

Front Porch

COLORADO

Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair, East Colfax

JULY 2017

NORTHEAST DENVER

Plans for Transit Oriented Development Move Forward



This ground-level view captures Forest City's vision for the plaza flanking Uinta St. just south of Central Park Station. The proposed six-story office

building includes plans for about 16,000 square feet of first floor retail. Much of the building is set back from the street to create a wider

pedestrian plaza. Pending successful negotiations with Denver, Uinta St. would be narrowed to further enhance the pedestrian environment.

By John Fernandez

Portions of the 34 acres owned by Forest City south of Central Park station are coming into sharp focus. The image above and those on pages 8 and 9 were released by the developer in June and represent building designs in

progress. Forest City Senior Vice President Jim Chrisman says he expects the first building (3700 Uinta, shown above), comprised of office and retail, to break ground in the first half of next year with delivery in the summer of 2019. It will be a 190,000 square foot, Class AA office building including about

16,000 square feet of ground floor retail.

All told, the Forest City plans anticipate 1 million square feet of office, 1,000 apartments, 400 condominiums, 120 hotel rooms and 100,000 square feet of retail. Once the RTD parking lot is also developed, total square (continued on page 8)



Nature's Amazing Machines

Jake Brownell operates a video of a running cheetah at the Nature's Amazing Machines exhibit at Denver Museum of Nature and Science. The cheetah's stride can be observed by slowing the video or

making it go backwards. Cheetahs are the world's fastest land mammals, able to go from zero to 60 miles per hour in three seconds. Read about the exhibit on page 34.

DPS Addresses Racial Equity Issues



At a community meeting in May, Michael Williams weighs in on recommendations addressing racial equity issues in DPS. Williams is a member of the African-American Equity Task Force.

After black teachers voiced concerns about inequity, DPS commissioned a report based on interviews with African-American educators. In response to issues identified in that report, a task force was formed to make recommendations that would help Denver Public Schools (DPS) address opportunity and achievement gaps for black students and educators. Story on page 10.

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

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Proliferating

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for
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Facts"
Farewell

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Expanding

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



Summer heat has kids cooling off in the fountain in the 29th Ave. Town Center in Stapleton.



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

JULY

Thursday, June 29

Presentation of Central Park Station TOD plan by Forest City. Third floor meeting room, Master Community Association of Stapleton, 7350 E. 29th Ave. in the 29th Ave. Town Center. (Story on page 1.)

Saturdays through August

Kids Free Saturdays at the History Colorado Center. Two free kids (age 18 & under) per paid adult/senior. HistoryColoradoCenter.org

Every Sunday

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

Sundays through October 1

Ekar Farms in Lowry, 9am–1pm. Future Farmers' Program from 10–10:30am for children ages 4–10. 181 S. Oneida St. No cost to attend. For info, call 303-520-7581

Sundays in July

City Park Jazz in Denver's City Park. Live music and food. Free and open to the public. 6–8pm.
July 2 – "Purnell Steen and LeJazz Machine"
July 9 – "Buckner Funken Jazz"
July 16 – "Judge Roughneck"
July 23 – "Los Bohemios"
July 30 – "JoFoKe"
August 6 – "Alpha Schoolmarm Orchestra"

Tuesday, July 4

Stapleton Pancake breakfast, 9–10:30am. Parade, 10:30–11am. Central Park*

Tuesday, July 4

DJs @ The Stapleton Pools, Noon–4pm. All 6 Pools*

Thursday, July 6

MoJaBlu Concert Series- "Mary Louise Lee," 6:30–8:30pm. North Green*

Saturday, July 8

Concert on The Green- "Denver Municipal Band," 7–9pm. The Green*

Monday, July 10

Michael B. Hancock's State of the City Address at Hiawatha Davis Rec Center, 11am–noon. Community BBQ and music from noon–2pm. Free and open to the public. 3334 Holly St.

Thursday, July 13

MoJaBlu Concert Series- "Dotsero," 6:30–8:30pm. North Green*

Thursday, July 13

Active Minds Seminar "The Story of Salt", 6:45–7:45pm. Sam Gary Library* activeminds.org

Tuesday, July 18

Presentation of Central Park Station TOD plan by Forest City, 6:30 to 8 pm. Central Park Recreation Center Multipurpose room (in place of the SUN meeting for July). Story on page 1.

Thursday, July 20

MoJaBlu Concert Series- "Pg6IX," 6:30–8:30pm. North Green*

JULY

Friday, July 21

Movie on The Green- *Moana*, starts at dark. The Green*

Saturday, July 22

Concert at The Cube- "Colorado Wind Ensemble," 7pm. The Cube*

Saturday, July 22

Free open house at the Urban Farm 4:30 – 6pm
Barn Dance and Farm Fresh Dinner 6 – 10pm.
\$30/person, \$10/16 and under. Music by Rudy Grant & The Buffalo Riders. TheUrbanFarm.org

Thursday, July 27

Active Minds Seminar "Conflict in the South China Sea," 6:45–7:45pm. Sam Gary Library* activeminds.org

Thursday–Saturday, July 27–29

Theater on The Green- *The Jungle Book*, 7pm. The Green*

Sunday, July 30

Sunday concert at the North Green- "Denver Municipal Band," 6–7:30pm. North Green*

Sunday, July 30

Surviving Skokie, 10am Stanley Marketplace. A documentary and conversation with a Holocaust survivor. RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/y9dgrbro>. (More information on page 22.)

AUGUST

Thursday, August 3

MoJaBlu Concert Series- "Tunisia," 6:30–8:30pm. North Green*

Friday, August 4

Movie on The Green- *Hidden Figures*, starts at dark. The Green*

Locations

*More info. at www.stapletoncommunity.com

Sam Gary Library: 2961 Roslyn St.

The Green: South Stapleton at E. 29th Ave. and Roslyn St.

North Green: North Stapleton at Valentia Ct. and 49th Pl.

The Cube: 8371 E. Northfield Blvd.

Central Park: MLK Blvd. & Central Park Blvd.

Aviator pool: 8054 E. 28th Ave.

Puddle Jumper pool: 2401 Xenia St.

F15 pool: 2831 Hanover St.

Jet Stream pool: 3574 Alton St.

Runway 35 pool: 8863 E. 47th Ave.

Maverick pool: 8822 Beekman Pl.

Events & Announcements at Stapleton



4th of July Pancake Breakfast & Parade

Tuesday, July 4, 9–11:30am

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

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

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

MoJaBlu Concert Series

Join the Stapleton MCA and Live@Jack's Thursday evenings for Motown, Jazz and Blues on The North Green located in Conservatory Green at 49th Place and Valentia St. The first concert of the season will feature Hazel Miller. This is a free concert open to the public!

Thursday, July 6, 6:30–8:30pm—Mary Louise Lee

Thursday, July 13, 6:30–8:30pm—Dotsero

Thursday, July 20, 6:30–8:30pm—Pg6IX

Concert on The Green-Denver Municipal Band

Saturday, July 8, 7–9pm

Join the MCA for Concert on The Green. The concert will feature the Denver Municipal Band on The Green (29th & Roslyn) starting at 7pm. Concerts are free to attend and open to the public.

Movie on The Green-Moana

Friday, July 21, At Dark

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

Farmers Market

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

Friday Night Flights-Wine Tastings

Friday, July 21, 6–8pm

The MCA and the Grape Leaf are excited to present Friday Night Flights! The second

Friday Night Flight will be on Fri., July 21 at the West Crescent. Tickets are \$15 for residents and \$20 for nonresidents. Visit stapletoncommunity.com to purchase your tickets today!

Stapleton Beer Festival

Saturday, July 15, 4–8pm

The Stapleton Beer Festival will be held on Sat., July 15 on The Green! The event will begin with an exclusive VIP tasting from 4–5pm followed by a three-hour tasting and free concert. General admission and concert-goers will be allowed to enter The Green starting at 5pm. The free concert will feature the band Buckstein. Tickets are limited and sell out fast! Purchase your tickets at stapletoncommunity.com.

Concert at The Cube-Colorado Wind Ensemble

Saturday, July 22, 7pm

Join us for our concert at The Cube, featuring the Colorado Wind Ensemble. This event will start at 7pm and is free and open to the public. The Cube is located at 8371 Northfield Blvd.

Theatre on The Green-The Jungle Book

Thursday–Saturday, July 27–29, 7–9pm

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

Denver Municipal Band

Sunday, July 30, 6–7:30pm

Join the MCA for our Sunday concert on The North Green, located in Conservatory Green at 49th Place and Valentia St. All concerts are free and open to the public.

Active Minds Seminars

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

Thursday, July 13, 6:45–7:45pm

The Story of Salt

Thursday, July 27, 6:45–7:45pm

Conflict in the South China Sea

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

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Get the latest on

Master Community Association

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Front Porch

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The Front Porch – NE Denver distributes over 38,000 free papers during the first week of each month. Papers are delivered to homes and businesses in Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair and East Colfax.

Free and Open to the Public in July

Who are the bands? What are the movies about?

The Green in South Stapleton – Movies, Theatre and Concerts

Concert, July 8 – Denver Municipal Band

The Denver Municipal Band was founded in the 1860s, making it the oldest professional concert band in the United States. For over a century, summer performances in accessible park settings have featured some of the area's leading professional musicians. 7–9pm.

Beer Festival & Concert, July 15 – Buckstein

Buckstein (aka Matt Buckstein) rose to the Top 40 out of 100,000 contestants in Season 6 of American Idol. Since the show, Buckstein has returned to his roots in Colorado where he and his band are constantly working to define a sound and show that could only be described as "Colorado Country." Beer Festival 4–8pm. Concert 6–8pm.

Movie, July 21 – Moana

An adventurous teenager, Moana sails out on a daring mission to save her people. The once-mighty demigod Maui guides her in her quest to become a master way finder. They sail across the open ocean on an action-packed voyage, encountering enormous monsters and impossible odds.

Theatre, July 27, 28, 29 – The Jungle Book

Mowgli, a man-cub raised in the jungle by a family of wolves, embarks on a captivating journey of self-discovery when he's forced to abandon the only home he's ever known. Performed by The Three Leaches, 7pm.



Attendees dance during a concert at Founders Green in South Stapleton.

Movie, Aug. 4 – Hidden Figures

Hidden Figures takes place in 1961, when racial segregation and workplace sexism were widely accepted facts of life. The movie tells

the story of three African American women who work at NASA headquarters. Assigned to data-entry jobs and denied recognition or promotion, they would go on to play crucial roles in the American space program.

Conservatory Green in North Stapleton – MoJaBlu Plus a Sunday Concert

July 6 – Mary Louise Lee

A native of Denver, Mary Louise Lee's top 40 blues band performs R&B and dance party classics. A contestant on the television show America's Got Talent, Lee is well known throughout the Denver music and performing arts scene. She has performed nationally and internationally for over 20 years. 6:30–8:30pm.

July 13 – Dotsero

Dotsero performs contemporary jazz at its best—a sax- and guitar-driven sound that's as much fun to watch as they are to listen to. The band has performed at major jazz festivals; Red Rocks Amphitheatre, JVC Winter Park Jazz Fest, Jazz Trax Catalina Island Jazz Fest, and The Cancun Jazz Festival. 6:30–8:30pm.

July 20 – Pg. 6IX

A local Denver blues band, Pg. 6IX plays sizzling blues and vintage roots music sure to get you on your feet. 6:30–8:30pm.

July 30 – Denver Municipal Band

A second Stapleton visit for this band for a relaxing Sunday evening concert. 6–7:30pm.

Aug. 3 – Tunisia

Tunisia is a high-energy entertainment group. Their dynamic show covers many styles, ranging from current hits to classic rock, R&B to disco, Motown to hip-hop, standard jazz to swing. This band caters to any audience with their hip style and funky approach to the music. 6:30–8:30pm.

Movies start at dusk.

*The Green is located in South Stapleton at 29th Ave. & Roslyn St. Also referred to as Founders Green.

*The North Green is located in North Stapleton's Conservatory Green at Valentia Ct. & 49th Pl.



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	Thrive Home Builders	20		Service Directory & Classifieds	33
Home Improvement	Bath & Granite	13			

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at www.FrontPorchNE.com > Business Directory

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By Melinda Pearson

“Best of” lists seem to be proliferating these days—and they rank everything from restaurants to yoga classes to best characters from 1970’s sitcoms.

Many are driven by the internet: click-bait for web surfers and lead-generators for advertisers. Some lists offer guidance for consumers: best cars, best schools, best mutual funds. And then there are lists based on the numbers: the hottest real estate markets, the highest median incomes by zip code, the per capita crime rates of cities.

Bob Morse, chief data strategist for *U.S. News and World Report*, a longstanding, prominent list maker, says, “There definitely is list pollution, and it can make it hard for the consumers of the information to distinguish a good list from a bad list,” especially when there are wide differences on the same topic.

So what gives with all these lists? Here the *Front Porch* offers our own list—five things readers should keep in mind as they look at lists, with examples from our own part of town.

Top Five Things to Know About “Top” Lists

1. User-Generated Lists: Crowd-Sourcing...or Marketing?

Websites like Yelp, TripAdvisor or Rotten Tomatoes are hugely popular for the ratings they provide. These ratings are supposedly generated through users – normal people reviewing the hotels, restaurants, and other businesses they frequent. Many turn to these lists, trusting that fabled “crowd sourcing” will lead them in the right direction.

But these kinds of lists can be hard to evaluate, says Morse. With publicly generated lists, “there’s no way of knowing how it’s done.” Users can potentially vote multiple times and some have axes to grind or businesses to promote, unlike polls that are ranked solely on experts’ opinions. There can be value to “wiki lists,” but consumers should recognize the hazards of trusting them. The chart below is an example of a user-generated list.

Current Yelp Rankings of the Top 10 Restaurants in Park Hill and Stapleton (sorted by “Highest Rated” on Yelp)

1	Blunozzer Cafe
2	Chop Shop Casual Urban Eatery Colfax
3	Tables
4	Phoenician Kabob
5	Four Friends Kitchen
6	Abyssinia Ethiopian
7	Cuba Cuba Sandwicheria
8	Desmond Bar & Grill
9	7 Leguas Mexican Grill
10	Allegra’s Neapolitan Pizza

5280 Magazine produces many local lists, including its famous “Top Doctors” expert-driven list. *5280*’s “Top of the Town” includes nearly 100 subcategories of dining, culture, shopping, and services, both editorially selected and recommended by readers. For the latter, readers submit their favorites via online ballots.

“We absolutely do think there’s validity to that [readers’ choices],” says Lindsay Koehler, deputy editor at *5280*. “Often the readers’ choice or crowd-sourcing ends up highlighting some of the iconic or classic businesses,” versus the newer businesses that editors often favor. She adds that *5280* monitors reader submissions, checking URLs to make sure thousands of votes aren’t coming from one computer. “On the whole,” Koehler says, “we try to trust people as much as we can,” but she acknowledges It can be hard to tell if marketing efforts by businesses are driving the ballot results.

Local Favorites Selected in 5280’s 2016 “Top of the Town” Survey

Best Kid-Friendly Restaurant:	Mici Handcrafted Italian
Italian:	Mici Handcrafted Italian
Pizza:	Mici Handcrafted Italian

Another problem with consumer-generated lists is that, well, readers’ tastes might not really be all that illuminating. *Westword* has been publishing “Best of Denver” lists, both editorial and “Readers’ Choice” varieties, since the early 1980’s. “The year something other than McDonald’s won in Readers’ Choice for best french fry we were so excited,” says *Westword* Editor Patricia Calhoun.

Westword Readers’ Favorite Restaurants in NE Denver

Best Restaurant on Colfax:	Solera
Best Ethiopian Restaurant:	Queen of Sheba

NE Denver restaurants? None made the cut in *5280*’s “Top of the Town” editors’ choice list in 2016, although Park Hill’s Bistro Barbès squeaked into *5280*’s “Denver’s 25 Best Restaurants 2016” at #25. With some recent editorial chatter in the magazine about the new Stanley and Eastbridge restaurants, perhaps that will change in 2017.

“We have educated opinions,” says Calhoun of *Westword*. “We want to share with people what we think is the best.” And she believes the editors’ opinions make for a stronger list. Calhoun says around 20 people on her staff work year-round on the “Best of Denver” lists, selecting favorites in 400-600 categories of food, drink, culture, shopping, and sports, eating hundreds of burgers to make their expert picks.

Experts’ Picks in Westword’s “Best of Denver” Food and Drink 2017

Best Restaurant on Colfax:	Chop Shop Casual Urban Eatery
Best Green Chile:	North County
Best Kids’ Menu:	Chop Shop Casual Urban Eatery

Sometimes readers question the relationship between entities featured on the lists and the publication that selected them, however. “It is the most heart-wrenching accusation you get after you’ve spent months working on the “Best of Denver,” says Calhoun. While she acknowledges that there are allegations, Calhoun asserted, “We certainly would never in a million years consider taking money to put someone on a list,” a sentiment echoed by Koehler at *5280*.

3. Aren’t Objective Lists the Best?

Even objective lists need to be approached with caution. A list that ranks cities by crimes per square mile – crime density that is – might rank a large city with lots of high rises as more dangerous than a sprawling one, even if the per capita crime incidence is the same. (continued on page 6)

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(continued from page 5)

But even per capita crime rates must be examined. In a neighborhood with a lot of commercial activity—say, a really big Wal-Mart for example—property crime in general might look high due to shoplifting activity at businesses, even though the residential crime rate is low.

For example, the highest-ranking Northeast Denver neighborhood in the *Front Porch's* distribution area for per capita property crime was Stapleton. Last year, it ranked 11th out of 78 neighborhoods in the city, and this year, so far, it's at 14th. Sounds bad, right? Time to start hiring patrols, installing cameras, petitioning the city for more officers?

But check out the residential burglaries ranking, a subcategory that is probably most worrisome to neighborhood residents. It's not so bad at 37. And in the category that matters most of all, overall violent crime, Stapleton is ranked 44th of 78, well under the median.

Year-to-Date Crime Rankings as of June 8

	Property Crime (Overall)	Residential Burglaries	Violent Crime (Overall)
Lowry	55	24	59
Montclair	31	38	38
N. Park Hill	77	50	52
S. Park Hill	67	30	60
Stapleton	14	37	44

Source: Denver Post rankings generated from Denver Police Dept. data

And if you really want to geek out, go to the city's Denver Crime Map website* and start playing around with the categories. Taking "larceny" out of Stapleton property crimes eliminates the myriad shoplifting incidents that occur at Wal-Mart and the Northfield Stapleton mall. Select only for "violent crimes" and it looks like the majority occur at the Northfield mall—perhaps the product of late night drinking gone awry. In other words, even so-called objective lists can present a misleading view of their subjects unless you're willing to dig deeper.

4. Do Fancy Formulas Lead to Better Results?

Some lists take data and apply algorithms to arrive at supposedly serious results, but these might not match with reality.

*Find Crime Statistics at <https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/police-department/crime-information/crime-map.html>



U.S. News as #38 among public universities, has some pretty impressive programs.)

Neil Westergaard, editor of the *Denver Business Journal*, says their editors scrutinize the outside lists they consider for publication. "We look at the methodology these sources use to do the rankings, and sometimes we toss them because we're not comfortable in how they did the ranking," he says.

A popular type of methodological list is the kind that ranks the best cities, zip codes or neighborhoods. When Denver reached #1 ranking in the 2015 *U.S. News* "Best Places to Live in the USA" list and then fell last year to the #2 spot, bloggers and realtors across the metro area were atwitter.

Local publications and internet sites seek to replicate that buzz with lists of Denver neighborhoods—which are best for millennials, which are best for families, which are best in general? It may come as no surprise that none of the Northeast Denver neighborhoods where the *Front Porch* is delivered placed as millennial or hipster favorites. But it is surprising how widely rankings can vary, as shown below in the rankings of NE Denver neighborhoods.

NE Denver Neighborhood Rankings

	Niche	Niche	5280	5280
	Best Neighborhoods to Live in Denver Metro (2017)	Best Family Neighborhoods (2017)	Denver's Best Neighborhoods (2015)	The 25 Best Places to Live in Denver Right Now (2016)
S. Park Hill	1	1	28	11
Stapleton	4	3	45	64
N. Park Hill	11	7	40	22
Lowry	16	8	5	36
Montclair	20	16	24	17

"The outcome of a list depends on its methodology," says Morse of *U.S. News*. "To have a good list means...the consumers of the list can readily understand it and it makes sense to them" he continued. "It has some meaning in relation to currently perceived standards." As an example, Morse says readers of *U.S. News* would question its "Best Colleges" list if C.U. Boulder were to be ranked the number one public university in the country. "It wouldn't have a lot of credibility." (Of course, locals know that CU, currently ranked by



Niche is a website that analyzes public data and reviews to produce comprehensive rankings of schools, colleges, and neighborhoods in the U.S. The *Niche* lists, which were published in the *Denver Business Journal*, looked at 14 different categories, each contributing from 5 – 15% of the total score. Their most heavily weighted measure, at 15%, is "percentage of residents who have received a bachelor's degree or higher" followed by measures of cost of living, housing, and public schools, each weighted 10%. It is a much more complicated formula than *5280's* and uses totally different criteria, and thus yields completely different results.

Looking at a chart like this, one can't help but wonder how does Park Hill rate #1 on the *Niche* lists but 28th and 11th in *5280*? How in the world is Stapleton considered 64th (out of 78) neighborhoods in Denver as a best place to live by *5280*?

It comes down to methodology. The lists by *5280* included four measures: year-over-year real estate appreciation (35%), per capita total crime (30%) school ratings based on School Performance Framework (SPF) scores (15%), and an "X factor score" (20%), which "accounts for things that can't easily be quantified, such as access to open space, nearby public transportation, and restaurant and nightlife options."

"No matter what direction you decide to go or what data points you use, somebody's going to disagree with it," says *5280's* Koepler. But that is part of what makes such lists so appealing – that they engage readers in agreement or disagreement.

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S. Park Hill	47	29	25
N. Park Hill	47	29	25
Lowry	60	47	59
Stapleton	68	39	61

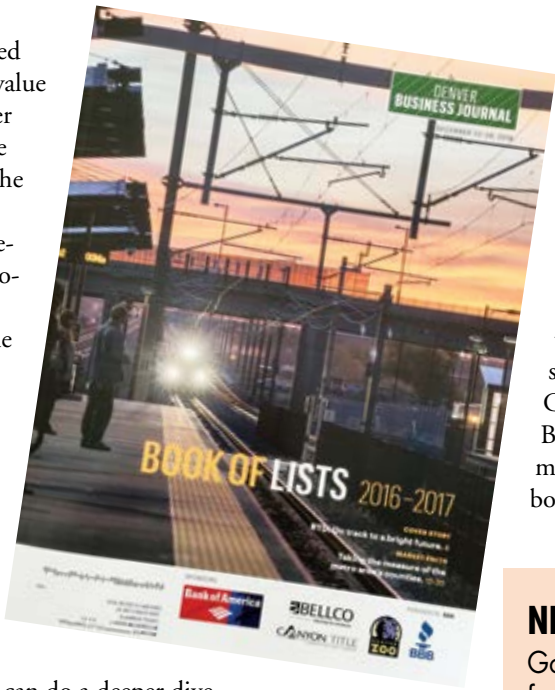
This chart shows the rankings of our local areas out of 74 Denver neighborhoods on walk score, bike score, and transit score. The scores were generated using methodology applied to data by the website walkscore.com, which seeks to promote walkable neighborhoods. Real estate professionals and homebuyers consult these scores when making home-buying decisions. Source: walkscore.com, May 2017

5. Are Lists “Junk Food” or Healthy Fast Casual?

Unlike long-form articles, “best of” lists can’t delve deeply into their subjects—they are a convenient, shorthand way to get information. When looking at subjects that are complex, like schools, cities, professionals, they don’t capture the whole story. Their aim is to appeal to readers by providing

interesting information packaged for easy consumption. Is their value purely entertainment and reader engagement, or do they provide something more nutritious to the intellect?

“Not every story is a comprehensive examination, a cover story, or an eight-part series,” says Westergaard. “For what it is, the relevant information is there.” For a busy reader, being able to quickly capture the relevant data points through a list is helpful and illuminating. “Lists can be a way to illustrate an important issue like crime. People really want to know what neighborhoods have the most kinds of crime,” says Calhoun. “With data, you can do a deeper dive into presenting a story that way. In a list format, it’s just easier to digest than if you write it as a straight narrative.”



But perhaps the bottom line is the bottom line when it comes to “best of” lists. They readily engage readers, who then click websites and buy magazines. “We’ve learned over the years that...the issues that have top dentists, top doctors, or top 25 restaurants are solid newsstand sellers,” says Koehler. “Readers love to compare themselves to other cities, regions and companies,” says Westergaard. “So when we rank ‘Best Cities for Retirement’ or ‘Best Cities for Business Start-ups,’ those generate pretty monster traffic, especially when we’re at the bottom or the top of the list.”

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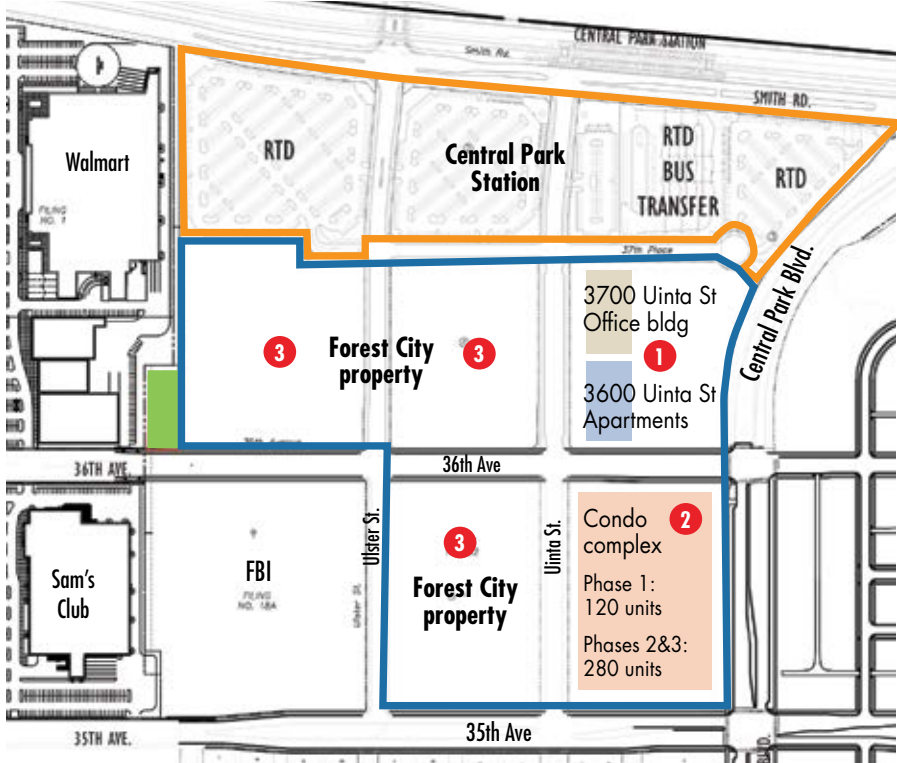


The 3700 Uinta building will step back from the plaza, adding balconies and a rooftop terrace to complement and activate the pedestrian plaza and street-level retail spaces. The view is from the northwest (approximately from Central Park Station parking area).

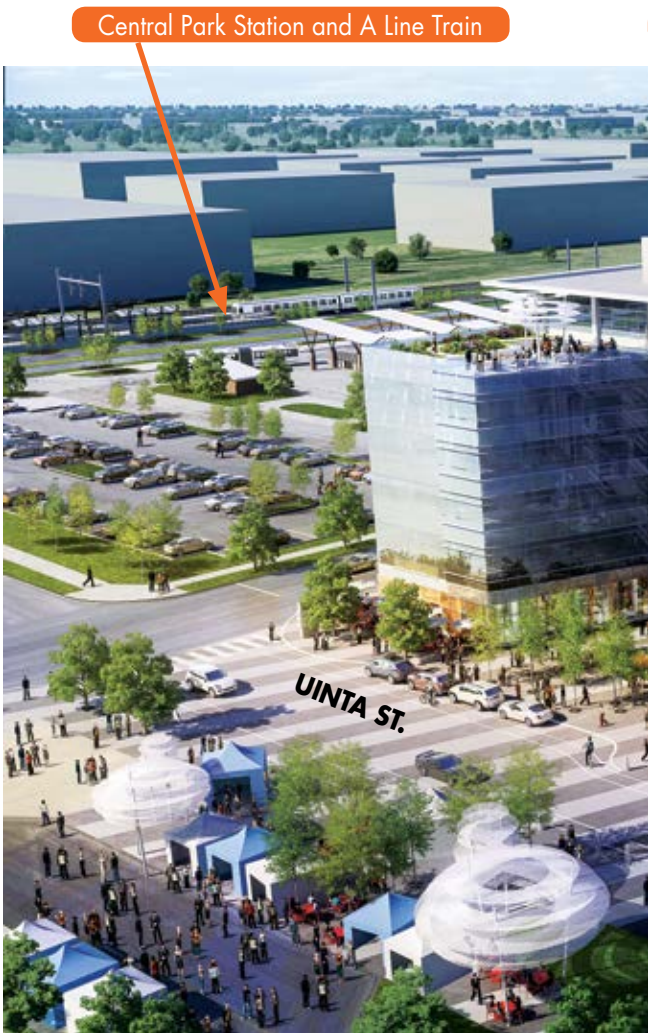
(continued from page 1)
 footage would be in the 4 million range.
 Plans for remaining portions of the Forest City land are at varying stages:

- Forest City has contracted to sell 7.2 acres of land southeast of the Uinta Street/36th Ave. intersection to D.H. Friedman properties for a condominium project. 120 units are anticipated in the first phase, to be located in the northwest corner of the site. Two additional phases will bring the total number of units to about 400. The units will range in size from 550 to 1,200 square feet. According to Chrisman, the units will be priced in the \$200,000 to \$500,000 range to “widen the pool of potential buyers.” Forest City has required that 10 percent of the units meet the for-sale affordable requirements spelled out in the company’s agreement with the city of Denver.
- At 3600 Uinta, design is underway on a 300-unit, podium-style apartment building. Two stories of garage parking will be topped by three and four stories of market-rate apartments.
- Forest City is negotiating the design of Uinta St. with the city of Denver.

Central Park Station Transit Oriented Development (TOD)



- 1 Forest City-owned office building and apartment building in this block. Plans for remainder of block include a hotel and small office building.
- 2 Entire block is under contract to a developer for a 400-unit condo complex and about 45,000 sf of retail space.
- 3 Future development by Forest City.



Rendering is viewed from the southwest (approximately from 36th and Uinta St.)

They want to narrow the street from approximately 80 feet to 36 feet through the plaza area to make it as pedestrian-friendly as possible. Such a focus is deemed essential in transit-oriented development (TOD) to serve the dense, walkable, mixed-use environment. The narrowing would be accomplished by removing parking lanes. Bike lanes would be provided. Through traffic to Central Park Station can also access it from Ulster St.

- Meanwhile, Forest City is moving ahead with plans for a major public plaza on both sides of Uinta St. featuring seat walls, plantings and shade structures emulating clouds floating over the prairie to create an “iconic sense of place” from the outset of the project.
- The balance of the TOD is planned for additional offices, multi-family and retail uses. Forest City



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plans on owning and operating everything in the core of the site, i.e., near the 37th and Uinta intersection.

The Central Park station area plan adopted by Denver in 2012 also anticipates an eventual redevelopment of much of RTD's 20-acres of land immediately adjacent to the A Line station. That would be accomplished by converting some of the surface lots into structured parking and using the freed-up land for new buildings. Chrisman says RTD considers Forest City the logical master developer for that portion of the TOD but with his company's current focus south of 37th Place and RTD's focus on working out all the A Line bugs, such redevelopment is years away.

Such a timeframe for TOD is not unexpected given that it is inherently complex and expensive. Forest City's own marketing material refers to Central Park Station as "one of Denver's largest TODs, with unlimited opportunity to expand."

Public meetings on Forest City's plan for transit oriented development (TOD) at Stapleton's Central Park Station:

Thursday, June 29 from 6:30 to 8pm, third floor meeting room, Master Community Association of Stapleton (7350 E. 29th Ave. in the 29th Ave. Town Center)

Tuesday, July 18 from 6:30 to 8pm, Central Park Recreation Center Multipurpose Room (in place of the SUN meeting for July)

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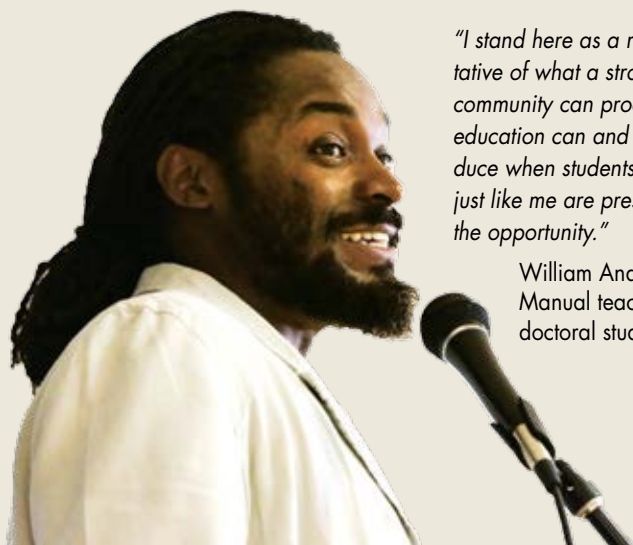
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"I stand here as a representative of what a strong black community can produce, what education can and will produce when students that look just like me are presented with the opportunity."

William Anderson,
Manual teacher,
doctoral student

By Melinda Pearson

William Anderson's statement above was greeted with enthusiastic applause from the diverse audience that gathered at a May meeting to hear recommendations by the African-American Equity Task Force (AAETF). These recommendations are aimed at helping Denver Public

Schools (DPS) address opportunity and achievement gaps for black students and educators.

Anderson, a Manual High School teacher, teacher-leader, master's degree holder, national policy board member and doctoral student, praised the task force's work and highlighted its importance.

The Bailey Report

The AAETF arose in response to issues raised in a report critical of race relations within DPS. After black teachers voiced concerns about inequity, DPS asked Dr. Sharon Bailey, a former DPS board member, to research more deeply. Her August 2016 report emerged from one-on-one interviews and focus groups with African-American educators.

According to the Bailey report, DPS black educators are concerned about a lack of culturally competent, diverse teachers and African-American role models. They also feel that black students experience disproportionate discipline in a setting where most teachers are white females and that black students' needs are overshadowed by those of ELL

students.

Institutional racism was identified as a crucial component of the problems. In a school district that is 13 percent black, African-American educators comprise only 4 percent of teachers and are dispersed throughout the system, leading to feelings of isolation. Many teachers pointed to issues with human resources, including unfair evaluations and unclear and inconsistent practices.

Respondents also identified the recruitment and retention of African-American teachers as key components in diversifying the workforce and engaging African-American students. Studies show that having a black teacher can significantly



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Local education icon Anna Jo Haynes, president emeritus of Mile High Early Learning Centers, participated in the roundtable discussion of task force recommendations.

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Left: Community member Albert Koger discusses priorities in the task force recommendations, as Veronica Ware (left) and Franita Ware (right, unrelated) listen.

Above: Dr. Sharon Bailey (foreground), who wrote the report that identified the issues, listens at the May 24 community meeting as Superintendent Tom Boasberg (background) and attendees look on.

improve black student performance in schools. Currently, despite significant recent growth, black students still lag behind their white peers in state test results and graduation rates.

Task Force Recommendations

In response to Dr. Bailey’s report, DPS commissioned the task force, which included over 150 DPS teachers, staff, parents and community members. Over seven months, working groups dove into six areas of concern: access, community and family engagement, discipline, instructional practice, human capital and the whole child.

“What we learned: this work cannot be done *to* people. It has to be done *with* people,” stated Allen Smith, associate chief of DPS’s Culture, Equity and Leadership team. “The community is important in this process ... because we know that this work is not going to be easy. We know that it’s not going to be overnight.

And we know that we are going to need voices that are empowered to make hard decisions.”

The overarching recommendation that emerged is the creation of an African-American Equity Team to ensure that equity goals are being met by the district. In addition, 10 other recommendations, grouped into five categories, were presented at the community meeting in May. In turn, attendees discussed what they felt should be the highest priorities among those recommendations going forward.

University of Denver professor Ellen Miller-Brown, whose work focuses on intercultural development, has reviewed the Bailey report and the AAETF work. “Kudos to DPS for taking this on. I’m just really impressed. Not many districts would do this,” says Miller-Brown. She praises DPS for acknowledging the unique needs of the

community that the system must address. “This can be done. It’s admirable the work they’ve done so far. The question is how are we collectively going to commit to this?”

Priorities Recommended to School Board

“We are now working closely with task force leaders on the prioritization of those recommendations,” says DPS Superintendent Tom Boasberg, who presented a report on the recommendations to the school board in June.

District 4 school board representative Rachele Espiritu believes the first priority is accountability, in the form of an oversight committee/equity team. Espiritu says four additional recommendations are being considered for initial implementation: developing school-site equity plans, providing culturally responsive education and training, creating a human resources task force, and opening a Center for Family Opportunity (CFO) in the far northeast to serve the African-American community.

Espiritu is particularly excited to get

to work on the CFO, which takes a two-generation approach. It provides wraparound services like financial literacy and workforce development to parents. “When families are supported, we see better outcomes for their children at school.”

In August, DPS will present plans to the school board for implementing the recommendations. Boasberg says part of the work until that time will involve determining which priorities will have a financial impact, how much they will cost, and what DPS will need to reduce or eliminate in other parts of its budget to support new programs.

The implementation promises to have far-reaching effects, says Boasberg. “The task force focused on improving opportunities for our African-American kids, but certainly a number of the recommendations apply not just to African-American kids but ... to all kids of color in the Denver Public Schools or all kids.”



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Stanley Apartments Designed with Millennials in Mind



By John Fernandez

Just south of Stanley Marketplace, a 172-unit, five-story apartment building is being planned, with construction expected to start early in 2018. These smaller-sized, high quality residential units will fill a need for housing that serves millennials. Developer

Jonathan Alpert of the Westfield Company, a partner in the development of Stanley Marketplace, says the need for this type of housing, identified through a market study, was reinforced by intensive discussions with Anschutz campus stakeholders—faculty, staff, workforce and students. The apartment building will have

ground floor retail and, just across the parking lot, all the shopping and dining options at Stanley.

Zoning approvals have been obtained and Alpert says the final design is underway. He believes it fills a need for smaller-sized, high-quality units, adding, “We think the redevelopment

Westfield Company, co-developer of the Stanley Marketplace, plans to begin construction of this “W” shaped 172-unit apartment complex early in 2018. Clinton St., which runs between the two buildings, will remain open.

opportunities in this area are awesome. It’s an area of change and it’s fun to be part of the process, especially seeing the diversity of folks enjoying the Marketplace.”

The City of Aurora appears equally enthusiastic about the project. Andrea Amonick, the city’s Development Manager, says the project helps “fill a huge need for housing serving millennials. We are a great market for millennials in terms of affordability. I am so pleased with the redevelopment efforts so far and want to continue that momentum with a project like Stanley Residential.”

Here are some project numbers and features:

- 153,530 total building square footage in two structures on a 2.9-acre parcel.
- A mix of residential units: 44 micro units 358–434 sf; 80 one-bedroom 523–939 sf; and 48 two-bedroom at 851–1,135 sf.
- Ground floor retail on Dallas St.
- A covered residents’ patio and a pool overlooking Westerly Creek.
- 167 on-site parking spaces with access control gates; 142 bicycle parking spaces.
- 100 kW rooftop solar.

The distinctive building design plays off Stanley’s overall aviation theme. The structures are



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raised 16 feet above ground level to offer views of the Marketplace and Westerly Creek. The exterior is clad in gray metal with red accents to evoke the look of an airplane wing and to echo the distinctive Stanley Marketplace sign. The buildings are wider at the top than at the bottom, creating an overhang effect. The building facades feature projecting and recessed balconies.

Even the unit interiors are being designed with features that emulate the airplane theme. The project architect, Shears Adkins Rockmore, notes that airplane interiors are “efficient, compact, multifunctional” places. Accordingly,

the Stanley Residential units will feature elements such as Murphy beds, sliding walls, cubbyhole storage and fold-down tables.

As final design progresses, Alpert says his team will explore the use of tax increment financing (TIF) for some of the public infrastructure. Having a TIF district available and in place was another reason his group took on this project. Amonick says potential eligible TIF-supported improvements include the extension of 23rd St. and amenities associated with the public plaza at the project entrance off Clinton St.

First Families Move into Stapleton Aurora



At an event for the first homeowners moving into the new Aurora section of Stapleton, former Aurora City Councilwoman Nadine Caldwell, Patty Moon of Aurora Public Schools, Aurora City Councilwoman Sally Mounier and Tom Gleason welcomed them to the neighborhood. 322 homes are being built in Stapleton Aurora with base prices ranging from the high \$200s to the mid \$400s, says Lisa Hall of Forest City. Half of the homes have contracts on them now, and Hall thinks three quarters to one hundred percent are likely to be sold by year end.

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Front Porch – NE Denver

13

July 2017



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

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

July is Science Fiction month, and it marks the start of the seventh annual Science Fiction Film Series. I host the series, in conjunction with the Denver Museum of Nature & Science and the Denver Film Society. The goal

is to join art and science, explore the intersections therein, separate fact from fiction, and to discuss the relevance of Science Fiction in contemporary society. Science Fiction is not all about aliens and outer space—much of the best recent Sci-Fi is set in the near future and tells us more about the current world rather than the future world. This month’s column looks at two different iterations of near-Sci-Fi, one a new series on TV and one a film featured in the series. Find more information about the series on the DMNS website or the Film Society website.

The Handmaid's Tale (Hulu)

This is the best show on TV.

The adaptation of Margaret Atwood’s wonderful 1980s novel of the same name stays true to the book but it also breathes contemporaneous life into it, creating a fully realized world that is chilling, eerie, and oppressive. The book and show tell the story of a near-future patriarchal oligarchy called Gilead (a part of the former United States) in which the women become property of the state amidst a backdrop of environmental disaster, increasing sterility, and religious fundamentalism. The young, fertile women become handmaids whose sole purpose is to bear the children of the powerful men. The story centers around one handmaid, Offred (literally “Of Fred,” owing to her status as the handmaid of Fred) and her life in the Commander’s house. There is no need to explain the prevailing allegory at work here.

The production values, acting, cinematography, editing, and sound rival the best of any cinematic venture. At times the camera is static and the frame is composed in a deep-focus that allows life to pass as we witness it realistically. The effect is chilling. Other



The Handmaid's Tale

times, the camera takes on a dynamic feel that lends itself to the subject perfectly. Where and when these styles are used is quite masterful, and the overall aesthetic reminds of the great directors who blend the realism of Italian Neorealism with the stylized camera and editing of the French New Wave. The compositions are so careful that stopping the frame may render it a Van Eyck painting. It is painting on the screen.

The writing and filming certainly shine, but the acting is equally brilliant. Elizabeth Moss will have busy award seasons ahead of her as the lead and the intense heart, soul, and compass of the series. She plays the careful Offred of Gilead as perfectly as she plays June, her real name in the pre-Gilead world. The rest of the cast is strong; Yvonne Strahovski as Serena Joy, the Commander’s wife, is particularly venal and effective. Her character may be the most relevant to the current state of politics: is being complicit to the events around her just as bad, or worse, than the events themselves?

Season one is available on Hulu.

You will enjoy this series if you liked *Children of Men*, *Westworld*, and/or *1984*.



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The Lobster

The Lobster (2015)

What a strange, interesting, and provocative movie.

This latest film from Greek director Yorgos Lanthimos is an absurdist satire that is funny, piercing, and profoundly disturbing. The best satire—whether it be from writer Jonathan Swift or the great director Luis Buñuel—is most effective when it comments directly on the contemporary society. *The Lobster* falls into that category.

The story is set in a near-future dystopia where being single is outlawed. The uncoupled

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are rounded up in “The City” and brought to “The Hotel.” If they are unable to find a suitable mate in 45 days, they will be turned into an animal of their choice. The protagonist David (Colin Farrell), a recently divorced, paunchy, and emotionless soul, is sent to The Hotel after his divorce. He becomes our Virgil into this inferno. He chooses to be a lobster should he fail.

The Hotel is a house of horrors: they have regular group meetings where they are told of the perils of being single (women will get attacked, raped, etc.); they are sexually enticed but they must abstain; they are publicly shamed after infractions; they hunt a band of escaped rebels in the nearby woods; and they remain under constant surveillance and a ticking clock. David eventually tries to fake a relationship (a crime penalized by early transformation into your chosen animal) and when that union goes sour, he flees into the woods to join the rebels. But even the rebels have their own rules: everyone must remain single, and relationships are a death sentence. Soon after, David falls in love with a rebel (Rachel Wiesz).

The societal comments are fascinating—the obvious point is how our own society places a premium on couples and disenfranchises singles. But it goes much further: the film also speaks to our collective apathy, how we are so easily led, and even how our society chooses to publicize everything. A secondary concern is how advertising and its redundancy turn us into sheep. Or dogs. Or camels. Or flamingos. Or even a lobster.

Screening 7pm Wed., July 17 at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Also available at various on-demand outlets.

You will enjoy this film if you liked *Her*, *Brazil*, and/or *Birdman*.

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.

Just the Facts

Tap Your Inner Scientist

by James Hagadorn



James Hagadorn measures a section in the Grand Canyon.

Scientific thinking is relevant, helpful, and something that we all can do. Over the past five years I’ve employed this

approach as a columnist, by setting aside my biases and sticking to “Just the Facts” to attract you to topics you may not have had



Above: James Hagadorn surveys Rock Exposures in Grand Canyon.
Below: Hagadorn photographs fossil jellyfish in the Munich Museum in Germany.



interest in before—as well as familiar ones that I hoped you might reexamine.

In the process, we’ve busted a lot of myths that were veiled as “common knowledge.” We’ve also uncovered useful information and gained some pride in our community’s accomplishments and history. See <https://frontporchne.com/category/just-the-facts/> for some examples.

Today I’m writing to let you know that I’m going to step away from writing this column for a while. My departing request? In these times of “alternative facts,” please don’t hesitate to channel your inner scientist, or to employ scientific thinking in your everyday life.

Start by pursuing your curiosity or seeking to understand something that puzzles you. Better yet, question an assumption or an assertion. Follow by reading about your topic, analyzing what’s known about it, and seeing what it tells you. Along the way, question where your information comes from—has it been vetted by someone with expertise in that field? How do we actually know that?

Maybe take it one step further, talk to a scientist to see what they know, perhaps sharing your thoughts over a beer. You might be surprised at what you learn, and you might even make a new friend!

If you’re like me, learning what you don’t know is fun, interesting, and often surprising. Especially when we’re wrong. Sometimes scientific thinking helps us reach decisions that impact our families and can help our community.

At the very least, it’s helped me become a better informed citizen of Colorado. I hope that scientific thinking can do the same for you.

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



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United Expansion Takes Off



Captain Mike McCasky, managing director of flight training, says the visuals in the simulators are so good it's like flying a real plane. After a

30-day training program for a new aircraft in FAA certified simulators, pilots are ready to go and fly the planes.

By Melinda Pearson

Stapleton residents may have recently noticed the hubbub of activity at 7500 E. 35th Ave., across from Swigert International School and Denver Discovery School. Men in vests stop traffic to make way for the heavy machinery that is part of the significant renovation of the 400,000- square-foot facility.

Although the construction commotion makes it appear that a major physical expansion is occurring, “We actually aren’t going to change the overall footprint of the structure,” said Erin Benson, public relations manager for United Airlines. “It’s just really a renovation.”

This renovation will nearly double the number of flight simulators at the facility,

however, bringing a total of 32 online. The simulators will represent all the different fleet types that United flies, including the Boeing 787, 777 and 737, said Benson.

All of United’s current 12,000 pilots—both new hires and returning ones—will train at the Denver facility, and some flight attendants as well. Training schedules vary greatly depending on the status and needs of the participants, said Benson, but the simulators will operate from 6am to 2am almost every day of the year.

In the past, pilot training was also conducted in Chicago and Houston, but in a deal made with the city of Denver last

year, United has consolidated all its training operations in our backyard.

“We did a thorough review and evaluation of several different options that included building a new facility in Denver, Chicago or Houston as well as improving the facilities in Denver or Houston,” said Benson. Renovating in Denver will allow them to complete construction about two years earlier than other options, said Benson, while minimizing disruption and displacement of staff.

The state, the city, the airport and other partners put together an incentive package to entice United to stay in Denver. The City and County of Denver provided about \$4



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Jared Peterson, training program manager for 737s, demonstrates the operation of a 737 flight simulator. Over 12,000 United pilots participate in a training session every 9 months, making

16,000 annual visits to the facility for training stints that range from a few days to a month. To keep up with demand, the simulators operate from 6am to 2am 362 days a year.

Rare open blocks of simulator time can be sold or, in some cases, donated to local charities like Ralston House or Denver Rescue Mission, which have auctioned flight time at fundraisers.



All of the simulators at the facility are air-plane-specific, like this one for 737s. With over 330 737s in operation flown by 4,500 pilots, 737 is a popular model in the United fleet. The newer flight simulators use electromagnetic pulses rather than hydraulics to generate motion.

By the end of the renovation, the facility will hold 32 simulators “We’re building a future in our facility for the next 40 years,” said Graham Smith, senior project manager at United’s Flight Training Center in Stapleton.

million and the state about \$9.2 million in performance-based contracts, so United has to meet specific milestones to receive ongoing funding, according to Derek Woodbury, of the city’s Office of Economic Development (OED).

“United Airlines is a very important partner to the City and County of Denver and to the airport,” said Turid Nagel-Casebolt, OED director of business development. “Including the airport operations, they are actually our No. 1 non-retail private employer in Denver.”

She expects the consolidation will bring 250 additional jobs to the area, on top of the 400 jobs the training center currently provides. In addition, according to Nagel-Casebolt, United

training management expects full consolidation to result in the need for 450 local hotel rooms a night to accommodate visiting pilots, some along the Quebec corridor.

“We view it as an important employment center and a community cornerstone of the redevelopment of Stapleton,” said Nagel-Casebolt. She also expects that the expanded training center will contribute to activating the Central Park Station and transit-oriented development opportunities around Central Park Station.

The project should be completed by the end of 2017. “They have been following through on their milestones and the project is moving ahead beautifully,” noted Nagel-Casebolt.



Renovations to the 23-acre campus are on track to be completed by late 2017, except for some exterior site work.

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Food Well Cooked—Investors Burned



Chef Anthony Ramos poured himself into the Bistro, but “Unfortunately, it came to a pretty early end,” he said. “Luckily, I had the staff that have been absolutely amazing and supportive.”

By Melinda Pearson

Long before Eastbridge and Stanley opened, the Bistro on the corner of 29th and Ulster was an outpost for grown-ups seeking sophisticated comfort in a largely kid-free zone.

Three years into its tenure here, a cascade of events has brought about the close of this neighborhood gem. The Bistro was started by a group of Stapleton neighbor-investors, who envisioned a small-plate restaurant where people could

gather for upscale cocktails and uninterrupted conversation. According to chef/owner Anthony Ramos, trouble began when one of the original shareholders, Richard Motarjeme, defrauded numerous investors in the restaurant beginning not long after it opened. Ramos said Motarjeme—in what sounds like a scheme out of *The Producers*—wooed new investors with promises of high returns on initially small investments. Paying them back through other investment money, Motarjeme then lured them into larger investments, which he used for his personal gain instead of investing in the restaurant, according to Ramos.

All this occurred without the knowledge of the original owners, who started noticing discrepancies in June 2015. Deposits to Bistro accounts were quickly followed by cash withdrawals, and Bistro funds were expended in Las Vegas. The equity investors made loans to keep the Bistro going and filed charges with the district attorney’s office in November 2015.

Motarjeme was indicted in October 2016 on 19 counts of fraud and theft, with losses to Bistro investors totaling \$405,000. Similar losses to neighboring Wine Cellars and Bottle Shop totaled \$75,000, according to the D.A.’s office. In May, Motarjeme was sentenced to eight years in prison—with all but 120 days of the sentence suspended—and was ordered to pay restitution to those he defrauded, though investors don’t expect to see a dime.

“Just because we have this safe, wonderful com-

munity, it’s not without risk,” said a longtime Stapleton resident who invested in the company. “We need to remember that we still have to protect ourselves.” This investor urges those contemplating neighborhood collaborations to do background checks, even on friendly neighbors.

As a result of the losses, “we spent an entire year robbing Paul to pay Peter,” said Ramos. “We were falling behind on bills, on taxes.” The restaurant business is tough under the best of circumstances, and efforts to repay debt hobbled the establishment.

Adding to the Bistro’s woes was the sudden influx of competition from Stanley and Eastbridge—over a dozen new restaurants opened in the area in 2017. Revenues at the Bistro dropped about 40 percent, according to Ramos, who said he used personal savings to keep the restaurant afloat.


In recent lease negotiations, Ramos proposed some basic improvements in addition to a rent reduction to continue operations. But discussions with landlord Tom Razo proved fruitless. “They sent an email back saying this doesn’t work,” said Ramos. With no lease, the Bistro couldn’t renew its liquor license, which was the final nail in the coffin for the restaurant.

Ramos doesn’t know his next moves, but as for his time in Stapleton, he says he was “a giant, tattooed, ex-punk rocker” who feared acceptance in such a white-collar community, but, “man, did these people accept me with open arms ... my regulars were some of the most loving, kind-hearted people that you would ever meet,” said Ramos. “I want to thank them personally for being part of a dream I had.”



Former Stapleton resident Rich Motarjeme is currently serving time in prison for his role in defrauding Bistro owners. (File photo)

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DSST Aurora Middle/High School Approved to Open in 2019

By John Fernandez

The Aurora Public Schools Board of Education has approved a charter school application for a grade 6-12 campus to be located in Stapleton Aurora on 25th Ave. between Fulton and Iola streets. The school would open in the fall of 2019 with a 6th grade class of 150 students, adding one grade per year thereafter. The high school would open in 2022 and by 2026 the campus would host 975 students.

This would be the first DSST school located outside of Denver. DSST currently serves about 5,000 students in 14 schools. The network's new schools in Aurora would likely have a different name; DSST stands for the Denver School of Science and Technology.

The June 20 Board of Education vote was 5-2 in favor of the application, which also included a second DSST campus at a location to be determined, Aurora Public Schools (APS) and DSST now have 90 days to execute a contract detailing a variety of matters including performance standards and project funding. The school building is estimated to cost between \$15 and \$23 million and will be in the range of 110,000 square feet. A bond issue approved by APS voters in November set aside \$12 million for the building. Superintendent Rico Munn has previously indicated he expects DSST to raise at least half of the money for the building. DSST has

said only that it will support APS's fund-raising efforts. The resolution approved by the BOE board set a March 30, 2018 deadline for coming up with the money for the campus.

During public comment, four speakers opposed the DSST application based on impacts to the APS budget by moving several hundred students out of traditional schools into a charter school. Three APS teachers and the president-elect of the Aurora Education Association, Bruce Wilcox, asked the board to deny or at least table the DSST application. The board attorney, Brandon Eyre, cautioned the board that under state law, delay without the approval of the applicant (DSST) would void the application. Application supporters said APS needed to take advantage of the educational opportunity offered by DSST and deal with administrative and financial issues separately.

The 25th Ave. campus comprises nine acres. Of that amount, 1.7 acres are privately owned at this time (the South Stapleton Office Warehouse Park building). Last year, APS commenced condemnation proceedings to acquire the site, which is located between Galena and Geneva streets. Eyre said the property owners are cooperating and a legal hearing is expected next April to complete that acquisition.

Dayton/Emporia: New Street To Open Soon



Dayton/Emporia, the fifth street connection between Stapleton and Aurora, will open once street lighting, landscaping and a short sidewalk segment are installed. Aurora will then conduct final inspections prior to acceptance of the road. The new connection is required by intergovernmental agreement between Denver and Aurora. Stanley Marketplace is visible in the background.



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Kids’ Store Promotes Self-Expression and Creative Thinking



Michelle Belyea’s store, Wild Child, carries creative and unusual toys and also has a line of children’s clothing. Their Crazy Cash program puts store credit in a kid’s account based on their purchases.

By Anne Hebert
Husband and wife team Michelle and Eric Belyea have been business partners for over 20 years and own a kids’ ski shop in Vail. As fans of the Colorado outdoor lifestyle, their foray into retail for kids gave them the experience and desire to open their new Northfield children’s boutique, Wild Child. With over 2,000 square feet of shopping space, the Northfield location will serve as the flagship store with plans to open several more boutiques in Ft. Collins, Colorado Springs and other locations along the I-25 corridor.

Named for their daughter, Libby, whom the Belyea’s have always referred to as their “wild child,” the boutique carries clothing, toys, novelties and gifts for children. “Our sweet spot is really merchandise for kids ages 5 to 12,” says Michelle Belyea. “We offer unique merchandise that isn’t found at big-box retail stores.”

The Belyea’s chose Northfield for its outdoor lifestyle shopping area and the diversity of the people in northeast Denver. “Everyone goes for something different,” Belyea remarks. “We want to carry items that encourage self-expression,



promote creative thinking and instill confidence in kids.”

Belyea emphasizes that Wild Child offers teen employment opportunities and teaches teens how to job hunt effectively. “We don’t use applications to screen and hire new staff

members. Instead, we ask applicants to come with a prepared résumé and commit to a formal interview,” says Belyea. “This gives teens a chance to learn beneficial résumé and interview skills through firsthand experience.”

The value of money is also part of the newly minted Wild Child Crazy Cash program. Each time a purchase is made in a child’s name, 10 percent of the cost will be credited to a store account for them. Crazy Cash can be saved toward a special purchase and the program is designed to teach kids about savings and the value of a dollar.

Wild Child is truly a family endeavor. In addition to Michelle and Eric Belyea, their son Jayme, a 16-year-old, works at the store. Libby, age 14, is beginning to learn about retail and will work at the store when she turns 16.

To learn more about Wild Child or shop online, visit www.thewildchildstore.com.


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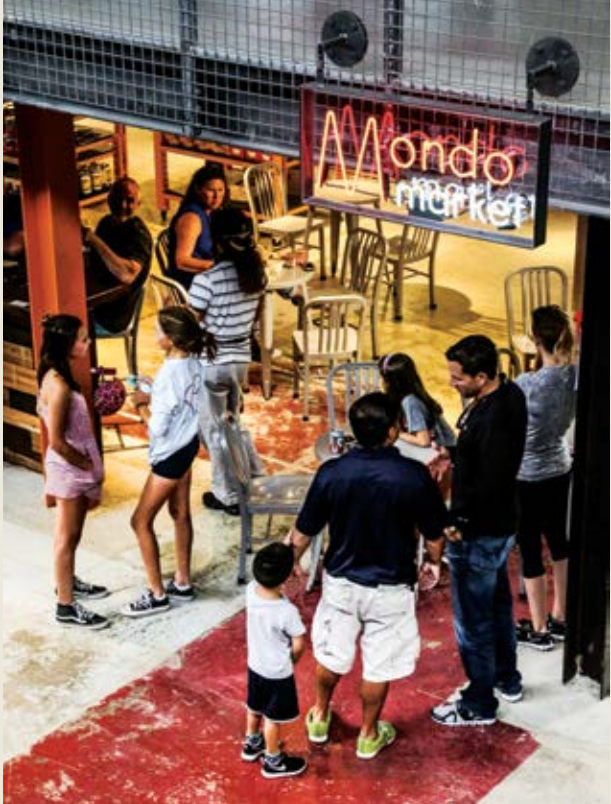
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July 2017

20

Front Porch – NE Denver



Far Left: Customers at Mondo Market await their orders.

Left: Owners Michael Davis (left) and Nicolas Farrell (right) are pictured in their new Stanley Marketplace location.

Below Left: An in-house sommelier advises customers about appropriate meat, cheese and wine pairings with the store's specialty products.

Below Middle: Market customers can sample cheeses, meats and prepared foods. Counter personnel provide additional information about products, including their origins, flavors and textures.

Below Right: Patrons can eat made-to-order sandwiches in a dining area inside Mondo Market.

Prepared Foods, Specialty Items, Grocery Essentials and Custom Catering

By Anne Hebert

Mondo Market, which began as a specialty food website, blossomed into a neighborhood bodega concept with two Denver locations. The newest store is now open at the Stanley Marketplace and the original store is located at The Source in RiNo.

Nicolas Farrell and Michael Davis, owners of Mondo Market, feel their stores work best in a community marketplace setting. The market offers food options fortified with knowledge about the ingredients and origins of their products, including hand-selected and curated selections of cheeses, meats, pre-

pared foods, made-to-order sandwiches, and grocery items sourced locally and globally.

A window into the walk-in cooler showcases an array of meats and cheeses displayed in the "beautiful tradition" of the markets Farrell admired during his travels in Spain and Italy. With a full kitchen on-site, prepared foods are made fresh daily. Customers can also purchase local eggs, milk, yogurt, sliced meat, fresh bread and cheese to take home.

Farrell and Davis agree that a knowledgeable staff is vital to offering their customers a great experience. "One of our cheese counter employees is also a sommelier and can offer suggestions for ideal cheese and wine pairings," Davis explains. Customized

charcuterie trays are prepared by asking the customer questions about their preferences. "Listening to our customers is one of the most important things we do," says Farrell. Custom catering orders are available by calling ahead.

Farrell emphasizes that keeping prices in line with other grocers is important. "We don't want to be prohibitively expensive," he says. "Our price point and high quality encourages regular customers."

Mondo Market believes in the collaborative ethos of the Stanley. Logan House Coffee provides the powder for the market's homemade tiramisu while the market creates charcuterie plates for them. "There is a lot of talent at the Stanley Marketplace," notes Farrell. "We look forward to extending collaborations with other vendors here as the market grows."

To learn more about Mondo Market, call 303.248.3983 or visit www.mondomarket-denver.com or www.mondofood.com.



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\$10 Million Full-Block Redevelopment Project Coming to Oneida St.



By Anne Hebert

Oneida Park, the retail center located between 22nd and 23rd avenues on both sides of Oneida St., will get a \$10 million facelift. The project will update the appearance of the block and create a family-friendly restaurant and retail center featuring a 7,000 square foot outdoor courtyard with a children's play area. Currently in the permitting phase, construction is slated to begin in late summer 2017.

The center will restore its iconic Oneida

Park sign with repairs enabling it to be lit at night. Todd Snyder and Rick Firmine, co-owners of the project, are collaborating with landscape architects from Dig Studio for design of the outdoor space and courtyard. The 1950's mid-century modern aesthetic will be updated with a neutral color combination of off-white buildings, black roofing, and gray accents. Existing business signage will be replaced for a uniform look and new landscape elements will be added to enhance the appearance of the

surrounding outdoor space and courtyard.

"We want the area to be easily accessible," Snyder notes. With off-street parking available on the property and on-street parking along Oneida St., Snyder says they will also install plenty of bicycle racks to encourage residents to bike to the center when weather permits.

The courtyard, flanked on three sides by Ester's Neighborhood Pub, a Little Man Ice Cream restaurant concept, and a yet-to-be-named coffee shop, will have seating for outdoor dining. "The goal is to have an area where patrons can enjoy a meal, coffee or dessert and their children can play just a few feet away and within sight and earshot," says Snyder. Lighting will be updated and reconfigured to create a festive, relaxed and safe atmosphere.

The courtyard will be the site of seasonal events which may include a Farmers' Market, a pumpkin patch, holiday tree lighting festivities, and performances by Denver School of the Arts (DSA).

Most tenants currently occupying space at Oneida Park will stay. Five retail spaces from 600 to 1,600 square feet are available for lease. Snyder believes retail services or small boutiques would likely be the best fit.

For information about the project and location, visit www.oneidapark.com.

July 30, *Surviving Skokie* Documentary and Conversation with A Holocaust Survivor

Surviving Skokie is an intensely personal story of Holocaust survivor, Jack Adler, and his son, Eli Adler. The documentary will be shown at the Stanley Marketplace on July 30 at 10am. Following the film will be a discussion lead by the Holocaust survivor himself, Jack Adler. RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/y9dgrbro>

The film portrays the human cost of racism and bigotry and the heroism of those who speak out against intolerance in all its forms. For more information and to see the trailer, visit www.survivingskokiemovie.org. The event is sponsored by The Brave Coalition, The Mizel Museum and The Jewish Life Center. For more information email info@bravecoalition.com.

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Recognitions

“Wheels of Justice” Celebrates 12 Years at the Courage Classic

By Anne Hebert

The “Wheels of Justice” riding team will participate for the 12th consecutive year in the Children’s Hospital Colorado Courage Classic bike tour dedicated to supporting our region’s only all-inclusive, nonprofit pediatric hospital. The team, comprised of lawyers and other legal professionals, initially began riding to help support the construction of the new Children’s Hospital Colorado campus. “We wanted to make a powerful impact on a Colorado nonprofit,” says founding member Aaron Bradford. “It was pretty easy to point at the cranes and heavy equipment building the new hospital to show where the funds we raised were going.”

Now, with over 200 riders participating on their team each year, the group has raised \$3.3 million earmarked for the Children’s Hospital Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders. The money raised helps fund a family wellness program for pediatric cancer patients and their families dealing with the stress that comes with the diagnosis and treatment of a life-threatening illness. Funds raised by the team also go

toward primary research, grant funding, and salaries for one-year pediatric oncology fellowships.

The team accommodates all skill levels and family participation by encouraging riders to select one of several bicycle routes that best matches their ability. Cyclists can participate in rides as long as 81 miles or as short as the 10-mile Family Ride.

Bradford says in addition to knowing that the team’s efforts helps others, he has enjoyed watching his son attend the event for all nine years of his life. “This year, my son is fundraising and riding as a team member and learning what an inspiration it is to give back.”

The 2017 Courage Classic will be held in Copper Mountain on July 22–23. Volunteers are needed at the event and donations are welcome. Sponsorship opportunities are still available.

To learn more, visit www.childrenscoloradofoundation.org/courage-classic/. For additional information, contact Andrea Caruso at 720.777.1783.



Finn Bradford, Rae Bramson, Aaron and Linda Bradford at the Courage Classic at Copper Mountain.



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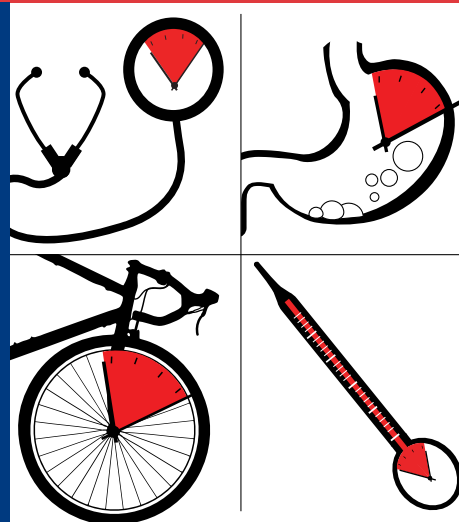
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By John Fernandez

After 14 years as Executive Director of the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership, Kate Kramer is moving on...about 20 feet to an adjacent office. She is managing a \$2.7 million, three-year grant to provide better access to the outdoors for 37,000 youth in the northeast metro area. Kramer will work with 12 organizations to offer activities for youth at outdoor amenities including Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (RMANWR), Bluff Lake, the Urban Farm and, of course, the Sand Creek Regional Greenway.

During her years at Sand Creek, Kramer raised more than \$17 million—and her work has resulted in a continuous 14-mile trail from the South Platte confluence on the west to Colfax Avenue on the east. It spans three cities—Commerce City, Denver and Aurora—passing through major parks in each.

Kramer credits her 21-member board comprised of citizens, staff and elected officials from the three cities for the success they've had achieving the vision of the Greenway. She likens her job to that of a baseball team manager, "I bring the bats, the balls, I get the team members to show up but then they run the bases." She also credits the many volunteers whose efforts have been essential for trail cleanup and eradication of invasive species such as Russian Olive trees and tamarisk bushes.

Despite the huge improvements, Kramer says several projects remain—and she estimates completion of the Sand Creek Greenway will cost \$5-7 million. But even though it remains very much a work in progress, it has progressed far enough to be named "Best Bike Path in the Metro Area" in a recent *Westword* poll. Kramer takes pride in an asset she likes to refer to as "wilderness in the city." Under her tenure, all the street crossings have been converted to bridge and tunnel crossings that keep cyclists away from cars. She is also proud

Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership A Fond Goodbye—and

Kate Kramer looks out at Sand Creek from the pedestrian/bicycle bridge near the Sand Creek/Westerly Creek confluence.



that there hasn't been a single serious criminal incident along the Greenway despite the facility being open year round, dawn to dusk.

Access to Sand Creek became a possibility with the closure of Stapleton Airport. In the 20 years since the original Greenway master plan was created, accomplishments along Sand Creek and other streams in the area have made the Denver region a national model for linked regional trails. The really long-term vision is to connect a completed Sand Creek Greenway to the Rocky Mountain Greenway Project – a federal, state, and local partnership to link Denver trails, three National Wildlife Refuges in the metro region, Rocky Mountain National Park, and community trails systems in between.

But in the meantime, Kramer looks forward to her new job as manager of the Go Wild Northeast Metro Coalition (funded by a Great Outdoors Colorado grant). "Within a mile of these kids' homes," she says, "they can see eagles, prairie dogs and bison." She recalls an experience last year when working with a group of kids who asked her if they could make some noise while on an outing. "They began vocalizing the sounds of wildlife and in a short time were screaming, going wild. It was several minutes of pure joy."

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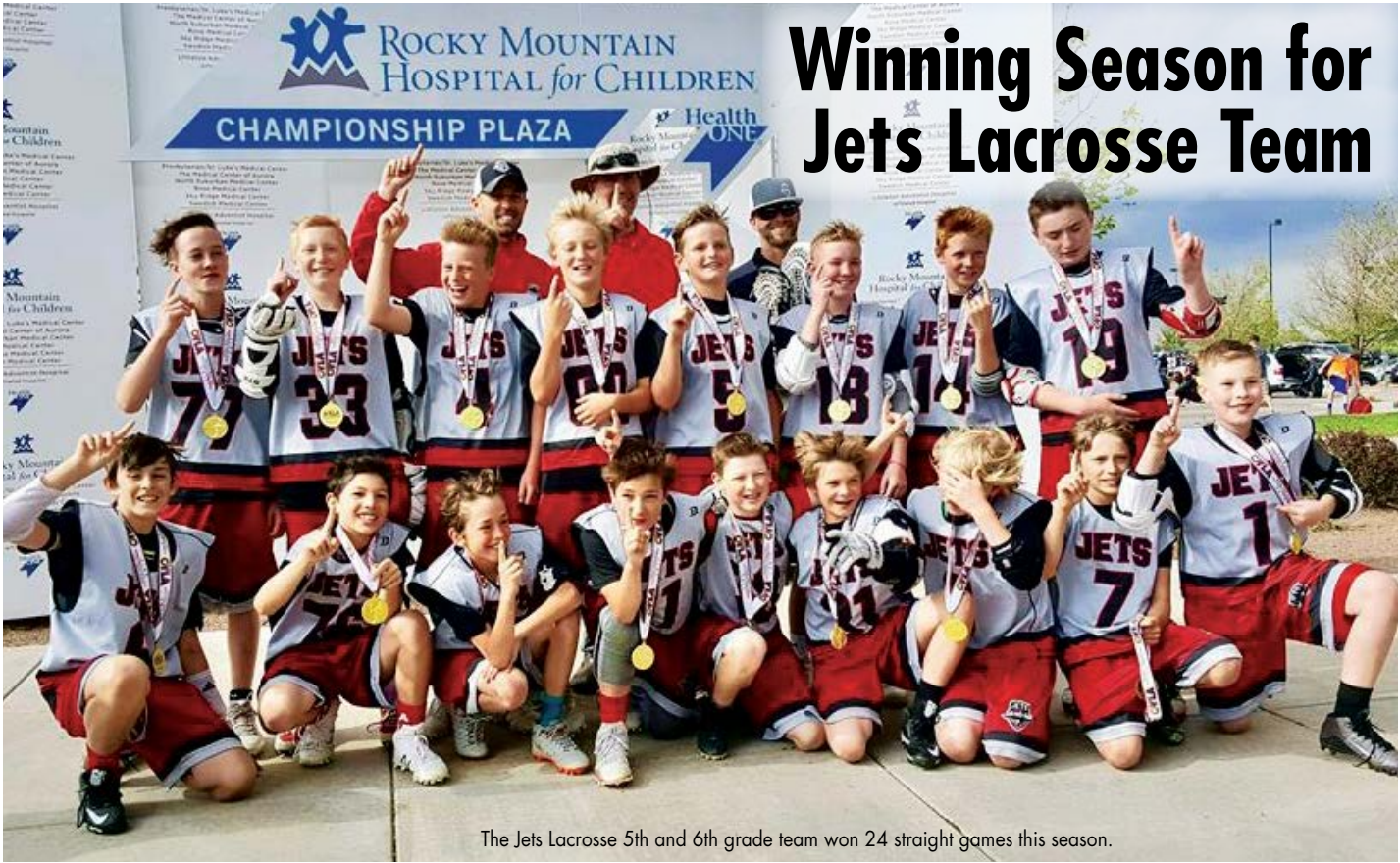
Recognitions



New Sand Creek Director Hired

Beth Nobles says she was attracted to the Sand Creek position because “trails are a great bridge to enjoying the outdoors, to enjoying your community and to staying healthy.” That love of the outdoors started with the sense of independence she remembers as a girl using trails in Bloomington, IL—and was cemented by a high school summer internship building bridges and trails in the Illinois State Parks system.

Nobles brings grant writing, fundraising and board and partner development experience to her new position at Sand Creek. Along with 20 years in fundraising for the University of Iowa, she served as the executive director of the Texas Mountain Trail where she developed “tourism assets” and heritage bike routes in six counties. She is moving from Austin, Texas, where she has been serving as Deputy Director of Bike Texas, managing the day-to-day operations of the organization. She expects to be on the job in early July.



The Jets Lacrosse 5th and 6th grade team won 24 straight games this season.

By Carol Roberts

Not many people can say they play on a team with a 24 – 0 record, but a fifth and sixth grade boys lacrosse team claimed that record this spring. The Jets U12 White Team was 9 – 0 in the regular season and won all their games in four tournaments. Coach Stephen Flannery says a number of factors came together that contributed to this impressive record.

The core group has played together for four or five years with the same coach and three-fourths of them started playing at age five or six. “Teams that are able to stick together that long for sure have a significant advantage,” says Flannery. “A lot of times when you see successful teams, one of the things they have in common is that the core group of kids have played together for quite some time.”

“A focus on fundamentals first and foremost is the key to success,” says Flannery, but he also believes his philosophy of “not overcoaching” has strengthened his team.

“When it comes to the games, we want them to make their own decisions on the fly in the game. That’s how they learn the best. Prepare them the best you can and put them in situations where they need to make decisions on their own, whether those are good or bad, and learn from their mistakes. I think you’d find that our sideline is pretty quiet relative to a lot of lacrosse sidelines—and it seems to have worked well for our kids. I think they respond well to that style of coaching.”

Though kids on sports teams love the thrill of the game, not all young players love the drills and repetitions during practice. Flannery says that’s not an issue with his team. “I think they understand it doesn’t matter what level of lacrosse you play at, fundamental skills are so important they need to be practiced every day. Even high-level college and professional teams are working on fundamentals every day because they’re such an important facet of the game. They see it pay off in games and tournaments.”

Flannery, 37, grew up in Long Island,

New York (a hotbed of lacrosse) and started playing when he was about five. He played through college, then took an 8- to 10-year break from the sport. Now he coaches, plays in two men’s leagues and is director of operations for Jets Lacrosse. His job setting up retirement plans for companies allows him to work from home and have a flexible schedule to accommodate all the lacrosse in his life.

Most players in the Jets boys lacrosse organization live in Stapleton and Park Hill, though boys from grades one to eight at any skill level and from any neighborhood can join the club. Flannery says it’s never too late to start, adding, “Some of the best high school players I know didn’t pick up a stick until a year or two into high school.”

The Jets have a sister club called the Electras that offers teams and programs at all skill levels for kindergarten to 8th grade girls from any neighborhood. For more information about these teams visit www.electraslacrosse.com or www.jetslacrosse.com.

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SEASONAL/HOLIDAY EVENTS

7/1 Saturday—Old-Fashioned July 4th Celebration. 5-10pm. Modern take on old-fashioned July 4th. 715 S. Forest St. 720.865.0800. www.fourmilepark.org

7/3 Monday—Independence Day Eve Celebration in Civic Center Park. 8pm. FREE community concert with patriotic favorites by Colorado Symphony. Lightshow and fireworks show. Denver Civic Center Park. www.civiccenter-conservancy.org

7/3 to 7/4—Colorado Rockies vs. Cincinnati. Fireworks after games on 7/3 and 7/4. www.coloradorockies.com

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

7/4 Tuesday—4th Annual Park Hill 4th of July Parade. 1-3pm. Park Hill, 23rd Ave. from Dexter to Kearney. www.parkhillparade.org

7/4 Tuesday—Aurora 4th of July Spectacular. Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway. Live music, fireworks at dusk. www.auroragov.org

7/4 Tuesday—Colorado Rapids vs. Seattle. Fireworks after game. Family fun zone 5pm, game 7pm. www.coloradorapids.com

7/4 Tuesday—Denver Outlaws vs. Atlanta Blaze. 7pm. Sports Authority Field. Fireworks after game. www.denveroutlaws.com

7/4 Tuesday—Elitch Gardens. Fireworks at dusk.

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

7/4 Tuesday—Liberty 4 Mile and Firecracker Kids Run. 8:30am. Washington Park. www.liberty4mile.com

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

DENVER METRO EVENTS

To 7/9—Cirque du Soleil: Luzia. Pepsi Center. www.cirquedusoleil.com

www.cirquedusoleil.com

To 7/2—Denver Comic Con 2017. Denver Convention Center, 700 14th St. \$35+. www.denvercomiccon.com

To 8/23—Shady Grove Concert Series. Wednesdays through 8/23. Four Mile Historic Park. 6:30pm. www.swallowhill-music.org, www.fourmilepark.org

7/1 to 7/3—Cherry Creek Arts Festival. www.cherry-arts.org

7/1 to 10/7—Free composting classes. Wednesdays and Saturdays thru mid-Oct. Classes at Denver Compost Demonstration Site, Gove Community Garden, 13th Ave. and Colorado Blvd. Sign up: 303.292.9900 or www.dug.org/compost.

7/2 to 8/6—City Park Jazz. Sundays 6-8pm thru 8/6. City Park Pavilion. FREE. www.cityparkjazz.org

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

7/7 to 7/9—Colorado Black Arts Festival. City Park West. www.colbaf.org

7/7 to 7/19—The Big Wonderful. Stanley Marketplace. Beerfest, bands, bazaar. Tickets: www.thebigwonderful.com

7/8 to 7/16—Colorado Irish Festival. Largest Irish celebration in Rocky Mountains. Traditional Irish music, dancing, drama, storytelling, games, food/drink. Littleton, Clement Park. www.coloradoirishfestival.org

7/8 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. Free with admission. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-2pm. www.wing-smuseum.org

7/8 Saturday—Denver Dumb Friends League 9th Annual Cat Fest. FREE. Meet adoptable pets, clicker training demos, kids' activities, food trucks, advice from pet experts, waived adoption fees for adult cats 1 year and older. 10am-3pm. 2080 S. Quebec. 303.751.5772. www.ddfl.org

7/8 Saturday—Mozart Under Moonlight at Arvada Center. Presented by Colorado Symphony. www.arvadacenter.org

7/10 to 8/7—Monday Movie Madness at Infinity Park. Free Movies, Infinity Park, Glendale. 7/10 Ferris Bueller's Day Off, 7/17 Finding Dory, 7/24 Top Gun, 8/7 Sing! Gates open 7pm, movies 8pm. www.infinityparkatglendale.com

7/14 to 7/16—Slow Food Nations. Workshops, tastings, tours, kids' activities. Free, open to public. Various locations: Larimer Square, Union Station, Tattered Cover, etc. www.slowfoodnations.org

7/15 Saturday—Drums Along the Rockies. 6:30pm. Sports Authority Field at Mile High. Tickets: www.ascendperformingarts.org

7/15 to 7/16—Evergreen Summerfest. www.evergreenarts.org

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7/16 Sunday—Molly Brown House Block Party. Molly Brown House block. Celebrating Molly Brown's 150th birthday. 12-4pm. \$5 kids 6-12, \$11 adults, \$9 seniors, military and college students. www.molly-brown.org

7/17 to 9/11—Film on the Rocks. 7 pm. Red Rocks Amphitheater. Live music and movie select evenings thru summer. Tickets from \$12. Schedule: www.redrocksonline.com

7/20 Thursday—Colorado Symphony: A Night of Pops. Arvada Center. www.arvadacenter.org

7/21 to 7/23—Denver County Fair. National Western Complex. www.denver-countyfair.org

7/27 to 7/30—Arapahoe County Fair. Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, Aurora. www.arapahoecountyfair.com

7/27 to 7/30—Buffalo Bill Days. Wild West show, car show, mutton bustin', arts/crafts. Parfet Park, downtown Golden. www.buffalobilldays.com

7/27 to 7/30—Denver Post Underground Music Showcase. S. Broadway. 400+ bands play in 30+ venues. www.theums.com

7/28 to 7/30—Evergreen Jazz Festival. www.evergreenjazz.org

7/29 Saturday—Zac Brown Band. Coors Field. www.axs.com

7/29 to 7/30—Denver Dragon Boat Festival. 14th annual. Denver's Sloan's Lake Park. www.cdbf.org

8/2 Wednesday—Guns N Roses. Sports Authority Field. www.ticketmaster.com

8/2 to 8/16—Civic Center Cinema. Civic Center Park. Wednesdays 8/2, 9, 16. At dusk; food trucks 6:30pm. Free. www.civiccenterconservancy.org

8/5 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. Free with admission. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-2pm. www.wingsmuseum.org

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

7/5 Wednesday—Medicare 101. Free educational seminar for Medicare beneficiaries or caregivers. 9-10am. Chaundra Glenn 303.324.0951. Iora Primary Care, 4100 E. Mississippi Ave., #110, Glendale.

7/8 Saturday—Corner Store Fun Run. National Western Complex. Family-friendly. Dress in country attire; stay for free, country fair: live music, food, refreshments, carnival games and giveaways. All proceeds benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters and local children's charities. \$25 Competitive 5K (all ages), \$20 Fun Run 5K (all ages). <http://cornerstorerun.com/>

7/8 Saturday—Sand Creek 1/2 Marathon and 5K/10K. Stapleton Central Park. www.featonthestreet.com

7/9 Sunday—Free Yoga Flow with StapletOM at Prana in Cherry Creek. Bring mat and friend to Prana, 105 Fillmore St. for 10am yoga class with StapletOM instructor. <http://prana.com/denver-store>, <http://stapletom.com>

7/9 Sunday—Yoga Rocks the Park. Sunken Gardens Park. Register 8am. FREE. Radiant Beginnings yoga camp for ages 5-10 while parents practice. FREE. www.yogarocksthepark.com

7/15 Saturday—Barre on the Rocks. Red Rocks, 7-8am. \$14. Tickets: www.redrocksonline.com

7/16 Sunday—Free Yoga and Live Music at Station 26. Free yoga flow to live music with founders of StapletOM at Station 26, 7045 E. 38th Ave. 1:30pm. <http://station26brewing.co>, <http://stapletom.com>

7/22 Saturday—CF Climb Denver. Sports Authority Field at Mile High Stadium. Stair climb benefits Cystic Fibrosis. 8am. www.cff.org/rockymountain/

7/30 Sunday—4th Annual Dash for Smiles Walk/Run. Stapleton Central Park. www.dashforsmiles.org

8/5 Saturday—Free Yoga with Live Music at Station 26 with StapletOM. Bring mat and friend to Station 26 Brewing Co., 7045 E 38th Ave. 1:30pm during Farmers Market for free yoga flow with the founder of StapletOM. <http://station26brewing.co>, <http://stapletom.com>

HISTORY COLORADO CENTER

www.historycolorado.org

7/1 to 8/26—History Colorado Kids Free Saturdays. Free Saturdays for youth 18.

7/11 Tuesday—Ignite! Nite. History Colorado Center after hours. July theme: "Climb." 5-8pm. Cash bar, cooking demos, live music, DIY crafts and exhibit tours. Adults only. Free for

members, tickets \$12.

8/1 Tuesday—Colorado Day at History Colorado Center. Celebrate Colorado's birthday with music, dancing, food and free admission.

KIDS AND FAMILIES

6/1 to 8/12—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

4/28 to 9/24—Alexander Calder Sculpture Exhibit at Denver Botanic Gardens. Included with admission. www.botanicgardens.org

6/4 to 7/30—Ekar Urban Farm "Days in the Dirt." Sundays 6/4 to 10/1. 9am-1pm; individuals, families and groups. Meet, mingle, drop in to plant, tend and harvest together. Pint-sized tools for kids. Future Farmers' Program 10-10:30am for ages 4-10 with on-site educator. All harvested produce donated to feed the hungry. Goal: donate

(continued on page 28)

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(continued from page 27)

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To 7/30—Colorado Renaissance Festival. Weekends thru 7/30. Larkspur. www.coloradorennaissance.com

7/1 Saturday—4-H Showmanship Demo. 10am-12pm. Join us in Indoor Arena. TUF 4-H members demonstrate showmanship with goats, sheep, chickens and rabbits as they prepare for Adams County Fair in August. \$5/person age 2 and older. Free to members. <http://theurbanfarm.org>

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

7/1 to 7/29—Dinos! Prehistoric Party. After hours at Denver Zoo, Saturdays in July. 6:30-9pm. Visit life-size animatronic dinosaurs and enjoy family-friendly entertainment after sundown. Tickets: www.denverzoo.org

7/1 to 10/31—Dinos! Live at Denver Zoo. Life-size animatronic dinosaur exhibit. Free with admission. www.denverzoo.org

7/6 to 8/26—Denver Puppet Theater Presents Cricket: A Southwestern Tale. 3156 W. 38th Ave. Showtimes/tickets: www.denverpuppettheater.com

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

7/9 Sunday—Junior Rangers. 1:30-3:30pm. Ages 6-12. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. Reservations required. 303.739.9428, www.auroragov.org/nature

7/11 to 8/29—Tuesdays in July and August—Four Mile Historic Park Small Settlers. Ages 2-5 accompanied by parent/caregiver. 9-10am. \$5/child, adults free. Members free. 715 S. Forest St. Advance register: 720.865.0814 or education@four-milepark.org. www.fourmilepark.org

7/15 Saturday—Denver Botanic Gardens Lavender Fest at Chatfield Farms. 9am-5pm. 800+ blooming lavender plants at Chatfield Farms. Free admission, farm tours, music, kids' activities, and food

for purchase; educational programs on lavender for additional charge. Pre-register on website or day of if space available. 8500 W. Deer Creek Canyon Rd. www.botanicgardens.org

7/20 Thursday—Youth Journalism Day. 4th-8th-grade students, 7:30am-5pm. Metropolitan State Univ., Denver. Spend the day with professionals learning about story writing, interviews, writing tips and photography. 303.954.3974 or www.ColoradoNIE.com

7/22 to 7/23—Rocky Mountain Train Show. Forney Transportation Museum. 80+ tables of trains, all scales and gauges. 4303 Brighton Blvd. www.rockymountaintrainshow.com

8/5 Saturday—Wild West Kids. Saddle up for pioneer experience with games, stories, races, nature discoveries, etc. Pack a picnic and come in favorite pioneer outfit. 10am-2pm. Four Mile Historic Park, 715 S. Forest St. Free for Four Mile members; nonmember \$5/person ages 3 and up, or \$25 for 1-year Family Membership to Park. www.fourmilepark.org

LECTURES AND CLASSES

7/27 Thursday—Active Minds Presents: Turbulent Waters: Conflict in the South China Sea. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. www.activeminds.com

7/29 Saturday—Four Mile Class Series: Working Horses. Learn basic horse anatomy and care, harnessing and hitching, and some of our horse-drawn equipment. 10am-12pm. Four Mile Historic Park, 715 S. Forest St. \$13 for FMHP members; \$15 nonmembers. www.fourmilepark.org/event

7/25 Tuesday—The Women's Foundation of Colorado's 30th Anniversary Celebration Featuring Former First Lady Michelle Obama. The TOGETHER celebration will raise funds to advance and accelerate economic opportunities for Colorado women and their families and include a live conversation with Mrs. Obama, moderated by WFCO President and CEO Lauren Y. Casteel. Pepsi Center. \$54.50-\$1,254.50. 303.285.2960. Contact: Lisa Christie: lisac@wfc.org. <https://wfc.org/>, <https://www.altitudetickets.com/>

MUSEUMS—DENVER ART MUSEUM
www.denverartmuseum.org

To 8/31—Then, Now, Next: Evolution of an Architectural Icon. North Building history. Free: 18 and under.

To 9/10—The Western: An Epic in Art and Film. Explore artistic/cinematic evolution of the Wild West. 160 works explore gender roles, race relations and gun violence thru fine art, film, popular culture from mid-1800s to present. 320-page illustrated book by historians, artists and directors in The Shops at DAM and online.

MUSEUMS—DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE
www.dmns.org

To 8/13—Vikings: Beyond the Legend. Special exhibit. Separate ticket required.

To 10/12—IMAX Current Films. Dream Big 3D: Engineering Our World; Incredible Predators 3D; Mysteries of China.

To 1/1—Nature's Amazing Machines. Free with admission. www.dmns.org

7/20 Thursday—Science Lounge. Cocktails/entertainment every 3rd Thurs. of month. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/nonmembers.

MUSEUMS—SCFD/TARGET FREE DAYS

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

7/2 Sunday—Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys Free Day. www.dmmtdt.org

7/11 Tuesday—Children's Museum Free Target Tuesday. 4-8pm. www.cmdenver.org

7/14 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Free Day. 12pm-4pm. www.fourmilepark.org

7/17 Monday—Denver Botanic Gardens Free Day. www.botanicgardens.org

7/28 Friday—Clyfford Still Museum. Free admission last Friday monthly all day. Free admission every Fri. 5-8pm. 1250 Bannock St. www.clyffordstillmuseum.org

8/1 Tuesday—Children's Museum Free Target Tuesday. 4-8pm. www.cmdenver.org

8/5 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day. www.denverartmuseum.org

8/6 Sunday—Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys Free Day. www.dmmtdt.org

8/6 Sunday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science Free Day. www.dmns.org

NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS

To 9/30—Da Vinci Machines Exhibit. Special interactive exhibit features 65 handcrafted inventions built from da Vinci's 500-year-old designs. Separate ticket required. www.wingsmuseum.org

7/8 Saturday—Mile High Wine Festival. 3-8pm. Unlimited wine tastings from 25+ Colo. wineries, live music, retail and food vendors, etc. At The Shops at Northfield. Tickets: King Soopers and milehighwinefest.com

7/12 Wednesday—Film Documentary Showing of "Sister Bee." Film followed by Q&A about creativity and working with bees. 6-8 pm. Free, open to public. The Art Gym, 1460 Leyden St. <http://artgymdenver.com>

7/22 Saturday—Open House & Barn Dance. Open House: 4:30- 6pm. Barn Dance & Dinner: 6-10 pm. Celebrating rebuilding

of goat and sheep herds, new secure and cozy headquarters for the herds, new hen houses and brand-new Gompers Greenhouse. Farm fresh dinner. Family-friendly event. Free to public until 6pm, then suggested contribution of \$30/person and \$10/kids 16 and under for Barn Dance and Dinner. <http://theurbanfarm.org>

7/28 Friday—Denver 7 Celebrate Colorado. Northfield. www.northfieldstapleton.com

7/30 Sunday—Performance of "da Vinci & Michelangelo: The Titans Experience." Mark Rodgers, creator/host of interactive, multimedia performance and curator of da Vinci Machines and Michelangelo Exhibitions from permanent Museum of Leonardo da Vinci in Florence, Italy. Journey through Italian Renaissance with two monumental geniuses, contemporaries and fierce competitors. Movies, 3-D animations, and images of da Vinci and Michelangelo's inventions, machines, images of codices, artwork, paintings, sculptures. www.wingsmuseum.org

8/2 Wednesday—2017 Aurora Symphony Orchestra—Open Auditions. Audition time slot, appointment required: Wed., 8/2 6-8:30pm; Sat., 8/5 12-3 pm. For openings in orchestra sections and substitutes, contact personnel manager to secure audition slot: asopersonnel@gmail.com. Sarah McGregor, ASO Personnel Mgr. <http://www.aurorasymphony.org/auditions>

8/5 Saturday—Horsefeathers Classic Car Show. The Shops at Northfield. 303.375.5475. www.northfieldstapleton.com

THEATRE

To 7/15—Rock of Aging. Presented by Firehouse Theater Company, John Hand Theater, 7653 E. 1st Pl., Lowry. www.firehousetheater-company.com

To 7/23—It's Only a Play. Coproduction with Spotlight Theatre. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St. Aurora. www.vintagetheatre.com

To 8/6—Ring of Fire: The Music of Johnny Cash. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St. Aurora. www.vintagetheatre.com

To 8/13—Colorado Shakespeare Festival. Univ. of Colorado Boulder. www.coloradoshakes.org

7/11 to 7/28—Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing. 9900 E. Colfax Ave. www.aurorafox-center.org

7/13 to 8/6—Phamaly's Annie. Stage Theatre, Denver Center for Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

7/19 to 8/6—Dixie's Tupperware Party. Garner Galleria Theatre, Denver Center for Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

7/8 Saturday—Corner Store Fun Run Volunteers. National Western Complex. Volunteers needed to help with checking in participants, passing out swag, and on the course. Various time slots available. www.cornerstorerun.com/volunteer

Volunteers Needed at Ronald McDonald Family Rooms at Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children. At Presbyterian/St. Luke's Hospital. Seeks volunteers for once-a-week commitment, 6-month minimum. www.ronaldhouse.org under "How You Can Help" for info.

Single Volunteers of Greater Denver. Volunteer, not-for-profit singles group to meet others and assist nonprofit organizations for events/activities. www.svgd.org



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Announcements

What should the city's 5-year plan for affordable housing look like?

The city is soliciting your views and has posted a survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DenverPublicSurvey>

Double fresh fruits and vegetables for SNAP participants.

Double Up Food Bucks Colorado is a program funded through USDA which enables families on SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly food stamps) to double the amount of fresh fruit and vegetables they receive for FREE. The program is launching at Lowe's Market in Aurora, 10777 E Colfax Ave.

DPS Summer Meal Program

During the school year, more than 18 million children receive free and reduced-price meals at school. During the summer, that number drops to about 3 million. The DPS Summer Meal provides meals to all children at no charge, regardless of income, race or religion.

Any child between 1 and 18 years of age will receive a meal at no charge. Adults can purchase a meal for the minimal charge of \$3.00. Registration is not required. Just show up for breakfast or lunch during serving times. The rules are simply that adults may not eat off a child's plate and all meals must be eaten on site.

The following summer meal sites are located in the Front Porch distribution area.

Ashley – June 13 - July 8
Breakfast (8:10 - 8:40 am)
Lunch (11:30 - 12:30 am)

DSST Conservatory Green – June 19 - July 7
Breakfast (8:00 - 8:30 am)
Lunch (none)

DSST Stapleton – June 19 - July 7
Breakfast (8:00 - 8:30 am)
Lunch (none)

Hallett Academy – June 19 - July 7
Breakfast (8:00 - 8:30 am)
Lunch (none)

Monarch Montessori – June 12 - June 30
Breakfast (8:00 - 8:30 am)
Lunch (11:30 - 12:30 pm)

Northfield High School – June 12 - July 7
Breakfast (7:45 - 8:15 am)
Lunch (11:15 - 12:15 pm)

Stedman – June 12 - July 21
Breakfast (9:00 - 9:30 am)
Lunch (11:30 - 12:30 pm)

Additional sites can be found at <http://foodservices.dpsk12.org/summer-meal.php>

King Soopers Opens... At Last



Left: By the 6am opening time, over 100 people were in line to be the first shoppers.
Below: A mosaic of the Stapleton control tower is visible behind the table with free coffee and donuts for early shoppers.



By Carol Roberts

The new King Soopers at MLK Blvd. and Havana St. in Stapleton's Eastbridge neighborhood opened at 6am on June 21. It is about the same size as the one on Quebec St. but it feels bigger with its industrial-style high ceilings and skylights.

Manager Greg Dietz, who was manager at the Quebec store for two-and-a-half years before coming to the new store, acknowledges that with 40,000 customers a week, the Quebec store was ready for the reprieve this second store about two miles to the east will offer.

The new store has approximately 175 employees, with about 80 on

duty at peak times and just 6 or 7 at the least busy times, according to Dietz. The store is open daily from 5am until midnight.

Dietz points out that the fresh and prepared food sections around the perimeter of the store are larger than those at the Quebec store, and offer somewhat more organic products.

Early customer Kelly McDonald, who lives nearby, was heard to say as she walked in the door on, "We've been waiting for this forever!"



Far left: King Soopers managers greet shoppers with a handshake.
Left: One of the store's features is a fresh salad bar.

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Fun for kids at Augustana this summer!

Vacation Bible School/Day Camp

- Monday, July 17–Friday, July 21
- 9–11:30 a.m.
- Children grades K–5

WAM! (Worship, Art, and Music Camp)

- Monday, July 10–Sunday, July 16
- Children who have completed grades 1–7 practice and present the musical *Oh, Jonah!* during worship, July 16

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Bzzzzy Season

By Melinda Pearson

Social media has been abuzz with complaints from Northeast Denver residents about mosquitoes. Folks have been posting gripes and swapping ideas for combating the pesky insects, though other locals say it's no worse than usual for this time of year. "We certainly have a pretty good supply of early mosquitoes this year," said Doug Kelley of Denver's Department of Environmental Health. "We had a mild winter. We had a very early spring, and then a very wet spring. Conditions were very good for early breeding."

Kelley noted that continued hot weather will take care of the some of the nuisance problems. Denver monitors mosquito populations and applies natural larvicides to mitigate the mosquitoes. The city does not spray adulticide, said Kelley, as the health concerns from spraying outweigh the benefits, particularly when there is little risk of West Nile virus. Kelley recommends residents carefully monitor their properties for any amount of standing water, wear repellent containing DEET, and cover up at dawn and dusk.

Lowry and Stapleton have their own community mitigation programs also. Keven Burnett, executive director of the MCA in Stapleton, noted "with the sheer amount of native area, wetlands, and open water, Stapleton is never going to be a place that is mosquito-free."

The MCA works with contractors to apply larvicide strategically and it has a dedicated web page that details the efforts. Go to <http://www.stapletoncommunity.com/what-we-do/mosquito-mitigation> for comprehensive information on mosquito trapping and testing and larvicide locations in Stapleton.

New DPS Campus Coming to North Stapleton



Right: A new school building at 57th and Galena in Stapleton will open as a K – 5 school but is designed so a wing for grades 6 – 8 could be added.

Below: The library opens to a large two-story central gathering space.



Images courtesy of Humphries Poli Architects

By Carol Roberts

Plans for Stapleton's next new school, a K-8 campus, were presented at Stapleton's June Zoning and Planning meeting. The Inspire Elementary School program will move to the building in the fall of 2018.

The 90,000 square foot building is designed to house 800 students—five classrooms for each grade from kindergarten to fifth grade. It also has three early childhood education (ECE) classrooms and four special education classrooms. The number of classrooms was determined by Denver Public Schools.

The parking lot at the top center of the rendering is for ECE drop-off where parents park and walk their children into the school. A separate drive-through drop-off area for the remaining students is shown above at right.

The school is designed with a big central gathering space that the architects envision as sort of a piazza, explained Chris Whitenhill, urban planner with Humphries Poli Architects. The library opens to that space.

The red "X" at the end of the two-story classroom building is where the building could be extended out to accommodate 450 students grades 6-8 at a future time.

Construction, funded by tax increment financing (TIF) is scheduled to start in July with a one-year timetable.



Architects' rendering of the new school's exterior.

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Development Updates

Eastbridge Town Center

Troy Guard's Los Chingones Restaurant opened on Saturday, June 24. It is open daily starting at 4pm Monday through Thursday and 3pm Saturday and Sunday. Closing time is 9:30pm on week nights and 10:30pm on Friday and Saturday nights. Sunday hours are 3 to 9pm.

Guard's Hashtag Restaurant, next door to Los Chingones, opens Saturday, July 1. It is open at 7am every day and closes at 2:30pm Monday through Friday. Saturday and Sunday it closes at 3:30pm. The Eastbridge Town Center is located at MLK Blvd and Geneva St.

Eastbridge Town Center North

Across MLK, a four-unit building is under construction by Evergreen Development. Evergreen's Tyler Carlson says the building will be delivered to tenants for their interior improvements in August. Three confirmed tenants will hopefully be open by end of year: Pacific Dental, Supercuts and a Papa Murphy's franchisee who lives in Stapleton. Evergreen is in discussions with interested parties for the fourth unit in that building.

Evergreen is under contract to purchase the parcel of land immediately to the east and hope to close and start construction by end of year. That building will be leased to a single medical tenant.

Development Plan to Change North of 56th

By Carol Roberts

The General Development Plan (GDP) for Stapleton north of 56th, referred to as Section 10 (shown at right), was thought to be final, but Forest City has discovered bedrock in the general area circled in red. Senior Vice President Jim Chrisman says it's possible they could dig it out and build, but the way water moves around rock is unpredictable, opening the possibility of basements and infrastructure having water problems. As a result of their findings based on about 20 borings in that area, Forest City will go to the City of Denver to request the following change in the GDP.

The planned regional open space labeled "A" at right will be eliminated. The planned regional open space labeled "B" will be moved further south (and the planned school location next to it will be moved to accommodate that change). Additional regional open space will be added in the area of the red circle to comply with the requirement for Stapleton to have 1,116 acres of regional open space. (Regional open space gets turned over to Denver Parks.)

The net result will be somewhat fewer residences than originally planned and more acreage than planned (or required)



for the smaller in-tract parks, which are maintained by the Master Community Association (MCA). The seventh MCA pool could be built in the area with the bedrock.

This area is still in the planning stages and has not been named. Forest City doesn't expect to sell lots to builders in this neighborhood until the third quarter of 2018.



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SUN Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm (Block Captain meeting) and 7:30pm (Board meeting) at the Central Park Recreation Center, 9651 MLK Jr. Blvd. For information about SUN, visit www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com. To contact SUN or confirm meeting time, email stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com

SUN Survey Results

*By Amanda Allshouse, President,
SUN Board of Directors*

SUN 2017 Spring Survey

In partnership with Denver Police Department, the MCA, and Northeast Transportation Connections, SUN developed a survey to: 1) Identify ways to improve community safety, 2) Measure community preferences for policies employed by Denver Public Schools, 3) Determine how residents could be encouraged to engage with public transportation, 4) Measure health behaviors and assess where community support could improve health, 5) Determine what additional services and amenities are desired in this large urban in fill project, 6) Assess barriers to community involvement, 7) Measure opinions on the community name, and 8) Measure overall satisfaction with community life. Results will be shared over a series of *Front Porch* articles, of which this is the first installment. Using multiple modes of contact via the *Front Porch* newspaper, the Stapleton MCA's email distribution list, and SUN's mailing lists, SUN distributed the survey electronically. The survey was fielded on April 19, 2017 and remained open for just over a month until May 25, 2017. Responding to the survey was optional and no identifying information was collected.

Demographics

1,005 residents responses are included in the results shown here (responses missing entire sections were excluded). At this time there are around 7,000 households in the community. Respondents were of median age 41 and median move-in year 2012 (i.e. 5-year resident). 65% of respondents live south of I-70, and 35% north of I-70. 66% of respondents were female, 34% male, and .2% indicated non-binary or transgender identity.

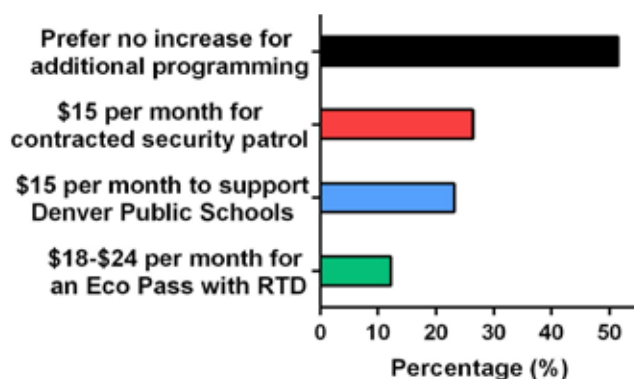
Ages of children in the household point to a bubble of children age 5, presently transitioning from K to 1 (right).

Race and Ethnicity responses were 88.6% white, 5.0% His-

panic or Latinamericano, 3.6% Asian, 2.4% Black, 1% Native American. 3.8% of respondents identified as more than one race/ethnicity and 20.3% described their household as multithnic or multiracial.

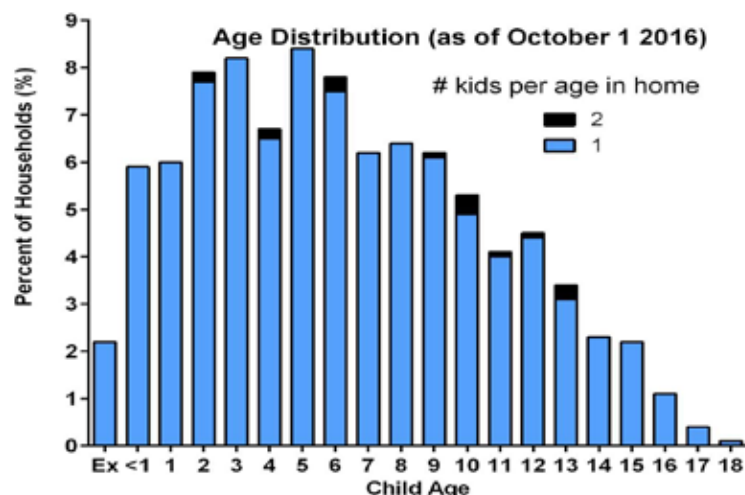
Private Security

SUN has communicated back to the MCA for their consideration in evaluating programming changes in relation to dues increases: The majority of residents (52%) prefer no increase in the monthly assessment for additional programming such as an Eco Pass, support of schools, or private security. More than one response was allowed so percentages below sum to more than 100%.



Crime Prevention

Participants responded about crime prevention behaviors they utilize: Lock outside doors and windows before leaving house (92%), keep garage door closed and locked at all times (89%), lock doors and windows before bed (88%), and parking car in garage (86%), “refrain from leaving valuables in car” as frequently advised by Denver Police (73%). Least frequently, respondents selected self-defense training (4.2%), personal firearms (13.5%), neighborhood watch participation (20.8%), automated interior lights (30%) and home use cameras (31%). SUN will continue to work with Denver Police Department (DPD) to encourage residents to contact the DPD Community Resource Officer about Neighborhood Watch initiation meetings: Officer Marika Putnam, marika.putnam@denvergov.org, 720-913-1405.



Public Meetings about Transit Oriented Development at Central Park Station:

Two public meetings will be held on Forest City's plans for Transit Oriented Development at Stapleton's Central Park Station:

Thursday, June 29 from 6:30 to 8 pm, third floor meeting room of Stapleton's Master Community Association (7350 E. 29th Avenue in the 29th Ave. Town Center).

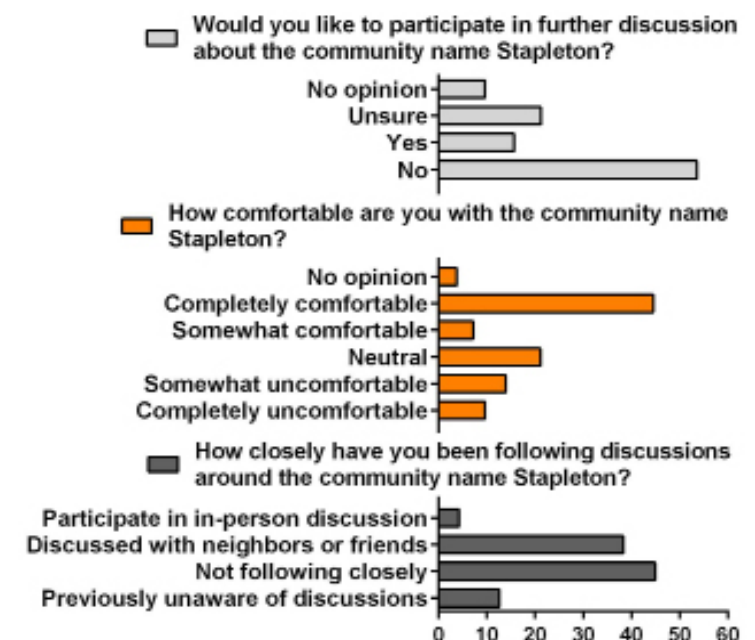
Tuesday July 18, from 6:30 to 8 pm, Central Park Recreation Center Multipurpose room (note, this is in place of the typical SUN meeting for July).

Theft

Theft during residence in Stapleton was reported by 17.5% of respondents, with package theft in December 2016 having occurred among 5%, and package theft in the previous 30 days reported by 1.4%. Any other theft (during entire period of residence in Stapleton) was reported by 25% of respondents, with 8.6% reporting theft from porch, 7.4% theft from unlocked vehicle on the street, 6.4% from unlocked or open garage, 5.1% from a locked vehicle on the street, and 4.2% from within a yard. Least commonly, residents reported items stolen from a locked garage (1.5%) or from home involving forced entry (1.1), or home from unlocked door or window (0.8). To reduce our overall burden from crime, residents are encouraged to secure valuables, lock doors and windows, and participate in Neighborhood Watch.

Community Name

Community results indicate that the majority (54%) of residents would prefer not to participate in further discussion about the community name Stapleton, 51.7% are completely or somewhat comfortable with the name.



June SUN Meeting

June 20, 2018 SUN Meeting Discussion

During public comment, community residents who live near the parcel of land referred to as Filing 51 (the southeast corner of Central Park Blvd. and Martin Luther King Blvd.) spoke in opposition to proposed rezoning from the current C-MU-20 to M-RX-5A. Residents cited concerns about the height and density of a 5-story building at that location and the related issues of parking and traffic. Some residents were against inclusion of any retail. Forest City has added a covenant to the proposed plan to restrict height along Willow St. and 29th Pl. to three stories. Forest City spoke about aiming to have higher-density development and retail at that main intersection. At the end of the meeting, the SUN board discussed the risk of inappropriate uses without a rezoning (e.g. a gas station). Forest City requested SUN write a letter in support of the rezoning, and residents requested a letter in opposition of rezoning. SUN will not be taking a position on the rezoning.

[illegible]

Letters to the Editor

Think the MLK & CPB Intersection is Congested Now?

Most of you are familiar with the big vacant lot on the SE corner of Martin Luther King Jr and Central Park Blvds. It won't be vacant much longer. The zoning process—working its way to City Council on July 10—would transform that vacant 3-acre lot into a possible 5-story apartment building with up to 224 units. That's a similar density per acre as the new 5-acre Mint in 29th Ave Town Center. That means some 200 to 400 more vehicles at this intersection every day as they are trying to enter or exit the complex. Most of you probably feel there is already too much traffic on the two boulevards. And just think, the 399-unit Mint in the Town Center will be opening soon. Add to that the Punch Bowl Social Club and the large development planned near the A-Line Train Station. Plus the added traffic when MLK is extended from Havana to Peoria.

Most of the neighbors near the lot are opposed to a high-rise apartment building. First, it does not fit into a neighborhood of single family dwellings, row homes and paired homes. Secondly, it will increase the traffic and parking issues on our side streets. Many residents have children and are concerned for their safety. When the City Planning Board considered this rezoning application on May 3, some members had serious concerns about the proposal. They spent 90 minutes discussing it. Their split vote of 5 to 4 indicates how four members agreed with the neighbors present that this high rise construction was not appropriate at this site.

But of most concern to all residents of Stapleton is the increased congestion at this already busy intersection in Stapleton. If you agree, you must speak up before the Council considers the zoning application at its July 10 meeting. Contact Christopher Herndon, who is the Council member representing Stapleton. His email is Christopher.Herndon@denvergov.org. Your email (subject line MLK/CPB

Rezoning) can simply state that you oppose the rezoning for the following reasons... and should be sent by July 7.

This is your opportunity to speak. After July 10, it won't be.

John B. Venhoff

It's Time to Reduce Drug Prices

As a mother, the health of my son who has asthma is always at the top of my mind. I also suffer from severe migraines that require expensive treatments to keep them at bay. Thankfully my husband and I are able to provide my son with the medications he needs, and what I need, but I often worry about what would happen if we were unable to afford our medications.

Prescription drug prices have been going up at a rapid pace, leaving many Americans unable to access life-saving drugs. And with little to no competition, drug companies can continue to raise prices without ramifications. This not only leaves individual patients worse off, it hurts all Coloradans, as patients who cannot afford their medications get sicker and sicker, and may be left with expensive hospital bills that taxpayers will have to foot.

Recently, a bipartisan group of US Senators introduced the CREATES Act, legislation intended to speed up the approval of generic drugs. If it is signed into law, it could help to lower the price of prescription drugs as drug companies will no longer have a monopoly and be unable to hike prices, just because they can.

Our health care system needs a lot of tweaks and fixes, but the CREATES Act is one piece of legislation that can help to lower drug prices. I encourage Senators Bennet and Gardner to support this bill so that Coloradans are not denied access to life-saving medications.

Sincerely, Kim Hicks

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By Laurie Dunklee

Have you wondered why a duck's feet don't freeze in icy water? What makes a cheetah the world's fastest land mammal? How do insects breathe without lungs? How do a Fennec fox's large ears keep it cool in the African desert?

"Nature's Amazing Machines," at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science through Jan. 1, demonstrates the marvels of natural engineering that help living things survive. "This exhibition reveals a myriad of incredible adaptations animals possess that allow them to propel themselves through the air, water and on land, escape predators and find food despite fierce competition," said Dr. Garth Spellman, curator of ornithology at DMNS and curator of "Nature's Amazing Machines."

The exhibition, presented in both English and Spanish, invites the whole family to try out nature's machinery. Kids can learn to "fly" by propelling themselves with hand-held wings of different types, and operate the jaw mechanisms of fish to catch their prey. A challenging hands-on station lets visitors try to pump blood from the heart of a giraffe all the way up to its brain. "It's hard to do because the pump requires the amount of pressure the giraffe actually needs," said Neha Gidvani, a program specialist at DMNS.

A video installation explores the insulators and radiators used by animals to regulate their temperature in extreme climates. Exploration stations let kids touch a variety of protective structures, including shells and bones, to discover why the dome shape—eggs, turtle shells and human skulls—provides ideal protection.

"The exhibit is very interactive because we want people to discover nature's incredible biodynamics," said Gidvani. "Human engineers are inspired by nature in all kinds of ways."

Engineering success stories inspired by nature include Velcro, which impersonates burrs from plants. Other modern inventions based on nature's ingenuity include wind turbines and chainsaws. Bio-mimicry also helps humans engineer better prosthetics, shown in videos of a runner with an artificial leg. "We learn how to solve problems using nature as a guide," said Spellman.

Young visitors can take home collectible trading cards, featuring six different animals from the exhibition and activities to try at home. The cards are printed in both English and Spanish. "There's so much to do, we encourage families to come back multiple times—and collect all of the cards," said Gidvani.

The Denver Museum of Nature & Science is at 2001 Colorado Blvd., open 9am–5pmw every day. "Nature's Amazing Machines" is free with general admission. For more information, see www.dmns.org/NAM or call 303.370.6000.



Nature's Amazing Machines at DMNS



Left: Kids "fly" in a swivel chair using wings of different shapes. Short, fat wings, like those of a snow goose, make it easier to get off the ground quickly, while the longer wings of an albatross allow it to fly long distances. Birds from the museum's own collection fly overhead.

Above: Jake Brownell examines a toucan and a duck. Toucans use their beak as an air conditioner to regulate body temperature. Blood vessels flow close to the surface of the beak, where air temperatures cool it down. A duck's arterial system interweaves warm and cold blood, keeping the feet cool and providing just enough heat to keep them from freezing.

Right: Isabella Partridge demonstrates the jaw mechanism of a sling-jaw wrasse. The fish can extend its jaw to slurp up shrimp. Other fish use a wide or hard bite to catch their prey.



Participants stand in front of a thermal camera that reveals where our bodies lose heat the fastest. Rapid heat loss occurs in the lighter areas, while heat escapes more slowly in the dark purple area.



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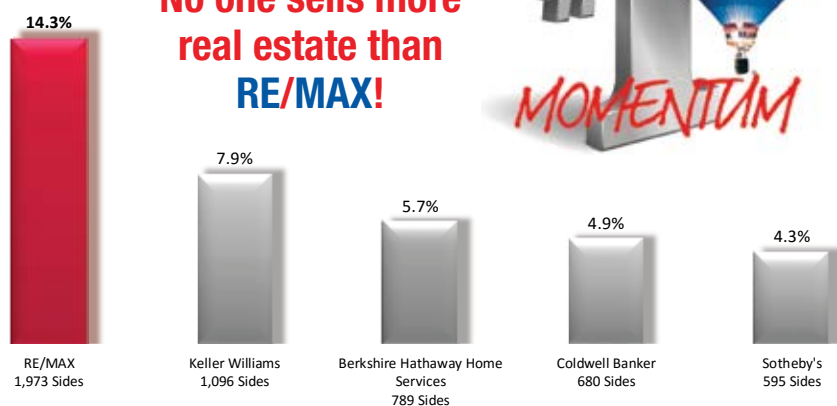
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