

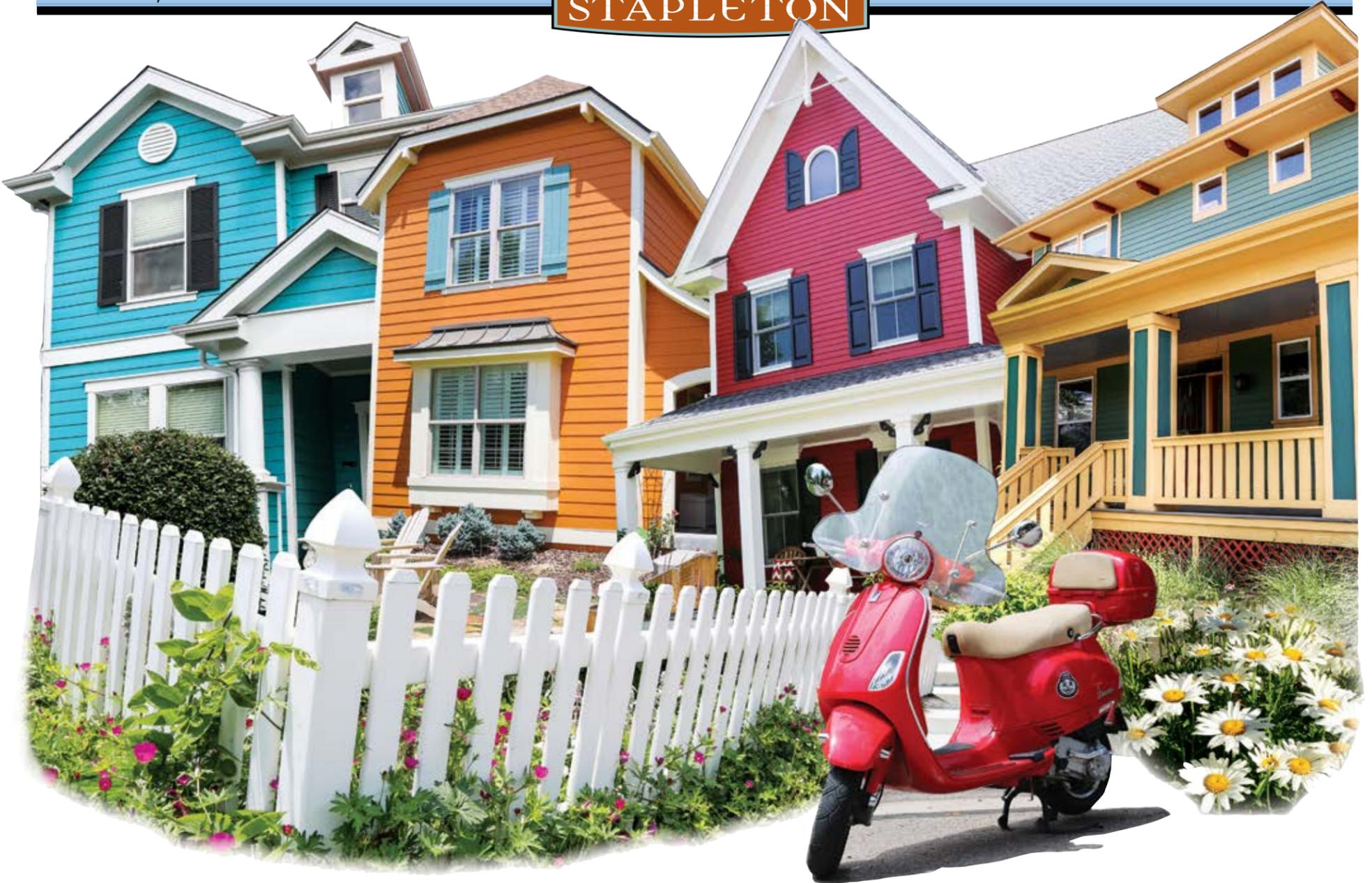
Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

AUGUST 2016



Coloring Outside the Lines

We wanted everything to be mixed, so it was less about land use and more about character.
—Tom Gougeon, urban planner, author of the Stapleton Green Book and original project leader for the Stapleton Development Plan

By Nick Hutchinson

When the Fisher family decided to repaint their house in Stapleton, they had no idea what was to unfold. The couple went on vacation, leaving their teenage daughter Allison with the decision to choose (continued on page 38)

Shakespeare on the Green Aug. 11-13



Photos courtesy Colorado Shakespeare Festival. Photographer: Jennifer M Koskinen.

Left to right: Antiphola of Ephesus (left, standing) and Dromia are locked out by Luce and Dromia of Syracuse in *The Comedy of Errors*, a free and open to the public performance.

"How many fond fools serve mad jealousy!"
—William Shakespeare, *The Comedy of Errors*

By Laurie Dunklee

When are the mistakes of "fond fools" hilarious? When Shakespeare's popular farce comes to Stapleton—with a gender-bending twist. "*The Comedy of Errors*' main characters are twin brothers and their twin servants. We flipped it to be twin sisters and their twin servants, and it got even funnier," said Timothy Orr, producing artistic director at the Colorado Shakespeare Festival (CSF).

The CSF brings Shakespeare's light-hearted comedy to Stapleton's Green in the 29th Ave. Town Center for free performances Aug. 11-13 at 7pm. "*The Comedy of Errors* is one of Shakespeare's most popular plays—it's pure comedy and farce—it's so much fun," said Orr. "We chose it for Stapleton because it's very approachable— (continued on page 5)

Beer Hall is Coming



New operator describes the plan. Story on page 6.

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

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



A bicycle rider passes through the newly finished Westerly Creek North open space. A celebration of the completion of the project will be held at 8:30am on August 17 at E. 35th Ave and Dayton St.



Most of the events listed below are FREE or support nonprofits. Additional events are listed on pages 32-33.

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

AUGUST

Through October 15

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

Every Sunday thru Oct. 16

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

Thursday, August 4

MoJaBlu Concert Series-The Samples, 6:30-8:30pm, North Green*

Saturday, August 6

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

Saturday, August 6

Concert on The Green-Aurora Symphony, 7pm. The Green*

Saturday, August 6

The fourth annual Horsefeather's Classic Car Show, 10am-3pm. Over 200 Ford-powered cars and trucks and "beachy" tunes from a DJ. on Main St. at The Shops at Northfield

Saturday, August 6

District 5 Safety Expo, 10:30am-2:30pm at The Shops at Northfield

Sunday, August 7

30th Season of City Park Jazz 6-8pm, rain or shine. Chris Daniels & the Kings with Freddi Gowdy. www.cityparkjazz.org

Mondays, August 8

Monday Movie Madness at Infinity Park. Free Movies at Infinity Park in Glendale - Aladdin Gates open 7pm, Movies 8pm. www.infinityparkatglendale.com

Thursday, August 11

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

Thursdays, Aug 11-Sept 1

The Exchange Pop-Up Farmers Market, 5pm. The Plaza*

Thurs.-Sat., Aug 11-13

Shakespeare on The Green - The Comedy of Errors, 7pm. The Green*

Wednesday, August 17

Celebration of the opening of Westerly Creek North open space with Mayor Hancock, 8:30am. E. 35th Ave and Dayton St.

Friday, August 19

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

AUGUST

Friday, August 19

Tots and Folks Yoga on The Plaza.* 10am. Your Soul's Movement presents free yoga for all ability levels. Mats are provided

Saturday, August 20

Adult Yoga on The Plaza.* 3pm. Your Soul's Movement presents free yoga for all ability levels. Mats are provided

Saturday, August 20

Cattle Fun Day at the Urban Farm - Meet mom and baby cattle as they are walked and groomed, 11am-1pm. 10200 Smith Rd, Denver 303-307-9332 www.theurbanfarm.org Members Free, Non-members \$5

Thursday, August 25

Active Minds "O, Canada!" 6:45-7:45pm, Sam Gary Library* www.activeminds.com

Friday, August 26

Movie on the Green - "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" Starts at dark, The Green*

Sat. and Sun., August 27-28

9am - 4pm. Volunteers needed to help artist Yulia Avgustinovich paint a "street mural" on Clinton St. in Aurora leading to Stanley Marketplace. (See page 34)

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 3

Concert on The Green-Funkiphino, 7pm. The Green*

Monday, September 5

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

Sat. and Sun., Sept. 10-11

9a. - 4pm. Volunteers needed to help artist Yulia Avgustinovich paint a "street mural" on Clinton St. in Aurora leading to Stanley Marketplace. (See page 34)

*Locations

More information on these events at www.stapletoncommunity.com
 The Green: E. 29th Ave. and Roslyn St.
 North Green: Valentia & E. 49th Place
 Sam Gary Library: 2961 Roslyn St.
 Central Park: MLK Blvd. & Central Park Blvd.
 Central Park Rec Center: 9651 E. MLK Blvd.
 Aviator pool: 8054 E. 28th Ave.
 Puddle Jumper pool: 2401 Xenia St.
 F15 pool: 2831 Hanover St.
 Jet Stream pool: 3574 Alton St.
 Runway 35 pool: 8863 E. 47th Ave.
 Maverick pool: 8822 Beekman Pl.
 The Plaza: 8302 E 49th Pl.

Events & Announcements at Stapleton



MoJaBlu Concert Series

Thursday, August 4, 6:30-8:30pm

Join the Stapleton MCA and Jazz@Jack's Thursday evenings for Motown, Jazz and Blues on Conservatory Green located at 49th Place and Valentia St. This is a free concert open to the public!

Concert on The Green-Aurora Symphony

Saturday, August 6, 7-9pm

Join the MCA for the Aurora Symphony concert performance on The Green (29th & Roslyn) starting at 7pm. Concerts are free to attend and open to the public.

Movie on The Green-Zootopia

UPDATED DAY

Friday, August 19, At Dark

Movie on The Green-Star Wars: The Force Awakens

Friday, August 26, At Dark

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

New for 2016! Beers & Cheers-Beer Tasting Series

Friday, August 19, 6-8pm

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

Stapleton Farmers Market

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

Friday Night Flights-Wine Tastings

Friday, August 26, 6-8pm

The MCA and the Grape Leaf are excited to present Friday Night Flights! The next Friday Night Flight will be held on Friday, August 26 at the West Crescent. Tickets are \$15 for residents and \$20 for nonresidents. Visit stapletoncommunity.com to purchase your tickets today!

Stapleton Kids Triathlon

Sunday, August 28, 8am

Though we added 50 extra spots to the Kids Triathlon this year, we are sold out! Because of this high demand, we are starting a paid waitlist for the Stapleton Kids Triathlon.

We are not allowing transfers of registrations this year. If you find that your child is unable to participate in the Stapleton

Kids Triathlon, please contact the MCA no later than Friday, Aug. 19 at 5pm. This will allow us to accommodate people on the waitlist.

The MCA will issue a \$30 refund if your child is unable to participate in the Stapleton Kids Triathlon and you contact the MCA by 5pm on Friday, Aug. 19. If you participate in any outside transfers, please note that the child who has transferred may still participate in the race but will be disqualified from winning any trophies. Visit stapletoncommunity.com to register for the waitlist.

Shakespeare on The Green

UPDATED DATES

Thursday-Saturday, August 11-13, 7pm Boulder's Colorado Shakespeare Festival theatre company will perform *The Comedy of Errors* on The Green at 29th Ave. & Roslyn St. All three showings are free and open to the public.

The Exchange Pop-Up Farmers Market

The MCA will be hosting an evening farmers market on Thursday evenings 5-8pm at Conservatory Green. Come and shop at the vendors featuring a variety of local produce and goods. We look forward to seeing you on Conservatory Green.

Saturday Night Live...For Kids Only!

The Stapleton MCA and Central Park Recreation Center are partnering to host a night of fun for kids ages 7-12 from 6-9pm. The first SNL will be on Saturday, Aug. 27 at the Central Park Rec Center. Register at your activenet account or at the MCA office. Through Aug. 7 we will be offering a promo price of Buy 2 SNLs Get One Free! Each SNL is \$20. Join us for a night of fun with games, dinner, snacks and more!

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, Aug. 11, 6:45-7:45pm

Olympics

Thursday, Aug. 25, 6:45-7:45pm

O Canada!

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

The Comedy of Errors



Antiphola of Ephesus finds herself locked out of her own house by Dromia of Syracuse as the ensemble of Parisian merrymakers looks on.

Photos courtesy Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Photographer: Jennifer M Koskinen.



Antiphola of Ephesus doesn't go quietly when arrested by an Officer and Dromia of Ephesus gets out of the way.

(continued from page 1) kids get it. It's a good introduction to Shakespeare."

The Comedy of Errors, one of Shakespeare's earliest plays, concerns two sets of twins separated at birth. One set of twins encounters the friends and families of their twin counterparts, and a series of wild mistaken-identity mishaps ensue: a near-seduction; false accusations of infidelity, theft, madness, and demonic possession; and a wrongful arrest.

"The CSF performs this play every five or six years and this time we wanted to do something different," Orr said. "Geoffrey Kent, the director, had this idea to reverse the genders, and as we read the script that way, it got really funny, though we didn't change anything except the pronouns and some of the names.

"In the original version, men make jokes at the expense of women, so turning that around makes it more of a romantic comedy. In a seduction scene, where now the woman is the pursuer, we found we could take the comedy much farther without getting icky or creepy. Flipping the genders opens up opportunities for new jokes."



The Duke of Ephesus, Adriano, Luciano and the ensemble look on in amazement as Antiphola runs Doctor Pinch out of town.

Some of the lines take on a different flavor, Orr said. "In the original, a sister is told by her sister that men are the

masters of women. Now that it's brother to brother, the lines become totally flippant and progressive, like 'Women can do whatever they want, so get over it.'"

The play is set in 1930s Paris, with sultry singing and cabaret nightlife, including a live accordionist playing French songs. The Parisian flavor is enhanced with bright, vivid costumes and design, including feathered showgirls, wandering mimes, bright red doors, and other colorful setting details. "Paris fits as a fun, romantic city and the music is from that time period," Orr said. "We studied pictures of women from that era wearing pants and berets, and we went with that. It sets the female characters up to be both strong and funny."

With a cast and crew of 30, *The Comedy of Errors* is CSF's fourth annual production on Stapleton's Green. "We love it," Orr said. "It's good old-fashioned Shakespeare in the Park, with people on blankets, and toddlers and dogs running around. The Stapleton people are so friendly and they look forward to their summer Shakespeare."

The Comedy of Errors will run approximately two hours, including intermission. For more information, call 303.492.8008 or see coloradoshakes.org.

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Stanley Beer Hall to Op



Above: Mark Shaker (left) and Dustin Skudlarek where a live indoor tree will be surrounded by bar seating.

By Carol Roberts and Anne Hebert

At a community meeting in October 2013, attendees applauded a presentation by Stapleton resident Mark Shaker to build a beer garden in Eastbridge—but they were not happy to hear Forest City wouldn't sell the land until plans for the larger parcel (including a grocery store) were finalized.

Aurora planning staff saw the *Front Porch* article about that meeting and contacted Shaker and partners to see if they would consider locating their beer garden in Aurora. By May 2014, word was out that they would purchase Stanley Aviation and have not just a beer hall, but an entire marketplace with over 40 businesses in the 120,000+ sf space. Now, after an almost three-year journey, the beer garden and the marketplace are becoming realities.

The Stanley Beer Hall, opening in September, will pay homage to the history of the building and the former Stanley Aviation site. An old tank found in the building will be retrofitted with 30 tap handles to serve beer from a "tap tower." The tap tower will stand behind an S-shaped bar near the multi-story west

window to serve patrons both inside and out. A row of original electrical boxes will decorate the north wall—and new long tables, custom designed by a nearby craftsman, will encourage guests to meet new friends and gather with old ones.

The old brick walls stand next to new south-facing sliding glass doors—and an assortment of tools and equipment found during renovation hang from the ceiling. A new insulated roof keeps the space cool in the summer and warm in the winter—and a mural commemorating the historical use of the building will greet visitors on a long wall as they enter. The mural is yet to be designed, but Shaker, part owner and spokesperson of Stanley Joint Venture (JV), says when they make decisions about Stanley Beer Hall, they keep in mind that Bob Stanley was an innovator and they want to incorporate elements that lend interest and unexpected surprise to the beer hall based on the building's history.

Numerous changes have taken place as Stanley has evolved...one of them being that the operator of Stanley Beer Hall will be 5280 Hospitality. Park Hill resident Dustin Skudlarek, owner of 5280, has been in the business for 18 years. He has launched 15



Above: Rendering shows the interior tree and surrounding seating.

Below: Four-top tables situated in south facing outdoor seating area.



Below: Mesh curtains will separate the community tables in the interior of the beer hall.



new concepts and has personally launched 60 restaurants.

His company operates restaurants for owners and works as a consultant with struggling or brand new restaurants.

Skudlarek's vision is to move away from the traditional Germanic style beer hall and

pay homage to Colorado and the West. The food will focus on organic, locally sourced

ingredients. In the future he wants to have a wood roaster outside for pig roasts—and they expect to offer some "grandiose" options to be shared by groups of 4 to 6. Although the menu is not yet final, most lunch prices are

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en in September



Left: Outdoor patio seating is located on the west side of the beer hall.

Right: Indoor bar featuring a "tap tower" (where glasses are shown here) will serve patrons inside and outdoors.



Renderings courtesy of Stanley Beer Hall



Above: Stanley Beer Hall will accommodate 150 diners inside and 150 diners outside.

Below: Shaker stands next to the adjacent Casita Brewing Co. tanks located next to the Stanley Beer Hall.



expected to range from \$7 to \$13 and dinner from \$12 to the low \$20s.

A rotating selection of about 30 product lines of craft beer from Colorado and the US will be offered along with other options including mix and match buckets of canned beer. Beer brewed by Casita Brewing Company, located about 15 feet from Stanley beer hall, will be among the selections. At Stanley Marketplace, cooperation among businesses is a key part of the vision. Skudlarek says they will produce all their own menu items, but

they will get ingredients from other Stanley businesses such as meat from the butcher for their homemade sausage and dough for pretzels from Rosenberg bagels.

Skudlarek has planned an open design so diners can see what they're doing in the kitchen—their cleanliness, energy and professional execution.

The large indoor space and two outdoor patios (south and west) will accommodate up to 150 diners inside and 150 outside (about double the size of the Lowry beer garden).

Seating choices include community tables, banquettes, four-top tables and bar stools. A live indoor tree will have bar type seating around the planter. The tree and a huge original garage-style door will merge the indoors and the outdoors—and an outdoor grass area will offer a place for children to play.

Businesses at the Stanley Marketplace are arranged to capture the natural sunlight during the busiest part of their day, with restaurants that serve breakfast situated with east-facing windows. The Stanley Beer Hall

is located in the southwest corner of the building by the south entrance, one of five exterior entrances to the Stanley Marketplace.

Stanley will serve lunch and dinner seven days a week and offer both an early and a late happy hour menu. Skudlarek says he'll personally be there full time for the first 3 – 6 months, adding "I'm putting my heart and soul into making sure this is a great hit."

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Local Chef Sees Her Dre

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Elise Wiggins' upcoming restaurant's name, "Cattivella" is a direct reflection of her personality. Translating to "the naughty, impish, mischievous little girl" in Italian, Wiggins' mother questioned the choice of the name. "You weren't like that, you were just curious," she said, to which Wiggins responded, "Then why was I grounded all the time?"

If Wiggins' name sounds familiar, it's probably because she's been a popular chef in Denver's restaurant scene, having spent the last twelve years as the Executive Chef and partner at Panzano restaurant inside Hotel Monaco. After saving and planning, and many requests from her neighbors in Stapleton, Wiggins is finally cooking up her own restaurant that calls on her love of Italy and the connections between people and food.

A Louisiana native, Wiggins' southern upbringing has been influential in her thoughts about food. Her dad taught her to fish, hunt and understand where food came from, respect it and not waste it. She also learned about the connections



Elise Wiggins cooks in a wood-fired oven in the back yard of her Stapleton home.

between people and food. Wiggins says get togethers were always a competition, with people becoming known for making

certain things like the best potato salad, fried squirrel or gumbo. "That's where my passion really started, being a young girl

seeing how everyone's eyes lit up whenever someone made the best whatever dish...I wanted to make people happy and hear

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am Coming True

'Elise makes the best whatever!' So I've pursued that since I was a little girl."

Other little-known facts about Elise Wiggins, the latest chef to announce the opening of a restaurant in November in the Eastbridge Town Center: She carved herself a desk out of a single piece of black walnut for her Stapleton home. She and fiancé Rachael Chaparro, have a chihuahua-rat terrier mix named Biscuit because he looks like one.

Cattivella will draw on everything Wiggins has learned on 40 or so trips to Italy over the years. But the common thread will be fire. "Everything in Italy all these years has been focused around the fire," says Wiggins. Cattivella's wood-fired oven and wood-fired grill, rare to have together in one restaurant, will be used to cook everything including steak, chicken, baked pasta, pizza, vegetables and brunch items like strata, a traditional layered dish of bread, cheese, prosciutto and egg. "Everything is slow food, kissed around wood fire at various levels of the life of the fire," she says. "It will always be living. The fire will never die."

Cattivella's architectural design will also call on Italian influences. "In Italy, after everybody leaves work, they go into a bar, start a tab, get a



A pasta, sausage and cheese dish prepared in Wiggins' traditional, Italian wood-fired oven.

glass of wine and then go out into the street, talking," she says. Here, liquor laws require people drink in an enclosed area so Wiggins designed a small bar with a spacious outdoor seating area to encourage camaraderie and conversation.

Inside, the most prominent feature will be the rectangular display kitchen where guests

can sit at a counter and watch all the action, interacting with the kitchen staff. "Why would you wall off where someone's making pasta, pastry or sausage or breaking down a shoulder of a pig?" Wiggins asks. Being so visible is also incentive for the kitchen crew because guests give them immediate gratification and connection.

There will be no televisions at Cattivella, another nod to Italian restaurant culture. Instead, a camera in the kitchen, projecting the action onto a wall, will be the entertainment so that every seat in the house sees what's going on. The camera projection will also enable Wiggins to include more people in cooking classes at the restaurant, which she currently holds in her home.

Wiggins is joining a group of male chef/ restaurateurs in the Eastbridge Town Center project but doesn't feel being a female chef will be an obstacle at all. "We have a bunch of super-successful female chefs in not just Denver but Colorado. We are no longer the rarity but part of the norm," she says.

Wiggins' feels Stapleton's burgeoning restaurant scene is indicative of the interests of the residents and calls the area "an oasis" for restaurants. "Normally, when you open a restaurant, you want a little space between you aren't right next to the competition. But this is going to be perfect synergy because we're all offering something different," says Wiggins. "We wouldn't do it if we didn't think it would be successful," she says.

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Landri Taylor: Familiar Face in New Job

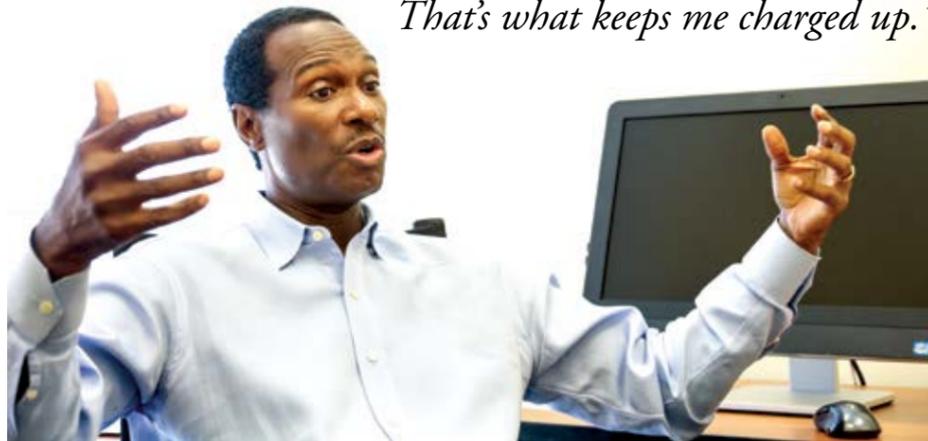
By John Fernandez

Landri Taylor has taken over as CEO of the Stapleton Foundation, succeeding long-time CEO Beverly Haddon on July 18. Taylor, 65, has been a fixture in Stapleton having worked with developer Forest City (2000-2009), lived in Stapleton and served on the foundation board for more than 10 years. Ironically, just this year Taylor resigned his school board position to move to Aurora and be closer to his children's families.

Taylor says his priority is "just to make sure that our existing programs continue to be strong. He says the foundation is "the best kept secret in this area of Denver," and he'd like that to change.

The foundation was created in 1990 when the entire framework for redeveloping the former Stapleton Airport site was being formulated. The foundation is seen as the long-term conscience of the 1995 Stapleton Development Plan, aka Green Book.

The foundation enjoys a permanent funding source comprised of a "community fee" collected at time of closing on the sale of residential and commercial properties in Stapleton. In 2015, the fee generated \$600,000. The foundation also supports itself with grants, amounting to \$1.3 million in 2015. In addition to a CEO, the foundation employs three full time staff and a number of contract employees.



CEO Landri Taylor says Stapleton Foundation will continue to focus on education and affordable housing.

The foundation's four initiatives are neighborhood connections, lifelong learning, health and wellness, and sustainable development. Taylor said as Stapleton moves closer to build-out, he wants to bring more emphasis to affordable housing and education. Regarding housing, Taylor wants to convene stakeholders to "really talk about the affordable housing goal that the developer has and how to assist the developer to get there." Taylor is monitoring the city of Denver's proposed "permanent housing fund" to find out how it might affect

the housing plan written into the development agreement between Forest City and the Stapleton Development Corporation.

His focus in education will be something he calls "educare," an "enhancement to daycare by providing pre-K educational instruction to children before kindergarten." Taylor wants to ensure that there are enough seats in the Denver Preschool Program "all over the Stapleton school area including the ring (surrounding) schools."

Taylor also spoke about "branding" Sta-

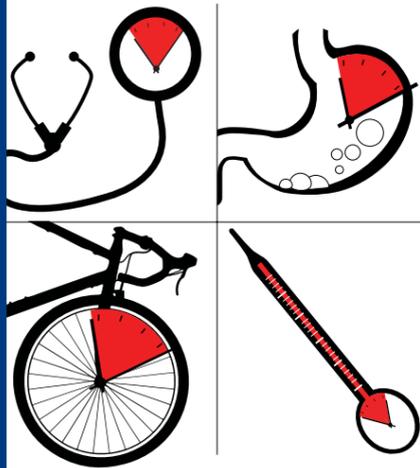
pleton neighborhoods. He said a "3,000 acre neighborhood is too big" and envisions a day when places names such as Conservatory Green, Eastbridge and Town Center will predominate over the "Stapleton" label and help with the integration of the former airport site into long-established neighborhoods such as Park Hill, Montclair and East Colfax.

In terms of organizational goals, Taylor will be evaluating the structural relationship between the foundation and two of its primary programs: *be well* Health and Wellness and Northeast Transportation Connections. NETC is already a 501(c)(3) organization and *be well* has applied for the same status: do they spin off or remain under the foundation umbrella?

Taylor said he also plans on increasing the transparency and accountability of the foundation through such measures as an annual report and more emphasis on metrics to help demonstrate the effectiveness of programs such as *be well*. "We should be proud to talk about what we do and how we do it especially since it was the communities around Stapleton that led to us being formed. It is our responsibility to talk about how we operate, what we do and how we use the resources that we bring into the foundation."

When asked what attracted him to the CEO position, Taylor said, "It's doing the impossible, to start dreaming and figure out how to get it done." He referred to a quote attributed to Walt Disney: It's fun to do the impossible. "That's what keeps me charged up."

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Popular Music and a Peaceful Night's Sleep Is there a sweet spot that allows both?

By Nick Hutchinson

Deep bass notes reverberate from Dick's Sporting Goods Park as a thunderous burst of applause roars into the summer sky. Thousands of revelers writhe to the pulsing beat under the cover of the Colorado night. It's another evening of live music at Dick's near North Stapleton. Artists including the popular electronic music deejay Bassnectar, the legendary jam band Phish and country star Luke Bryan enjoy the spacious and conveniently located sports arena—as do their fans—but what do the neighbors have to say about the music?

"We love the concerts at Dick's," says Meagan Partilla, who lives about a mile from the stadium in North Stapleton's Conservatory Green neighborhood. "My family and I like to enjoy the 'free' shows from the comfort of our front porch."

Despite Partilla's appreciation of the sound, other neighbors in closer proximity to Dick's are less enthusiastic.

"It can be very annoying, especially when it goes past 10pm," says Staci Harmon, who recently moved to the Willow Park East area just a few blocks from the Dick's complex. "It shouldn't go that late for the sake of people trying to sleep. We were told they don't hold a lot of concerts and that we wouldn't hear it, but we can hear it even with the windows closed. If it has a heavy bass, it vibrates the windows. I wouldn't mind so much if it didn't go so late, but some concerts have gone past midnight. When Phish comes in September, we plan to sleep in a motel for those three nights."

Harmon says that the regular sporting events at Dick's and the occasional fireworks displays do not bother her and her family but that these events pale in terms of impact when compared to the concerts. Yet while some lament the location of their homes during the multiday music runs, the presence



Lorin Ashton, better known under his stage name, Bassnectar, is an American DJ and record producer known for his bass and sub-bass decibel levels. Photo by aLIVE

of a world-class stadium near Stapleton is considered a plus by neighbors including the adjacent Rocky Mountain Wildlife Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

"Dick's is a big positive for our local economy and we see lots of visitors swinging by before and after various events," says director at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge Dave Lucas. "We haven't observed any issues from music and wildlife, but we do dislike the multiday concerts where there is camping. The camping scene has resulted in increased issues for our law enforcement officers. It can get pretty intense with drugs and alcohol and all that goes along with people hanging around without a lot to do in between the shows. Most people behave, but the refuge is not staffed to provide 24-hour security, EMS, etc., for the ones who do not."

Lucas says the wildlife refuge added additional officers for the two Bassnectar concerts at the end of July and that it will do the same for the upcoming September Phish shows, as it has done in the past.

Morrison have imposed curfews for shows. The recent Dead & Company events at Folsom Field had an 11pm. cutoff, and Red Rocks shows end no later than 11:45pm on weekdays and 12:30am on weekends and holidays. Red Rocks has also set volume limits on the popular electronic dance music known as EDM. Residents of Morrison complain of rattling windows during the bass-heavy performances.

Dick's says their shows will end between midnight and 12:30am and that they are aware of the sound elements associated with the live music and are working with all respective parties to manage the experience in the venue and surrounding areas.

The intensity of sound is measured in decibels (dB).
 – The softest sound the human ear can hear is 0 dB.
 – Normal talking volume is between 40-60 dB.
 – Rock concerts are generally between 110-120 dB.
 Some shows reach as high as 140 dB.

"They keep plenty busy," he says of the officers. "Unfortunately, this is an unrecoverable cost, which means we end up doing less of something else that we are supposed to do."

Other complaints of nearby residents include the use of surrounding neighborhoods for free parking and the related littering by concert-goers, though some neighbors point out that homebuyers knew what they were in for when they purchased properties close to the venue.

"The stadium was present long before they bought their homes," says Partilla. "People who complain about the noise need to go buy a sound dampening machine. Though I understand that the closer you are to the stadium the more intense it can be."

To address neighborhood concerns, venues such as Boulder's Folsom Field and Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre in

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Behind Addiction: Complex Issues and Fa

By Nick Hutchinson

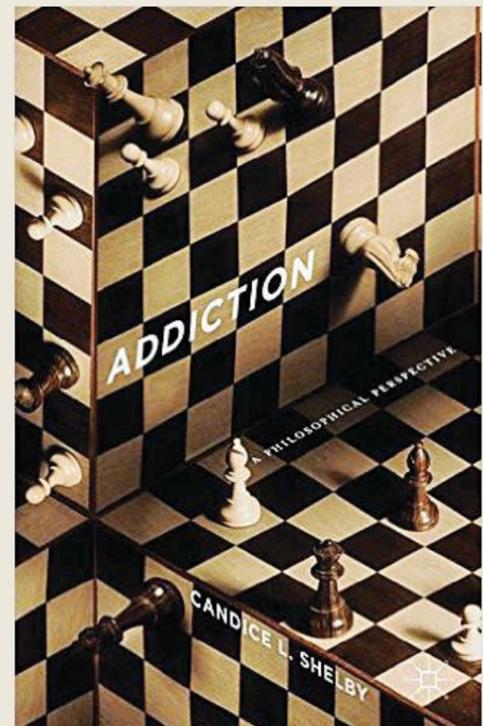
“I chose to write my book because my father died of a heart attack as the result of smoking” says CU Denver Associate Philosophy Professor Candice Shelby. “My mother died on a ventilator after suffering from an addiction to prescription pills; and my sister died at 42 from street drugs.”

Shelby’s recently published book, *Addiction*, examines the complex causes of a phenomenon that is often misunderstood.

“At the bottom of many addiction disorders is anxiety or depression,” says Shelby. “A person for whom the world feels dangerous and scary and who ingests a substance that has a calming effect or has sex, or wins a gamble, feels a vast difference between his or her norm and their state after use. The more these positive effects are felt, the more the substance or activity will come to mean relief, safety, or exaltation. It’s important to understand that addiction is not a single thing, it’s a complex group of disorders.”

Professionals in the field of mental health hold a variety of viewpoints as to the causes of addiction, yet most agree that environmental factors play a role. Assistant professor of psychology at the University of Colorado Denver, Erik Oleson, says that stress is a powerful driver behind disorders and that the availability of substances also impacts usage.

“Stress is a big risk factor in our society,” says Oleson. “Learning healthy approaches to deal with it can help reduce susceptibility to addiction, but there are no quick fixes. Alcohol is the most abused drug in the United States because it is the most accessible drug—it is also quite cheap. Who doesn’t want a beer, the world’s oldest anxiolytic, after a stressful day? Opiates are a rising problem because of the accessibility of prescription narcotics and a new wave of heroin hitting the streets that is potent, accessible and relatively cheap. Cannabis use will likely increase in the Denver area because the drug is more available.”



Candice Shelby’s recently published book, *Addiction*, says other issues, such as anxiety, depression and ADHD underlie addiction.

Choice of substance or activity aside, many addicts would agree that the source of their issues run deep and that getting beyond their problem is no small feat.

“There was a lot behind the scenes that I had to clean up and deal with,” says Tom, a recovering alcoholic who asked not to use his full name and who has been sober for the past four years. “I guess I just wasn’t comfortable in my own skin. Alcohol provided an amazing solution. Drinking smoothed things out. It made me not have to deal with myself. It’s one of the age-old adages. You stop maturing at the point when you begin drinking alcoholically. The toughest part of sobering up was having to walk through my social awkwardness and my various moods all on life’s terms.”

Tom struggled with his drinking for years and finally reached out to his family, who initially were supportive. “The problems came when I wasn’t successful after my first rehab,” he explains. “My mother completely cut me off when I didn’t stay sober. Once when I was stuck in a psych ward, they called her and I was on speaker, she said, ‘throw away the key.’”

Families and friends of addicts wonder how to best assist loved ones who wrestle with addictions and the answer isn’t always clear. Some therapists suggest tough love, while others say a good approach is to simply be there for them. According to Denver Rose Medical Center clinical psychologist Susan Heitler, author of the book *Prescriptions Without Pills: For Relief from Depression, Anger, Anxiety and More*, addicts tend to be more motivated by what might be construed as

families in Pain



Photo provided by Candice Shelby

Candice Shelby, CU Denver Associate Professor of Philosophy

negative input. “Saying ‘I love you’ can have less impact than saying ‘I’m leaving,’” she says. “It’s tough on relationships.”

The most challenging obstacle for those close to addiction can be admitting that a relation has a problem and then learning how to accept that it is out of their control.

“Part of it was ignorance,” says Lisa, the mother of a child who struggled with misuse of alcohol and marijuana in high school and became a heroin addict in college. “How could my son, who went to a nice school in a nice part of town possibly be a drug user?! When I thought of heroin addicts I thought of scary people who hang out under bridges. I didn’t realize it could be my son or the kid next door. But eventually he got into trouble with the police and things came to a head.”

Lisa’s son was presented with a choice: do jail time or attend a drug rehabilitation program. He chose the latter and started on the lengthy path to recovery, during which time he relapsed and began using again.

“It’s a long process and relapse is part of the disease. It almost always happens,” she says. “There can always be a slip. There is no guarantee. You have to understand that their addiction has nothing to do with you or how the addict feels about you. One of the best things I learned through Nar-Anon (Narcotics Anonymous) was what they call the three Cs: you didn’t cause it, you can’t control it and you can’t cure it. And if someone doesn’t want to get help you can’t make them. As a parent you cannot do anything until your child comes to a place where they want to stop. With addiction, each side has its own terrible pain. The funny thing is I went to Nar-Anon thinking it would save him, but it wound up saving me. Being able to admit in a group setting that my child was an addict was very freeing.”

Recovery groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA), provide critical assistance for people in the process of coping with addiction. And for

those who prefer a strictly secular approach to recovery, programs such as LifeRing offer help in similar group settings.

“In general, I think recovery groups are necessary and rewarding,” says Kathleen Gargan, a recovering drinker who is 35 years sober and who served on LifeRing’s national board of directors and was the organization’s executive director for a year. “It’s pretty easy to go to a meeting once a week, and if that helps me stay sober I’m absolutely willing to do it even after 35 years.”

Recovering alcoholic Bill K, who lost his marriage due to alcoholism and is a member of AA, says he now attends a group meeting every day.

“I’ve been sober since 2012, and my divorce was directly related to my addiction to alcohol,” says Bill. “I was hiding my drinking from my wife to try and maintain the harmony in our relationship. But the harmony included a lie. The disease started when I started covering it up. Dishonesty is part of the cancer of addiction. As my addiction got worse the lies got worse. By the time I stopped drinking I was close to dying. I loved my wife and still love her but I could not be part of a relationship until I pulled myself together. I got help from lots of different sources,

including AA. I go to a meeting almost every day and I like to sponsor people. Secrecy is a big part of addiction. It doesn’t matter what you’re addicted to, if you’re secret about it you’ve got a problem.”

Resources:

- www.palgrave.com/us/book/9781137552846
- prescriptionswithoutpills.com
- www.aa.org
- www.na.org
- lifering.org/blog

“I was hiding my drinking from my wife to try and maintain the harmony in our relationship. But the harmony included a lie ... Secrecy is a big part of addiction. It doesn’t matter what you’re addicted to, if you’re secret about it you’ve got a problem.”



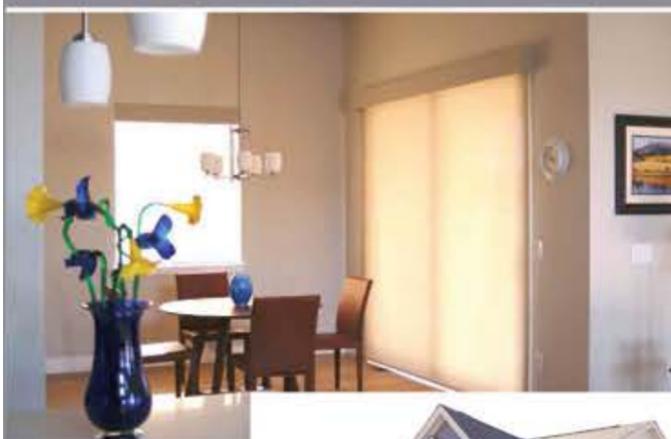
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Find the Immuniz

Denver parents can quickly check immunization rates for their local schools using a comprehensive database compiled by Chalkbeat Colorado, an online news organization covering education issues.

The following article by Chalkbeat reporter Ann Schimke has been edited by permission to appear in the Front Porch.

Starting this fall, parents who opt their children out of shots for personal or religious reasons will have to work a little harder than they have in years past.

That's because of new state rules that advocates hope will push up Colorado's immunization rates, which are among the lowest in the country.

The new rules also lay the groundwork for a more comprehensive state-run immunization database expected to go live next spring. That database, available to the public, will include immunization and exemption rates for not just Colorado schools but also licensed child care providers.

Public health advocates say giving parents access to immunization data helps them gauge the risk of communicable disease outbreaks and make informed choices about where to send their children for school or child care.

Among the findings from Chalkbeat's immunization database:

- Nine of 18 northeast Denver elementary and middle schools had immunization rates of 90 percent or better.

Rocky Mountain Arsenal Five-Year Review Report Available for Public Comment

The U.S. Army recently prepared its fourth Five-Year Review (FYR) draft final report for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA). This process covers a statutory and policy review of the RMA's 1995 Off-Post and 1996 On-Post Records of Decision (RODs). The RODs provide detailed descriptions of the cleanup approach selected for the site.

The purpose of the FYR is to determine whether the RMA's remedy continues to be protective of public health and the environment. A critical part of the FYR is to determine if any changes to standards have occurred and to determine if the remedy outlined in the RODs and subsequent decision documents remains protective in light of any new standards.

FYRs at the RMA will be required for the foreseeable future, since the cleanup approach included on-site landfills and consolidation areas to hold contaminated waste from the RMA's cleanup. These areas total approximately 1,000 acres and are managed and monitored by the U.S. Army.

In keeping with the RMA's commitment to public involvement, the Army is seeking input on this report. Written comments are due by Aug. 24, 2016. All public comments received by that date will be reviewed and considered in the final report as part of the RMA site record.

The document is available at the following locations and online at www.rma.army.mil:

- Joint Administrative Records and Document Facility: Rocky Mountain Arsenal, 6550 Gateway Road, Building 129, Commerce City, CO 80022-1749. (Please call 303.289.0300 to schedule an appointment.)
- Anythink Commerce City Library: 7185 Monaco St., Commerce City, CO 80022
- Denver Public Library, Montbello Branch: 12955 Albrook Dr, Denver, CO 80239

Please submit comments and questions to: Patty Lee, Rocky Mountain Arsenal, 6550 Gateway Road, Building 129, Commerce City, CO 80022-1749. Ph:303.289.0300 Email: Patty.L.lee6.civ@mail.mil. For more information about the Five-Year Review, visit online at www.rma.army.mil.

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Immunization Rate at Your School

(Immunization rates of 90-95 percent within a group help protect that group from disease, especially people who can't be vaccinated because they are too young or have a medical condition.)

- Relatively few northeast Denver parents exempt their kids from shots—exemption rates at 17 of the 18 schools range from 1-5 percent.
- In Denver overall, about 56 percent of more than 200 schools have immunization rates of 90 percent or better, and only six schools have exemption rates higher than 10 percent.
- In neighboring Aurora, nearly two-thirds of more than 50 schools have immunization rates of 90 percent or better, and only one has an exemption rate higher than 10 percent.
- Compliance rates—an indicator of how hard schools are working to make sure they have students' immunization or exemption paperwork—improved at about 45 percent of Colorado schools in Chalkbeat's database in 2015-16.

Stricter requirements for opting out

The new immunization rules, which took effect in July, will require parents who excuse their children from shots for personal or religious reasons to do so more often.

Parents of K-12 children will be required to submit the exemption forms annually and parents of younger children will need to submit the forms up to five times prior to kindergarten. (There will be no change to the process for claiming a medical exemption from shots.)

Previously, parents often had to submit the forms only once during their child's educational career.

Public health experts say the more stringent requirements will help reduce exemptions claimed out of convenience rather than conviction and help push down Colorado's higher-than-average exemption rates. Parents opposed to the change have argued that they think carefully about their vaccine decisions and shouldn't have to jump extra bureaucratic hurdles.

While some school health leaders say they like the idea of sharing school immunization rates with the public, it can be a lot of extra work for school nurses and no additional funding came with the data collection requirement.

Required immunizations

(unless parent signs exemption)

- Hepatitis B
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
- Tetanus
- Diphtheria
- Haemophilus Influenza Type B (HIB)
- Pneumococcal disease
- Polio
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Varicella (Chickenpox)

Read the entire article by Ann Schimke at Chalkbeat.org/co > Search "wide gulfs in vaccination rates"

Access Chalkbeat's immunization database at Chalkbeat.org/co > Search "2015-16 immunization rates"

This article at FrontPorchStapleton.com includes links to additional information from Chalkbeat, including the State of Colorado's new immunization regulations.



Immunization rates*	
94	Westerly Creek Ele
94	Park Hill Ele
93	Hallett Fundamental Academy Ele
93	Montclair School of Academics & Enrichment Ele
93	Swigert Int'l Ele
92	Lowry Ele
91	Bill Roberts
91	Denver School of the Arts Middle
90	McAuliffe Int'l Middle
89	Denver Discovery Middle
89	Isabella Bird Community Ele
89	Stedman Ele
87.8	Smith Renaissance Ele
86	DSST: Stapleton Middle
85	High Tech Ele
85	Hill Campus of Arts & Sciences Middle
84	DSST: Conservatory Green Middle
80	Odyssey Ele

- **Immunization rate** — The percentage of students who are fully immunized.

Visit FrontPorchStapleton.com for an expanded NE Denver chart that also includes:

- **Exemption rate** — The percentage of students whose parents have opted them out of some or all required shots.
- **Compliance rate** — The percentage of students who have gotten all required immunizations, have signed exemption forms, or are "in process" of getting up to date on their immunizations.

*from Chalkbeat database



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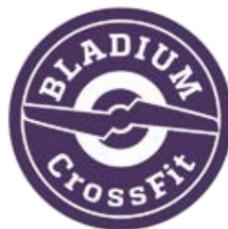


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Local Author Shares Lifelong Struggle with Dyslexia

By Nick Hutchinson

While people might be surprised to learn that a published author has dyslexia, Stapleton resident and author of middle school fantasy fiction Anthony Kerr has struggled with the learning disability all his life.

“There is nothing like tackling a task that seemed impossible when you were growing up, such as writing a book, and actually accomplishing it,” says Kerr, who published his first novel, *The Dragon Rustler*, last year. “I was lucky enough to have had a teacher that attended a seminar on dyslexia over the summer before I started first grade. Within a month, she recognized that I was struggling with reading and writing.”

According to the Dyslexia Research Institute, 10 to 15 percent of the U.S. population has dyslexia, and approximately 60 percent of those diagnosed with the disorder also have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

“My teacher realized that I was compen-

spell-check substitutes in a word that visually looks similar to what I intended but is a different word altogether.”

For many people with dyslexia and ADHD, their condition can limit their ability to find jobs if they have not had proper diagnosis and help. Despite his struggle with dyslexia, Kerr has held high-level positions in the technology industry, where his skill for thinking creatively was often rewarded.

“When I started working in corporate America, my managers quickly discovered I had a knack for giving presentations. I was funny, quick on my feet, and I spoke naturally, almost in a conversational manner. But what they didn’t realize is this was a coping strategy developed over the years to hide a deep embarrassment for not being able to read out loud. If I had to read from a script, a teleprompter, or even a simple list of names for awards and recognition, I would struggle, often covering up my mistakes with a joke or two.”

Kerr says most people with dyslexia go through school without being diagnosed with a



Anthony Kerr, shown in his upstairs home office in Stapleton, drew the cartoon on his splash page depicting writers’ block, the bane of an author’s life.

sating through memorization to keep up with the rest of the class. I would memorize whole books that were being read to me and recite them back as if I were reading them myself. I won a reading award in kindergarten for being so proficient, but in reality, I couldn’t read.”

He says that technology has helped to even the playing field for him, making it possible to pursue a career as an author.

“The advent of spell-checker changed my life, but only if I can get a word close enough to what I intend. Words like ‘different’ or ‘unconscious’ usually take me two or three tries. Also, utilizing text-to-speech, I can have the computer read back to me what I have written to check for errors that my eyes easily skip over. I can’t tell you how many times

learning disability. “They either struggle, being labeled as dumb or lazy, or drop out altogether. The hardest part of having dyslexia—and I have to believe other specific learning disabilities—is the shame you feel at being different. I don’t think that ever truly leaves you.”

Kerr’s second book of his fantasy series is soon to be released and he says he plans to keep writing. “Technology aside, nothing can substitute for a supportive group of friends and family who help and cheer you on as you tackle something challenging,” he says.

Anthony A. Kerr is the author of *The Dragon Rustler* (Cowboys and Dragons Book 1) and the soon-to-be-released *The Dragon Riders* (Cowboys and Dragons Book 2). Visit www.aakerr.com.

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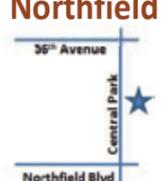
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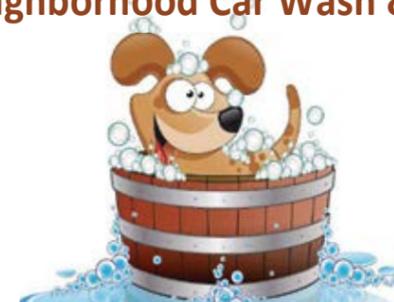
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Nathan Lepore (left) and DSST classmate Max Alger-Meyer are pictured with a park ranger in Rwanda. Lepore and Alger-Meyer taught the rangers how to use and maintain the drone they invented and donated. Photo courtesy of Nathan Lepore

DSST Students Take Drone They Invented to Rwanda

By Nick Hutchinson

“It was an incredible experience,” said recent DSST graduate and Stapleton resident Nathan Lepore after returning from his recent trip to Rwanda. “It made me feel like a part of the global community.”

The aspiring engineer traveled to Africa with his former DSST classmate and fellow drone-designer Max Alger-Meyer and a small group of rising DSST seniors to donate an unmanned aircraft to employees of the Akagera National Park. While in Rwanda, Lepore and Alger-Meyer trained park rangers how to use their craft, which assists in the monitoring and tracking of lions, elephants, leopards and rare birds at the wildlife refuge.

“They picked up the construction of our drone really quickly,” he says. “The flying part was trickier, but we also brought over a smaller practice one that they used to get the hang of it. By the end, they had it.”

Lepore and the group from DSST flew to Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, from Denver in June. Their flight path took them to Washington, D.C., and then to Brussels before finally landing in Africa. Once there, it took the group two days to get clearance for their crafts through the Rwandan Aviation Authority. He explains that their drone, which was originally inspired when Alger-Meyer visited the 1,200-square-kilometer Akagera park last summer, was first conceived to help combat poaching in the preserve. But after more reflection he and Alger-Meyer decided that a drone could also work for overall animal monitoring and population counts.

“It was really cool for me as an American who leads a different kind of life, to take my ideas and partner with the people there to generate change,” he says. “As the technology for drones expands people are seeing that there are some very green uses for them, including conservation.”

Lepore says every four years the park rents a helicopter to conduct population counts for its animals, but that the drone can do the task more easily and for less money.

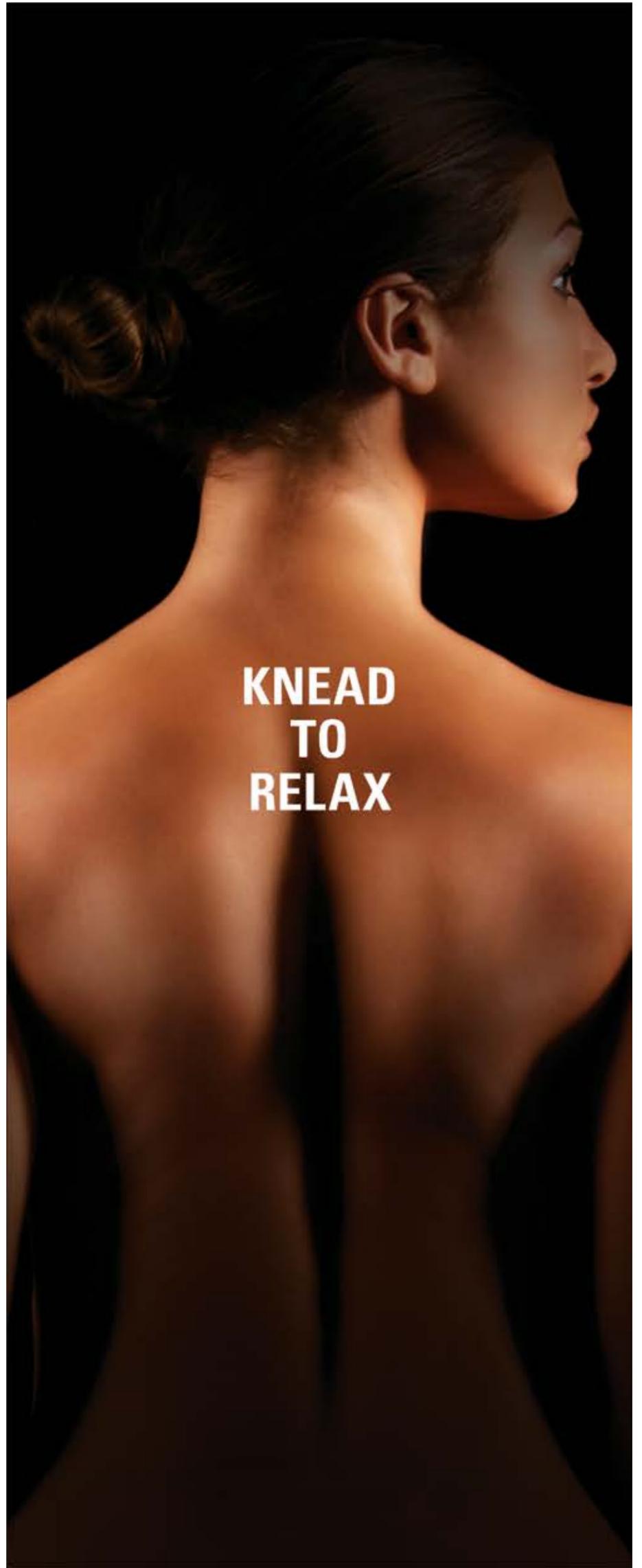
“It might not entirely replace the helicopter, as it can only stay up for about 30 minutes. But with the help of its camera it’s definitely useful for monitoring areas like the swamp that the rangers can’t walk through and also the large savanna areas. If the drone goes down in the swamp and gets fully submerged that’s not good. But most of the electronic components aren’t that expensive and can be replaced and the rest of it is very durable.”

Lepore and company visited a few schools while there and also spent some time in nearby Uganda. “Some people there think that all Americans are rich and are there just to help them in a financial way. We were asked not give money to local kids, so as not to perpetuate that kind of thinking.

The places we stayed were receptive and very welcoming. Akagera is similar to a US national park in that people pay to go in and visit. The prince of Belgium first dedicated the park strictly for conservation when Rwanda was still a colony. In the late ’90s, after the Rwandan genocide, it started to become a tourist oriented site and efforts were put in place to take better care of it and increase tourism.

The majority of its visitors are local. Even though they live in a country where big game animals are indigenous, many of them have never seen any. It’s nice to be a part of helping them to learn more about the park and to realize its importance in their lives.”

Lepore is headed to Olin College of Engineering in Massachusetts, where he also plans to study business and entrepreneurship.



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The Jolly Flatboatmen by George Caleb Bingham captures a spontaneous outburst of dance. (1846)

By Carol Roberts

Dancing—whether on a stage or a spontaneous gesture of joy in the moment, and however simple or elaborate—is ephemeral. It comes to an end. *Rhythm & Roots, Dance in American Art* at the Denver Art Museum (DAM) celebrates how artists since the early 1800s have preserved our country's dance traditions.

African Americans and immigrants brought dance from

their cultures that merged in the U.S. melting pot to form distinctly American dances. Think percussive stomps, Irish jigs and Italian tarantellas sharing the same sidewalks.

The exhibit guides visitors through the many eras of dance in the U.S.:

"Swing dance and syncopated jazz rhythms grew out of the American nightclub scene between the 1920s and 1940s."

Rhythm & at DAM until Oct. 2



Study for "Negro Boy Dancing": The Boy by Thomas Eakins. (1877)



The Egyptian Dancers by Anne Rice captures the production of Cleopatra. (1910)



The Harlem Renaissance in the 1920s and 30s depicted the jazz age as "a dignified and modern African American Culture—a counterpoint to the derogatory stereotypes of the time."

The exhibit moves to stage performances and celebrity dancers, from ballet to Spanish dancing—and collaborations between dancers and artists. From a collaboration between dancer Merce Cunningham and artist Jasper

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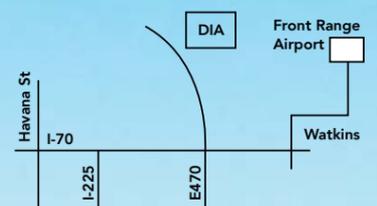
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Yet another concurrent dance exhibit is the interactive #dancelab on Level 2. Kids love it. They stand in front of a camera and imitate dance movements on the screen (as shown by the boy dancing below). Those images are then projected onto a wall in a large space where kids can just watch or dance along.

The Movement Studio on Level 1 offers three art projects for kids. The photo at bottom shows the step-by-step process of moving a figure to create an animation. Kids can also make a puppet or paint using whole body movements to create their art.

And you can't miss seeing the big outdoor installation, *In Motion*, as you enter the museum.

All the Dancel! exhibitions and programs are included in museum admission, which is free for youth 18 and younger.

Johns, visitors can view a Cunningham performance with an Andy Warhol floating sculpture, *Silver Clouds*, as the stage design. The room full of the helium-filled silver balloons visible behind the screen (above) is open for visitors to dance along gently.

A separate exhibit, *Why We Dance*, American Indian Art in Motion, celebrates the many ways dance is significant in Native American culture: ceremonial, religious and social purposes as well as for competition and performance.

Above: Merce Cunningham Dance performance with Andy Warhol's *Silver Clouds*.

Below left: Elaborate Grass Dance and Fancy Dance costumes are part of the *Why We Dance* exhibit.



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Focus on Affordable Housing Intensifies

By John Fernandez

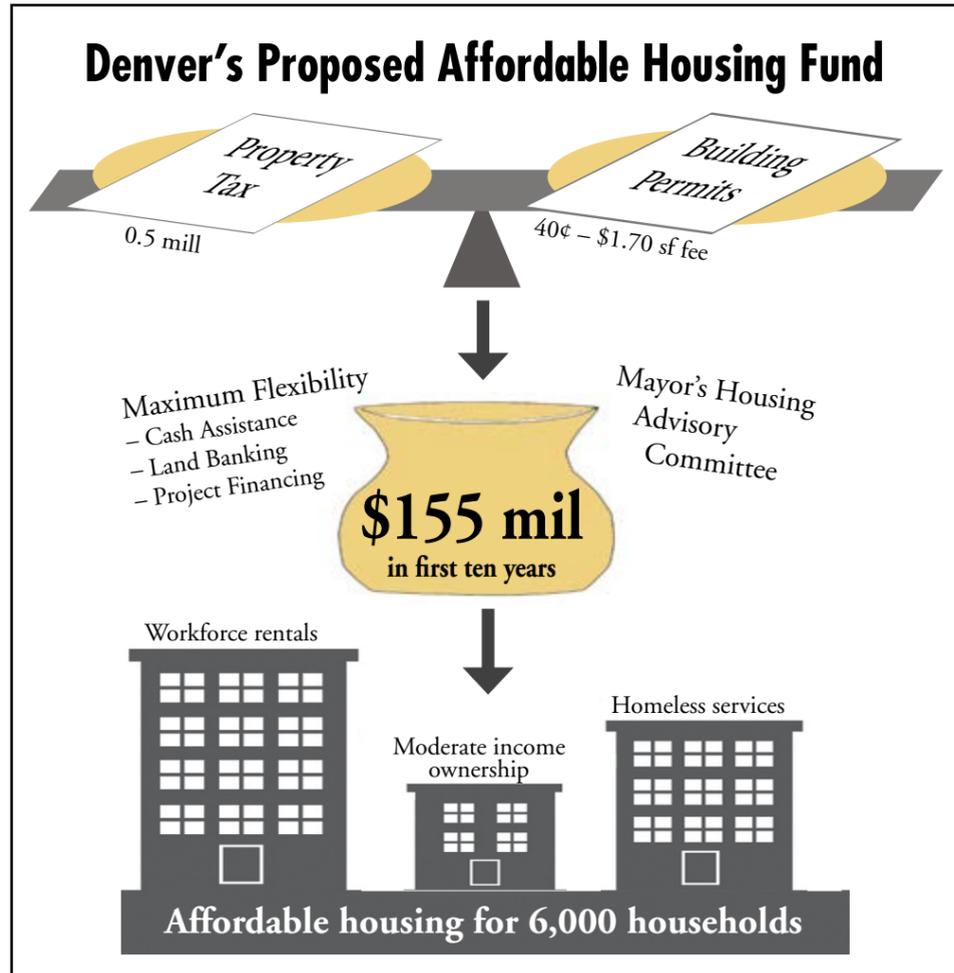
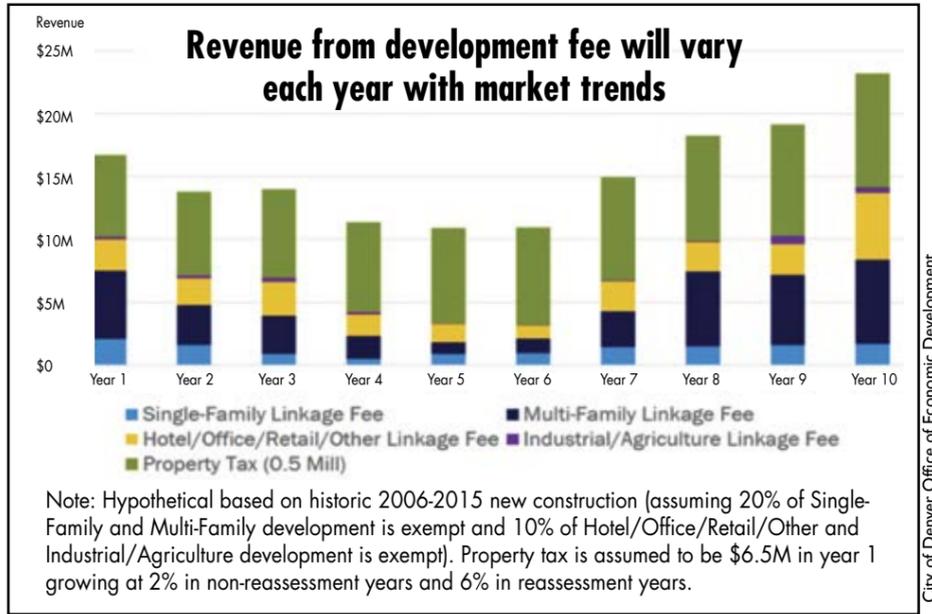
Mayor Hancock says Denver has a housing crisis. He points to the headlines we've all seen: Denver's relentless growth (1000 net new residents per month), the national attraction to both millennials and baby boomers, the sky-rocketing home values and rents, and the increasing number of households who are "cost-burdened," i.e., those spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing. The current estimate is 87,000 cost-burdened households.

This is why he appeared at North High School on July 21 for a public meeting to explain and advocate for a permanent housing

fund that would raise \$155 million over the next 10 years to build or preserve 6,000 affordable units.

What are the sources of revenue for the affordable housing fund?

Denver wants to create a permanent and stable fund that would have maximum flexibility (e.g., cash assistance, project financing, land-banking). Persons or households earning 80 per cent or less of the area median income (AMI) would be eligible for rental assistance. Persons or households earning up to 120% of AMI would be eligible for affordable ownership assistance. Funding would derive roughly equally from a 0.5 mill property tax and a development impact (linkage) fee. For homeowners,



the property tax rate hike (already approved by voters, now awaiting approval by City Council) would cost about \$12 a year on a median home valued at \$300,000. Four proposed development fees range from 40¢ to \$1.70 per square foot, depending on the type of new building or expansion project. The fee would apply to existing dwellings that are expanded. Exempted projects would include affordable housing projects, government buildings, projects being developed by nonprofits for homeless individuals and replacement homes following catastrophic events. The fees would take effect at time of building permit issuance starting January 1, 2017. Decisions on expenditures of the new funds would be made by a Mayor's Housing Advisory Committee to be named.

How would this affect Denver's current inclusionary housing ordinance?

If approved, the residential development fee would replace Denver's current Inclusionary Housing Ordinance (IHO) that requires developers of projects with 30 or more units to set aside 10 percent of the units for affordable housing, with a payment-in-lieu opt out. Existing developer agreements would not be affected.

When might this proposal take effect?

This proposal is on a fast track with first council reading of the adopting ordinance set for August 22. Second and final reading of the ordinance would occur August 29 according to the current schedule.

What is the likelihood of this proposal being adopted?

If the July 21 public meeting is any indication, there appears to be strong support from the public for the proposal. Based on instant polling (hand clickers), 90 percent of the 168 participating attendees deemed it "critical" or "important" for Denver to dedicate new local funding for affordable housing. A strong majority also indicated the emphasis for fund use should be on rental housing with only 12 percent advocating its use for homeownership. A large majority also favored increasing the overall fund size by increasing the development impact fee (but not the property tax). The proposal is being spearheaded by the mayor and councilmembers Robin Kniech and Albus Brooks. Councilman Herndon has said he believes this proposal hasn't been fully vetted and believes August is too soon for council to act.

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Proposed Fund Raises Questions for Affordable Housing in Stapleton

By John Fernandez

Affordable housing has been an issue of abiding interest in Stapleton as rental and affordable for-sale units have lagged behind the goals established in the development agreement with Denver in 2001.

The city's development agreement states that Forest City "will develop or cause to be developed" such housing "at a pace reasonably consistent with the pace of development of market rate housing at Stapleton." The agreement also assumes that a "public subsidy" will be required to implement affordable housing here. The agreement does *not* identify what entity is ultimately responsible for finding funds to build affordable units.

The city's ability to enforce the affordable housing portion of the development agreement appears to be limited to the ability of the Stapleton Development Corporation to delay or stop land sales of the former Stapleton Airport site to Forest City. SDC has chosen not to exercise that power. Meanwhile, federal funding available for affordable housing has been decreasing over the years.

These factors have led to a current situation where affordable for-sale is half of the stated goal of 10% of all homes.

Through the first quarter, rental units are currently less than 19% of all units—as compared to the Stapleton Development Plan's statement that 33% of all units would be rental. Forest City asserts that 33% was only a projection and, in any case, the eventual mix of rental vs. for sale is a function of the market. But with a requirement that 20% of all rental be affordable, CAB believes the affordable rental goal is meaningless without a firm commitment to 33% rental as stated in the development plan. CAB has been critical of Forest City for a perceived over-emphasis on single family detached housing particularly given the Denver area's strong rental market the past several years.

What impact would this housing fund

have on Forest City's contribution

to affordable housing in Stapleton?

Would we be getting less money for affordable housing or more money?

—Jim Wagenlander, CAB Member



Mayor Hancock speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony for NE Denver Housing's Spruce Townhomes along Martin Luther King Blvd. in January 2014.

How would this proposal affect development of affordable housing in Stapleton?

In response to a question from the *Front Porch*, staff from Denver's Office of Economic

Development told the audience at a recent public meeting the ordinance would not apply to places such as Stapleton where a pre-existing agreement addressing affordable housing is in place with developers. However, without a draft ordinance to review, important details are

unknown, for example: Could the city impose the 0.5 property tax mill levy while exempting the impact fee? Could the linkage fee be imposed only on commercial projects but not residential projects? Would Stapleton properties be billed the .5 mill tax levy if the tax funds weren't used in Stapleton because it has a pre-existing affordable housing agreement that overrides the new proposal? Would the city be willing to spend

fund revenues in Stapleton despite exempting Forest City from the new program?

On July 21, Forest City spokesperson Tom Gleason told the Stapleton Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) that his company will continue to monitor the proposal but pointed to a clause in the 2001 Stapleton Development Agreement that states the "Affordable Housing Plan shall be deemed to be in lieu of any City regulatory requirements for affordable housing that the City may adopt subsequent to the Effective Date."

CAB expressed a desire to weigh in on the proposal but noted the City Council may take action on an ordinance before the next CAB meeting in August. City Council Member Chris Herndon told CAB he doesn't understand the "urgency" driving the council schedule on this item: "Several layers of the housing onion have not been fully vetted." He said he would push to delay the August council action.

CAB also reiterated its interest in seeing from Forest City a "master plan map" that illustrates the location and amount of land set aside for affordable housing in Stapleton in enough detail to be assured that, at build-out, the community will in fact have enough land to

meet the affordable housing goals. Parcels of interest include the 33 acres of vacant land located immediately south of the Central Park station, a site zoned for mixed use and high density. CAB chair David Netz said this map is especially important given the pace of development in Stapleton and the likelihood that build-out will reach 14,000 dwelling units, up from the original projection of 12,000 residences.

Front Porch observations:

Last fall, the SDC stated it would adopt an action plan early in 2016 to ensure that Stapleton's affordable housing goals would be met. We have yet to see any such plan.

Now, the city's proposed permanent housing fund raises a new set of questions. While it has been stated that the fund will not impact Forest City's development agreement, this doesn't answer questions of the development fee and property tax applicability within Stapleton (see above). If such revenue is collected within Stapleton, it is reasonable to expect that some portion of those revenues could be expended for affordable housing projects in Stapleton. Would this constitute the "public subsidy" contemplated in the Stapleton Development Agreement? If so, what effect would this have on the subsidies that Forest City states it has been making to Stapleton affordable housing projects? If Forest City felt less need to provide those subsidies, adoption of this permanent housing fund might result in no net improvement in financial support for affordable housing projects in Stapleton.

This is why the Stapleton CAB has requested of Forest City an accounting of the subsidies it says it has been contributing to affordable housing. Forest City has so far declined to provide this information with spokesman Tom Gleason saying, "We don't want to do it. Each individual project requires a certain amount of support and that is between us and the developer." CAB says it needs this information to assess whether the city's proposed permanent fund will have any net benefit for affordable housing in Stapleton.

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The Indie Prof
Film reviews by Vincent Piturro

Each month, the Indie Prof reviews a current film in the theater and a second film or series available on DVD or an instant-streaming service.

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

As the dog days of summer continue, check out one of the last two Science Fiction Film Series screenings, both on Wednesdays at 7pm: King Kong (8/3) at the Sie Film Center, and The Matrix (8/10) on the IMAX screen at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. We discuss the film and science as well!

Into The Forest (2015)

Ellen Page read *Into the Forest*, the book by wonderful author Jean Hegland, on the recommendation of a small bookstore owner. Some of my favorite reads have been found this way, and the advice of such booksellers is one of those precious things that may soon become extinct. So enjoy those moments while you can. Page enjoyed it so much she worked hard to turn the book into the film. And the results are quite good.

Set in the near future, a massive power outage forces sisters Nell (Ellen Page) and Eva (Evan Rachel Wood) to survive on their own. They live in a house far away from town, and after several forays into that town, they decide to wait out the crisis in their secluded home. It is a post-apocalyptic story without the aliens or the whatever-it-is-that-caused-it. It is the story of two sisters trying to survive, and even more urgently, just trying to get along. Rarely

do you see a similar genre film that focuses on the lives of women, and rarer still do we see one that focuses on the details of their lives.

Page and Wood are very good, but the stars here are the direction and the cinematography. Good acting inevitably means good direction, and Canadian-born filmmaker Patricia Rozema shines here. Good direction also means great cinematography, carefully placed settings, and visual metaphor. The best moments of the film are the simplest, where we understand the relationship between the sisters through the settings and composition of each shot. This attention to detail and the focus on female characters reminds of the great Swedish director Ingmar Bergman, also a master at composition.

If you need the type of film that gives you all the answers and gives all the reasons for everything that happens,

this may not be your film. If you might like a unique take on a popular genre seen through the eyes of usually neglected characters/types, then this is your film. Normally the cinematic dog days of summer are full of big-budget action films or kids movies. This is a treat for the grown-ups in the middle of the summer.

Get that babysitter scheduled and get out to the theater!

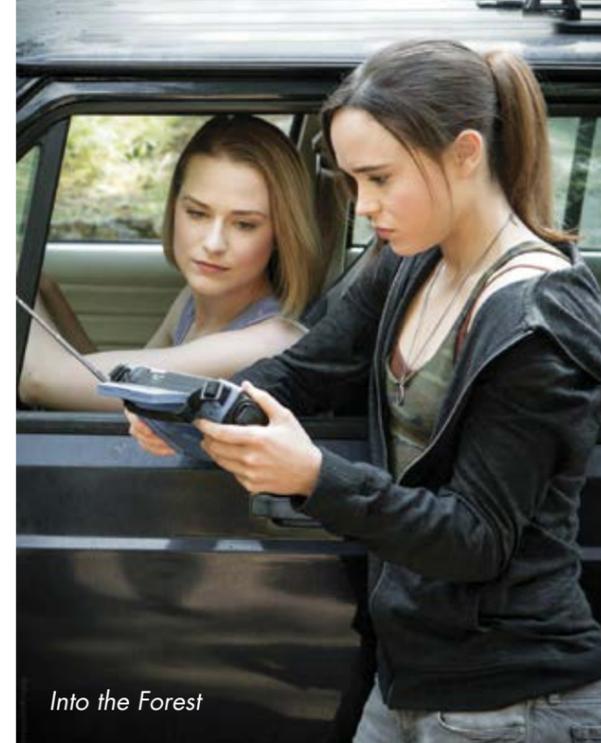
You will like this film if you enjoyed *Wild*, *Mansfield Park*, and/or *Perfect Sense*.

Started 7/29 at the Sie Film Center

Mr. Robot (USA/Netflix)

The first season of *Mr. Robot* was a popular, critical, and technological success. It won a Golden Globe for Best Television Series, beating perennial favorite *Game of Thrones*. It is also nominated for an Emmy (awards presented on 9/18), once again going up against *Game of Thrones* and shiny newcomer *Better Call Saul*. *Mr. Robot* is another series in the wonderful slow-TV movement, in what we may now call the "golden age of cable TV." The show itself lives up to its accolades.

The premise: Elliot Alderson (Rami Malek) works for a cybersecurity firm during the day and is a hacker by night. He is faced with a series of moral dilemmas from the outset, and he eventually teams with a rogue band of hackers whose goal is to take down



Into the Forest

corporate America. The movement is led by the notorious *Mr. Robot* (Christian Slater). Everything about this show screams professional—the screenwriting, the direction, the acting, the cinematography, and the set design. We are plunged into a world from minute one that is both believable and tangible. The acting is particularly good, and Malek is a standout as the professionally ethical but morally challenged hacker. He fights his own personal demons as he takes on larger demons every day. It is also good to see Slater back in form, and his role is well shaped and form-fitting. All of the secondary characters are solid as well, and they nicely round out the world of the show. Even the technology is solid, overseen by tech advisor Michael Bazzell, a 15-year veteran detective of cybercrimes. Rarely do you get such accuracy from the technology. It all adds up to a captivating series.

Season one is available on Netflix, and season two began on USA network 7/13. It's a great time to binge on this gritty, intelligent, and thoughtful drama as you get caught up for the new season. While most TV shows premiere after Labor Day, you can start watching this show right away. Summer be darned.

You will like this show if you enjoyed *Breaking Bad*, *True Detective*, and/or *Better Call Saul*.

Season one is on Netflix and season two is currently airing on the USA network.

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.



The Robot

Everything about this show screams professional—the screenwriting, the direction, the acting, the cinematography, and the set design. We are plunged into a world from minute one that is both believable and tangible. The acting is particularly good, and Malek is a standout as the professionally eth-

FOR KIDS (continued)

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Just the Facts

Our humble but impactful prairie

by James Hagadorn



The majority of Coloradans depend on the prairie—and don't even know it. It's much more than a flat carpet of tumbleweed-infested dirt clods—it's an economic catalyst. Covering about 40 percent of the state, it impacts mountain towns and underlies the Mile-High City.

A prairie is an ecosystem or habitat. Here in Colorado it exists east of the Rocky Mountain foothills, on a rolling landscape that's part of North America's Great Plains.

But Colorado's plains aren't like those of the Midwest's Corn Belt. They're a mile high because when the Rockies rose upward 70 million years ago, they lifted the plains like canvas over a tent pole. Since then, the part of this landscape that underlies most Front Range cities has been dissected by rivers, creating a broad bowl-shaped valley littered with small hills. Called the "Piedmont," from Italian, meaning "at the foot of the mountain," this region differs from the flatter terrain to the east, known as the "High Plains" or "Eastern Plains."

The most direct economic impact of our prairie is on agriculture, a multibillion-dollar industry in eastern Colorado. By understanding how native prairie ecosystems succeeded, we've harnessed the soils and unique climate of the plains to grow corn, wheat, hay and

sugar beets, and to raise cattle, sheep and poultry. Hemp is a recent addition.

The high elevation of these settings makes it challenging to live or to farm there, because they're more susceptible to temperature extremes. And, to wind. If you've spent time here, you know what I'm talking about. Autumn wind. Winter wind. Spring wind.



The Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge is trying to recreate a native prairie ecosystem as much as possible in an urban area. Their efforts have included bringing in a herd of bison.

And of course, the summer winds. A recent drive to Hays, Kansas, provides an example. On a rail-straight, east-west-trending highway, I steered left for five hours heading east, and then steered right during my entire return

trip. Wind scoffed at me the whole time. Yowza!

Farming the prairie isn't straightforward, and many failed during the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, when a series of droughts, overcultivation and deep plowing caused massive erosion of the topsoil. Collapse of the region's agricultural community soon followed. Many of these abandoned efforts were purchased by the government and consolidated into the Pawnee and Comanche National Grasslands, where short- and mid-grass prairie and its associated fauna are slowly returning to their natural state.

Fortunately, many of the prairie's physical

the prairie is the breeding ground for miller moths. Plentiful supply of these nocturnal pals is pretty important—once hatched, they migrate from the prairie up to mountain meadows, where they pollinate vast numbers of wildflowers, providing a foundation for local food webs. Prairie-born moths are also a yummy and nutritious food source for all sorts of mountain beasts—from tiny bats to hulking bears. To learn more, see <http://frontporchstapleton.com/article/moth-madness/>.

Mountains also affect the prairie, acting like the lead cyclists who break the wind for riders drafting behind them. In the case of the Rockies, eastward-moving moist air rises over the peaks, loses moisture, and flows past the Front Range and much of eastern Colorado without dumping much precipitation. This "rain shadow" is what keeps the eastern half of Colorado so dry, even in winter.

The dearth of rainfall means our prairie has few tall grasses or trees. Instead it's dominated by short- and mid-height grasses. These grasses are drought-, cold-, heat- and grazing-resistant, and can go dormant when conditions are unfavorable. They have amazing root systems to help them survive. In creek bottoms and lowlands where taller counterparts of these grasses lived, early settlers cut the grass' sod into bale-shaped blocks, using them to construct homes. The root structure of such sod is oodles stronger than that of

the turf you see on fields and lawns today. You can visit one of these homes at the Plains Conservation Center or at the Wheat Ridge Historical Society.

Today's prairie endures as tiny patches on the plains' quilt of agriculture, urban life, and invasive species. Its humble terrain houses an incredible diversity of plants, animals and scenic vistas. By carefully shepherding its resources and diversity, it can grow, be enjoyed, and support our future.

and biological components are resilient, and biologists and conservationists are working to protect those that aren't. The prairie's anchoring fauna and flora have evolved to repatriate disturbed and new areas, so in some cases they can be successfully reintroduced to plains habitat. Witness the ongoing prairie rehabilitation of Colorado's most toxic Cold War relics—the Rocky Mountain Arsenal and Rocky Flats.

Surprisingly, the prairie has a strong impact on mountain ecosystems. For example,



Photo courtesy of Wheat Ridge Historical Society

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

The sod home at the Wheat Ridge historical society was built around 1860 of two-foot chunks of sod. It was covered with plaster for preservation. The lower photo shows the house with the plaster removed during a renovation project.

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Park Hill Trading Post artisans and their families gather at their shop on Fairfax. Left to right: Jeff Weihing, Park Hill Country; Meridythe Emmanuel, Park Hill Design; Joseph Gabhardt and Jodi McDonough, Colorado Joe's; Jason Emmanuel, Park Hill Design; Shalom Zohari, Mile High Bow Tie. Front row left to right: Henry, Lily holding Ruby.

Local Artisans Set up Shop in Park Hill

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

On any given day at the Park Hill Trading Post, a collective of local artisans' handmade goods, there may be people sitting on the couch visiting, shopping and taking a sewing class. It's exactly the kind of day Meridythe and Jason Emmanuel and their fellow business owners and friends envisioned long ago. These artisans—who had home-based businesses making handcrafted lawn games, beer-related accessories and sensory-friendly children's clothing—had dreamed of opening a storefront in the

neighborhood where they and other artisans could come together to work, sell and build community.

That day came last November in a space at 2895A Fairfax St., staffed by the Emmanuels but now carrying the work of nine artisans including the original three, Colorado Joe's, Park Hill Country, and Park Hill Design. New additions include BuxieJo Bags leather goods, Nuhni Blanket Company and Mile High Ties, a bow tie company owned by 12-year-old Shalom Zohari who donates a percentage of his proceeds to Denver Food Rescue.



Meridythe Emmanuel, who offers sewing classes at the Trading Post, gives sewing tips to Shalom and Lily.



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Gymnasts perfect their form on the beam at Gymtegrity Gymnastics and Cheer.

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Michelle Sampson was having trouble finding the right kind of gymnastics program for her 13-year-old daughter, Ellie, who started when she was 8. A former gymnast herself, Michelle felt every gym they went to was missing something. "One gym would be perfect for one aspect but lacked something else," says Sampson. But when Ellie trained at a gym in Arizona while visiting family, Sampson saw something better. "No one was crying, no parents were mad, kids weren't injured," says Sampson. She wanted a gym that wasn't made up of just the highest level of athletes but was instead focused on the athlete, the parent, on customer service and on positive coaching with no yelling.

"I felt like I at least had to give it a try," says Sampson, who created a program with

everything she felt it should have and called it Gymtegrity Gymnastics and Cheer. The concept is to develop talent on the outside and integrity from within from the athlete, the coach and herself as owner. "It has to come from everybody all the way down."

Gymtegrity offers recreational and competitive classes in gymnastics plus cheer, which includes tumbling, jumping and dancing, starting with parent/tot classes from age 18 months to 3 years up to competitive levels. Taking full advantage of 18,000 square feet of matted, spring-loaded flooring, both gymnastics and cheer classes can be accommodated, so if a student is interested in both, there's an opportunity for cross-over.

There are plans for special needs classes, an area Sampson feels is overlooked and underdeveloped in Colorado. She feels every child, no matter what their physical or developmen-

Talent on the Outside; Integrity from Within



Far left: Ellie Sampson practices on uneven bars.

Left: Coach Kevin Bhark observes beginners working on tuck jumps into the pit.

Below: Beginning students learn to be stable on a low balance beam.



tal situation may be, can benefit from her classes. Kids learn coordination, balance, life lessons and passion. "It's all about a healthy lifestyle," says Sampson. "You don't have to be competitive to be taking part in a sport. When they come here, no matter the age, it's all about physical fitness."

The first class is free at Gymtegrity and they offer day camps for school days off, a parents' night out and birthday parties. Gymtegrity Gymnastics and Cheer is located at 4720 Lima St., north of Northfield. For more information, call 303.371.1338 or visit www.gymtegrity.com.

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Left: The decor in Cuba Cuba harks back to old Havana.

Below: General Manager Josh Ranson enjoys his favorite meal - a Cubano with tostones and plantain chips. Dominoes built into the bar reflect the popularity of the game in Cuba.

A Taste of Cuba in North Stapleton

By Laurie Dunklee

Cuba Cuba Sandwicheria in North Stapleton is a mini-vacation to the Caribbean. “The restaurant is representative of Cuban culture, with its bright colors, salsa music and flavorful foods,” says Kristy Socarras-Bigelow, co-owner of the restaurant with her husband.

Socarras-Bigelow’s parents emigrated from Cuba to Miami, where Kristy grew up. She met her husband in Denver and they opened the first Cuba Cuba at 12th and Delaware in 2001. “There was no Cuban food in Denver when we started,” Socarras-Bigelow said. “I missed my culture, my people and my food.”

Cuba Cuba, on Northfield Blvd. across the street from Macy’s, opened in late June. It is the restaurant’s fifth location including downtown, Glendale, the Denver Tech Center and Highlands Ranch.

Some of Socarras-Bigelow’s recipes originated with her grandmother, including the black beans. The mojito is a specialty.

“It’s my dad’s recipe, the best I’ve ever had!” she said. “We infuse the rum with mint; it’s all fresh made and not too sweet.”

Other specialty drinks include the caipirinha, a Brazilian cocktail made with white rum, sugar and lime, as well as sangria and piña coladas. Drinks are

served atop the “domino bar.” “The top layer is a pattern of dominoes that has been epoxied over,” said Socarras-Bigelow.

She said customers’ favorite menu items include the Cuban sandwich, roasted pork and plantains—“both salty-garlicky and sweet. People also love our ground beef peccadillo.

The décor is “Cuban/urban,” says Socarras-Bigelow. “It’s Cuban culture as seen through my generation, more than Old Cuba.”

Live salsa music is featured at the downtown restaurant and she hopes to bring it to Stapleton. “It’s part of making it as Cuban as possible. Cubans love to talk and dance with family and friends. They are some of the friendliest people in the world.”

Socarras-Bigelow, a mother of three, said she wants to preserve her Cuban culture for her kids.

Cuba Cuba, at 8261 E. Northfield Blvd., is open Mon.–Thurs., 11am–9pm.; Fri. and Sat., 11am–10pm. Happy hour is Mon.–Fri., 3–6pm.

For more information, see cubacubacafe.com or call 720.389.5221.



Garden-to-Table Food Made on a Wood-Fired Stove

By Anne Hebert

Named after her much-admired and strong-willed aunt, former Acorn Sous Chef Caroline Glover is opening her new eatery, Annette, at the Stanley Marketplace.

Annette features a garden-to-table menu. Most ingredients will be sourced from Colorado farms and open-air markets and prepared at a wood-fired stove. While the menu will change to take advantage of the freshest, seasonal ingredients, some delicacies will be available year-round. Glover adopted her mother’s pecan pie recipe, and it will have a permanent place on the menu.

“Opening a restaurant was something I always dreamt of doing,” says Glover. “The Stanley Marketplace concept is so exciting to me because it will attract and unite a diverse neighborhood clientele. It just felt right.”

Serving lunch, dinner and Sunday brunch, Annette will occupy a 1,500-square-foot, east-facing corner space with large windows and a spacious outdoor dining patio. The interior design evokes a family-centric countryside atmosphere. Glover’s family photos and artifacts will enhance the décor, making customers feel welcome, as if they’re dining in the home of good friends.

Plans for an opening event at Annette are still in the works. To learn about the restaurant, subscribe to the newsletter and view the menu, visit www.annetescratchtotable.com.

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Major infrastructure renovation is expected to be completed by September 1, when Stanley's 40+ tenants will start work on their interior spaces.

Healthy, Family-style Chicken with Southern Roots

By Laurie Dunklee

The three owners of Yellowbelly Chicken combine their various cooking backgrounds to create interesting and healthy meals.

Michael Friedberg brings his Boulder upbringing to bear with healthy foods like beets and quinoa; Barry Davis brings Southern-style fried chicken from his Kentucky roots—"But it's not fried in heavy batter," he says. Eric Wuppermann contributes the bright flavors of his native Trinidad, in the Caribbean.

"We mesh our heritages to serve better versions of food you already love," says Friedberg.

The three friends met in Vail and opened their first restaurant there in 2012. Yellowbelly Chicken expanded to Boulder in 2013. "We started by thinking about what we wanted to eat on our day off," said Davis. "We wanted something delicious, quick and affordable, using natural ingredients that we felt good about feeding our families."

Yellowbelly Chicken serves fried and roasted chicken that is GMO- and gluten-free. Salads and sides made with all-natural ingredients include steamed greens, red cabbage slaw and macaroni pie.

The partners will open their third location in an 1,800-square-foot space on the south side of the Stanley, under the Stanley sign. "Our décor will feature loud, fun colors, plus a surprise nod to the Stanley's aviation history," said Friedberg. "It will be a great space to get a shareable, family-style meal to eat there or take away."

Yellowbelly will also offer catering for special events.

Yellowbelly Chicken will be open seven days a week from 11am to 9pm. For more information, see YellowbellyChicken.com.

Visit FrontPorchStapleton.com and search for "Stanley" to read our interviews with other Stanley business owners.

Wine Taproom Invites Guests to Linger

By Anne Hebert

"People embrace our concept of a wine taproom because it enables them to enjoy a glass of wine without the tasting room experience, which can be a bit pretentious and stuffy," says Infinite Monkey Theorem owner Ben Parsons.

Infinite Monkey Theorem opened in its first location in the Santa Fe Arts District in 2008, but found a permanent home in the RiNo District in 2011. Initially a small taproom located where the product was made, Infinite Monkey Theorem will expand and open on the third floor of the Stanley Marketplace in September 2016.

Parsons believes the eclectic mix of businesses at the Stanley will attract a diverse crowd that will embrace the concept of wine on tap. "It's the perfect way for us to introduce consumers to our products. Once they find a wine they love, we hope they will buy it at their local liquor store to drink at home."

Infinite Monkey Theorem is planning to offer food from a limited menu. They will also serve wine-based cocktails like their Sangria Slushy, Mimosas and wine spritzers. Cider, another house favorite, will also be available.

The space will have an industrial feel with a bar, a community table, booths and lots of nooks and crannies filled with comfortable seating. Books and games will encourage patrons to spend quiet time alone or make new friendships with other patrons.

For more information about Infinite Monkey Theorem, please visit their website at www.infinitemonkeytheorem.com.



Restaurateur Troy Guard at Lucky Cat, his newly opened Chinese restaurant in Lowry.

Troy Guard Opens New Chinese Restaurant in Lowry

By Carol Roberts

Those who know of Troy Guard will not be surprised to learn he was recently named Small Business Person of the Year by the Small Business Council of America. Guard's TAG restaurant group currently operates nine restaurants in Denver—the most recent being Lucky Cat, which replaced BuBu in Lowry.

By the time Guard opens two restaurants near his home in Stapleton's Eastbridge Town Center this year, he will be up to 13 restaurants—and adding a 14th in February.

Guard says he liked the flavors when he lived in Asia and since then has wanted to open a Chinese restaurant. Lucky Cat, near the Wings Over the Rockies Museum in Lowry, brought the opportunity to create what he calls modern, not heavy, sauces and fresh vegetables to create variations on traditional Chinese dishes.

Instead of General Tso's chicken he serves General Guard's chicken. It's spicy and made with orange juice concentrate. Guard created his own version of beef and broccoli called B&B and other specials including Canton-

ese-style steamed fish and Hunan-style shrimp. Appetizers, noodles, sushi and \$5 kids' choices are on the menu—and everything is available for carryout. You don't even have to leave your car. Order and pay by phone, park in the carryout spaces in front, and they'll bring your dinner to the car.

Most surprising about the carryout menu is that it includes the signature dish, whole Chinese-style duck. Served with scallion pancakes, house kimchi fried rice, pickled vegetables and sauces, this \$45 dish that feeds four to six and can be enjoyed at home by those who order and pay 48 hours ahead.

Lucky Cat is open for lunch and dinner, it has a patio, and the bar offers wine, local craft beers and creative cocktails. Neon lights liven up the Asian-themed décor that includes Lucky Cat-patterned wallpaper. Lucky Cat is located at 7559 E. Academy Blvd., 303.364.2025. Open 11am–9pm Mon.–Fri. and 3–9pm Sat. and Sun. Happy Hour 3–6pm Mon.–Fri. www.luckycatdenver.com

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Rescue for Broken Smart Devices



Owner Andrew Wallis shows an iPhone he will repair at his new uBreakiFix store in Quebec Square. Shattered screens are one of his most common repairs.

By Laurie Dunklee

Dropping your smartphone gives you that sinking feeling. But chances are good that it can be repaired.

"There's not too much we can't fix. We can fix stuff people don't expect," says An-

drew Wallis, owner of uBreakiFix that opened June 10 in Quebec Square.

Besides smartphones, Wallis also fixes iPads, tablets, PC and Apple computers, iPods and game consoles. "We do both Apple and PC and we keep the parts in stock," said Wallis, a Stapleton resident. "Most repairs are

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The Stapleton shop is uBreakiFix's 11th location in the Denver area. The business started in Orlando in 2009 and Wallis joined the company in Ft. Myers, Fla. in 2013. "I was mentored to repair devices by taking them apart and figuring out how to put them back together," he said. "I've fixed thousands of devices. Mostly we swap out the components inside with new parts. We repair older Apple products, which the Apple Store won't do, and we are less expensive."

"Devices get dropped or water-damaged," Wallis said. "The most common repairs are glass iPhone screen replacements. Also common are battery replacements, charging issues and computer virus removal."

The most unusual reason for repair was a run-in with a big truck. "A cell phone had been run over by a semi but we fixed it—it was crazy that it worked. It had been in a case, which helped."

Prices for repairs range from \$60–\$300. "Screen repairs are the most expensive because we have to replace both the glass and the display," Wallis said. "Bigger screens can cost more and newer devices cost more to repair."

UBreakiFix works with local schools and businesses at a discounted rate.

Diagnostics are free, as is online advice. Hours are Mon.–Sat., 10am–7pm and Sun., noon–5pm.

For more information, to make an appointment or for online advice, see ubreakifix.com or call 303.393.4191. UBreakiFix is at 7305 E. 35th Ave., Suite 130.



Signs, Banners, Murals All in a Day's Work

Above: Tim Tribbett holds a large menu to be wall mounted.

Right: A family of travelers had Tribbett make a map into a mural for their dining room.

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Some people might find it daunting to make a career change after 25 years but not Tim Tribbett. Born and raised in Park Hill, the Stapleton resident no longer looked forward to going to work each day and knew he needed a change. After working as a CFO for different manufacturing companies, he took a break from the corporate world to start his own business.

Tribbett knew he didn't want to open a franchise and looked at a variety of opportunities including a health club and a restaurant. But his background in manufacturing lead him to open Xcelerated Signs and Graphics in Montbello, just east of North Stapleton. "Manufacturing is what I know, plus I've always enjoyed handing a finished product to a customer at the

end of the day and have them be happy with what I produced," says Tribbett.

Xcelerated primarily does projects for businesses such as commercial vehicle wraps, building signage, banners, political signs and menus. But he also enjoys doing projects for community groups such as event banners, yard signs for charities and fundraisers and projects for schools. Families can get a favorite photo blown up to mural size for a wall in their home. Tribbett says they're open to just about any project of any size and can provide design, copy, print and installation work.

With brand-new 64-inch printing, cutting and laminating equipment, Tribbett's proud that his company uses water-based latex ink that has no odor or toxic runoff like solvent printers have, making his business environ-

mentally friendly.

Owning a business so close to where he grew up and where he now lives with his wife and two sons makes Tribbett happy, but being the boss isn't always easy. "It's stressful when you have to make your own payroll," he says. "When they have families that are reliant on us selling stuff so we can pay them, I get that." Overall though, Tribbett feels he made the right move. "I needed the change. Now I'm excited to go to work every day. I'll be sitting there at night thinking 'I just can't wait to get in there in the morning and see what we're going to work on.'"

For more information, visit xceleratedsigns.com. It is located at 4880 Ironton St., Unit L, 303.900.0550.

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DSST's Bill Kurtz Named to Ch



Above: DSST: Stapleton middle school celebrates having no achievement gap and having the second highest school performance score in the city.

Right: Bill Kurtz, DSST Public Schools CEO, applauds the students' success. Photos from October 2014 *Front Porch*.

By Carol Roberts

DSST Public Schools has the best partnership in the country with the public school system, says Nina Rees, president and CEO of the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. She says Denver is always highlighted as an example of how charters can work closely with traditional system—one of only a few places that is the case. “Bill Kurtz (CEO of DSST Public Schools) has received numerous awards. We thought it was time to induct him in the Charter Schools’ Hall of Fame.”

Rees cites Kurtz’ business acumen and his work on the ground running schools and managing a network of some of the best schools in the country. The Alliance is especially honoring him for his leadership and impact he can have helping other schools around the country get started. “We hope newcomers will either visit Bill or reach out and take a page out of what he’s done and replicate those best practices as they run their schools.” Although serving a diverse population was not part of the criteria for the award, Rees acknowledged that is a significant issue and “it definitely factored into his selection.”

We asked Kurtz what the biggest challenges were in getting DSST started 12 years ago. He says it was convincing themselves, faculty, families and students that they could create a school where all would get a chance for a world class education. “If you don’t believe that, you can’t create schools that succeed at that.”

The second big challenge was that running great schools is hard. “You have to create systems and processes and cultures that are excellent every day because we need our kids to be excellent and learn in an extraordinary way every day. If we expect that of them, we have to expect that of ourselves. It takes lots of attention to detail, lots of clarity on where you’re trying to go and how you’re going to get there. It’s harder than it might seem, but so important to creating a great school.”

Those challenges are still true today, says Kurtz, but he cites an additional issue that feels *more* difficult today than it did 12 years ago.

“I do think our country’s in a really challenging spot with what’s gone on across this country recently. And the level of difference and the level of prejudice and the inability to have a discourse that’s productive makes our education system and our schools even more important in building understanding across difference. We need to have kids who go to school together who look different and who come from different backgrounds. I believe the only way we’re going to cross the divide in this country is if we really create opportunities for our young people to live, learn and play together every day with people who are different than they are.”

Kurtz went on to describe the impact DSST has had nationally. First, he says, there’s a growing national movement that schools that are integrated and diverse by design are really important to our society. “We’ve proven

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nationally how that work can be successful for all kids. We deeply believe in it. Many schools across the country will cite us as being one of their important influences in creating schools that are diverse by design like we are.”

Secondly he cited DSST’s commitment to living by a set of values and helping young people become value driven. “The culture and commitment we created has been important to the national conversation helping schools think about how to do that well.”

Third, DSST’s success giving all kids the opportunity to go to a four-year college has been noticed and causes other schools to think about how to do their work differently.

DSST has been “a big player in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) movement, influencing other schools on how to do great STEM education.

Finally, Kurtz says, “We have paved the way for people to think differently about how charters and school districts can work together to benefit the community, kids and families.”

Local Doctor Made Lasting Contributions to Community

By Carol Roberts

This fall, CU Medical School’s family medicine residency program at Rose Medical Center will change the name of its residents’ office suite to recognize the many contributions and achievements of Dr. Martha Illige.

Illige, a 25-plus-year resident of Park Hill and a 12-year resident of Stapleton, taught and practiced family medicine in the Rose Family Medicine Residency program, and she delivered countless babies in her decades of work as an obstetrician. She was a tireless advocate of breastfeeding, serving as the medical director for the Mothers’ Milk Bank of Denver for the last 16 years.

Illige also played a leading role in the Balance Conference for Women Physicians since its founding in 1991. This conference, focusing on balancing professional work and personal humanity, is the only all-female physician conference of its kind. Illige is being honored through a new scholarship that provides funding for one female resident and one female residency faculty member to attend the conference each year.



Dr. Martha Illige

She was recognized as an outstanding teacher: the Colorado Academy of Family Practice named her Teacher of the Year in 2005, and the American Academy of Family Practice honored her with their Exemplary Teaching Award in 2006.

Illige worked extensively on physician evaluation, remediation and training and was the first medical director of the Center for Personalized Education for Physicians (CPEP), a nonprofit organization that works with physicians re-entering practice to address performance evaluation issues.

Dr. Martha Illige, 64, died peacefully of pancreatic cancer in her Stapleton home on June 26, surrounded by her family. Contributions in her honor can be made to the Mothers’ Milk Bank (part of the Rocky Mountain Children’s Health Foundation), the Denver Public Library Friends Foundation or Colorado Public Radio.

Reach Out and Read Announces New Executive Director

By Anne Hebert

The Board of Directors of Reach Out and Read has announced that Stapleton resident Meredith Hintze is their new Executive Director. Hintze

is a graduate of the University of Southern California and the University of Colorado School of Public Affairs.

Hintze says she is proud to be a part of an organization that uniquely provides services to families at the intersection of healthcare and early childhood education. “After graduate school, I wanted to find a career opportunity with a non-profit organization that had a broad reach and a big impact,” said Hintze. “The nimble nature of this program links children’s healthcare and literacy statewide.”

Reach Out and Read offers young children a foundation for success by incorporating books into pediatric care and encouraging families to read aloud together. The program partners with almost 300 clinics in Colorado and serves 110,000 children. In 2015, 200,000 books were distributed through pediatric and primary healthcare providers and immunization clinics. By partnering with healthcare providers, the program is able to serve uninsured families and those who receive Medicaid and CHP benefits.

Many children served by the Reach Out and Read program live in northeast Denver neighborhoods, and the community has been very supportive. During the 2015-16 school year, a successful book drive was held at the Swigert International School.

For more information about the Reach Out and Read Program, please visit www.reachoutandreadco.org or follow them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ReachOutandReadColorado/?fref=ts>.



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DENVER METRO EVENTS

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

Through 8/16—Governor's Mansion Tours. Tuesday free tours of Governor's Residence at Boettcher Mansion. 1-3pm, 400 E. 8th Ave. No reservations required. 45-minute tours every quarter hour. www.colorado.gov

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

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

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

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

8/2 Tuesday—Portland's Scratchdog Stringband's Denver Debut. 13th tour stop at Quixotes True Blue (314 E. 13th Ave. 10pm. \$5 cover. James Rossi: 503.380.8895, <http://scratchdogstringband.com>, <http://facebook.com/scratchdogstringband>

8/3 to 8/17—Shady Grove Picnic Series. Wednesdays 6:30pm. Four Mile Historic Park, 715 S. Forest. Walk-up tickets only, \$10; \$7 members, seniors and bicyclists. Picnic and enjoy live music at park. www.fourmilepark.org

8/4 Thursday—16th Street Urban Market. 11am-7pm. 16th St. Mall downtown. Repeats 8/25. www.coloradoevents.net

8/5 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

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

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

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

8/6 Saturday—Free Movies at Skyline Park. Grease. Skyline Park, 16th and Arapahoe, downtown Denver. www.downtowndenver.com

8/6 Saturday—The Afterlife of Margaret Brown: A Guided Exploration of the Hauntings at the House of Lions. Molly Brown House. 8pm. Ages 16+. Tickets \$79 and \$129. www.mollybrown.org

8/12 Friday—South Pearl St. Brews and Blues. Noon-10pm. \$7.50 in advance; \$10 at gate. Bands, food/drink vendors. Old South Pearl St. www.swallowhillmusic.org

8/12 to 8/14—Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival. Fireworks Fri.; Parade Sat. 9:30 am, 38th Ave. from Ames to Upham. Zoppe Italian Circus, petting zoo, chili cook-off, midway rides, etc. www.wheatridgecarnationfestival.org

8/13 Saturday—Erie Air Fair. 10am-4pm. Erie Municipal Airport. Airplane displays, helicopter and airplane rides for purchase, live music, kid fun zone, beer garden, food trucks, etc. www.erieairfair.com

8/20 to 8/21—Golden Fine Arts Festival. 11th St. and Arapahoe St., 10am-5pm. www.goldenfineartsfestival.org

8/21 Sunday—Colorado Collectibles Appraisal Fair. Forney Transportation Museum, 10am-3pm. Tickets \$50, includes admission to museum, appraisal for 1 item and refreshments. www.forneymuseum.org

8/26 Friday—DAM Untitled Final Friday. August theme is Center Stage. 6-10pm. Cash bar, DJ, light munchies. Members free, nonmembers \$8-\$13. www.denverartmuseum.org

9/2 to 9/4—Riot Fest and Rodeo. National Western Complex. www.riotfest.org

9/2 to 9/5—A Taste of Colorado. Food, music, arts and crafts, fireworks and carnival rides. Civic Center Park. www.atasteofcolorado.com

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

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

8/7 Sunday—Tri for the Cure. Women's sprint triathlon race benefits Susan G. Komen Foundation. Cherry Creek State Park. www.triforthecure-denver.com

8/20 Saturday—28th Annual AIDS Walk Colorado. Cheesman Park. www.aidswalkcolorado.org

KIDS AND FAMILIES

Through 8/7—Colorado Renaissance Festival. Weekends. Larkspur. www.coloradorennaissance.com

Through 8/13—Denver Public Libraries Summer of Reading. Free activities, suggestions for summer reading, incentives for Denver kids, divided into 3 age groups. FREE. www.summerofreading.org

Through 8/20—Marionette Melodrama. Denver Puppet Theater. Shows Mon. Wed. Fri. at 10am, Saturdays 1pm. 3156 W. 38th Ave. www.denverpuppettheater.com

Through 8/30—Tuesdays in August—Four Mile Historic Park Small Settlers. Ages 2-5 accompanied by parent/caregiver. 9-10am. \$5/child, adults free. Members free. 715 S. Forest St. Advance register: 720.865.0814 or education@fourmilepark.org. www.fourmilepark.org

Through 9/5—History Colorado Free for Kids. Kids FREE this summer at History Colorado Center through Labor Day for youth 18 and under. HistoryColoradoCenter.org for details and other participating museums. www.historycolorado.org

8/3 Wednesdays—Preschool Story Time. 9:30-10am. For kids 2-5 and their caretakers. Free with admission. www.historycolorado.org

8/6 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

8/7 Sunday—Junior Rangers. 1:30-3pm. Ages 6-12. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. Reservations required. 303.739.9428, www.auroragov.org/nature

8/8 Monday—Monday Movie Madness. Aladdin. 8pm. Infinity Park, Glendale. www.infinityparkatglendale.com

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

8/13 to 8/27—Lowe's Build and Grow Kids Clinics. Bring kids to Lowe's stores to build FREE wood project: Monthly, 2nd and 4th Saturdays. free apron, goggles, project-themed patch, merit certificate on completion. 10am. www.lowesbuildandgrow.com

8/21 and 8/28 Sundays—Free Tinkergarten Trial Class—Outdoor, Play-based, Kids Early Education. European-modeled outdoor preschool develops collaboration, communication, critical thinking, etc. 18 months-5 years and parent/caregiver. 9am (75 min.). City Park, Denver. Sign up: www.tinkergarten.com/leaders/aly.aga, <http://tinkergarten.com>

8/26 to 9/5—Colorado State Fair. Pueblo Fairgrounds, Pueblo. www.coloradostatefair.com

8/29 Monday—Cub Scout Night at Bill Roberts Elementary. Boys Grades K-5 meet in the cafeteria. 2100 N. Akron Way. Contact Pattie Nortman at pnortman@gmail.com or 720-284-1470

LECTURES AND CLASSES

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

8/2 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)-Spices. 10-11am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S. Dahlia St. 303.316.6359. www.ActiveMinds.com

8/7 Sunday—Four Mile Class Series: Horno (Oven) Construction. Build traditional Native American wood-fired oven in outdoor course. Ages 16 and up. \$15 FMHP member; \$18 nonmember. Register: www.fourmilehistoricpark.eventbrite.com. 8am-12:30pm. Four Mile Historic Park, 715 S. Forest St. 720.865.0800

8/11 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)-Olympics. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. www.activeminds.com

8/23 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)-The National Parks. 5-6pm. The Tattered Cover, 2526 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727, www.ActiveMinds.com

8/25 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)-O Canada! World's longest land border is between U.S. and Canada. Learn what makes Canada unique, its history and current challenges. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 6:45-7:45pm. www.ActiveMinds.com

9/6 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)-Winston Churchill. 10-11am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S. Dahlia St. 303.316.6359. www.ActiveMinds.com

MUSEUMS—DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE

Through 8/7—Robot Revolution. Exhibit free with admission. www.dmns.org

Through 9/2—Planetarium. Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity; Cosmic Journey: A Solar System Adventure; Destination Solar System; Dream to Discovery; One World One Sky; Big Bird's Adventure; We are Aliens. www.dmns.org/planetarium/current-show

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

8/18 Thursday—Science Lounge. Cocktails/entertainment 3rd Thurs. monthly. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/non-members. www.dmns.org

MUSEUMS—FREE DAYS

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

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

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

8/26 Friday—Clyfford Still Museum. SCFD Free day. Free admission last Friday monthly all day. Free admission Fridays 5-8pm. 1250 Bannock St. www.clyffordstillmuseum.org

8/29 Monday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.dmns.org

9/3 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.denverartmuseum.org

9/6 Tuesday—Children’s Museum Free Target Tuesday. 4-8pm. www.cmdenver.org

NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS

7/30 to 8/7—Denver Days. Weeklong celebration of Denver neighborhoods with block parties, festivals, etc. www.denver.org

8/20 Saturday—Global Fest. International festival featuring food, cultural experiences and art. 1-7pm. Aurora Municipal Center, Great Lawn, 15151 E. Alameda Pkwy. www.auroragov.org

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

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

8/19 Friday—Your Soul’s Movement Presents Tots and Folks Yoga on the Plaza. 10 am. All ages. Free. www.northfieldstapleton.com

8/20 Saturday—Your Soul’s Movement Presents Adult Yoga on the Plaza. 3pm. Free. www.northfieldstapleton.com

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Through 9/24—5th Annual Refuge Amateur Photo Contest. Entries due by 9/24 and on display for public voting 10/1-11/27. Website for contest details. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

8/6 Saturday—Noxious Weed Knockout. 9:30-11:00am. Assist Refuge staff in removing noxious weeds. Work 1-1.5 hours, wear pants, long-sleeve shirt and closed-toe shoes. Gloves and other supplies provided. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

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

8/6 to 8/27—Wildlife Viewing Tour. 9:30-11am. Naturalist-led bus tour through refuge to view bald eagles, bison, coyotes, deer, raptors, wildflowers in bloom, etc. RSVP required, 303.289.0930. 8/6, 8/14 and 8/27. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

8/13 Saturday—Summer Hike N Bird. 9-11:30am. Must be comfortable hiking up to 3 miles. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

8/13 Saturday—The Masked Bandit. 10-10:45 am. Meet the Refuge’s black-footed ferrets. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

8/19 Friday—Refuge Nature Hike. Explore wildlife, birds and plants of the refuge. Must be comfortable hiking up to 3 miles. Reservations required, 303.289.0930. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

8/20 Saturday—Kids Fishing Clinic. 10am-12pm. Ages 6 and up; poles available for loan. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

8/21 Sunday—Amazing Antlers-The Velvet Tour. 8:30am-noon. Learn about antler growth, then spend time in field photographing. Free; reservations required, 303.289.0930, www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

THEATRE

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

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

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

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

8/23 to 8/28—Defending the Caveman. Garner Galleria Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

8/25 to 9/11—The Phantom of the Opera. Ellie Calkins Opera House, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Ongoing—Reading Volunteers Needed. Volunteers needed to share reading with students, one-on-one, once a week. Times: 8:10-8:55am. Days: Tues.-Fri. Email: Julie@partnersinliteracy.org or 303.316.3944 ext. 241.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Foster Grandparents Needed

The Volunteers of America Foster Grandparent Program is seeking seniors who live on a fixed or low income and enjoy working with children. Foster grandparents work in early childhood education centers, preschools, Head Start programs, educational childcare and public schools. They focus on literacy and numeracy for at-risk children and youth, providing one-on-one attention to help children succeed. They receive a non-taxable stipend to supplement their income that does not affect old age pension.

The program is offered at no cost to participating schools. Those 55 or better with an income under \$23,760 for a single person household or under \$32,040 for a couple are eligible. Volunteers must devote 15 to 40 hours a week at their schools working with children. Paid time off, holidays, and training as well as transportation reimbursement is offered by the program. To inquire visit, www.voacolorado.com or call (303) 297-0408.

Mini Med School Program Begins in September

Registration for the University of Colorado’s Mini Med School is now open free of charge to participants. The program runs from September 7 to November 2 on Wednesday evenings from 7 - 8:30pm at the auditorium located on the Anschutz Campus - Education II South. Several satellite locations are also offering the course.

The program is designed to provide educational information covering a variety of medical topics, and to encourage and facilitate better communication between patients and doctors. There is no minimum age for program participants. “Generally, we see students in middle school, high school, college and older,” says program spokesperson Helen McFarland. Parents are advised to determine whether their child is prepared for information containing medical content before enrolling them in the course. Examples of seminar topics include, ‘A Day in the Life of a Pediatrician’ and ‘What is a Hospitalist?’

Seats are available for seminars on the Anschutz Campus in addition to several satellite locations. To register for the Mini Med School program, please visit www.cusys.edu.

Denver Launches Online Short-Term Rental Licensing Applications

After approval of an ordinance and a related zoning text amendment by the City Council, the City and County of Denver began accepting online applications for the city’s new short-term rental (STR) license for primary residences on July 1. The STR licenses allow rentals of residential property for fewer than 30 days at a time.

The online application is the city’s first online business license, saving a trip to the city’s licensing counter. Denver may be the first city in the nation to offer online STR licenses.

All STR hosts must be licensed by the city by December 31. A pre-licensing checklist and application portal can be found by visiting Denvergov.org/STR.

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Artist Selected for Street Mural

Belarusian-born painter Yulia Avgustinovich has been selected by the city of Aurora for a unique project – design and execution of a “mural” to cover two blocks of Clinton Street leading to Stanley Marketplace (Montview to 23rd Ave.). With assistance from citizen volunteers, the painting will take place over two weekends (Aug. 27-28, Sept. 10-11), in time for the Cherry Arts Festival at the Stanley (Sept. 16-18).

The street mural evokes Stanley with an aviation theme and adds elements of nature (flowers) and Aurora history (street car trolley). The project is an outgrowth of a city staff task force charged with stimulating economic revitalization efforts in this part of

northwest Aurora dubbed Westerly Creek Village by the city. The artist's fee is \$20,000. The city will pick up additional costs such as traffic control. The two blocks of Clinton St. will be closed both weekends that the installation takes place.

People wanting to participate may email Peg Alt, Aurora's Community Development Outreach Specialist, at palt@auroragov.org. No artistic skill or experience is required. Volunteers do not have to be Aurora residents; the event is open to the public. Volunteers will work two or three-hour shifts between 9 am and 4 pm. Minors will need to be accompanied by an adult.

Westerly Creek North Opening Ceremony Aug. 17

All of the Westerly Creek North open space opens this month with Mayor Michael Hancock presiding over the ribbon cutting at 8:30 am on August 17. The ceremony will take place near the Dayton St./E. 35th Ave. intersection. The \$12 million project began in March 2015 and has rehabilitated the remaining 64 acres of Westerly Creek Park, roughly that por-

tion north of the Central Park Recreation Center.

The overall project included major land-form reshaping, removal of construction rubble, streambed realignment, revegetation and new trail construction. The new park provides new connectivity to the Sand Creek Regional Greenway at the confluence of Westerly Creek and Sand Creek.



The artwork at left goes from Montview to 22nd; art at right goes from 22nd to 23rd, bottom to top.

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Stapleton Update

By John Fernandez

Westerly Creek Metro District Board Forms Strategic Planning Committee

At its June meeting, the Westerly Creek Metro District (WCMD) formed a District Strategic Planning Committee “to better guide this board into the future”, in the words of David Ungemah who was appointed committee chair. The committee will hold its first meeting in August or September. Members are expected to include representatives of other Stapleton area entities such as the Park Creek Metro District, (PCMD) the Master Community Association and the Stapleton Foundation.

WCMD chair Tom Downey said the intent is to “provide some sort of blueprint” for the district’s roles and responsibilities both in the short term and “50 years from now when all the property will be transferred, all the infrastructure will be in, the Stapleton Development Corporation will be gone, all the debt will have been paid off. Our successors are going to need to decide – do we keep the taxes, as they are, at a reduced rate? What about new infrastructure and repairs to existing infrastructure?”

The WCMD was established in 2000 and collects the tax that funds the construction of Stapleton’s infrastructure not covered by tax increment financing (TIF). The district is required by inter-governmental agreement to pass on all its revenue to PCMD, which ultimately makes the decisions on construction of infrastructure. The WCMD board also votes to legally bring in the new Stapleton property that is added to the district’s tax base as Forest City purchases property from Denver through the

Stapleton Development Corporation. The May 2016 election for the first time resulted in a WCMD board comprised entirely of Stapleton residents. Because there were no residents when redevelopment of Stapleton began, the WCMD board was comprised largely of developer and city of Denver representatives. By design, the PCMD board continues with that mix. The new composition of the WCMD board reflects the maturation of Stapleton as build-out approaches.

At the June meeting, Ungemah asked rhetorically, “Are we evolving to the point where this board will have to make decisions on future infrastructure improvements? What is the relationship between the Park Creek and Westerly Creek metro districts? Here is the opportunity to involve people in decisions about where they live. There is an expectation from the neighbors that we are looking out for them.”

Downey suggested the district could play a stronger role in Green Book oversight, i.e., ensuring that the original vision for Stapleton redevelopment is achieved. New WCMD board member Justin Ross said he hopes the district will watch over affordable housing “until the last nail is done.”

All meetings of the committee will be posted and open to the public and will follow the district’s monthly board meeting that starts at 9 am on the fourth Thursday of each month. The meetings will be held at the SDC offices, 7350 E. 29th Avenue.

Swim School Plans Approved



Goldfish Swim School

Stapleton’s Zoning and Planning Committee favorably received a proposal, at its July 12 meeting, for a 9,000 square foot, free-standing building in Northfield to house a new business – Goldfish Swim School. The project is progressing through the city of Denver’s approval process and the owners/operators, Patrick and Amy Turner, anticipate opening their doors late in the first quarter of 2017. The building would be located at the northeast corner of E. 50th Avenue and Central Park Boulevard. Vehicular

access will be off 50th Ave. and Beeler St. and 75 parking spaces will be provided. This is the first franchise location in Colorado for Goldfish Swim School, which is headquartered in Birmingham, MI. The school will focus on teaching children of all ages the fundamentals of proper swim techniques and will be available year-round for children four months to 12 years and for swimmers of all abilities. The Turners are eight-year Stapleton residents and live in the Eastbridge neighborhood.

Dayton/Emporia Connection Advances

Rough grading of a fifth street connection between Stapleton and Aurora is underway with completion still anticipated for late next spring. By a 2006 intergovernmental agreement between Denver, Aurora and the Park Creek Metro District, the Dayton/Emporia connection, which curves to link Dayton Street in Aurora to Emporia Street in Stapleton, must be open for public use by June 1, 2017. The roadway is being constructed by Forest City with cash contributions from Denver and Aurora. Aurora is negotiating with a private landowner



for acquisition of a triangular parcel (less than 2,000 square feet) needed at the northwest corner of the new street’s intersection with 25th Ave. and hopes to have that acquisition complete this fall according to Tony Chacon, urban renewal supervisor with the city of Aurora. The land acquisition issue does not impact Forest City’s 322-unit residential development known as Stapleton Aurora, says Tom Gleason. The current schedule calls for utilities, curb and gutter to be installed over the winter with asphalt paving installed mid to late spring 2017.

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Denver Days, Kickball, Dine Out for SUN and Community Notice

SUN Celebrates Mayor Hancock's Denver Days

SUN supports the celebration of community and living in Denver via Mayor Hancock's Denver Days. A nearby opportunity to participate in Denver Days is with Councilman Herndon's Family Bike Parade, starting in Stapleton on The Green at 29th Ave. at 8:30am on Sat., August 6, and ending 1.5 miles west with festivities at McAuliffe Middle School at Smiley until 11:30am. If any block groups plan to meet and arrive together at the starting line by 8:30am, please notify StapletonUnitedNeighbors@gmail.com.

Other Denver Days celebrations are occurring across the city. Individual blocks are encouraged to participate as well by waived park permit fees for Denver Days picnics and events, and free street barricades for residential block parties. Some Stapleton blocks are hosting block parties during Denver Days. If you are new to the community and would like help connecting with your block cap-

tain, or are interested in taking on the role, email SUNoutreach@gmail.com.

More about Denver Days: www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/denver-days.html

13th annual Kickball Tournament Sept. 10, 2016, to donate funds to the Community HUB at Northfield/Denver Police Department District 5 COP Shop

SUN's annual Kickball Tournament, now in its 13th year, serves as an opportunity to bring the community together for exercise and offers an opportunity to highlight a local community organization's fundraising needs. In 2016, SUN will support the Community Hub at Northfield/Denver Police Department (DPD) District Five (D5) COP Shop (8230 Northfield Blvd., Ste. 1350).

SUN and DPD have partnered for many years as DPD has proactively worked to ensure the safety of Stapleton residents, and swiftly reacted to incidents to investigate and keep the community informed. At a time when many condolences are due to the police community across the country, SUN proudly supports our officers in DPD District 5 and is pleased to pledge support for the DPD COP Shop in 2016. The DPD D5 COP Shop is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) that has no funding provided by the City of Denver. The COP Shop relies solely on donations from the kind citizens and businesses. Forest City generously donated the facility space, however, the COP Shop is responsible for all utility bills and operating costs.

The DPD D5 Cop Shop is the premier COP Shop in Denver, offering and hosting a wide range of community-based safety and wellness classes on a weekly basis: Neighborhood Watch meetings, burglary

prevention seminars, pedestrian safety classes, yoga, kettle bells, neighborhood walking groups, internet predator classes, bicycle safety classes, first aid classes, and more. The COP Shop is a space available for community needs such as HOA meetings and professional mediation between neighbors (a free service through Denver). The DPD Citizens' Academy is also housed at the COP Shop. D5 bicycle officers start and end their shift at the location.

The presence of the COP Shop meets a DPD goal of bringing the police force into the community (in addition to DPD D5's participation at all monthly SUN meetings, community presence on horseback/bicycle/foot/cruiser, attendance at community events, and skilled representation at laser tag). The COP Shop provides a venue for positive relationship building between DPD and Denver citizens. Also housed at the COP Shop is the Northeast Transportation Connections (NTEC). NTEC provides a positive connection to the community that pairs perfectly with the D5 policing efforts. Ed Korabic is the newly elected president of the COP Shop/Hub Board of Directors, which is overseeing an update of an event schedule to be posted to the DPD D5 website, including when residents can observe an open roll call (when officers begin their shift), and D5 community meetings. DPD takes pride in the high level of positive community engagement that takes place at the Hub, and SUN appreciates this additional source of community support.

SUN has used the momentum of the annual kickball tournament to make a gift to a local charity for several years. In recent years, SUN has donated

to: 2011, Stapleton Schools (Bill Roberts and Westerly Creek); 2012, Denver Parks for tree planting in Central Park; 2013, Friends of Denver Fire for landscaping at Stapleton Firehouse; 2014, three Stapleton elementary school PTAs; and 2015, Bluff Lake beautification project.

Sign up online to participate in the tournament as a team or sponsor: www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com/SUNKickball.

Dine Out for SUN Week in September

For the week leading up to the Sept. 10 Kickball tournament (Sept. 5-8), SUN is coordinating with restaurants in the Stapleton community to encourage residents to dine out and add to SUN's donation to the Denver Police's positive relationship building between DPD and Denver citizens via the COP Shop/HUB in Northfield. The list of participating restaurants will be announced in the September *Front Porch* SUN Spot, and via the SUN Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StapletonUnitedNeighbors.

If you are a restaurant owner interested in participating, please contact StapletonUnitedNeighbors@gmail.com.

Community Notice

Two businesses planning to open in the Stanley Marketplace (2501 N. Dallas St.): 1) The Hangar at Stanley, LLC, and 2) Stanley Beer Hall Aurora, LLC have each applied for a Hotel and Restaurant Liquor License with the City of Aurora. The hearing before the liquor licensing authority for each is scheduled Aug. 2, 2016, at 9a.m. The Aurora Local Licensing Authority meets at the Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, Council Chambers on the first Tuesday of each month at 9am. 303.739.7284

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Op-Ed

How the DEA should classify pot

Editor's note: After setting a July 1 deadline to revisit the status of marijuana under federal law, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has decided they will not address marijuana this year. Stapleton resident Tom Downey spells out what the current regulations mean and how he believes they should be changed.

Marijuana has been a Schedule I narcotic since 1970. That means, in the eyes of the federal government, marijuana has no medicinal value and is highly addictive. It is illegal under federal law to grow, possess or sell it. To put this in perspective, cocaine is a Schedule II narcotic – legally available under highly restrictive circumstances. The DEA's options are to keep marijuana as Schedule I or to reschedule or de-schedule it. De-scheduling would allow use for non-medical, recreational purposes like alcohol. Rescheduling would allow use like a regular prescription issued by a physician and filled by a pharmacy under a DEA license, like Codeine. If this happened, marijuana prescriptions would almost certainly be allowed only in traditional medicinal forms, such as pills and extract drops and perhaps topical lotions and nebulizers. It's unlikely that the DEA and the Food and Drug Administration would allow prescriptions for smokable marijuana or pot brownies and other edibles.

Although legal under state law in more than half the states, marijuana is still illegal federally, and federal law trumps. Since 2009, the federal government has followed a policy of non-enforcement. In short, the federal government is not enforcing federal marijuana laws, as long as anyone involved is in compliance with state marijuana laws. It is akin to the non-enforcement of traffic laws, for speeding a few miles per hour over the limit.

If the DEA keeps marijuana on Schedule I, the federal government risks continued suffering by those with true medical ailments and continued lack of scientific study. The DEA would be wildly out of step with rapidly changing public opinion. If the DEA de-schedules marijuana, big tobacco companies could take over, and the fears of many anti-marijuana advocates would be realized.

Rescheduling marijuana for medical/prescription use, but shutting down the state recreational side, would result in unintended negative consequences. Because prescriptions are not taxed, state and local jurisdictions would lose millions of dollars in tax revenues. Colorado collected nearly \$135 million in medical and recreational marijuana taxes and license fees in 2015 on a combined medical and recreational market of nearly \$1 billion. With a prescription-only industry, states would lose their current marijuana-related jobs to existing pill-manufacturing companies.

With rescheduling to a prescription-only federal system, the residual state systems will continue to grow. More states will legalize medical and recreational marijuana, and only a small piece of the consumer market would be siphoned off by the marijuana prescriptions allowed through rescheduling. Therefore, the federal government will need a comprehensive approach to a new dual-system era.

All relevant goals and concerns can be addressed with a three-part approach:

1. Reschedule marijuana from Schedule I (completely illegal) to Schedule III (legal for medical purposes, allowed only by prescription). This would only address a small percentage of the current market, as most marijuana in Colorado and other legal states is consumed by smoking, vaping and edibles. Rescheduling would legalize marijuana testing and patient studies for universities.

2. Continue the federal non-enforcement policy for recreational marijuana. Rescheduling for medical purposes would align with the federal government's current stance towards state-legal recreational structures. Under a dual system, the recreational market would increase rapidly with customer demand for non-prescription smokable marijuana and edibles. Jurisdictions with excise taxes on recreational marijuana would bring in additional revenues for regulation based on federal enforcement priorities.

3. Create a coalition of states to adopt uniform, comprehensive regulation and enforcement for recreational marijuana to address public safety concerns. A coalition of states could create model laws and regulations to create uniformity in packaging, labelling, portion size, marijuana oil extraction safety standards, pesticide use, testing, etc., as well as joint enforcement. The federal government could add its support for public safety and consumer protection by: 1) amending banking laws to allow marijuana businesses to have checking accounts and receive loans, and reduce the crime associated with cash-only businesses; 2) allowing the US Patent and Trademark Office to award patents and trademarks; and 3) amending the IRS Code to allow marijuana businesses to take standard business deductions.

These reasonable steps address both public safety and public opinion with a reality-based approach to marijuana regulation. This is regulation that works for the people.

Tom Downey is a regulatory attorney in the Colorado law firm Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe. He is the past Director of the Denver Department of Excise and Licenses.

The opinions expressed here are the authors own and do not necessarily reflect the views of Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, PC.

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Colorful



Allison Fisher, 17, (right) holds a picture of a home in the Caribbean. The bright colors of the tropics were the inspiration for their Stapleton home when it was time for new paint. Trish Fisher let Allison select the color while she and her husband were on vacation.

(continued from page 1) a new exterior paint color. Upon returning, they were met with a surprise—what had previously been a faded yellow exterior was now a vivid shade of Bahama blue.

“While we were down in Cancun, I got a text from our housesitter in capital letters that read: I LOVE THE COLOR OF YOUR HOUSE, IT’S AWESOME!” says homeowner Trish Fisher. “Then I started getting some texts

from neighbors that were more like ‘Hey, Trish, you there!’ I ignored them and figured the neighbors were just checking in. When we got back and I looked at the house, I went, ‘Oh, wow, that’s way brighter than I thought it would be.’ It looked like it should be on the Italian Riviera or in the Bahamas. It was a really bright shade of blue. After giving it some thought, we decided to keep it. We really love the ocean and we’ve always marched to the beat of our own drum, so it’s a perfect color for us.”

The Fishers’ 2003 KB home certainly stands out among some of its more muted neighbors and lends a festive air of variety to its block and, by extension, the overall community.

“The painter offered to redo the house if we decided that we couldn’t live with the color, but we kept it and we’re glad we did,” she says. “A lot of the colors in Stapleton are the same. One person actually called my husband to ask him if he was sure it was the right color, but overall it was a positive experience. I’ve heard kids ride by on their bikes and say, ‘That color is sick,’ which, in teenage speak, means it’s great.”

A quick glance at Stapleton’s neatly manicured homes shows a mostly subdued palette of blue, grey, tan, yellow, red, white and beige exteriors, but closer examination of its neighborhoods reveals some more eye-catching choices of home colors that include purple, Kelly green, orange, lavender and festively painted doors, garages and off-palette trim work. The variety and difference that community planners originally



Martina Will and Andres Chaparro pose with Sofia, 9, Isabella, 12, and Luka, 7, in front of their Stapleton home. They chose paint colors that remind them of Latin America.

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Homes

envisioned is alive and well and poised to keep growing as original paint jobs weather, fade and are replaced.

“A big part of the idea for Stapleton was to try and attract people back from the suburbs. So we tried to provide some of the spaciousness of suburban homes but in more of an urban pattern,” says Mark Johnson, head of the Stapleton Design Review Committee and a principal at Civitas, an urban landscape and design firm in Denver. “We didn’t want to create something that was all garage doors and that looked like a plain vanilla subdivision. Our goal for Stapleton was that when it was all done it would blend in with the rest of the city.”

According to Diane Deeter, of the Stapleton Master Community organization, single-family homeowners can paint their homes any color they want. “It’s pretty fun to see the new colors people are coming up with,” she says. “There are no restrictions unless they live in a sub-association.”

Deeter points out that townhomes and condominiums typically are part of a sub-association because they share spaces, and that a few KB homes, although they are single-family residences, share communal spaces and are therefore part of a sub-association. “Each one has different bylaws that a resident agrees to when living there.”

Stapleton residents Martina Will and Andres Chapparo are on board with creating unique home colors. The couple, who have ties to Latin America, started with a white New Town (now Thrive) house with cream-colored shutters.

“It was as bland and as bland could be,” says Will. “My husband is from Colombia and I’ve spent a lot of time in the Caribbean, and we wanted something with a tropical feel. We bought a bunch of different paint colors but none of them felt right. We couldn’t decide. Then we got a recommendation for a woman named Jennifer Comfort who



Partners Donna McMahon (standing) and Pat Garland in front of their Eastbridge home that they refer to as the big pumpkin.

calls herself a color psychic. She came over, sat down, looked at our furnishings, our artwork and our overall style and then she just sort of meditated for a while. After that she came up with the colors.”

Will’s home in Stapleton’s Eastbridge neighborhood now has the feel of a cottage that could be in the tropics, with a

bright medium green hue, yellow trim and red accents.

“I think a lot of people play it safe because they are concerned about their resale value,” Will says. “We were asked if we were really sure we wanted to repaint using our chosen colors. We did. And people really like it. A few neighbors I didn’t even know made a point of telling me they loved it and that we were so brave. We did a similar kind of paint job on our house in Texas before we moved to Colorado. The result was that it caused it to stand out in what was otherwise a cookie-cutter neighborhood. And the unique paint job helped the house sell.”

Wonderland homeowner Donna McMahon, who lives only a few blocks from Will and Chapparo in Stapleton, also shares an affinity for colors that stand out.

“We stuck with orange, which was actually a color that was offered by our builder,” she says. “We liked the color a lot, but after several years the original paint job was looking like a dead salmon, so we decided it was time refresh it. When we were having it painted, the neighbors were all very nervous. But once it was all done everyone seemed to enjoy it. It’s more like a pumpkin spice now and it’s pretty loud compared to other homes, but once we got the trim painted it accentuated the details of the house and looked really good. Someone took a picture of it once and posted it on Pinterest and we got a bunch of hits. We were like, ‘Wow, we picked a great color.’ It makes it easy to find. I say just look for the big pumpkin.”



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