efforts in the 1980s to increase the size of Westerly Creek's underground conveyance to prevent the worst of flooding from occurring. The district went on to say, "However, the drainage and flood control management of the reach in the project area of Westerly Creek was mishandled from the beginning." The new project "will allow more enhancements for wetland areas, wider riparian buffers, and a more sustainable native upland habitat. These enhancements will create a more sustainable environment for some of the most disadvantaged citizens in the city, while helping to recharge the groundwater and manage storm water conveyance." Project completion is slated for June 2017.

This project is the latest in a series of stream restoration efforts, the most recent of which are Westerly Creek North in Stapleton and Montview Park in Aurora. The City of Aurora

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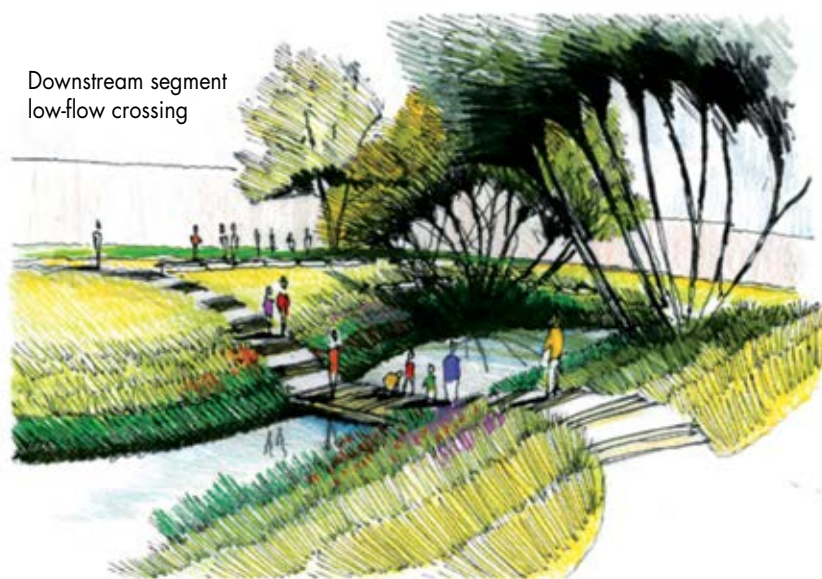
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recently applied for Great Outdoors Colorado funds to construct a multi-use path adjacent to Westerly Creek where it passes through city-owned property located between Colfax and 16th avenues. The city project also includes a community garden that is a joint venture between Denver Urban Gardens and the Asian Pacific Development Center. The Aurora City Council awarded \$50,000 to help fund this project. The garden is in early stages of design based on community input.



Downstream segment low-flow crossing



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Holly Peace Courts: Paying it Forward

By Melinda Pearson

In 2008, fire engulfed Holly Square, a neighborhood shopping center in northeast Park Hill. The result of gang-related arson, the fire brought further distress to an area already in turmoil. Enter the Prodigal Son Initiative, a nonprofit led by former gang member Terrance Roberts, who worked with the Piton Foundation and other nonprofits to build two basketball courts and a futsal (mini soccer) court to reclaim the site for the community. The Holly Peace Courts were built to bring a positive influence to the neighborhood, a place where kids could be kids, away from the strife of the gang activity surrounding them.

The reclamation of Holly Square continued, furthered by the purchase of the site in 2009 by the Urban Land Conservancy. They built a Boys and Girls Club and a library at Holly Square, and in 2013 plans to build an

elementary school, Roots Elementary, were underway. The Holly Peace Courts needed to make way for the school.

Kurt Dennis of McAuliffe International School; Cindy Eastman, McAuliffe at Smiley Foundation board member; and Haroun Cowans of the nonprofit Impact Empowerment Group (IEG), the successor to Prodigal Son, worked together to relocate the courts. "We wanted to keep the courts in the neighborhood so we could continue to have a safe place for kids to play," said Eastman. Keeping them in Park Hill, as opposed to donating them elsewhere, followed the intent of The Piton Foundation and the mission of IEG, which is a gang outreach organization.

Beginning in November of 2015, McAuliffe and IEG brought in a crew to pull up the courts so school construction could begin. The courts sat in storage until

McAuliffe students play on the newly installed futsal court at lunchtime.

the spring of 2016, when the two basketball courts were installed at McAuliffe's Smiley campus. IEG donated a set of basketball hoops and the McAuliffe Founda-

tion purchased another set, so now "there are two complete, full basketball courts available at McAuliffe," said Eastman.

The futsal court installation has just been finished at McAuliffe, which involved pulling up grass, leveling the field, pouring road base, and installing a border. IEG donated

two goals for the court, and volunteers from McAuliffe and the neighborhood installed the surface.

Bob Boyle, a coach and founder of Soccer Electric and 303Futsal, helped install the original courts at Holly Square and is excited to see them continue to serve the community at McAuliffe. "It's very important that it's accessible to everyone, not just pay to play. We offer scholarships, financial assistance and host free pick-up games. Having the courts on the Smiley campus is great," said Boyle.

Cowans says he is "really pleased with the partnership with McAuliffe. The courts had a profound impact at Holly Square," and he is looking forward to hosting tournaments and games for local youth in the spring and early summer, to bring the community together and introduce young people to new activities.

McAuliffe is the first school in Denver to launch a futsal club for its students, and Boyle credits the persistence of Dennis and Eastman with making the project happen. The school raised the money to install and equip the courts and continues to keep them maintained. While their students make use of them now, McAuliffe hopes that more community organizations will reach out to book the courts for tournaments and games.




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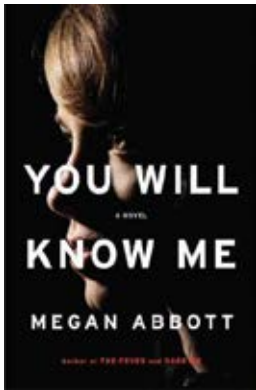
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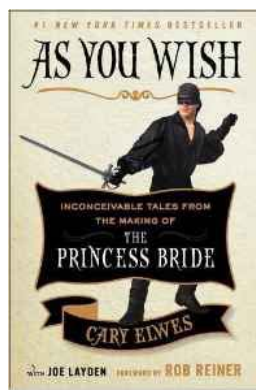
ADULT FICTION

You Will Know Me

by Megan Abbott

Devon Knox is a gymnastics prodigy and Olympics hopeful, and

her parents have dedicated their lives to help Devin fulfill her dreams. A violent death in the gymnastics community rocks everybody off course right before an important competition. As rumors swirl, Devon's mother, Katie, tries desperately to hold her family together while discovering secrets connected to the crime. This is an incredibly tense and suspenseful read, and takes you behind the scenes in the pressure-filled world of gymnastics.



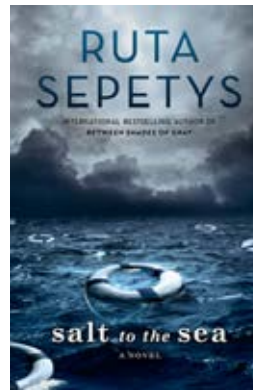
ADULT NON-FICTION

As You Wish: Inconceivable Tales from the Making of The Princess Bride

by Cary Elwes

The title says it all. For any fan of the movie *The Princess Bride*, this is a

must-read. "Wesley" himself takes us behind the scenes for an intimate look at the making of the movie, peppered with delightful anecdotes and hysterical Andre the Giant stories. Members of the cast take turns reminiscing about what it was like on the set. For extra enjoyment, listen to the audiobook for a star-filled full cast reading the book. If you love the movie, you will love this book.



YOUNG ADULT FICTION

Salt to the Sea

by Ruta Sepetys

It's 1945 and Germany is losing the war. Four strangers, each carrying secrets that

are slowly revealed, eventually meet up in Prussia while fleeing the approaching Russian army and its vengeful atrocities. Each of the strangers will end up on a German escape vessel with devastating consequences. Told in short alternating chapters between the four characters, this is an un-put-downable read about a part of WWII that is little known, including the worst maritime accident in history.



CHILDREN'S

The Girl Who Drank the Moon


by Kelly Barnhill

The people of the Protectorate live in constant fear of the Witch. She comes from the woods once

a year, demanding the sacrifice of a baby. Or so the story goes. This is the tale of Luna, offered for sacrifice but rescued by a good witch. In Luna's magical world, there is a tiny dragon who thinks he is enormous, a loving swamp monster, a mother searching for her lost child, a boy who wants to right the wrongs of his homeland, and an evil witch who threatens everything they hold dear. Engrossing, whimsical and heartbreaking, this is a must-read.

Book reviews by librarians at the Sam Gary Branch, Denver Public Library







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Special District Dispute Nearly



Tom Downey, Westerly Creek Metro District president, outlines the district's request for independent legal and financial advice. WCMD Vice Chair Tim Thornton sits at Downey's left.

By John Fernandez
The two service districts charged with financing and constructing Stapleton's infrastructure clashed at a special meeting on Dec. 19. The Park Creek Metropolitan District (Park Creek) was seeking the signature of the Westerly Creek Metro District (Westerly Creek) on a "factual" certificate needed to permit issuance of \$28 million in bonds to repay Forest City Stapleton for cash advances made by the developer. Westerly Creek was objecting to Park Creek's request on several grounds including an alleged failure to provide the Westerly Creek board sufficient information for them to judge that the bond issue is in the best interests of Stapleton taxpayers.
In the end and following a 20 minute executive session, the Westerly Creek board voted 5-0 to authorize its chair, Tom Downey, to sign the "General and No-Litigation Certificate" permitting the bonds to go to market. A bond closing was accomplished two days later on Dec. 21. The Westerly Creek board made its decision following comments by Forest City and a City of Denver representative that failure

to sign the certificate would scuttle the bond issuance, resulting in a financial "disaster" for Stapleton. Park Creek chair King Harris said such a decision would "spook the market" and ultimately lead to higher financing costs for Stapleton infrastructure.
Westerly Creek board members, all Stapleton residents, criticized Park Creek for providing minimal notice of the need to sign the certificate and with providing no background information on the bond issuance. They said that without legal and financial analysis of the proposed bond issue they could not be sure that they were fulfilling their fiduciary responsibility to Stapleton taxpayers. At the meeting, the bond issue was generally described as a conversion of developer advances earning 8.5 percent to bonds at 4 to 5 percent.
City of Denver Financial Specialist Andrew Johnston told the board he believed the deal was in the district's best interests, and further, that Denver's chief financial officer had signed a letter to that effect.
In its motion authorizing Downey's signature on the certificate, Westerly Creek board members emphasized that Johnston's comments were persuasive in their decision to move forward on

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Derails Stapleton Bond Issue



Paul Cockrel clarifies that he is representing the Park Creek Metro District in the discussion with Westerly Creek about PCMD's bond issue. Long-time PCMD board member John Moye looks on.

the bonds.

The board passed a second motion finding Park Creek "in default" of its obligations to provide Westerly Creek with legal and financial services under section 4.4 of the intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between the two districts. Downey said under the IGA (the Intergovernmental Financing and Construction Agreement of 2001) that Park Creek has 30 days to cure the default.

The board also stated its intention to proceed with a process set in motion six months ago to hire its own legal counsel. Currently the board has to rely on Paul Cockrel for legal services. Cockrel also serves as Park Creek's legal counsel. When asked at Monday's meeting who he was representing, Cockrel said it was Park Creek. Cockrel has appeared at other Westerly Creek meetings purporting to represent Westerly Creek. Downey has previously criticized the arrangement, saying it's a conflict of interest for Cockrel to serve as the attorney for both boards for issues between them.

Monday's meeting was also called to address a "cease and desist" letter issued by Park Creek under King Harris' signature (dated Dec. 6) requesting that Westerly Creek not seek to "engage its own legal counsel". The letter said that legal services to Westerly Creek are under the authority of Park Creek. At Monday's meeting, Downey differed on this point, saying the IGA language does not force Westerly Creek to receive legal counsel from an individual selected by Park Creek although the payments for legal counsel are made by Park Creek under the current budgeting arrangement.

Several times at Monday's meeting, Westerly Creek board members asked King Harris if he would rescind (continued on page 24)



City of Denver Financial Specialist Andrew Johnston weighs in at the contentious meeting.

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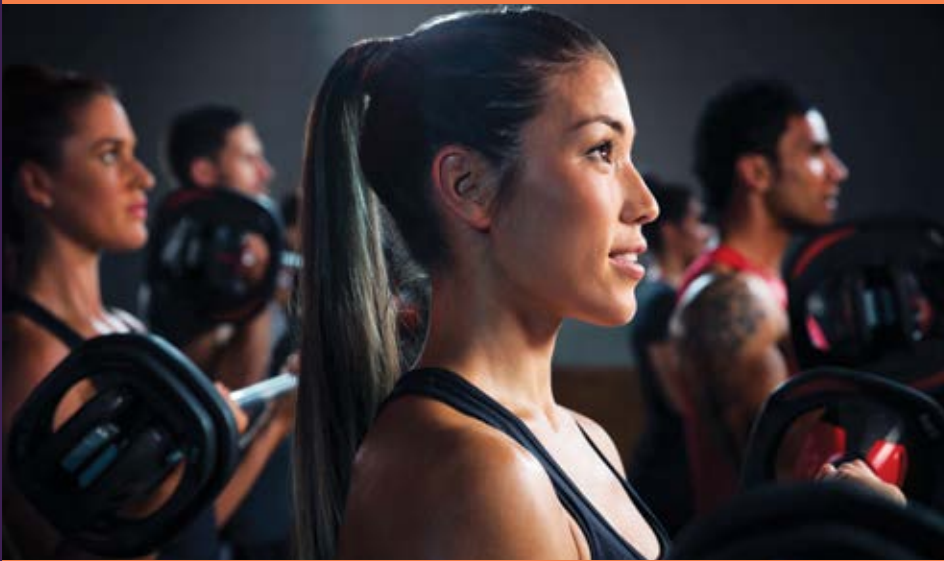
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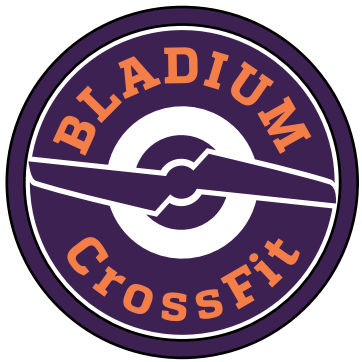
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Cultivating Compassion

By Melinda Pearson

On a crisp December morning, 100 children and their parents gathered at Northfield High School for an event organized by the Kids' Compassion Project (KCP). Most came bearing donations of socks, warm hats, stuffed animals, or crayons—supplies to fill 100 backpacks for the children who visit The Gathering Place, a nonprofit organization that serves homeless women and children at a day center in Uptown Denver.

Madeline Mierau and her parents, Kerry and Tobin, came “looking for ways to give back,” said Kerry. “There are not a lot of opportunities for kids younger than 14.” The Mieraus were third-time participants in a KCP event, which are held on a regular basis in Northeast Denver.

Since its founding in 2015 by Erin Oltersdorf and Shary Zampert, KCP has held eight events, benefiting a wide range of nonprofit organizations, including Freedom Service Dogs, Project Worthmore, the Anchor Center for Blind Children, and MaxFund, to name a few. The events have enjoyed increasing popularity

and participation—this one filled up within three hours with a waiting list of 50 additional children.

“We have big plans for 2017 and how we’d like to grow our program and offer more opportunities,” which will happen with growing financial support for the founding organization, said Oltersdorf.

Cultivating Compassion

What sets KCP apart from other nonprofits is how deliberately it works to connect kids with the concept of compassion. At the event, Juliette Lee of The Gathering Place spoke to the kids about the women and children who come to her organization seeking help and what their lives are like.

Lee said kids who experience homelessness “have a lot of obstacles ahead of them ... so our program tries to provide as much stability for them as possible. Their daily lives are very stressful. Our family program ... offers a safe, enriching, supervised space for small children while their parents take courses, get counseling, use the computer lab. It’s a really special place.” Last year,



The Gathering Place registered over 61,000 visits, including meals, classes and computer lab time.

Board member and psychologist Dr. Kerry Makin-Byrd helps to foster compassionate understanding at KCP events. She divided the participants into age-matched groups and gave

them discussion guides. In these small groups, children learned about compassion as a specific response to suffering that includes awareness, feeling, motivation to help, and a willingness and action to relieve suffering. They then considered questions such as “How it would feel if someone you cared for didn’t have enough food to eat or somewhere to live?” or “What do you wish for the women and children who are served by The Gathering Place?” and “What could you do after today to help?”

Melissa Morris and her children Alex (14), Katie (11) and Lauren (7) had searched for a long time before finding an organization that had no age restrictions, “We are excited to all do it as a family,” said Melissa. The Morris brought puzzles and three stuffed animals for the homeless children.

Taking Action

After the compassion exercise, Zampert directed kids and their grownups to a supply line where they filled the bright red (for boys) and purple (for girls) backpacks with supplies

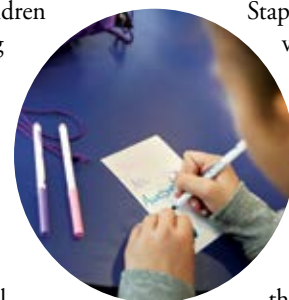
and something of their own to hold their belongings.” Accordingly, the children were careful in their selections, matching up just the right socks, hats and stuffed animals for the recipients, whose gender and age were noted on lists carried by the volunteers.

Participants Olivia and Belle Martinez and their mother, Wendy, were among the older kids, at age 13, but were attracted to it because even at that age, “it’s hard to find a nice way to give to the community,” they said.

In addition to giving their time at the event, the Martinezes, who own Bob’s Volvo Service in Aurora, were business sponsors. They donated backpacks, coloring books, markers, and “lots and lots of gloves,” said Wendy. “You can never have too many warm gloves.” Other sponsors, including Clair Family Dentistry, SmartSpace, and Stapleton Children’s Dentistry, had provided bulk donations of toothbrushes, warm clothes and office space for the organization.

After filling the backpacks, the participants made cards for the homeless children, with simple messages like “You are awesome!” paired with colorful drawings. As they created their cards, the volunteers imagined what a child in distress might want to hear, what might cheer them up, and took care to express their messages of hope. Families volunteered to transport all of the backpacks and sorted donations to The Gathering Place at the close of the event.

To support or learn more about Kids’ Compassion Project, go to their website at www.kidscompassionproject.org.



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“There are so many moving pieces to our project that it’s not easy to nail down opening dates for specific businesses until they’re a week or two out. We have a general idea, but it’s up to each business to determine what’s best for them.” With that caveat, Mark Shaker

provided this list of businesses that likely (but not necessarily) will open in January.

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Trunk Nouveau—a boutique featuring small label jewelry, gifts, and cards. www.trunknouvea.com

DENTAL

Stapleton Dental—a family dental practice focusing on preventive care and specializing in restorative and cosmetic dentistry. www.stapletondental.com

FASHION

Goose & the Goat—focusing on shoes and fashion accessories. Products are sourced from local, regional, national, and international labels. shop.gooseand-thegoat.com/

Velvet Wolf—Featuring fashionable clothing, soaps, candles and skin car products—all priced under \$100. shop.velvetwolf.com

FITNESS

Endorphin Stanley—Offering a variety of fitness classes including Cycle – Strength – HIIT – Yoga – Barre & more. myendorphin.com

RESTAURANTS

Annette—A local and sustainable full-service restaurant serving wood-fired family-style fare. www.annettestcratchtotable.com

Yellowbelly Chicken—Featuring roasted and fried chicken, salads, and side dishes that are quick and affordable. www.yellowbellychicken.com

RETAIL

Zero Market—Featuring a selection of bulk dry goods, oils, tea and daily life products. Zero helps you achieve a zero-waste lifestyle. www.thezeromarket.com

Stanley Marketplace is located at 2501 Dallas St., Aurora. The 100,000+ square foot building that started out as an airplane ejector seat factory on land adjoining the old Stapleton Airport, will soon be home to more than 50 businesses.



Stanley Beer Hall opened in December to festive customers. Above: Dustin Skudlarek (left) and Mark Shaker, Stanley Beer Hall partners, enjoy the much-anticipated opening of their beer hall.

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Endangered Species Baby Zebra Thriving



Cody, a male Grevy's zebra was born Dec. 3 at the Denver Zoo. Cody's mother, a 16-year-old named Farasi, had another male foal in October 2015, who will be Cody's playmate. The population of Grevy's zebras in the wild is estimated at fewer than 2,000.

A Holistic Shopping Experience

By Anne Hebert

True, a holistic boutique is expected to open this spring at Stanley Marketplace. Their motto is "clean closet – fresh perspective – new goals."

The boutique's focus is on comfortable, simple clothing in neutral colors and fabulously unique jewelry, scarves, hats and gloves to provide a colorful addition to wardrobe staples. "Wardrobe is a blank canvas painted with accessories," says owner Shana Colbin-Dunn. "We help our customers feel good from the outside-in and the inside-out."

The shop will feature an apothecary section stocked with beauty products made by small-batch artisans from Colorado and other U.S. locations. The products are all-natural and scents contain essential oils. Holistic gift items like books, candles and home décor will also be available at True.



Shana Colbin-Dunn at Kismet, her store in Lowry.



True will also offer a menu of services designed to help de-clutter closets. Clients can customize a personalized style package to help them get organized. Combined with life and wellness coaching available at True, customers can simplify their wardrobes and make dressing for the day a pleasure. True will be located on the main floor of the Stanley Marketplace.

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January 17, 2017

10 – 11:30 a.m.

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INTERACTIVE EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE:

Acupuncture
Core strength exercise demonstration
Mindfulness and relaxation techniques

Space is limited. Please register by January 10 at uchealth.org/wellnesswithbaby.



Just the Facts

Invented (or not!) in Colorado

by James Hagadorn



In the spirit of fake news and urban legends, Colorado is well known for inventing the teddy bear. And the cheeseburger. Not to mention outdoor Christmas lights, juvenile detention centers, and the shopping mall. And every ski bum's favorite was born here too—the ticket wicket. You know, that wire you hang your lift ticket on.

Despite common knowledge, none of these were actually invented here. All have well-documented histories, long before their appearance in Colorado.

Yet Colorado is a hotbed of bona fide invention, with plenty of gadgets and processes borne out of ingenuity, engineering and sometimes a bit of luck.

For example, Wheat Ridge's Bill and Dorothy Harmsen had bad luck selling ice cream in the 1940s. But their luck turned good in 1949 when they created everyone's favorite middle-school treat—Jolly Ranchers.

One of the most iconic elements of cowboy style was invented in Denver, when in 1946 Jack Weil added snaps to a western shirt. These mother-of-pearl-covered diamond-shaped snaps provided the wearer with a bit of bling as well as utility. That's because the snaps permitted the shirts to behave like tear-away warmup pants do in basketball, but for a cowboy who'd snagged their shirt while on horseback.

One of the most unsung inventions came from the Gates Rubber Company of Denver, which in 1917 invented giant rubber-band-like belts called "V-belts." Even today, these somewhat stretchable V-belts connect pulleys and other moving parts in nearly every car, motorcycle and boat engine, not to mention most industrial motors.

The term xeriscape and the tenets of xeriscaping, now used throughout the West

to help conserve water, was borne after the 1977 drought that parched the American West. Seeking to help customers stretch their resources by promoting water-thrifty landscaping, Nancy Leavitt of Denver Water coined the term xeriscape in 1981. They even unveiled the first demonstration xeri-



Cheeseburgers: first patented in by L. Ballast of Denver's Humpty Dumpty Drive-In.

scape garden in an "X-rated" party in 1982, playing off their newly minted x-word.

Sometimes determining when and where something is invented is a fuzzy business.

For example, is it when the idea is conceived, when it's put into practice, or when it's patented? Witness poor Henry Perky of Denver, who was bedraggled by chronic abdominal pain and ulcers. Facing a lifetime in which his diet would be dominated by boiled whole wheat grain, when visiting Nebraska he came up with a better idea than settling for such tasteless bowel-calming blah. He invented a new way to boil wheat, shred it, bake it, and reconstitute it into tiny pillows

of roughage. After proofing the concept in New Jersey and then presenting the concept at the World's Fair in Chicago, he started distributing these biscuits in downtown Denver. Such shredded wheat was a hit, and has been a mainstay of fiber fanatics ever since. But where was it actually invented? Nebraska, New Jersey or Colorado? Ditto for the cheeseburger, which was first patented in 1935 by Louis Ballast of Denver's Humpty Dumpty Drive-In. Yet cheeseburgers appeared on menus in California over a decade prior.



Frank Marugg adapted the anti-theft wheel locks in 1944 to create the "Denver Boot" used by law enforcement.

Several well-known Colorado "inventions" were really just adaptations of pre-existing creations, resulting in products that are both loved and loathed. Such as Crocs. In about 2001, its founders decided to add a heel to existing foam clogs made by another manufacturer, and

of course gave them a much cooler name. The rest is history. Or the "Denver Boot" of 1944, which was born when Frank Marugg adapted the anti-theft wheel locks commonly used by vehicle owners to deter hotwiring or joyriding

in unattended cars during the 1910s–1930s. In this case, he turned the tides on vehicle owners because now the cops had Frank's fortress-like wheel locks. Law enforcement officers used them to immobilize vehicles whose drivers hadn't paid their traffic or parking tickets.

There are even some oft-touted Colorado inventions that are still in dispute, such as ice cream sodas, including root beer floats. Urban legend has it that they were invented in 1871 by Denver caterer Otto Baur and by Cripple Creek Brewing's Frank Wisner in 1893, respectively. But such claims lack verifiable evidence and there are abundant reports of such sodas being first rolled out at an 1874 celebration of Philly's Franklin Institute.

The animated cartoon, *South Park* (circa 1997) is of course an authentic Colorado "invention" and helped popularize another one-of-a-kind item—Casa Bonita! But my favorite thing "invented" in Colorado?

The Broncos!

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



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Special District Dispute

(continued from page 19) his cease and desist letter. Each time, Harris responded, "Ain't gonna happen."

Ironically, the certificate that Downey was being asked to sign certifies, among other things, that there is no legal dispute that would "adversely affect" the Park Creek/Westerly Creek IGA. When pressed by Johnston as to whether Westerly Creek's "notice of default" to Park Creek constitutes litigation, Downey said no, that Park Creek has 30 days to cure the default. Presumably, the cure would be effected by Park Creek agreeing to pay for the independent legal services sought by Westerly Creek. The Westerly Creek board has interviewed three attorneys to replace Cockrel and hopes to have that individual under contract very soon. At this point, it appears to be an open question as to whether Park Creek will pay invoices incurred by Westerly Creek for any legal service expenses the latter board incurs.

Monday's meeting was tense with several exchanges of



Brian Fennelly, CFO, Forest City Stapleton

angry words. Harris said he felt the Westerly Creek board was "blackmailing and extorting" him in holding up the bond issue in return for a rescission of the cease and desist letter. Westerly Creek board members expressed "astonishment" that Park Creek would seek to deny them their own legal counsel. They repeatedly asserted their need for independent legal counsel and financial analysis to enable them to carry out their duties to Stapleton taxpayers.

King Harris and fellow Park Creek board member John Moye apologized to Westerly Creek for not providing the requested information. Moye invited Westerly Creek to attend Park Creek's January meeting to make the case that it needs such independent advice. For its part, Westerly Creek appears to be moving toward a larger goal – a renegotiation of its IGA with Park Creek. In fact, item number one on Monday's agenda was titled "Termination of Intergovernmental Agreement with the Park Creek Metropolitan District."

Why two special districts for Stapleton?

The Park Creek and Westerly Creek Metropolitan Districts were created in 2000 to establish governmental entities that would fund and construct infrastructure for the redevelopment of the abandoned Stapleton airport. These are quasi-municipal entities similar in many ways to local governments. Each district plays a different role and is governed by a separate board.

PCMD. Park Creek is solely responsible for the financing and construction of public infrastructure at Stapleton including roads, drainage, landscaping, water and sewer lines and parks. It uses bond proceeds and developer advances (loans) to pay for these improvements. Of its five board members, two are selected by the developer (Forest City) and three by the Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC), an arm of the City of Denver. SDC is responsible for the sale of Stapleton Airport land to the developer and for oversight of its redevelopment. The Park Creek District consists of 16 acres of land south of I-70 west of Havana Street.

WCMD. Westerly Creek Metropolitan District (WCMD) is the entity that taxes commercial and residential land in Stapleton to pay for local infrastructure. Approximately 3% of the total mill levy goes for maintenance and operating costs of Park Creek and Westerly Creek while 97% of the tax revenue is used by Park Creek to pay for debt service and infrastructure. Westerly Creek board members are selected through a biannual vote of Stapleton property owners. The WCMD board is legally obligated to bring into its boundaries all the Stapleton land Forest City purchases from Denver. Eventually, the Westerly Creek district will include all of redeveloped Stapleton. In 2016, for the first time, all WCMD board members are residential Stapleton property owners not affiliated with Forest City.

Two-District Structure. The need for this two-district structure arose partly from circumstances at the beginning of Stapleton's redevelopment—there were no Stapleton residents at that time. But apart from that, the developer and SDC appointees were given full control of the PCMD board to minimize the risk that non-developer interests would oppose and potentially stop infrastructure financing and construction plans. Only the five members of the PCMD board could ever have a share of the 16-acre property that geographically defines their district (and therefore the right to vote on the PCMD board).

Westerly Creek was created to establish a taxing entity that encompassed the entire district. The funds generated by this entity are used to retire debt incurred by Park Creek as it develops Stapleton's local infrastructure (neighborhood streets, alleys, pocket parks, pools). There is no ending date for the WCMD tax although the majority of the mills (97%) would go away when Park Creek has repaid all its debt. Park Creek uses tax increment financing to pay for regional infrastructure from 2000 to 2025, after which WCMD funds will be used for any remaining infrastructure development.

This master/servant district structure, where one district has power and the other doesn't, is common early in developments, but many evolve as projects approach buildout. Options can include consolidation of districts or dissolution of one of the districts. Stapleton is nearing 80% build-out and the WCMD board has signaled its intent to re-evaluate the two-district structure by undertaking a "strategic planning process" and a desire to renegotiate its 16-year old inter-governmental agreement with Park Creek that defines the respective roles of the two districts.

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points with contemporary interviews to support that view. The material is presented logically, viscerally, and personally. We see the bureaucratic side as well as the human side, and we even get opposing points of view from all parts of the political spectrum. The material itself will win over the audience, but the technical aspects are also highly professional and detailed—in particular,

the editing. That wins it for me.

Reactions to the film have been along predictable political lines: those on the Right dismiss the film as Leftist propaganda while those on the Left point to the film as an exposé of a corrupt political system instigated by the Right. The problem with these views is that they miss the most scathing part of the film: *everyone* is implicated. The Clinton and Obama administrations are excoriated as much as the Reagan, Bush, and George W. Bush administrations. DuVernay gives a general criticism of the entire system and both political parties. That is exactly what makes this film so powerful.

You will like this if you enjoyed *An Inconvenient Truth*, *Cartel Land*, and/or *Food Inc.*

Available on Netflix.



Next month's column will cover the Oscar films nominated for Best Picture, but this month I chose to review two of the top documentaries from 2016. Both of these wonderful films should be nominated for Best Documentary Feature, and both have a great chance at winning.

The Best Documentary Award at the Oscars is tricky business. A few years ago, a friend and I discussed this very dilemma. He said "This year's nominees included a film about Latin American child immigrants, a film about Daniel Eisenberg, a film about revolution in Burma, and a film about the corporate-industrial-food complex. And what wins? A film about dolphins." Of course he was talking about *The Cove*, winner of the Best Documentary Feature award in 2010. But as I pointed out to him, the category is Best Documentary Feature, not "Most Important Issue." A documentary is still a film, a piece of art composed by a team—led by a director—but also including writers, editors, a cinematographer, camera operators, assistants, and producers. It is still *a film*. That is how I look at documentaries.

13th (2016)

This smart, and polemical, documentary chronicles the U.S. prison system and the racial inequalities therein. The film takes a somewhat traditional approach to the form, incorporating certain historical artifacts, graphs, animation, news coverage, interviews, and intertitles. Director Ava DuVernay is no stranger to civil rights media, having directed the powerful *Selma* just a few years ago. The sum total is a tight package that strongly makes its points and enables her vision.

The central point is very easy to discern: the prison system incarcerates blacks at a disproportionate rate. We are given a sound historical lesson on the prison system going back to the slave era, and experts back up the



Fire at Sea (2016)

If *13th* is a more traditional documentary, *Fire at Sea* is the polar opposite. Gianfranco Rosi's film is a poetic, languid, even ethereal look at the intersection of mass migration and the daily life of Italian islanders. *Fire at Sea* finds the beauty in simple, static-camera takes of interesting images—a helicopter taking off at night or a pregnant woman with twins being examined by a doctor

(where neither can speak the other's language). It is in moments such as these that we understand the power of film, and it makes us feel very much like the Parisians watching the first filmed images from the Lumière brothers in 1895: we are seeing things for the first time.

Rosi's film is the Italian Oscar entry for Best Foreign Language Film as well as a strong contender for Best Documentary Feature. It chronicles life on the Italian island of Lampedusa—a small outpost far off the coast of Sicily, equidistant from both Italy and the coasts of Tunisia and Libya. It is a destination point for Africans migrating to Europe—a crossing that is both treacherous and intricate. It is literally finding a needle in a haystack: a small speck of an island in the vast Mediterranean Sea. The images of those immigrants are heartbreaking and hardening. The verisimilitude of their pain and suffering is poignant.

While the film spends ample time on the immigrants and those who save and treat them, we also spend time on land as well. The film follows a young boy, Samuele, who goes about his daily life: making and playing with a slingshot, hanging out with his friend, talking to his father and grandmother. As immigrants fight for their lives just off the coast, life still goes on for the inhabitants of the island. The juxtaposition of the two (unrelated) stories is the masterstroke of the film: that simple life is exactly what the immigrants are striving toward. That's all.

You will like this if you enjoyed *The Act of Killing*, *The Missing Picture*, and/or *Terraferma*.

Opened at the Sie Film Center on 12/30.

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.

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DENVER METRO EVENTS

Through 1/2—A Hudson Gardens Christmas. Holiday lights, wagon rides, Santa, music and more. Select dates, 5-8:30pm. www.hudsongardens.org

Through 1/7—Living Lights at the Butterfly Pavilion. Twinkling tropical rainforest and glowing gardens, glowing bugs and entertainment. Tickets: www.butterflies.org

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

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

1/1 to 2/22—Unknown Writer's Contest. Sponsored by Denver Women's Press Club, cash prizes for winners and constructive comments for all entrants in fiction, nonfiction and poetry. For ages 18+ whose work never appeared with paid byline. Complete rules: <http://dwonline.org/outreach/unknown-writers-contest/>

1/5 Thursday—National Western Parade. Downtown Denver. FREE. www.nationalwestern.com

1/5 Thursday—Earth Air Water Fire Love. Art Gym Denver and Metropolitan State Univ. of Denver's Center for the Visual Arts presents sensory exhibition by Lindsey Ernst. 5-8pm: opening reception, light refreshments, hors d'oeuvres. Cranked Up Coffee serving Nitro Coffee and Matcha; live DJ music by DNoe, original music by Moonfrog. Free. 1460 Leyden St. <http://artgymdenver.com>

1/5 to 1/7—Colorado RV Travel Show. Tickets: \$12. 12 and under free. Colorado Convention Center, 700

14th St. www.gsevents.com

1/5 to 1/22—National Western Stock Show and Rodeo. National Western Complex. Events: www.nationalwestern.com

1/6 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

1/6 to 1/8—Denver Boat Show. Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th St. downtown Denver. Tickets: \$12; 16 and under free. 1/6 12-9pm, 1/7 10am-9pm, 1/8 10am-5pm. \$2 off with website coupon. www.denverboatshow.com

1/6 to 1/8—Movie at the Symphony: Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. Boettcher Concert Hall. 7:30pm Fri. and Sat., 2:30pm Sun. Tickets: www.coloradosymphony.org

1/7 Saturday—The Whiffenpoofs. World's oldest and well-known acapella group of 14 men from Yale. Newman Center for Performing Arts, DU campus. 2pm and 7:30pm. www.newmancenterpresents.com

1/7 to 1/14—TreeCycle 2017. Collections occur weekends of 1/7 and 1/14; no weekdays. DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles or 720.865.6810

1/12 to 1/15—Denver International Sportsman's Expo. Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th St. downtown Denver. \$15, under 16 free. At door cash only. Thurs./Fri. 11am-8pm, Sat. 10am-8pm, Sun. 10am-5pm. www.sportsexpos.com

1/16 Monday—Martin Luther King Jr. Parade

and Program. Largest in U.S. Gather in City Park at Colfax and Columbine, and march to Civic Center Park. Program 10am. Parade formation begins approx. 10:45am after program. www.drmartininkingjrhc.org

1/20 to 1/22—36th Annual Indian Market and SW Showcase. Fri. 1-7 pm; Sat. 10am-7pm; Sun. 10am-5pm. Adm.: \$13; under 13 free; good for all shows/demos all weekend. Denver Merchandise Mart, 451 E. 58th Ave. www.indianmarket.net

1/27 to 1/28—Denver Winter Brewfest. 7pm. Mile High Station. \$35-\$45. Benefits Swallow Hill Music. www.denverbrewfest.com/winter

Through 1/31—Lest We Forget. Bronze exhibit memorializing the aviators of WWII. Free with admission, Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. www.wingsmuseum.org

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

1/7 Saturday—Resolve 5K/10K. Denver City Park, 9am. www.featonthestreet.com

1/14 Saturday—19th Annual Quaker Oatmeal Festival and Quicker Quaker 5K Walk/Run. Downtown Lafayette. www.lafayettecolorado.com

1/17 Tuesday—Wellness with Baby. 10-11:30am. Free. Interactive educational sessions include acupuncture, core strength exercise demos and mindfulness and relaxation techniques. At UHealth- Center for Integrative Medicine, Stapleton. Limited space; register by 1/10 at uhealth.org/wellnesswithbaby.

1/24 Tuesday—Wellness While Expecting. 5:30-7pm. Free. Interactive educational sessions include core strength exercise demos, mindfulness and relaxation tech-

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niques and Univ. of Colo. Hospital midwife and OB/GYN talk about birth plan options. At Anschutz Health and Wellness Center. Limited space; register by 1/17 at uchealth.org/wellnesswhileexpecting.

1/26 Thursday—7th Annual beWell Awards and Community Celebration. 5:30-8:30pm. Free evening of fitness, food, fun and fashion. DoubleTree by Hilton, 3203 Quebec St. Register: www.bewellconnect.net/awards, www.bewellconnect.net

Ongoing—Strengthening/stretching exercises Mon., Wed., Fri., 9:45am and Hatha and restorative-style yoga classes for students all levels Tues. and Thurs., 5:30-6:30pm. Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E. Alameda Ave. 303.388.4678, www.augustanadenver.org.

KIDS AND FAMILIES

1/3 Tuesday—Preschool Story Time. 9:30 am, ages 2-5 with caregiver. History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway. www.historycoloradocenter.org

1/3 to 1/31—Tuesdays in January Four Mile Historic Park Small Settlers. Ages 2-5 accompanied by parent/caregiver. 9-10am. \$5/child adults free, members free. 7150D. Forest St. Advance register: 720.865.0814 or education@fourmilepark.org www.fourmilepark.org

1/5 to 1/26—Star K Kids. Thursdays, 9:30am and 11am; kids 5 and under. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. www.auroragov.org/nature

1/5 to 2/24—Denver Puppet Theater. Aesop's Fables. www.denverpuppettheater.com

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

1/8 Sunday—Junior Rangers. age 6-12, 1:30-3pm. Learn about plants and animals of Star K Ranch. RSVP required, 303.326.8650, www.aurora.gov/nature

1/14 to 1/28—Lowe's Build and Grow workshops. Bring kids to Lowe's stores to build FREE wood project: Monthly,

2nd and 4th Saturdays. Free apron, goggles, project-themed patch, merit certificate on completion. 10am. www.lowesbuildandgrow.com

LECTURES AND CLASSES

1/1 to 1/31—Violethive Art Therapy. Art classes, art therapy and workshops for kids and adults. In Mayfair neighborhood. Class listings: www.violethiveart.org

1/3 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—American Popular Music in 19th Century: Street, Stage and Home. 10-11am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. 303.316.6359. www.ActiveMinds.com

1/10 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—Oil. 12:30-1:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727, www.ActiveMinds.com

1/12 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)—The Nuremberg Trials. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325. www.ActiveMinds.com

1/24 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—The Nuremberg Trials. 5-6pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727 www.ActiveMinds.com

1/26 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)—Football. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325. www.ActiveMinds.com

1/26 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)—The Story of Salt. 9:30-11:30am (9:30am reception, 10am program). Rosemark at Mayfair Park, 833 Jersey. RSVP: 303.770.7673. www.ActiveMinds.com

MUSEUMS—DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE

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

Through 1/8—Extreme Mammals. Free with admission. www.dmns.org

Through 2/9—IMAX. Wild Africa 3D, Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaohs. www.dmns.org

View more events or submit events
FrontPorchStapleton.com > Events

Through 2/5—Mummies: Secrets from the Tombs. Special ticket required. www.dmns.org

1/19 Thursday—Science Lounge—Underwater Giants. Third Thursdays, 6:30-9:30pm. \$10/members; \$12/nonmembers. www.dmns.org

MUSEUMS—DENVER ART MUSEUM

Through 2/12—Glory of Venice: Masterworks of the Renaissance. 50 works from important Italian collections of Venetian Renaissance artists whose style shaped Venice as international hub of art/culture. Included in museum admission; free: youth 18 and under and all on museum free days. Closed Mondays. Related programming/lectures: denverartmuseum.org, <http://denverartmuseum.org/exhibitions/glory-venice>, <http://denverartmuseum.org>

Through 4/2—Star Wars and the Power of Costume. Denver Art Museum, featuring original costumes from the movies; exhibit ticket required. www.denverartmuseum.org

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

MUSEUMS—FREE DAYS

1/3 Tuesday—Denver Botanic Gardens Free Day. SCFD Free day. Other SCFD Free days at the Gardens:

1/16. www.botanicgardens.org

1/6 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Free Day. Free First Friday. www.fourmilepark.org

1/6 to 1/27—Clyfford Still Museum Free Friday Evenings. Free admission every Friday evening, 5-8pm. SCFD Free day 1/27 10am-8pm. 1250 Bannock St. www.clyffordstillmuseum.org

1/7 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day. SCFD Free Day. www.denverartmuseum.org

1/12 Thursday—Denver Zoo Free Days. SCFD Free Day. Other zoo free days: 1/20-21, 2/2. www.denverzoo.org

1/22 Sunday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.dmns.org

NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS

Through 1/13—Youth at DAVA Holiday Show and Sale. Downtown Aurora Visual Arts youth exhibit. Hand-made holiday gifts for sale; 1405 Florence St. 1 block south of E. Colfax. Mon.-Fri. 10am-5pm and by appt. www.davarts.org

1/11 Wednesday—X – DSA Video Cinema Arts Senior Projects Showcase. Video Cinema Arts (VCA) department at Denver School of the Arts with Denver Film Society presents its Class of 2017 VCA Senior Projects Showcase: "X." 7pm. Sie Film Center (2510 E. Colfax Ave). Tickets at door: \$12 adults, \$8 students/seniors. Note: Due to some

(continued on page 28)

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McAuliffe Softball Team Wins City Championship



The McAuliffe Middle School softball team finished the 2016 season undefeated at 9-0, and beat Skinner 9-2 to win the championship.

Roberts Celebrates by Giving



Bill Roberts K-8 School celebrated their 10th anniversary by collecting canned goods that will be given to charities. DPS Superintendent Tom Boasberg joined their festivities.

DSST Robotics Teams Take 2nd and 3rd in Competition

DSST robotics teams were recognized with a 2nd and 3rd place award in addition to the Craftmanship Award at Rocky Mountain BEST, a statewide robotics competition. BEST Awards are considered the highest achievement any team in competition can accomplish. The competition provides an opportunity for students to build engineering skills and for the team to work in a competitive atmosphere. DSST: Byers HS, DSST: Stapleton HS and DSST: Cole HS have all won BEST Awards, either this year or in the past.

(continued from page 27)

mature themes, parental guidance suggested. <http://dsa.dpsk12.org>

1/14 Saturday—2017 Denver Pre-school Program Showcase. Hosted by Denver Preschool Program, 5th annual Pre-school Showcase is FREE one-stop opportunity for Denver families to find and compare quality preschool options, learn about tuition support and talk with preschool resources in Denver area. Free food and fun kid's activities, including appearances by PBS characters like Clifford or Curious George. Dahlia Campus for Health and Well-Being (3401 Eudora St.) on 1/14 from 10am-2pm.

1/26 to 1/28—The Yellow Wallpaper. World premiere of new play adapted from The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Written/directed by Brandon Becker. Features 20 actors from Denver School of the Arts. 1/26-28. Schomp Theater, DSA, 7111 Montview Blvd. 720.424.1713. <http://dsa.dpsk12.org>

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

1/6 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Hidden Figures; A Monster Calls; Silence; Underworld: Blood Wars. www.harkinstheatres.com

1/13 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Live By Night; Sleepless. www.harkinstheatres.com

1/20 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Paterson; The Resurrection of Gavin Stone; Split. www.harkinstheatres.com

1/27 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. A Dog's Purpose; Gold; Resident Evil: The Final Chapter. www.harkinstheatres.com

THEATRE

Through 3/12—An Act of God. Garner Galleria Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

Through 1/1—The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave, Aurora. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

Through 1/8—Beauty and the Beast. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St. Aurora. www.vintagetheatre.com

Through 1/1—Finding Neverland. The Buell Theatre, Denver Center for the Perform-

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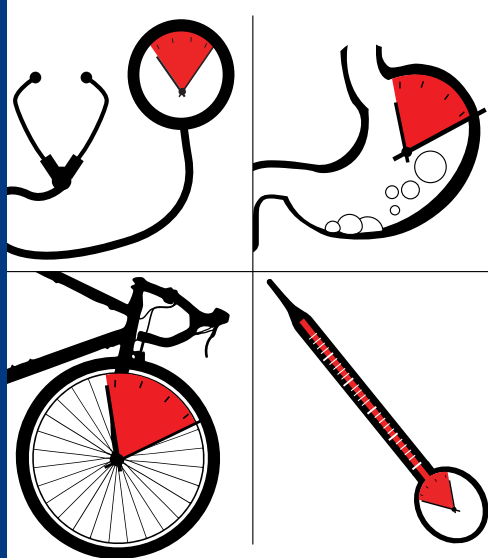
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EVENTS

ing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

Through 1/29—The Wiz. Presented by Ignite Theatre. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. www.aurora-foxartscenter.org

1/7 to 2/4—Becky’s New Car. Fire House Theater Company at John Hand Theater. www.firehousetheater-company.com

1/10 to 1/22—Fun Home. Ellie Caulkins Theater, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, 14th and Curtis. www.denvercenter.org

1/13 to 2/12—Almost, Maine. Avenue Theatre, 417 E. 17th Ave. www.avenuetheater.com

1/13 to 2/26—The Book of Will. Buell Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, 14th and Curtis. www.denvercenter.org

1/13 to 3/5—Brilliant Traces. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

1/27 to 2/26—The Christians. Stage Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, 14th and Curtis. www.denvercenter.org

2/2 to 5/19—A Year with Frog and Toad. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. www.arvadacenter.org

VOLUNTEERING

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Wings Gets New CEO: Retired General John Barry

Effective Jan. 1, John Barry will take over as chief executive officer at the Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum in Lowry. Barry is a retired Air Force general well known for his work as executive director of the Space Shuttle Columbia Accident Investigation team. Most recently, he served as president and CEO of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Denver and prior to that served for seven years as superintendent of Aurora Public Schools. Barry is an honors graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, a combat fighter pilot, wing commander and graduate of Top Gun.

Barry replaces Greg Anderson who is stepping down after 12 years as the museum's CEO. Also leaving the museum is Mark Hyatt, chief operating officer. Hyatt has taken a position as president of the Aviation Community Foundation.

"If we were to design a perfect leader to take Wings boldly into the future," said Charlie Johnson, chairman of the board at Wings Over the Rockies, "the blueprint would almost certainly include a diagram of John Barry. There simply isn't a more qualified, courageous or passionate leader more devoted to the heritage and to the future of our museum's mission."

Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum is Colorado's Official Air & Space Museum. It was founded in 1994 and is housed at the former Lowry Air Force Base in Denver.

Noise Wall Issue Continues to Delay MLK Extension

Denver is awaiting CDOT review of a revised noise evaluation report that will help answer the question of whether a noise mitigation wall will be required as part of the extension of Martin Luther King Blvd. in east Stapleton. The report was prepared by engineers working for Forest City. It includes additional information on potential interference of driver sight distances from placement of the noise walls. Denver has taken the position that the noise walls are not "reasonable and feasible" but the city needs concurrence by CDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) because the \$16 million project is funded in part with federal monies.

Nancy Kuhn, Denver Public Works'

communications director, says, "Right now, we don't have a specific timeframe for receiving the determination." Jane Board, DPW senior planner, said in an email that should CDOT and FHWA not concur, Denver Public Works would work with CDOT to develop an outreach plan to the residents and property owners, possibly leading to a vote conducted according to CDOT protocol. That process means a vote could not occur "until at least February because of the necessary preparation and the mailing of the ballots." According to that timetable, a public meeting might be held mid- to late-January.

The project was originally slated to begin construction in the summer of 2016. It will extend the roadway from Havana St. to Peoria St., and add two through lanes in each direction along with medians and detached parallel bicycle/pedestrian facilities. A combination of factors has delayed the project possibly a full calendar year. Those factors include design changes, new federal and state noise regulations and an outdated 2011 environmental impact document. The noise 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. For additional information, search for "Noise Wall Issue Delays MLK Extension" at FrontPorchStapleton.com (or December 2016 issue, page 35).







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CAB Studies Its Future

Twenty-three years after its creation, the Stapleton Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) is questioning its own future. A meeting titled “Role of the Citizen Advisory Board” has been scheduled for 6pm, Jan. 10 in the first of a brief series to answer issues such as membership responsibility and CAB’s independence from other Stapleton groups such as the Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC). The meeting will be held in the SDC boardroom, 7350 E. 29th Ave., Suite 200.

CAB has created a working committee of its members to deliberate these issues. Formal invitations to the Jan. 10 meeting include SDC, the Stapleton Foundation, City Councilman Chris Herndon and several longtime Stapleton-area activists.

CAB’s mission is to “provide input from a broad spectrum of interests in the community to the Stapleton Development Corporation regarding the planning and development process for the redevelopment of the former Stapleton International Airport.” CAB and its predecessor (the Stapleton Tomorrow Citizen Advisory Committee) were directly involved in the creation of the “Green Book,” the Stapleton Development Plan. Original members were appointed by the mayor but over the years, the committee has coordinated such appointments through the SDC.

The current self-evaluation stems from several factors including a drop in CAB participation and SDC criticism this fall when CAB communicated directly with Denver City Council requesting that Stapleton builders not be exempt from Denver’s new affordable housing linkage fee. The larger factor relates to Stapleton’s approaching build-out and whether CAB’s functions are more appropriately handled by other groups such as the Stapleton Foundation, Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) or the Master Community Association (MCA).

The Jan. 10 meeting will be facilitated by Darvin Ayres, whose services are being paid for by the Stapleton Foundation.

Police Catch Package Thief

By Lt. Ian Culverhouse

On Dec. 14, the staff at Staybridge Suites at 8101 E. Northfield Blvd. were cleaning rooms when they discovered several boxes/packages with different names and addresses in one of the rooms. They called Denver Police and our detectives responded. The solo female guest of the room was subsequently arrested for possession of the stolen packages. It appears the victims of the stolen packages were all Stapleton/Northfield residents and we are actively working on contacting the owners of the packages. And, of course, a big thanks to the staff at the hotel for their observations and actions that led to this arrest—as well as the recovery of several gifts!

The holidays are here. Many of us are ordering more items online. Please remember that package thefts are crimes of opportunity. Suspects will follow delivery trucks and watch for drop-offs. It has been reported that suspects may sit on porches. Report any suspicious activity. Together we can stop porch pirates. A big thanks to all of you for keeping a watchful eye on each other.

Xcel Selecting Solar Storage Program Participants

Xcel anticipates selecting six Stapleton homeowners for participation in a two-year test of current battery technologies at homes that already use solar power. Xcel held a public open house in November to solicit interest in having refrigerator-sized units installed “behind the meter.” The units, which cost \$15-\$20,000 each, would be provided to consumers free of cost as Xcel studies alternative battery technologies, the integration of distributed storage to help even out load demand for the utility, and how Xcel can accommodate more solar energy into its system. About 50 Stapleton residents attended the open house. Participants would benefit by having additional battery storage that could provide the home with electrical power during a system outage.

Participants will be announced in February. The in-home batteries would go live in March.

Planning Continues for APS 25th Ave. Campus

Voter approval of Aurora Public Schools’ (APS) \$300 million bond issue in November has given the APS administration a green light to resume planning for a 6th–12th-grade campus on a nine-acre parcel located on the north side of 25th Ave. between Galena and Geneva streets. Those efforts include acquisition of a 1.7-acre parcel through condemnation, and negotiations with Denver School of Science and Technology for a possible 50-50 partnership in financing construction of the new buildings required for the campus. The bond issue would provide the APS share of capital costs for the campus.

APS has previously stated they expect the eminent domain process to be concluded by March. The property is currently occupied by the South Stapleton Office Warehouse Park building. According to Superintendent Rico Munn, the acquisition is critical to provide enough land for the campus and to link two disconnected APS parcels along that block.

At the Dec. 6 APS Board meeting, members authorized Munn to continue discussions with DSST about operating one of its charter schools at the APS property. Board members cautioned Munn that their approval of continued discussions does not guarantee that DSST would ultimately be selected as the charter school operator. When contacted by the Front Porch, neither Munn’s office nor Bill Kurtz of DSST would share any information about the partnership discussion.

Munn has said it will be several years before a new school will open at the 25th Ave. site, but the time is right to begin the planning since new homes in Stapleton Aurora are beginning construction. Stapleton developer Forest City anticipates construction of 322 homes for that portion of Stapleton located in the city limits of Aurora, i.e., south of 26th Ave.

Xcel is targeting the residential neighborhood north of Martin Luther King Blvd., between Trenton and Havana Streets. Xcel representatives said this is one of the neighborhoods with the highest penetration of home-based solar panels in its service territory. At the open house, Beth Chacon, Xcel Energy’s director of Grid Storage and Emerging Technologies, said “Xcel wants to learn how energy storage can help manage the impact of high concentrations of rooftop solar energy on distribution system feeders.” Distribution feeders are used to bring electricity into homes and businesses and carry the energy produced by in-home solar systems to the electric grid.

Chacon said the North Central Park and Eastbridge neighborhoods have about 20 percent penetration and that 35 percent represents a “tipping point” in terms of impacts on the grid. Voltage issues, sometimes perceived as “light flickers,” can begin to impact the grid as power flows back and forth between the homes’ photovoltaic systems and the grid.

Xcel also hopes to announce in February the location of six utility scale batteries to be installed along the utility feeder line itself in this neighborhood. These batteries “in front of the meter” would be placed at various locations within the public street right-of-way.

This pilot project is one of two approved in March 2016 by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) under the company’s Innovative Clean Technology (ICT) Program.

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SUN's Concerns about NHS Enrollment Projections

By Amanda Allshouse

SUN Board President Amanda Allshouse raised concerns about overcrowding at the Sandoval Campus in six-eight years during public comment at the Dec. 15 Denver Public Schools (DPS) Board of Education meeting. DPS had stated the Sandoval Campus maximum number of seats at full build-out was 2,400–2,500 seats. DPS had proposed (now approved) placement of a DSST high school, which would require 515–550 seats on the campus. Using numbers DPS presented to the community on Dec. 5, when carried out to 2024 (when today's first-graders enter ninth grade), projections for Northfield High School (NHS) enrollment climb above 2,000 total students enrolled. Combined with the 550 seats needed for DSST, enrollment at the two schools would then

surpass the maximum size for Sandoval Campus of 2,400–2,500 seats (see chart).

DPS assumes 60 percent or fewer of Northfield-boundary families will attend Northfield because 65 percent of East-boundary families attend East. However, 45 percent of in-boundary elementary school families attend in-boundary elementary schools that feed into East, compared to 87 percent of Stapleton families who attended first grade in-boundary last year, and 84 percent of Stapleton families who attended sixth grade in-boundary. When 80 percent of Northfield-boundary families are projected to attend Northfield, coupled with the mandatory 35 percent seats reserved for out-of-boundary, Northfield High School alone would require more than 2,400 seats by the year 2023. After the public comment ended, DPS announced that if more space

were needed for Northfield, specifically citing "if 3,000 students wanted to enroll," more buildings would be built because there is an abundance of land. There was no mention of what strain the practice of ad hoc expansion would put on common facilities for dining, athletics and parking.

Jan. 17 SUN Board Meeting— Formation of Oversight Committee to Monitor DPS Commitments to NHS

At the upcoming SUN board meeting Jan. 17, 7:30–8:45pm, Central Park Recreation Center Multipurpose room, the SUN board will work with interested community members about formation of a long-term oversight committee for monitoring fulfillment of DPS's commitments to Northfield High School. Any community member interested in a multiyear role on this com-

mittee, particularly parents of early-elementary school-age children, and/or retirees, should feel encouraged to attend to learn more.

Jan. 17 SUN Block Captain Meeting

At the Jan. 17 SUN Block Captain/Outreach meeting (6:30–7:25pm), the community will hear development updates regarding the Punch Bowl Social site, any available plans for transit-oriented development around the Central Park Train Station, and updates about the Central Park Bridge completion.

Amanda Allshouse, is president of the Stapleton United Neighbors Board of Directors, and an instructor in the Department of Biostatistics and Informatics at the Colorado School of Public Health.

SUN'S Northfield High School Enrollment Projections

The anticipated demand for Northfield High School does not leave enough space for campus sharing between a DSST-size program (500-515 seats) on a fully-built Sandoval campus (maximum seats of 2,400-2,500). Northfield could surpass a size to allow such sharing in fall of 2022—and could fill the fully-built campus by fall of 2023.

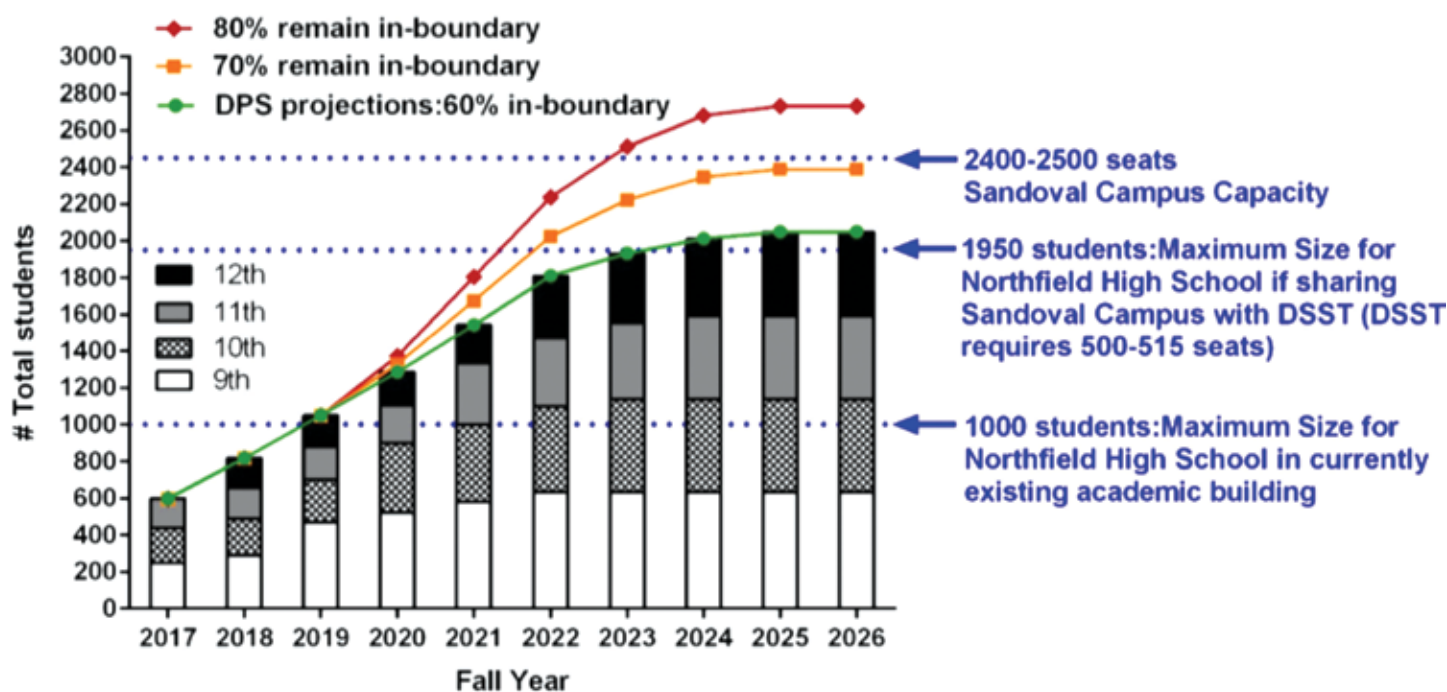


Figure: Vertical axis is the total number of students enrolled at Northfield High School over time on the horizontal axis. The filled-in bars depict the distribution between grades—only provided for the original estimate (would scale up proportionately with the other lines boosted by a larger 9th grade class as indicated below.)

Green line/circle data points:

DPS projections per December 5th meeting at Northfield.

- Per DPS projections: Northfield will need another building fall of 2019 or 2020 (1st blue line)
- Per DPS projections: In 2023-24 Northfield's size surpasses the "sharing" threshold for a DSST-size program (2nd blue line)
- Rate for 9th graders remaining in-boundary for Northfield is assumed by DPS to be 60% (starting 2019).

Orange line /square data points:

Assumes 70% 9th graders remaining-in-boundary (starting 2020).

- Northfield surpasses the "sharing" threshold in 2022, fills the fully-built campus in 2024 (3rd blue line).

(continued on next page)



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SUN NHS Projections (continued)

- Red line /diamond data points:**
assumes 80% 9th graders remaining in-boundary (starting 2021)
- Northfield again surpasses the “sharing” threshold in 2022, fills the fully-built campus in 2023.
 - Stapleton families remain in-boundary at 86% for Elementary, (vs. in Park Hill where 45% of families remain in-boundary). Yet East’s in-boundary rate of 65% has been the guide in setting the assumption of Northfield’s in-boundary rate at 60%. Stapleton families remain in-boundary for middle school at 84%.
 - SUN survey results in March of 2013 with over 2000 responses had 83% of families preferring a large comprehensive school (electives/clubs/sports) – which is offered in a fully-built-out Northfield. This too could be an indication of the rate at which Stapleton families would choice into Northfield.
 - 80% remaining in-boundary requires >2,732 seats and is a likely scenario. DPS should plan for this.

Summary:

Based on anticipated needs at full enrollment at Northfield High School, community stated preferences, and DPS’s assurance to provide for ALL in-boundary and 35% seats for out-of-boundary students, DPS should plan for Sandoval-campus-wide expansion of the program at Northfield High School. Temporary placement of DSST at Sandoval Campus through year 2021 or 2023 should only be considered if it is possible to also accommodate the anticipated needs of Northfield High School in 2019, in addition to the rapid growth projected for Northfield during the subsequent 6 years. DPS should anticipate Northfield requiring all 2,400+ seats on the Sandoval campus as early as 2023 – and potentially hundreds more.



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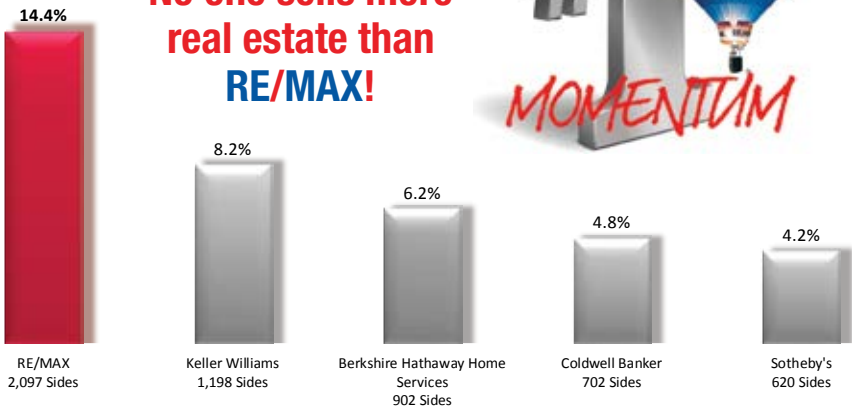
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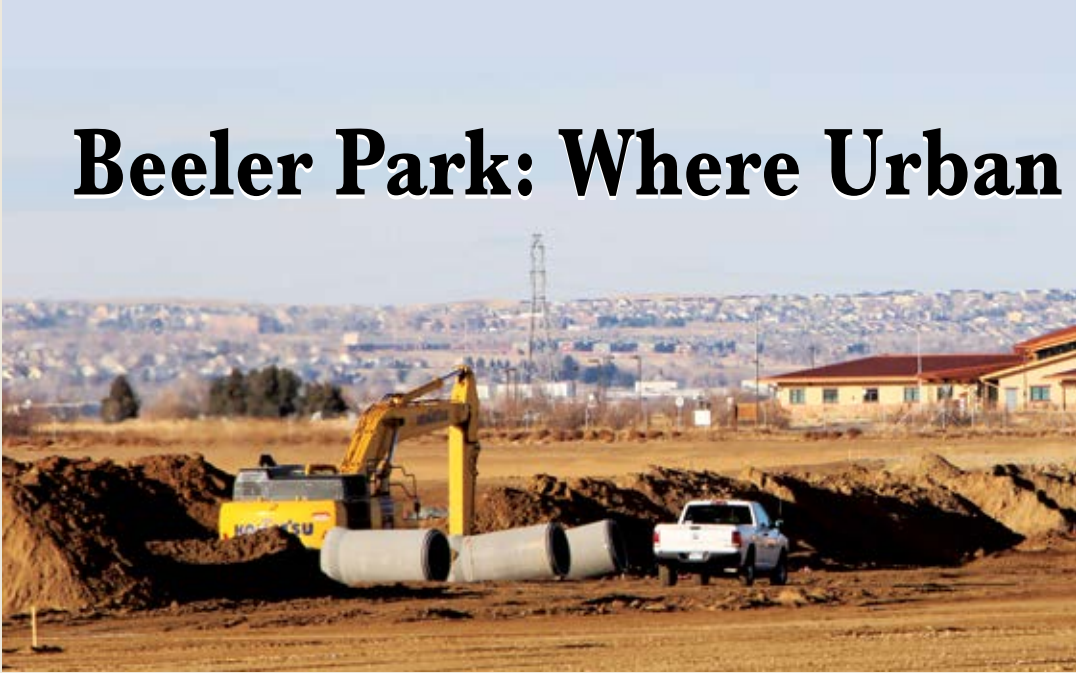
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endless outdoor opportunities.”

Two immediate results of that culture change are the refuge’s participation in the Great Outdoors Colorado Inspire grant (see article page 12) and a decision to add seven new trailheads at the property boundary. Two of those trailheads will be on 56th Ave. near Uvalda and Chambers streets. Funded in part by a grant through the Colorado Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP), the new trailheads will permit bicycle access to and through the refuge for the first time. The program also includes a 7.5-mile

extension of the Rocky Mountain Greenway that will eventually link to Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge all the way to Rocky Mountain National Park. Design of the \$1.6 million in improvements will begin in the fall of 2017 with construction the following year.

This close relationship between urban development and a natural area was envisioned in the early planning for an abandoned Stapleton International Airport dating to the late 1980s. The Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge Act



By John Fernandez

The Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (RMANWR) really is where the buffalo (bison) roam. And Beeler Park really is where urban meets the Great Plains. Both assets are moving ahead rapidly in fulfilling longstanding visions for land that not so long ago was on the outer fringes of the Denver metro area.

Beeler Park is the first phase of development on Section 10, the last large land parcel in Stapleton to undergo conversion from abandoned airport to “out-fill” urban development. Section 10 is a one-square-mile area bordered by 56th Ave. on the south, Dick’s Sporting Goods Park on the west, and RMANWR on the north and east. At full build-out, it is projected to have 2,400 single-family homes and 400 apartments.

Approximately 30 single-family homes are under construction and the first residents are expected to move in during January. Beeler Park occupies 130 acres of the 620-acre Section 10. At build-out it is expected to accommodate 1,200 dwelling units and upwards of 70,000 square feet of mixed-use commercial development fronting 56th Ave. and the extension of Central Park Blvd. north of 56th.

In Beeler Park, the western third of Section 10, 10 builders have already purchased lots. Many of the roads and alleys have been constructed and Central Park Blvd. has been extended to connect to Prairie Parkway in Commerce City. That roadway is expected to be open to the public in February once Xcel installs streetlights.

Next Door Neighbor: The Wildlife Refuge

“It’s a big change for us. There are going to be great positives that come from it, lots of new neighbors, lots of new people who will be interested in the Arsenal.” That’s David Lucas, manager of the RMANWR. Urban development is now cheek to jowl with the 16,000-acre refuge that is literally “well positioned to leverage ... early investments to create world-class wildlife habitat and a conservation education facility in the heart of a rapidly growing urban metropolis.” That phrase is taken from the recently completed environmental impact statement that recommended Rocky Mountain Arsenal become a new type of facility among the U.S. Fish & Wildlife’s holdings—an “urban refuge,” one that seeks to “welcome many more nontraditional visitors, and increase refuge access from outlying communities.”

In Lucas’ words, it is a shift “from stay-away towards a place of learning and

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Upper left: Section 10 sits relatively high, giving views of downtown.

Above: The newest part of Stapleton abuts the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge and its slope-roofed visitor center.

Left: Homes are under construction. Ten Stapleton builders have purchased lots in Beeler Park.

Right: Asphalt and concrete piles recycled from Stapleton are rapidly shrinking as materials are trucked off-site.



Right: The Section 10 master plan features a “grand arc” of trunk open space sweeping north from 56th Ave. and terminating in a 68-acre retention pond in the northwest corner of the site. Two linear parks radiate northeast from the grand arc and link to a 75-foot wide buffer on the north and east sides of the section, creating a transition from housing to wildlife refuge. A regional trail in the grand arc connects to the refuge at the northwest corner of Section 10. Pedestrian/bike paths will be built in the buffer areas.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (16,000 acres)



ity, the Park Creek Metropolitan District and Denver Public Schools. Those amenities include multiuse fields, playground equipment, a rest room, hardscape, concrete and crusher fines paths, regional trail connection, trashcans, benches, and shade structures.

Bar Chadwick, of Denver’s Department of Finance and who serves as the mayor’s Stapleton liaison, says the “five partners have been working on details and great strides have been made toward the financing of Section 10. We hope to be able to make an announcement during the first quarter of 2017.”

Removal of Old Runways

Little remains of Stapleton in Section 10. Piles of asphalt and concrete derived from the airport’s runways and taxiways are rapidly being trucked away as the long-sought recycling goal nears completion.

Lucas finds the progress on rubble pile removal “miraculous,” adding, “Greg Holt (of Denver Aviation) said it would be gone by December of 2016 and it might well be. That’s great news for all of us who have been looking at it for a decade.”

Moving Forward

Two claims on Section 10 from the days when the refuge was an arsenal have been resolved: construction by Forest City of a new water main for the refuge, replacing one that ran diagonally through the property; and Forest City acquisition from Denver of a railroad easement that served the weapons plant.

The balance of Section 10 will be acquired by Forest City once the developer is ready to begin housing construction east of the trunk open space. Forest City spokesman Tom Gleason said he anticipates that will happen in 2018.

was approved by Congress in 1992. (The refuge was officially established in 2004). And in 1995, the Denver City Council adopted the Stapleton Development Plan, aka Green Book, which foresaw a redeveloped Stapleton transitioning from an extension of the city grid on the south to fingers of urban development extending into a re-created High Plains landform on the north.

Parks and Other Amenities

Massive amounts of dirt have been moved to create open space that doubles as storm drainage. It is a twist on the usual sequence: earth-moving to restore a rolling, High Plains landscape from its previous incarnation as a man-made flat plain for the

takeoff and landing of jet aircraft. Prospective purchasers need to understand that most of the open space in Section 10 will not be traditional green grass city parks but, instead, a landscape of dry-land grasses and shrubs, not unlike the refuge itself.

Forest City has proceeded with development at Beeler Park despite the lack of a financing plan for completion of the trunk open space. Storm drainage improvements have been installed, and the land has been graded and will be seeded this winter with a mix of native grasses and shrubs.

However, a plan to pay for “amenities” in the open space is still being developed in a five-way negotiation involving Forest City, Denver, the Denver Urban Renewal Author-



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