

# Front Porch

Election  
Pullout  
p.19

COLORADO

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

SEPTEMBER 2017

NORTHEAST DENVER

## Understanding School Choice: Denver Style



These Inspire Elementary Students, after viewing the eclipse, will go to classrooms at Northfield High School while awaiting completion of their new building. Inspire, Denver's newest elementary

By Melinda Pearson and Carol Roberts

If the "word salad" of education jargon leaves you confused, you're not alone. But when our children's future is at stake, understanding education issues matters. In November,

school, opened as an innovation school on August 21. As Denver Public Schools' 90,000+ students return to classrooms at traditional, innovation and charter schools, candidates for four

a majority of school board seats are up for election. The October *Front Porch* will provide information about the candidates in our distribution area. This month, to help readers

school board seats are sharing their views on Denver's choice system. Choice allows families to select from these different types of schools and from schools located throughout the district, not just the ones in their neighborhood.

navigate through words like innovation, charter, and accountability, we offer a special pullout election section that simplifies and explains choice in Denver Public Schools. We hope. It starts on page 19.

## Face to Face with Human Rights Issues



Fazal Sheikh has spent 28 years traveling the world to photograph displaced and exiled people and document their experiences. His photo exhibit, Common Ground is at Denver Art Museum.

By Laurie Dunklee  
Fazal Sheikh's portraits convey more than just faces; they tell the stories of people surviving and triumphing over unimaginable hardships. Sheikh's life work is raising awareness of international human rights issues through his documentary photographs. "My photos reach across boundaries of gender, nationality and religion. I hope to bring change by connecting people across the world," Sheikh said at a media  
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## What's in a Name?

By Melinda Pearson

"KKpleton" is the name Denver activist Aaron Johnson prefers to use when he talks about the neighborhood others call Stapleton. Johnson, who also  
(continued on page 34)



Park Hill resident Vincent Bowen attended the meeting about the Stapleton name and expressed his opinion that it should be changed.

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

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





Westerly Creek Elementary School families gather on the first day of school each year for their pool-to-school walk through Greenway Park.



Most of the events listed below are FREE or support nonprofits.  
Additional events are listed on pages 30–32.  
Also visit [FrontPorchNE.com](http://FrontPorchNE.com) to view additional events and to submit events.

## SEPTEMBER

**Every Sunday Thru Oct. 15**  
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

**Saturday, September 2**  
Sweet William Market, 9am–2pm.  
[www.sweetwilliammarket.com](http://www.sweetwilliammarket.com). The Green\*

**Monday, September 4**  
DJs @ The Stapleton Pools/Pool close, Noon–4pm. All 6 Pools\*

**Saturday, September 9**  
Stapleton Rocks...A Concert for a Cause, 12–8:30pm on The Green\*

**Sunday, September 10**  
39th Annual Park Hill Home Tour and Street Fair. Tour homes 11am–5pm. Street fair (Montview and 17th on Forest Pkwy) 10am–5pm. Kids activities, wine/beer garden, music. Ticket information at [www.parkhillhometour.org](http://www.parkhillhometour.org)

**Thursday, September 14**  
Active Minds Seminar "Somalia," 6:45–7:45pm. Sam Gary Library\* [activeminds.com](http://activeminds.com)

**Fri, Sat & Sun, Sept 15–17**  
Cherry Arts arts festival at Stanley. Tickets required opening night 9/15; Free 9/16 and 9/17. 2501 N. Dallas St, Aurora.  
[www.cherryartsstanley.org](http://www.cherryartsstanley.org)

**September 15–November 15**  
DAVA Innovation in Art, 10am–5pm. Exhibit focuses on innovation in art with works by DAVA youth solving problems, inventing new devices, and presenting new ideas. All of DAVA's exhibits are free and open to the public.  
[gallery@davarts.org](mailto:gallery@davarts.org)

## SEPTEMBER

**Saturday, Sept. 16**  
Celebrate the opening of new parks in North Stapleton, 11am–2pm. Visit tent locations on the map at [www.stapletondenver.com/whats-happening/celebrate-opening-newest-parks/](http://www.stapletondenver.com/whats-happening/celebrate-opening-newest-parks/)  
Sponsored by Forest City and the City of Denver

**Saturday, Sept. 16**  
Arts & Crafts Market at Overture Stapleton, 9am–4pm. 8133 E. 29th Place, Denver 80238  
[www.liveoverture.com/denver/](http://www.liveoverture.com/denver/)

**Thursday, September 21**  
Blueprint Denver Community Workshop at East High School, 5:30pm. 1600 City Park Esplanade. Food, childcare and Spanish interpretation provided. For more information visit, [www.denvergov.org/denveright](http://www.denvergov.org/denveright) or call 720.865.2984.

**Sat, Sept 23 & Sun, Sept 24**  
Stapleton Open Studios, 11am–5pm. Self-guided studio tour of Stapleton artists. [www.stapletonarts.com](http://www.stapletonarts.com). See story pg 14.

**Thursday, September 28**  
Active Minds Seminar "Afghanistan," 6:45–7:45pm. Sam Gary Library\* [activeminds.org](http://activeminds.org)

**Sept 30 thru Oct 9**  
Stapleton Food Drive. Presented by New Perspective Real Estate. To volunteer or donate: [www.StapletonFoodDrive.com](http://www.StapletonFoodDrive.com). See page 29.

## OCTOBER

**Friday, October 6**  
Hitchcock Film Festival "Rear Window" 6–9pm. The Cube\*

### Locations

\*More info. at [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com)  
Sam Gary Library: 2961 Roslyn St.  
The Green: South Stapleton at E. 29th Ave. & Roslyn St.  
North Green: North Stapleton at Valencia Ct. and 49th Pl.  
The Cube: 8371 E. Northfield 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



### Congratulations to the Stapleton Stingrays Swim Team



Congratulations to the Stapleton Stingrays Swim Team on their Second Place Finish in the 2017 Colorado State Summer Club Swimming Championships on July 28, 29 and 30. This milestone caps the most successful season for the Stingrays, who compete in the Metro League. They had 177 swimmers compete in meets this season, were 5-0 in dual meets, set 52 team records and dropped approximately 4,000 seconds from the beginning of June.

The Stingray Dive Team placed second in their Metro League Meet, completed with a 4-1 record and took several divers to the All Start Dive Meet.

In their inaugural season, the Stingray Synchronized Swim Team had a fantastic showing at all figure meets and finished the season with a High Point award at the Rocky Mountain Summer Synchro League Finals Meet for Novice Figures.

A HUGE thank-you to our coaching staff: Head Coach Metro League Swim Team, Rich LeDuc; Head Coaches Dive Team, Jessica Valeta and Jason Cordova; and Head Coach Synchro Swimming, Erin Lynne; as well as the assistant coaches, parents and swimmers.

Want to join the team? Registration for swim, dive and synchro teams opens in March 2018!

### Farmers Market

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

### Sweet William Market

The Sweet William Market will be held on Saturday, Sept. 2 from 9am–2pm on The Green at 29th Ave.

### DJs at The Pools

*Monday, Sept. 4, 12–4pm*  
Celebrate Labor Day at your favorite pool! DJs will be playing at all of the pools from 12–4pm. This will also be the last day the pools are open for the 2017 season.

### Stapleton Rocks...a Concert for a Cause

*Saturday, Sept. 9*  
Our annual Stapleton Rocks Concert will be held from 12–8:30pm on The Green at 29th Ave. Enjoy great music, games and other activities! The schedule for the bands is available online at [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com).

### Dog Daze

*Saturday, Sept. 9, 1–3pm*  
Before winterizing the pool for the season, F-15 will open its gates once again to offer an afternoon of fun for our furry friends. All dogs will have plenty of room to run, swim, fetch and socialize throughout the afternoon. A DJ will be poolside pumping out fun-themed tunes and taking special requests from the crowd.

The following schedule is based on the size of your pet:  
Small Dogs (less than 40 lbs.): 1–1:45pm  
Pool Cleared: 1:45–2pm  
Large Dogs (over 40 lbs.): 2–3pm  
Cost is \$5 Early Event Fee; \$10 at the door (with space available)

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

The Stapleton MCA and Central Park Recreation Center are partnering to host a night of fun for children ages 7–12 from 6–9pm on Saturday, Sept. 23 at the Central Park Rec Center. Register your child with your activenet account or at the MCA office.

### StapletOM Yoga Festival

*Friday & Saturday, Sept. 15 & 16*  
This yoga festival will feature classes, vendors, food trucks, local beer and wine and live music. The event will take place on The Green at 29th Ave. For tickets and information, visit [www.stapletom.com](http://www.stapletom.com).

### Stapleton Open Studios

*Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 23 & 24, 11am–5pm*  
Stapleton Open Studios is a free, self-guided studio tour of Stapleton artists to demonstrate their creative processes, show off works in progress and finished pieces, and educate the public about what they do. For more information, visit [www.stapletonarts.com](http://www.stapletonarts.com).

### Active Minds Seminar

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

*Thursday, Sept. 14, 6:45–7:45pm*

### Somalia

*Thursday, Sept. 28, 6:45–7:45pm*

### Afghanistan

### Save Money and Plan Ahead!

We highly encourage the community to pre-register and buy tickets for events before the day of the event. To host a paid event, the MCA must have a certain quantity of pre-sold tickets or the event is at risk of being cancelled. Paid events will double in price on the day of the event. Plan ahead and save money!

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

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

Get the latest on

Master Community Association



Sponsored by Stapleton MCA

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# Front Porch

[www.FrontPorchNE.com](http://www.FrontPorchNE.com)  
[FrontPorch@FrontPorchNE.com](mailto:FrontPorch@FrontPorchNE.com) 303-526-1969

The Front Porch – NE Denver distributes almost 40,000 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.



# Autowash

## Autowash Unlimited App

### Monthly Car Wash Club

The Autowash Unlimited App is the fast and easy way to keep your car bright and shiny all the time. It's everything you love about using the Autowash in a simple, easy-to-use app. When you download the app and enroll, you will protect your car's value and be able to wash as often as you like, no long term contract, and simple monthly billing.

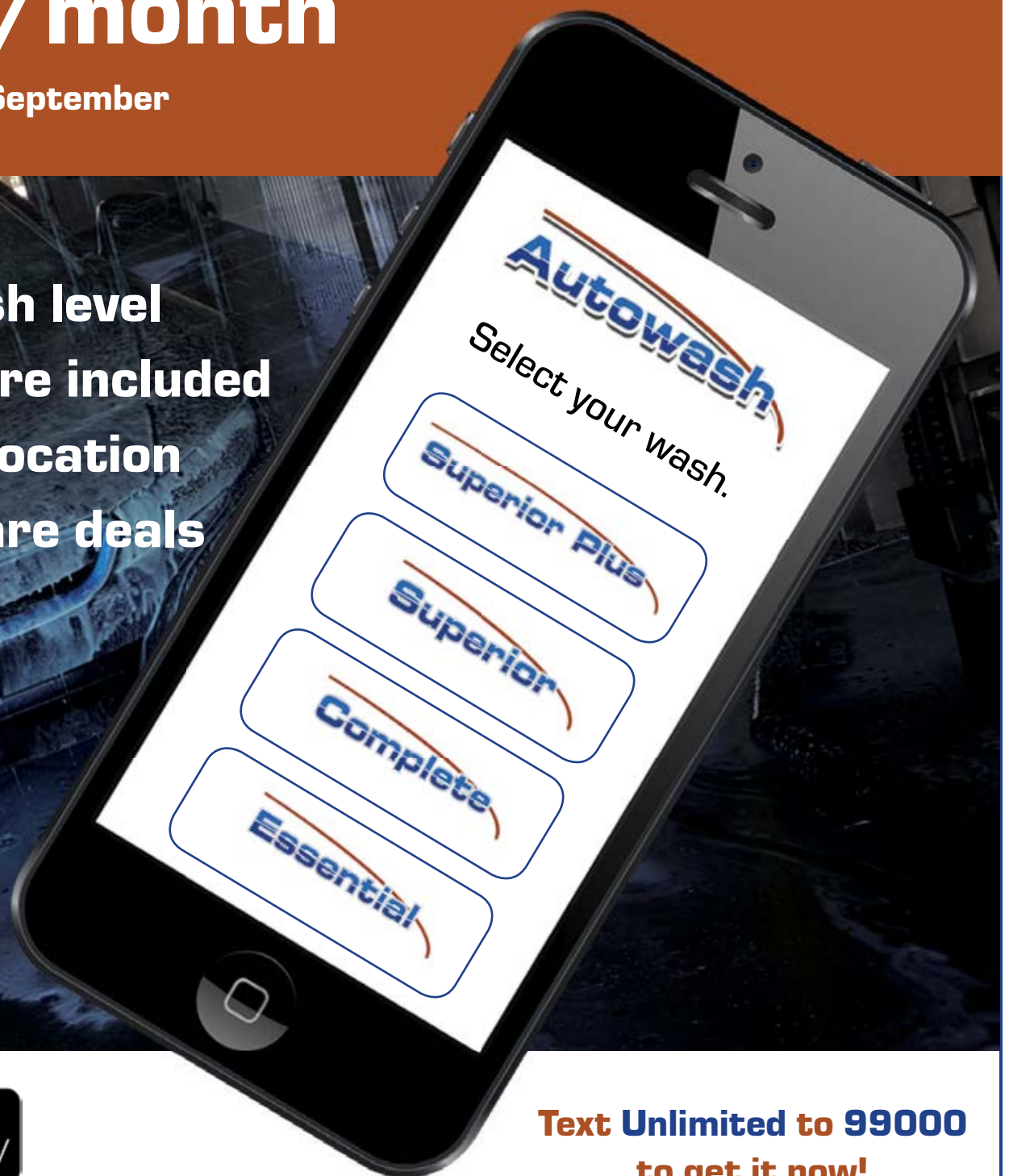
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|------------------------------|---|---------------|
| <b>Topic</b>                 | <b>Answer</b>                             | <b>Points</b> |
|                              | Advantage of Windows                      | 10            |
|                              | OS/2, Unix                                | 10            |
| <b>Database Systems</b>      | Relational database systems               | 10            |
|                              | SQL                                       | 10            |
|                              | Relational Data Language                  | 10            |
| <b>Mathematical Concepts</b> | Linear Algebra, Set Theory, Probability   | 10            |
| <b>Operating Systems</b>     | Operating Systems Concepts                | 10            |
|                              | Process Management, Memory Management     | 10            |
| <b>Computer Architecture</b> | Computer Architecture                     | 10            |
| <b>Networks</b>              | Computer Networks                         | 10            |
|                              | OSI Model, TCP/IP                         | 10            |
| <b>Security</b>              | Security Concepts                         | 10            |
|                              | Authentication, Authorization, Accounting | 10            |
| <b>Software Engineering</b>  | Software Engineering                      | 10            |
|                              | Software Development Process              | 10            |
|                              | Software Testing                          | 10            |
|                              | Software Maintenance                      | 10            |
|                              | Software Configuration Management         | 10            |
|                              | Software Project Management               | 10            |
|                              | Software Quality Assurance                | 10            |
|                              | Software Reuse                            | 10            |
|                              | Software Documentation                    | 10            |
|                              | Software Metrics                          | 10            |
|                              | Software Risk Management                  | 10            |
| <b>Other Topics</b>          | Emerging Technologies                     | 10            |

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| <b>Department:</b>           | U.S. Department of Defense  |
| <b>Organization:</b>         | Defense Science and Engineering   |
| <b>Program:</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advanced Research and Development</li> <li>Basic Research and Development</li> <li>Engineering Research and Development</li> <li>Technology Development</li> <li>Program Management</li> </ul> |
| <b>Activity:</b>             | Advanced Research and Development   |
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| <b>Activity Results:</b>     | Advanced Research and Development   |

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|-----------------------------|------------------------|----|
| <b>Platform</b>             | Google Analytics/Adobe | 10 |
| <b>Marketing</b>            | Facebook/Instagram     | 15 |
| <b>Website Dev</b>          | WordPress              | 10 |
| <b>CRM Software</b>         | Salesforce             | 10 |
| <b>Project Management</b>   | Asana/Trello           | 10 |
| <b>Reporting Tools</b>      | Tableau/Power BI       | 10 |
| <b>Cloud Storage</b>        | Google Drive/OneDrive  | 10 |
| <b>Security Software</b>    | McAfee/Avast           | 10 |
| <b>Mobile Apps</b>          | WhatsApp/Telegram      | 10 |
| <b>Video Conferencing</b>   | Zoom/Teams             | 10 |
| <b>Document Management</b>  | SharePoint/Google Docs | 10 |
| <b>Customer Support</b>     | Zendesk/Intercom       | 10 |
| <b>HR Software</b>          | BambooHR/ADP           | 10 |
| <b>Accounting Software</b>  | QuickBooks/Xero        | 10 |
| <b>Legal Software</b>       | Clio/MyCase            | 10 |
| <b>Insurance Software</b>   | Policygenix/Insurify   | 10 |
| <b>Real Estate Software</b> | Realtor.com/Redfin     | 10 |
| <b>Healthcare Software</b>  | Epic/Allscripts        | 10 |
| <b>Education Software</b>   | Canvas LMS/Blackboard  | 10 |
| <b>Government Software</b>  | Blackboard/Canvas LMS  | 10 |
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"The Front Porch is the gold standard in the neighborhood. Most of my new patients first hear about our practice through the Front Porch, and my existing clients love seeing my business every month in the pages of this reputable paper."

—Preet Clair, DDS

A directory with links to these businesses can be found at [www.FrontPorchNE.com](http://www.FrontPorchNE.com) > Business Directory

I love the *Front Porch* and read it religiously as soon as it arrives at my door. And I make it a point to support the local businesses that advertise—it's a win-win for all of us. —Dorothy R.

Nearly 40,000 *Front Porch* newspapers are delivered monthly to doorsteps in the NE Denver neighborhoods of:

- Stapleton
- Park Hill
- Lowry
- Mayfair/Montclair
- East Colfax

For information about advertising  
contact Karissa McGlynn at  
303-333-0257, 303-993-9963,  
KarissaMcGlynn@gmail.com, or  
FrontPorchNE.com > Display Ads.

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A video excerpt of the EZ10 is posted at FrontPorchNE.com

# A Glimpse of the Future

By John Fernandez

A 382-acre plot of prairie along Peña Blvd. has,

over the past couple of years, become a hotbed of cutting-edge technology that could become part of our lives in the not-too-distant future. At Peña Station NEXT (located at 61st and Peña Blvd.), Panasonic Enterprise Solutions has built an operations and technology center that is testing “what’s next”—technologies that can improve the livability and sustainability of cities.

“Smart city” technologies already in place at Peña Station NEXT include:

- Solar photo-voltaic panels on the Panasonic building and over the DIA parking lot
- A micro-grid featuring an industrial scale battery system being tested by Xcel (described in the May *Front Porch*\*)
- Electric vehicle charging stations
- Interactive digital signage that allows users to get information about their public transit options, nearby services and for connecting with public safety officials in case of an emergency



- Two kinds of environmental sensors—one set embedded in the roadway and giving sub-surface and surface temperature and conditions (dry, wet, ice, etc.), and the Argonne Array of Things, which is mounted to

a streetlight pole and measures a dozen variables including various air quality parameters

## Driverless Vehicles

The French-based high-tech startup Easy Mile is opening its North American headquarter-

weight electric vehicles. This vehicle is currently deployed in 17 countries around the world and is seen as particularly useful for getting people to and from train and bus transit stations to nearby businesses and

(continued on page 10)

## New Perspective Real Estate Presents the 7th Annual

Donations Accepted

**Sep 30**

**thru Oct 9**

Please help those in our community who are suffering from hunger and poor nutrition.



### CHOOSE ONE OF THREE WAYS TO HELP:

- 1 Look for the white collection bag delivered to Stapleton homes on Saturday, September 30th. Generously fill it with non-perishable items, and place the bag on your front porch by 9:00 am on Saturday, October 7th. Volunteers will pick up your donation that day.
- 2 Make a cash donation directly to Food Bank of The Rockies. 96¢ of every \$1 you give goes toward food. Visit [fbr.convio.net/goto/StapletonFoodDrive17](http://fbr.convio.net/goto/StapletonFoodDrive17) or give to the school pantry of your choice at [StapletonFoodDrive.com](http://StapletonFoodDrive.com).
- 3 Bring your donations to one of the food drive sponsors and participating schools listed at right.\*

To donate or volunteer, visit:

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\* These sponsors are unable to receive food donations.





Left: Co-owners Virginia Santy and Melanie Ulle stand in front of a vintage *Vogue* magazine photo entitled “Women In Pants.” This was the first image of women wearing pants in the publication. Below: Private office suites, reserved desks, and common space desks are available for tenant rental on a month-to-month basis.

# A Place of Their Own

By Anne Hebert

Imagine a shared office concept that would address and alleviate the “pain points” career women face. Virginia Santy and business partner Melanie Ulle did exactly that to create Women in Kind, a workplace designed by women—for women. Comparing their previous workplace experiences, Santy and Ulle began to brainstorm about a first-of-its-kind, shared work environment that would meet both the professional and personal needs of women and support the growth of women-led businesses.

Santy and Ulle found a former commer-

cial building just west of Colorado Blvd. and the Park Hill Golf Course. They hired the women-owned architectural design firm NeoStudio to transform the 6,000 square foot building into a modern shared workspace that would help career women thrive. With private desks and suites, open



workspace areas, and conference room facilities, space is rented on a month-to-month basis or on a by-event basis. A coffee bar, full kitchen and comfortable lactation/relaxation room are available, and there is plenty of free parking. Situated near the 40th & Colorado rail station, transportation to and from downtown Denver is easily accessible.

Santy, who holds a Ph.D in Strategic Communication and Women’s Studies, says in addition to careers, women are still responsible for the lion’s share of traditional homemaking and child rearing. “Women enter the workplace and have to play by rules setup for men.” She points out that many employers are increasingly sensitive to the additional demands women face, offering workplace options and temporary solutions. However, they often fall short of identifying “long-term, systematic and structural approaches” to women’s lives.

The new space includes a kids’ play area and a quiet room for children of all ages. If daycare is unavailable, women can bring their children to work where they can play in the supervised playroom or do homework in the quiet room. “Moms have these moments where they don’t have childcare, but they still have to work,” Ulle says. “The option to

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Top: The second floor kitchen/meeting space is for informal meetings and conferences. The office space is designed with plenty of comfortable seating.

Left: A children's playroom features a climbing wall, books and toys to keep kids happily occupied. A second quiet room is set up for homework and reading. In partnership with Nanno, alternative childcare is available as an add-on service at additional charge.

bring kids to the office can be a huge relief."

The unique business model is geared to meet the needs of professional women, offering concierge services that include alternative childcare through a partnership with Nanno, laundry and dry cleaning pick-up and delivery, mobile medical clinic healthcare services, and on-site personal assistants. Kristin Crites, a Park Hill-based independent real estate broker, says her previous shared office space didn't have the look, feel, and shared culture that Women In Kind offers. She says she "loves everything" about the new concept, especially its "family-friendly focus on productive work." Planning to take advantage of concierge services to make life easier, Crites says the ability to bring her kids to work is a big

stress-reliever. "Women need this environment," she emphasizes. "The playrooms for kids and the on-site childcare allow me to work distraction-free."

Financial Advisor, Laura Olmedo, is planning to host educational workshops and seminars in the conference room on topics ranging from raising financially responsible children to retirement planning. "This office environment is perfect for addressing issues that are especially important to professional women," she notes.

The office space isn't just for women. "We love feminist men," says Santy. "We can't move forward without them."

Women In Kind is located at 3899 Jackson Street. For more information, visit [www.womeninkind.com](http://www.womeninkind.com).

## "New Approaches" Needed to Complete Stapleton Affordable For-sale Homes

By John Fernandez

The City of Denver has concluded "it is possible" that Forest City can meet its obligation to provide a minimum of 10 percent "affordable" for-sale housing in Stapleton by the time buildout of market rate homes is completed. However, to achieve this contractual requirement in that timeframe, the city says, "would require new approaches and additional efforts that would differ from their [Forest City's] current practices."

These conclusions are contained in an August 15 email from Councilwoman Robin Kniech in response to an inquiry from the *Front Porch*. Kniech's email said she anticipates a "final [staff] memo describing this conclusion and affirming the City's commitment to proposing ideas and solutions that could help Forest City to achieve the goal." The memo would be used in an upcoming briefing to the mayor.

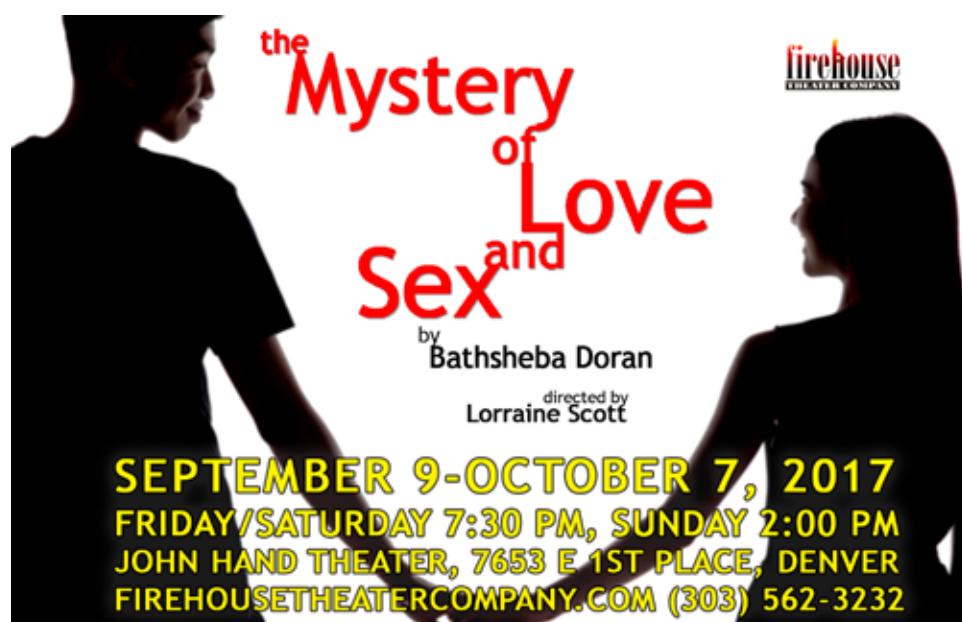
Councilwoman Kniech, in November 2016, told the *Front Porch* she believes the city's development agreement with Forest City is "absolutely enforceable" but declined to comment further at that time pending

the city's evaluation of legal alternatives and strategies.

The communications director in the mayor's office, Amber Miller, informed the *Front Porch* by email on August 18 that a staff memorandum hasn't yet been drafted. She said the administration is "continuing to work with Forest City to ensure compliance of the affordable for-sale home requirements in Stapleton. This is very important to us. We are optimistic that the requirements can be met, and we stand dedicated to advancing affordability throughout this community and all of Denver."

The mayor's current response is more optimistic than in February at the Stapleton United Neighbors meeting when he said: "We don't have very much at our disposal except to penalize Forest City if they don't meet the goals before the development ends."

As of the end of July 2017, 5.8 percent of for-sale units in Stapleton were affordable (421 of a total of 7,185 units). Forest City projects build-out of for-sale units to reach "around 8,800." With a current total of 7,185 for-sale units, Forest City is at 82 percent build-out.



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Above: Balfour at Stapleton features a welcoming farmhouse décor and encourages community involvement and inclusion. A “flock of sheep” greets residents and visitors near the front entrance.  
Below: Comfortable seating and relaxation spaces are scattered throughout the facility for reading and socializing. Each space has unique décor to create a “sense of home.”  
Right: The main lobby can accommodate resident gatherings and can be reserved by community members for social or professional events.



By Anne Hebert  
Community inclusiveness and involvement play a big part in making residents feel completely at home at the new Balfour at Stapleton assisted living and memory care facility,” says Executive Director, Elizabeth Girling. “We want community mem-

bers to feel welcome to visit, enjoy farm-fresh meals in our full-service restaurant, hold small meetings in our gathering spaces, or make an appointment at Madeline’s, our on-site salon.”  
Balfour is named after Camp Balfour, a summer camp in the Adirondacks attended by CEO, Michael Schonbrun and his father during

## Assisted Living/Memory Care Residence Joins the Neighborhood



reclaimed wood, high ceilings, floor-to-ceiling windows and lots of comfortable seating. “It’s not sterile—it’s home,” says Girling. Residents and visitors are greeted at the main entrance by a fountain surrounded by a flock of sculptured sheep.  
With an emphasis on “person-centered care,” Balfour is designed to give residents and guests numerous gathering spaces to socialize or participate in scheduled activities—outdoor patios, indoor lounges and activity spaces. Cooking classes and baking activities will be held in The Shed, a fully appointed kitchen space with a long stainless steel farm table. A vegetable garden is planned and a collaborative cookbook is also in the works.  
Studio, one bedroom, and one bedroom-plus-den apartment units are available—all come

with cable, internet and telephone access and a kitchenette equipped with a microwave oven, refrigerator and pantry. Bathrooms are wheelchair accessible with heat lamps, night lights and an emergency pull cord. Every apartment is monitored by a motion-activated Quiet Care camera system to help nurses and caregivers see and

their youth. Camp photos are displayed alongside historic photos of the Stapleton airport.  
With 58 assisted living apartments for those who require help with everyday living and activities and 16 secure memory care apartments in a separate wing, the farmhouse design features a modern, rustic décor that includes barn doors,

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Above: The Speckled Egg is Balfour Stapleton's main dining area/restaurant. A full, farm-fresh menu created by the on-site chef serves meals to residents daily. Non-residents may make a reservation to dine or hold small lunch or dinner meetings in the attached private dining room.  
Left: Abundant patio space allows residents and guests the chance to host and attend outdoor social hours and events—or to enjoy a sunny day.

identify possible health or living issues without having to disturb residents during resting hours or at night.

"Pets are welcome," says Girling. Dogs, cats, fish and birds can keep their owners company in their new homes. A Labrador retriever named Huey, a resident-owned therapy dog, has already moved in and will mingle with residents, staff and visitors each day.

Nurses are on call in both assisted living and memory care around the clock, seven days a week. The Flight Deck, an on-site fitness center, is specifically designed for residents' needs and staffed by physical and occupational therapists. On-call physicians and nurse practitioners make rounds once a week. An audiologist and podiatrist make scheduled visits.

An on-site concierge can book tickets to

events, schedule transportation, and offer hotel referrals and dining recommendations for visiting family and friends.

Balfour staff completes a full needs assessment and customized care plan along with finance and insurance coverage reviews for each new member of the community. Monthly costs for assisted living start at \$4,400. Memory care rates start at \$6,300 per month. Out of pocket costs vary per resident depending on medical needs and insurance coverage. Prospective residents and their families can tour Balfour at Stapleton by appointment seven days a week.

To learn more about Balfour at Stapleton, please visit [www.BalfourCare.com](http://www.BalfourCare.com). For additional information or to schedule a tour, call 720.556.2200.

## Stanley Parking a Problem—But It's a *Good Problem*



Park Aurora Program Manager Robert Ferrin talks to business owners near Stanley Marketplace about managing parking for the influx of vehicles in the area.

By John Fernandez

Stanley Marketplace's popularity may be causing long walks for consumers, but it's better than having abandoned or underutilized stores surrounded by empty parking lots. Parking is a scarce public resource that needs to be managed based on the area's needs, says Robert Ferrin, the city's parking and mobility manager. In response to the recent parking crunch in northwest Aurora around Stanley Marketplace, the City of Aurora has proposed a "Westerly Creek Parking Management Plan" that calls for time restrictions for on-street parking and a new residential permit program for besieged neighbors.

The public is invited to a Sept. 14 meeting to be hosted by NANO, the Northwest Aurora Neighborhood Organization. The meeting begins at 7pm at the Moorhead Recreation Center, 2390 Havana Street.

Ferrin says the plan will not be implemented until January. He's using the intervening

months to meet with residents and business owners to tweak the initial proposal and get people used to Aurora's new policy of "pro-active parking enforcement."

Ferrin is presenting his "Phase I" plan in a series of meetings that started with a July 31 gathering at Stanley for nearby business owners. The plan's essential features consist of:

- On-street parking within a block or two of Stanley would have two-hour restrictions from 8am to 6pm excluding weekends and holidays.
- Neighbors living east and south of the time-restricted blocks (and their guests) would have residential permits for on-street parking. Denver has long had a similar program in congested neighborhoods such as Congress Park.
- Parking enforcement officers in Park Aurora vehicles would pass through the area four to five times per day. The vehicles use GPS and digital cameras to accurately identify cars that *(continued on page 11)*

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A Glimpse of the Future

(continued from page 5) residences. Forest City has said this kind of vehicle (often referred to as a “first mile/last mile” shuttle) would be very useful at Central Park station, where transit-oriented development is about to get underway.

Denver has the right “eco-system” to support a new technology such as the EZ 10, says transportation engineer Lauren Isaac who will work for EasyMile at Peña Station NEXT. She cites the Colorado Legislature’s passage of Senate Bill 213 in the past session, explaining that the bill



Riders try out the EZ10 driverless shuttle in the Pepsi Center parking lot.

creates a “permissible” regulatory environment for testing and deploying driverless vehicles.

Future Plans—A Carbon-Neutral Energy District

At the end of July, Panasonic, Xcel and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) announced a study to determine how to turn the 382-acre site into a “carbon neutral energy district.” The goal is to “fully offset the district’s climate impact due to electricity generation and consumption” by leveraging a wide set of technologies (e.g., more solar PV, battery energy storage, EV charging, and potentially district heating and cooling). This would be in addition to a goal of being “net-zero” in terms of energy consumption. Peter Bronski with Panasonic says the six-month study will provide a blueprint to guide development over the

next 20 years in such a way that carbon neutrality is achieved on-site. “It’s also about energy resilience, innovation and making Peña Station NEXT the kind of smart, sustainable, connected development that today’s tenants are seeking.”

History

Just a few years ago, Peña Station NEXT was referred to as the “ghost station” along the A Line commuter rail to DIA. “Ghost” because there was no funding for the station, only engineering and environmental approvals for the additional stop. Today, the station, built by developer L.C. Fulenwider, Inc. with funds from a public/private partnership, is offering a glimpse of what more livable, sustainable cites of the future could look like.

\*<https://frontporchne.com/article/solar-energy-storage-cutting-edge-technology-tested-two-local-projects/>

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September 2017

10

Front Porch – NE Denver



# Solar Decathlon at Peña Station NEXT Oct 5 – 15

The Solar Decathlon is a competition among 15 university-based teams to build a full-sized solar-powered house that blends design excellence and smart energy production with overall innovation, market potential, energy efficiency and water efficiency. This year, for the first time, cash prizes will be awarded to the winners.

A “solar village main street” will be built near the Peña Station stop on the A Line. The Solar Decathlon village and competition houses will be free and open to the public—and upwards of 90,000 visitors are expected to attend.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, this is the eighth competition in a series that began in 2002 on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. A team from the University of Colorado-Boulder won that initial competition. Teams this year include two from Europe—and the only local team is from Denver University (partnered with the University of California at Berkeley).

## Solar Village Schedule

Thursday, Oct. 5 to Sunday, Oct. 8, 2017  
11am to 7pm  
Monday, Oct. 9, 2017 — 1pm–7 pm  
Thursday, Oct. 12 to Sunday, Oct. 15, 2017  
11am–7pm



Owners of businesses near Stanley met with Robert Ferrin of Park Aurora to talk about parking solutions. Left, Thich Tri Vien, Priest at Phat Hoc Vien Bodhidharma Temple and Cary Walko, COO of Kurtex Property Management Co. consider Ferrin’s map showing streets that might have time-restricted parking.

the city’s practice is to test a plan for a full year before making substantial changes. This gives time for people to adjust their behavior including where they park, and how they might access a business (e.g., walking, biking, carpooling). In the meantime, he encouraged the business owners to look at additional tools such as leasing of underutilized parking areas or valet parking.  
Ferrin says he welcomes comments from the general public about parking plans for this corner of northwest Aurora. Comments can be sent to [parking@auroragov.org](mailto:parking@auroragov.org).

## Stanley Parking

(continued from page 9)

have lingered too long in an on-street space.  
• The first offense gets a warning; the second offense gets a \$30 fine.  
Ferrin described his approach as a low-cost option between doing nothing at one extreme and building expensive parking structures at the other.

Initial reaction from the 10 business owners appeared to be generally favorable and in agreement with Ferrin’s statement, “Let’s start with something rather than do nothing.” Discussion focused on details such as whether the two-hour time limit needed to be shortened or lengthened and various businesses’ need for loading zones. Mark Shaker of Stanley Marketplace opined that the two-hour time limit would work for the 90 percent of Stanley patrons whose visits last two hours or less. All agreed that some level of parking management is essential as the area builds out due to the expected impact of three other developments that will draw vehicles:

- The 172-unit Stanley Residential project
- The new ball fields on 25th Ave.
- The eventual construction of an Aurora Public Schools middle school/high school campus on 25th between Iola and Fulton streets

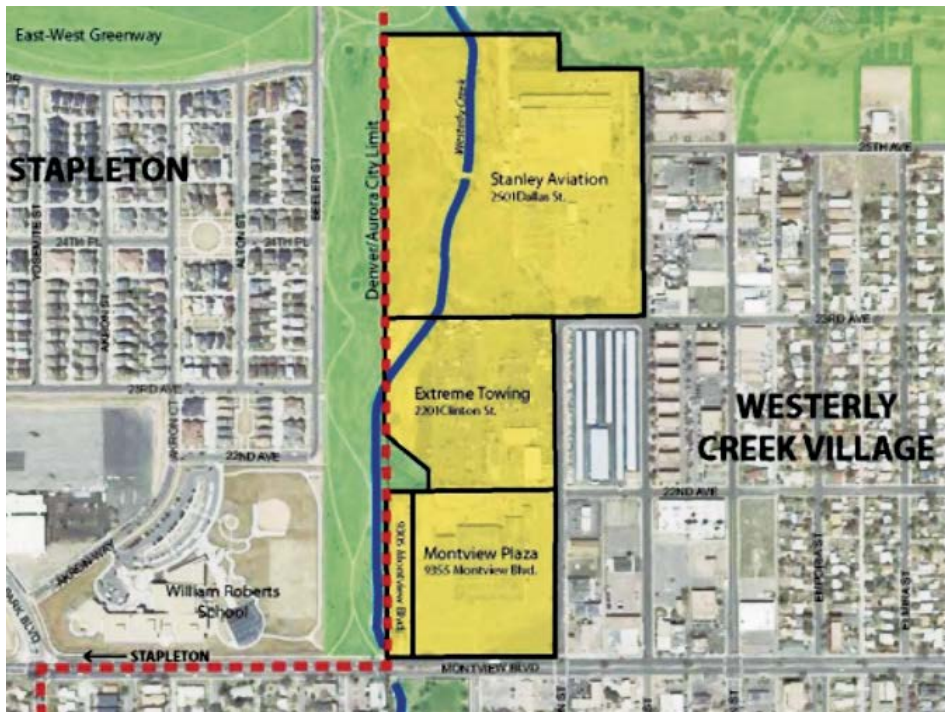
At its Aug. 14 meeting, the NANO board took no official action on Ferrin’s initial

proposal but acknowledged parking is a growing problem in the neighborhood. Some board members urged the city to minimize the impact of new development on existing residents and businesses.

Ferrin will hold a second round of meetings this fall with residents and businesses before unveiling the final parking management plan in January. He said



Park Aurora parking patrol vehicle.



The dashed red line is the Denver/Aurora border. The yellow areas identify Stanley Marketplace and nearby business areas. Streets in and within a few blocks of these business areas are being considered for time-restricted parking. Permits are being considered for parking in nearby residential areas.

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# The Book Worm



## CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK

*It Is Not Time for Sleeping (A Bedtime Story)*

By Lisa Graff,  
illustrated by  
Lauren Castillo

Review by Tracy Canada Hanson

This picture book is a favorite at my house, and I think it is destined to become a classic. It is the simple story of a young boy's bedtime routine. This bedtime routine will likely remind families of their own routines, which is just one thing I find appealing about this book. Read aloud it has a nice rhythm, repetition that young children enjoy, and fun words like "squeaky," "zipped," and "shiny." The illustrations are

lovely, though I may be partial to them because the house depicted reminds me of my own. Even without that bias, the illustrations are vibrant in color and have a further pop because they seem to have texture. My family loves this book, and I believe yours will too!



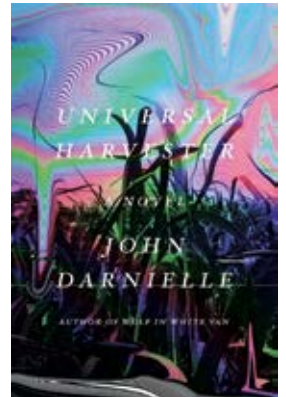
## YOUNG ADULT FICTION

*Daughter of Smoke and Bone*

By Laini Taylor  
Review by  
Maggie Bruce

Daughter of Smoke and Bone is about a girl with blue hair named Karou, who is shrouded in mystery. She lives a seemingly normal life ... except when she disappears for days at a time. We find out that her family is a band of "demons," and she spends her days collecting teeth—for what, even she doesn't know. It's when mysterious handprints start appearing on doors, and angel-like strangers appear from the sky, that the adventure really starts. Karou feels deep down that something about this is familiar ... but how or what, she can't figure out. This is a wonderful, action-packed story about love, angels, demons and other worlds. It just keeps getting better as the trilogy goes on!

cannot be controlled; that messiness, chaos and unpredictability can actually result in transformative creativity. Despite our discomfort and resistance, unexpected circumstances and situations can produce great outcomes. Over and over, Harford shows us that, although we don't like our closely held beliefs to be challenged, and that rules are easier than exceptions, learning to embrace the chaos can lead to major breakthroughs.

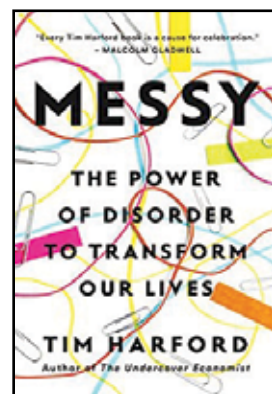


## ADULT FICTION

*Universal Harvester: A Novel*

By John Darnielle  
Review by  
Hector Cobian

This book is classified as Horror, but it's much subtler in its suspense than the classics in that genre. The setting is the small town of Nevada, Ohio, at the local Video Hut, where someone has been secretly adding very real, very creepy scenes to the VHS tapes. Jeremy Heldt, the store's clerk, is the first to notice the doctored footage. When he recognizes a local landmark, he sets out to find who's behind the macabre edits. When others discover the dark scenes, things start to spiral out of control. John Darnielle is the singer and songwriter for the band The Mountain Goats and this is his second novel. Take this masterfully creepy novel with you on your next vacation to the Midwest.



## ADULT NON-FICTION

*Messy; the Power of Disorder to Transform Our Lives*

By Tim Harford

Review by Dawn Kirkwood

Drawn to this book by its title, I thought it might offer a counterpoint to the current fad for decluttering and simplifying. Indeed, author Tim Harford, known for his British syndicated column, the "Underground Economist," offers this and so much more. Superbly written, using vivid stories and examples from music, technology, art, education and the corporate world, Harford makes the case that life

## FOR KIDS (continued)

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Superintendent Tom Boasberg poses for a photo with DPS Board Representative Mike Johnson, DPS Chief Information Officer Sharyn Guhman, and Hill students in celebration of the newly issued Chromebooks. The school was awarded one-to-one Chromebooks in a competitive process as part of the DPS MyTech initiative, funded by the 2016 school bond.



# Hill 9th Graders Get Chromebooks

By Melinda Pearson

On August 10, the auditorium at Hill Campus of Arts and Sciences buzzed with excitement as the eager sixth-grade class assembled for a special presentation.

Denver school board member Mike Johnson warmed up the crowd, asking students, “Who uses an encyclopedia to look things up?” A few hands slowly rose. “Now who uses Google,” he asked, as a roomful of hands shot up in response.

The sixth-grade class soon learned from Principal Sean Kavanaugh that they each would receive a new Chromebook laptop computer to use throughout their middle-school careers.

The devices came to them courtesy of \$10 million in voter-approved bond funds that DPS has invested in educational technology through the MyTech initiative.

“Denver voters gave us a wonderful opportunity to give students access to tech beyond their school day,” said DPS Superintendent Tom Boasberg at the morning’s festivities. “Students will not only be able to use these devices at school, they

will also be able to take them home.”

In its pilot year, MyTech is providing DPS students in 13 schools with a personal computer at the beginning of the academic year. The program is designed to get technology into the hands of kids at an earlier age, with hopes that it will help diversify the tech industry, encouraging underrepresented girls and minority students to pursue STEM careers. Hill is a very diverse school, with about 62 percent of its students from minority backgrounds, and 56 percent receiving free and reduced lunch.

Hank Usalavage, who lives in Cherry Creek North, said it would be his first personal computer. “I can’t believe they would trust us with this! These are expensive!” he said. Usalavage plans to “research a lot” and do homework.

“It means a lot to me because when I was in fourth and fifth grade, we only got them for testing,” said G.G. Hartman from Aurora. “Now they trust us to look up facts and things on our own.”

Beaming with pleasure, Jaeda Swindler was already making great use of her new device at the assembly, looking up one of her favorite YouTube stars. But, in all seriousness, Swindler said she is ready for the “great responsibility” and plans to use it for research and homework.

The schools that received computers had submitted an application to DPS. According to DPS, they had to “demonstrate a willingness to reconsider their instructional practices and to seek new ways to meet the needs of their students.”

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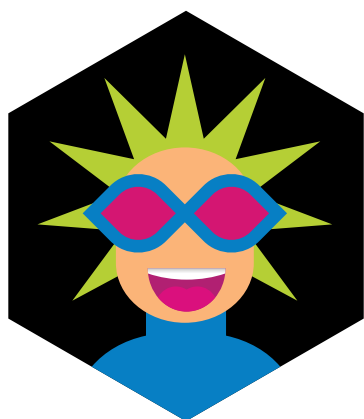
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Painter Beatriz Sotela Bearden, who has traveled throughout the world, says the goal of her art is to introduce people to “the marvelous differences in cultures around the world and the people who are so beautiful.”

*By Laurie Dunklee*  
The fifth annual self-guided Stapleton Open Studios tour of artists’ studios is back, with 28 artists ready to meet visitors, show their work and demonstrate how it is made. The artists represent a range of disciplines, including painting, photography, sculpture, mosaic, jewelry, glass and fiber art. All art is for sale. Artists’ studios at 16 locations in Stapleton and North Stapleton will be open from 11am to 5pm. on Sept. 23 and 24. The map of locations is available to download at [stapletonartists.org](http://stapletonartists.org). “With the Stapleton community growing in the area north of I-70, this year the map is divided into north and

south sections, with I-70 as the dividing line,” said coordinator Lin Clark. The Stapleton Open Studios opening reception will be Friday, Sept. 22, from 6–8pm at The Cube in North Stapleton. The reception is free and open to the public. “All the artists will be there and each will bring one piece to show,” said Clark. Clark said the number of artists has grown—six more than last year—as has the number of visitors. “We had at least 1,100 visitors last year, more than twice the number we had when the event started in 2013.” Three participating artists expressed their artistic motivations: creating beauty that unites people with each

other, their own spirituality, and nature. Painter Beatriz Sotela Bearden says, “What you see in my art is a world of faces. I have seen and met thousands of people from all parts of the world. My idea is to introduce people here to the marvelous differences in cultures around the world and all the people who are so beautiful. If people see that in my paintings, I will have accomplished something in life.” Bearden grew up in Costa Rica and worked as an airline attendant for 36 years. Her travels took her to the Himalayas, Africa, Southeast Asia, China, Japan, Russia and Central Asia. “I was able to record the faces I saw in drawings and photos, and now that I’m

# Sept. 22–24:

retired, I turn them into oil portraits. I’ll demonstrate the process of making a painting out of a drawing.” Sculptor Paul Bareis creates figurative and direct metal pieces ranging from tabletop size up to more than six-feet tall [direct metal means metal pieces welded together]. “The whole idea of creating, of making something out of nothing, is magical,” he says. “Real magic is taking raw stuff—like wood, steel, copper or clay—and watching as it becomes transformed into something of beauty and meaning. I stand back after I create a piece and say, ‘That came out of me?’ “When I create, I’m being utilized as a tool by God, just as I utilize a cutting torch or a modeling tool, with my own unique style and expression. Creating is how I enter into a relationship with the Sacred.” Bareis, a former Montessori school teacher, will show his process by letting visitors participate in a hands-on activity called Model Magic. “People have a tendency to make art flat even though we see in the round. I’ll show the principles behind design and sculpting,” he said. Katy Tartakoff’s fine art photography invites observers to see the beauty in their own backyards. Tartakoff’s photo subjects, including flowers, birds and insects, are often found on her walks in Stapleton. “My camera invites me every day to go for a walk,” she said. “I try to capture the beauty we forget to look at. I hope people see something they look at all the time but never saw. “We are living in a challenging time, with elevated discrimination against many people. I stand for human rights, but I can’t get super involved in political change. So I make beauty. I hope to remind people of the majesty surrounding us; I capture life’s magnificence.” Stapleton Open Studios is the main event of Stapleton Artists, a group of artists dedicated to integrating art into the lives of peo-





# Visit Local Artists in Their Studios



Above: In her photos, Katy Tartakoff tries to capture the beauty we see every day, but forget to look at and appreciate.  
Below: Sculptor Paul Bareis says the process of transforming everyday items into something that is beautiful and has meaning is magical for him.



ple in the community. This year, Stapleton Artists gained nonprofit status. Clark said, “This allows more opportunities to bring art programs into the schools, and also host more workshops and lectures. Now we have an umbrella to apply for grants and reach out to people who love the arts,

to get donations growing.”  
For more information, see [stapletonartists.org](http://stapletonartists.org). To learn more about the artists featured here, see [bbearden.com](http://bbearden.com), [paulbareis.com](http://paulbareis.com) and [kattyartakoff.com](http://kattyartakoff.com). The Cube is at 8371 Northfield Blvd., Suite C.

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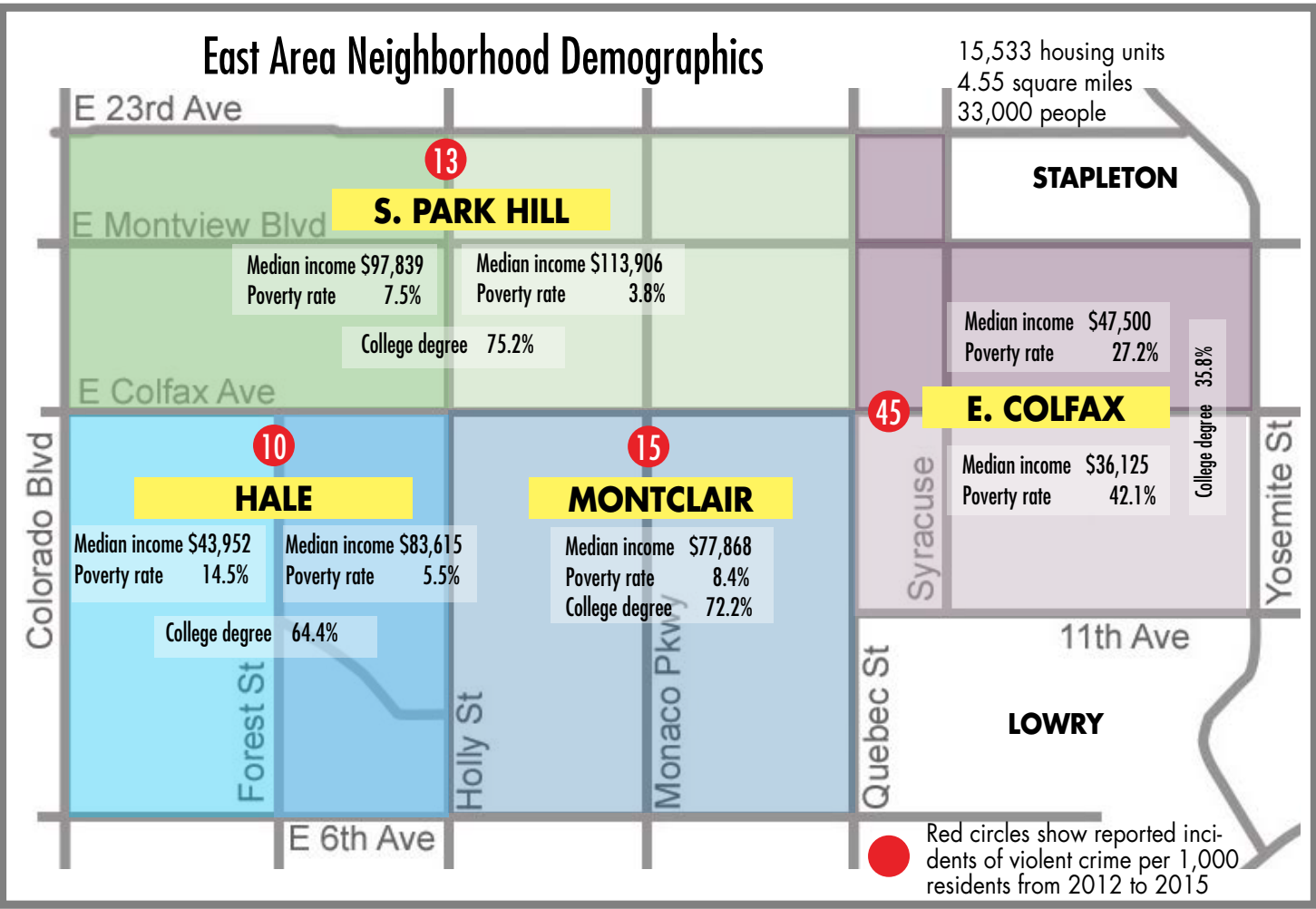
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| 3  | 4   | 5   | 6         | 7pm Aurora Delegation<br>Town Hall Meeting<br>(Community College of Aurora)<br>6:30pm Greater Park Hill<br>Community Meeting<br>(GPH Community Inc.) | 8      | 10am Heart Health Screening<br>(Hiawatha Davis Rec Center)  |  |
| 10   | 9am Zumba<br>(MLK Rec Center)<br>6:30pm Guts, Butts & Cardio<br>(Central Park Rec Center) | 11  | 12        | 9am Zumba<br>(MLK Rec Center)<br>6pm Healthy Cooking<br>(Central Park Rec Center)  | 13     | 6:30pm Yoga<br>(Hiawatha Davis Rec Center)  |  |
| 17   | 9am Zumba<br>(MLK Rec Center)<br>6:30pm Guts, Butts & Cardio<br>(Central Park Rec Center) | 18  | 19        | 9am Zumba<br>(MLK Rec Center)<br>6pm Healthy Cooking<br>(Central Park Rec Center)  | 20     | 6:30pm Yoga<br>(Hiawatha Davis Rec Center)<br>6pm HD7A Meeting<br>(Sam Gary Library)  |  |
| 24   | 9am Zumba<br>(MLK Rec Center)<br>6:30pm Guts, Butts & Cardio<br>(Central Park Rec Center) | 25  | 26        | 9am Zumba<br>(MLK Rec Center)<br>6pm Healthy Cooking<br>(Central Park Rec Center)  | 27     | 6:30pm Yoga<br>(Hiawatha Davis Rec Center)  |  |
|  |   |   |           |  |        |    |  |
|  |   |   |           |  |        | 9:15am Zumba (MLK)<br>10:30am  Boot Camp<br>(Hiawatha Davis Rec Center)<br>11:30am HD8 Meeting<br>(Ford-Warren Branch Library) |  |
|  |   |   |           |  |        | 9:15am Zumba (MLK)<br>10:30am  Boot Camp (HD)<br>11am Share Fair<br>(Trolley Park Apartments)<br>HD7B Meeting (GVR Library)    |  |
|  |   |   |           |  |        | 9:15am Zumba (MLK)<br>9:30am Heart Health Screening<br>(MLK Rec Center)<br>10:30am  Boot Camp (HD)                             |  |
| Central Park Recreation Center - 9651 MLK Blvd, Denver, CO 80238<br>Community College of Aurora-CentreTech Campus - 16000 E Centretech Pkwy<br>Ford-Warren Branch Library - 2825 N High St, Denver, CO 80205<br>GPH Community Inc. - 2823 Fairfax St, Denver, CO 80207 |   | GVR Branch Library - 4856 Andes Ct, Denver, CO 80249<br>Hiawatha Davis Recreation Center (HD) - 3334 Holly St, Denver, CO 80207<br>Martin Luther King Recreation Center (MLK) - 3880 Newport St, Denver, CO 80207<br>Sam Gary Branch Library - 2961 Roslyn St, Denver, CO 80238 |           | Stapleton Foundation - 7350 E 29th Ave, Suite 200, Denver CO 80238<br>Trolley Park Apartments - 1445 Dallas St, Aurora, CO 80010                     |        |   |  |





# Residents to Wei

By John Fernandez

The City of Denver is inviting residents and business owners in South Park Hill, Hale, Montclair and East Colfax to participate in developing the “East Area Plan” for their neighborhoods. Although their boundaries haven’t changed since 1970, these neighborhoods have been subject to many internal changes: population growth, rising housing costs, traffic congestion and major new development such as the 9th and Colorado mixed-use project. Stapleton and Lowry, with their own more recent development plans, are not in the East Area planning project.

A major focus of the project will be to identify impacts, pro and con, of the proposed Colfax Bus Rapid Transit system (BRT). Denver residents will vote on a bond in November for transportation improvements that include \$55 million for the BRT.

The BRT plan calls for a dedicated center lane from Auraria to Yosemite and continuing east to the Anschutz Medical Campus (though Aurora has resisted reserving a lane of traffic for the BRT, instead wanting it to run with traffic).<sup>1</sup> Simultaneous with the East Area planning effort is a transit-oriented development plan that is focusing on how best to take advantage of a Colfax BRT while avoiding displacement of vulnerable populations and businesses.



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# gh in on “East Area” Planning

While the Colfax corridor, in a sense, unifies the entire East Area, issues within the neighborhoods differ significantly. East Colfax in particular stands out with a greater housing density, higher poverty and crime rates and lower household income and education. The planners’ charge is to develop recommendations that will enable all the East Area neighborhoods to benefit from expected growth.

Neighbors can participate in the planning process through focus groups and public workshops or through social media and email alerts. An on-line survey seeks neighbors’ likes, dislikes, concerns and “big ideas” for improving the East Area. The survey and project schedule can be accessed at the project website: [www.denvergov.org/eastplan](http://www.denvergov.org/eastplan).

Additional topics to be addressed in the two-year planning project include land use, urban design, affordable housing, mobility, economic development, health and “green” infrastructure (stormwater drainage, water).

The East Area Plan is part of a larger effort to update neighborhood plans in many areas of the city. Conclusions from these planning efforts will be integrated into the Denverlight project, the first comprehensive city plan update since Blueprint Denver in 2000.<sup>2</sup>

The first two Steering Committee meetings for the East Area, convened by Council Members Chris Herndon and Mary Beth Susman, were held July 26 and August 23.

At the August 23 Steering Committee meeting, members took the on-line survey, using hand-held clickers to generate instantaneous polling results. Among the conclusions:

- The neighborhood is not “easy” to walk or bike in
- Most residents “usually feel safe”
- The neighborhood needs more housing

options

- The top three amenities are shopping (especially for groceries), dining and cultural amenities and events.
- Denver planners reported they have received 380 responses to the survey. The survey will remain open on line through September at least. The group was also asked to identify their “big ideas” for transforming or changing the neighborhood. Little disagreement was heard about these proposals:
  - Conversion of motels to other uses, including possibly affordable housing.
  - Addition of parks, possibly integrated with storm drainage improvements currently under study. Note: the Upper Montclair Basin is the largest in the city without an open drainageway.
  - Finding ways to “leverage” the city’s anticipated investment in bus rapid transit by adding medium density housing in “transit villages” near the BRT stops.
  - Anchoring the neighborhood with “safe, vibrant” schools serving a diverse mix of students. Developing more affordable housing was seen as one tactic for supporting the diversity goal.
  - One idea elicited chuckles and delight: to convert the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue one-way streets into a pedestrian zone. The idea was duly recorded because at this early stage of a long process, no idea gets summarily rejected.

1- <https://frontporchne.com/article/making-colfax-walkable-main-street-efficient-transit-corridor/>

2- <https://frontporchne.com/article/get-involved-make-denverlight/>

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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.

## Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World (2017)

This fascinating documentary tells the little-known story of Native Ameri-



Rumble

can influence on the history of American music. The film starts with proto-rocker Link Wray and his instrumental riff "Rumble," from 1957, which many believe to be the most influential piece in rock history, or as Stevie Van Zandt calls it in the film, "the theme song to juvenile delinquency." From that landmark in the '50s to present-day Standing Rock, the film charts a path of music, politics, and identity that is equal parts interesting, sad, provocative, and uplifting.

music itself. This is one of those documentaries that makes you realize no matter how much you think you know about a specific subject, there is so much more there. And that is quite refreshing.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *Muscle Shoals*, *Sound City*, and/or *20 Feet from Stardom*.

Opens Sept. 1 for one week only at the Chez Artiste.

## Ozark (Netflix)

A suburban Chicago financial planner finds out his partner has stolen millions of dollars from the Mexican drug cartel for which they have been laundering money. The partner is brutally murdered in front of him. The same man finds out his wife is unfaith-

ful, and the cartel throws the woman's lover out of a 70th-floor window, also in front of him. The cartel threatens to kill the wife and kids as well. The family is spared when the man concocts a cockamamie story about moving to the Ozarks where he can launder the cartel's money. The cartel agrees, almost amused at how the story will play out. The family moves to the Ozarks that day.

I can only imagine someone pitching this absurd pilot to an executive at Netflix. Somehow, they bit. The strangest part of the

whole story is that it all works. Wonderfully.

Such is the pilot of the new Netflix series *Ozark*, a wild, unpredictable, interesting, lively, and unlikely new show that continually surprises and delights. Much of the credit goes to Jason Bateman, the star, executive producer, and director of the first two episodes. Bateman is known for comedy, but this part allows him to expand his repertoire.

We've seen evidence of his depth, especially as the creepy husband in *Juno*. Here, he doesn't necessarily grow into the role as the season moves along, as Bryan Cranston did in *Breaking Bad*; Bateman, from the very first minute of the show, is the part. Bateman's character of Marty Byrde comes into the TV world fully formed.

The writing and acting are the true stars of this show. Laura Linney as Marty's wife is as equally wonderful as Bateman. Linney is a veteran of all different types of parts, but just when we think we know her, she surprises us. And then does it again. And again. Stage and screen veteran Julia Garner pops as the snappy leader of a band of malcontent Ozark locals who become embroiled in the Byrde-world, once again in surprising and unpredictable ways. The difficult roles of the Byrde children are also solidly played, by Sofia Hublitz as the older sister to Skylar Gaertner's younger brother. Imagine being pulled out of your big-city life one day, ferried to the woods, and then ... well, you'll have to watch for the rest. I've already spoiled the pilot, sort of.

Season one is now streaming on Netflix.

You will like this show if you enjoyed *Breaking Bad*, *Weeds*, and/or *Fargo*.

And a bonus "micro"-review:

## The Brave (NBC)

I have never reviewed nor even suggested a network show before, so this is a first. I previewed the pilot, debuting Monday, Sept. 25, and I was impressed. The grand premiere was here in Denver, and I spoke with some of the stars, including Anne Heche and cre-



ator/writer Dean Georgias. The series follows a U.S. undercover special ops team on missions around the world. The show doesn't break any new narrative ground, but it does excel in diverse characterizations—the kind we rarely see on American TV. For example, co-star Natacha Harem, who plays a Muslim-American sniper, says that she hopes the series will help American audiences deconstruct common stereotypes. In the pilot, we find her undercover in Syria with the team, wearing a hijab to blend in. But she is one of the good guys/girls, chasing a terrorist, and we sympathize with her character. "I want the audience to identify with her and root for her, and in some small way, I hope the character can help dispel negative notions of Muslims and Muslim women." The show is well done and engaging, and I root for its success along with the cast. They have a big job ahead of them.

You will like this show if you enjoyed *Homeland*, *The Blacklist*, and/or *Quantico*.

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



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# Pull out & save ELECTION GUIDE

PART ONE

## Choice: The Issues and the Basics

By Melinda Pearson and Carol Roberts

This year's school board election may bring contentious debates. Among other issues, voters will hear positions for and against Denver's system of school choice, particularly as it relates to the increase in charter schools, the accountability of charter schools, and the closure of neighborhood schools.

School choice has been prominent in the media since Betsy DeVos became Secretary of Education. DeVos champions school reform movements that include choice and charter schools and has criticized Denver for not having vouchers that allow students to use public money for private schools.

But choice in Denver isn't the same type of school reform as is championed by DeVos and her supporters. "It's easy to confuse these two groups of school choice advocates with one another, but in fact, there isn't a more vicious fight going on than between these two sides," says Van Schoales, C.E.O. of A+ Colorado, an independent, non-profit organization that uses research and data to advocate for improved educational policy systems statewide. While a supporter of school choice, A+ Colorado is wholly independent of the Denver system and often calls DPS and other school districts to task in its reports.

Schoales says the choice system in Denver differs markedly from others because there is "a high level of accountability" to ensure students are meeting academic standards at both charter and non-charter schools. Conversely, he says the brand of school choice advocated by DeVos and her supporters overemphasizes family choice at the expense of regulation and oversight. "[It's like] letting drug companies

manufacture whatever they want," said Schoales. "People have to read and find out whether people die on that medication [on their own]."

But opponents to school reform both nationally and in Denver argue that school choice steers students – and the dollars that follow them – away from traditional schools and toward charter schools, leaving neighborhood schools struggling for talent and resources.

Critics also point to data that shows the median salary for teachers at charter schools is about \$15,000 less than teachers at traditional schools, and they are often less experienced. And while statewide, charters outperform traditional schools academically, students with disabilities are underrepresented and, critics say, underserved at charters.

Choice is not just about charters in Denver, however. The last 10 years have seen a steady increase in innovation schools, which are district-run schools that have some of the autonomy of a charter school, in areas like budget, staffing, calendar, and curriculum. Originally begun as an approach to turning around low-performing traditional schools, innovation schools are increasingly found in affluent neighborhoods such as Stapleton, where the last four elementary schools to open all have innovation status. This year, for the first time, innovation schools statewide have matched traditional, district-run schools in academic performance measures.

"Choice with accountability, with an increasing focus on autonomy, allowing schools to figure out their staffing and manage their own budgets, has been a very powerful recipe

[in Denver]," said Schoales. In Colorado, school achievement has been flat, but DPS is an "outlier," posting above average growth scores, especially compared to other big school districts.

"As much as I am critical of [DPS], which I am on a variety of things," Schoales said, "when compared to other big districts, they've made huge progress, and the driving force has been families getting to pick and choose." Currently certain schools are extremely appealing, however, drawing more students than they can enroll. The challenge for DPS, said Schoales, is how to improve schools or create new schools that better meet the needs of all neighborhoods.

To make a decision about whether Denver's choice system should remain or be changed by new school board members, it's important to understand how it currently works. The *Front Porch* offers a few Q&As below and has created a graphic on the next page that explains how choice works.

### Q&A

#### How does the lottery system work in Denver Public Schools?

Unlike most school districts, Denver's "SchoolChoice" system occurs district-wide, using one application form for all students and all schools. After a family fills out a form listing from one to five choices in order of preference, DPS runs an algorithm, that matches students to schools based on their preferences, school admission priorities and available space.

#### Are any charter schools in Denver for-profit?

No, there are no for-profit charter schools in DPS. For-profit charters are not permissible under Colorado charter school law.

#### How are charter schools funded?

Charter schools receive money from the state based on student count for operating expenses, capital reserve and risk insurance. They can also raise funds from grants and other sources.

A recent bill, HB 17-1375, co-sponsored by local state Sen. Angela Williams, was passed by the state legislature in June. It will allow charters to receive local mill levy funding for the first time, but they will no longer be allowed certain automatic waivers, such as foregoing competitive bidding and accepting donations. They will now be required to make even more financial documents available online.

#### What are vouchers? Does DPS advocate the use of vouchers?

Vouchers are a means of using government funding to pay tuition at a private school. Denver currently does not have a voucher system, has no plans to implement one, and DPS does not support vouchers.

#### What are magnet schools?

Magnet schools or programs emphasize a particular style of learning or educational need (e.g., Highly Gifted & Talented, Montessori), or serve students with a common area of interest (e.g., arts, international studies). Magnets, like innovation schools, are district-run schools. There are 27 magnets in DPS, most of which are HGT or Advanced Kindergarten programs.

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# "CHOICE"

## A complex election issue

In the upcoming school board election, voters will choose representatives to make decisions that will drive DPS policy in the future. The current board supports "choice," which allows families to choose from numerous schools.

With four of seven board seats up for a vote, the candidates' positions on issues

### 1 Geography Is Not Destiny

Home location doesn't necessarily determine school placement. Some neighborhoods have traditional boundaries, some have enrollment zones, and some schools have no boundary associated with them.

|             | Boundary   | Enrollment Zone   | Non-Boundary   |
|-------------|--|---|--|
| Description | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>—A school with its own geographic boundary.</li><li>—Students living in the boundary are guaranteed enrollment in grades kindergarten through 12.</li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>—A school that shares a geographic boundary with one or more other schools.</li><li>—Students living in an enrollment zone are guaranteed enrollment in grades kindergarten through 12 at one of the schools within the zone.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>—A school or program that does not have a geographic boundary, including charter schools and specialty programs.</li><li>—A non-boundary program may be housed within a boundary school, such as Advanced Kindergarten at Bill Roberts.</li><li>—Enrollment is not guaranteed.</li></ul> |
| Examples    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>—<i>Elementary</i>: Montclair School of Academics &amp; Enrichment, Park Hill, Lowry</li><li>—<i>Middle</i>: Hill Campus of Arts &amp; Sciences</li><li>—<i>High Schools</i>: East, Northfield</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>—<i>Elementary</i>: Stapleton enrollment zone</li><li>—<i>Middle</i>: Greater Park Hill/Stapleton enrollment zone</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>—<i>Elementary</i>: Odyssey School, Polaris</li><li>—<i>Middle/High School</i>: Denver School of the Arts</li></ul>  |

**Choice Forms**—Students in zones, or boundary students who prefer a school other than their home school, fill out a "SchoolChoice" form and rank their school priorities from one to five. DPS runs an algorithm that matches students to schools based on their preferences, school admission priorities and available space. New forms are filled out when students enter a new school, typically Kindergarten, 6th and 9th grades.

**Choice Outcomes**—District-wide, match rates for first or second choices in 2017 were **93%** for Kindergarten, **92%** for 6th grade, and **93%** for 9th grade.

### 2 Some Schools Are More Autonomous than Others

|                            | Traditional  | Magnet  | Innovation   | Charter  |
|----------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Administration             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>—Administration is operated through DPS.</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>—Administration is operated through DPS</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>—Administration is operated through DPS but with specific waivers of district policy, state statute, and collective bargaining.</li><li>—Innovation plans have to be approved by DPS Board and renewed periodically.</li></ul>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>—Independently operated public schools, governed by an independent board of directors.</li><li>—Charters are approved by the school board with specific time-limited contracts that can be extended, or not, by the board.</li></ul>                                     |
| Description                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>—Serves a general student body and adheres to all district and state policies.</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>—Emphasizes a particular style of learning or educational need to serve students with a common interest.</li><li>—Some have admission criteria.</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>—2008 state law authorizes innovation schools, creating the ability to waive certain district and state policies.</li><li>—Schools and principals can gain authority over budget, curriculum, schedule, calendar, hiring and firing.</li></ul>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>—1993 state law first authorized charter schools that have contracts with school boards for terms of performance, programming, and legal compliance.</li><li>—Can use their own curriculum, hire and fire teachers, and institute policies independent of DPS.</li></ul> |
| Boundary/Zone/Non-Boundary | Boundary or Enrollment Zone  | Non-Boundary  | Boundary or Enrollment Zone  | Enrollment Zone or Non-Boundary  |
| Examples                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>—<i>Elementary</i>: Lowry, Park Hill, Westerly Creek</li><li>—<i>K-8</i>: Bill Roberts</li><li>—<i>Middle</i>: Hill Campus of Arts &amp; Sciences</li><li>—<i>High Schools</i>: East, GW</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>—<i>Elementary</i>: Polaris, Bill Roberts Advanced K</li><li>—<i>Middle/High School</i>: Denver Center for International Studies</li><li>—<i>High School</i>: Denver School of the Arts</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>—<i>Elementary</i>: Swigert International, High Tech, Montclair School of Academics &amp; Enrichment, Isabella Bird, Denver Discovery, Ashley</li><li>—<i>Middle</i>: McAuliffe International</li><li>—<i>High School</i>: Northfield High</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>—<i>Elementary</i>: Odyssey School</li><li>—<i>K-8</i>: Denver Language School</li><li>—<i>Middle</i>: Girls Athletic Leadership</li><li>—<i>Middle/High School</i>: DSST: Stapleton, DSST: Conservatory Green</li></ul>   |

Least

Degree of Autonomy

Most



related to choice could maintain or change choice options in the future.

An informed vote will require an understanding of the current choice system and the language used to talk about it: enrollment zones; charter, innovation and magnet schools; school accountability. In preparation for reading about candidates’ positions in our October issue, the *Front Porch* has created this guide to understanding choice in DPS.

## What Is Choice?

“SchoolChoice” is the system DPS has created to give families options from which to choose the best school for their child—and not have their options limited to one school determined by the location of their home.

# 3 Accountability Measures Apply to All Schools

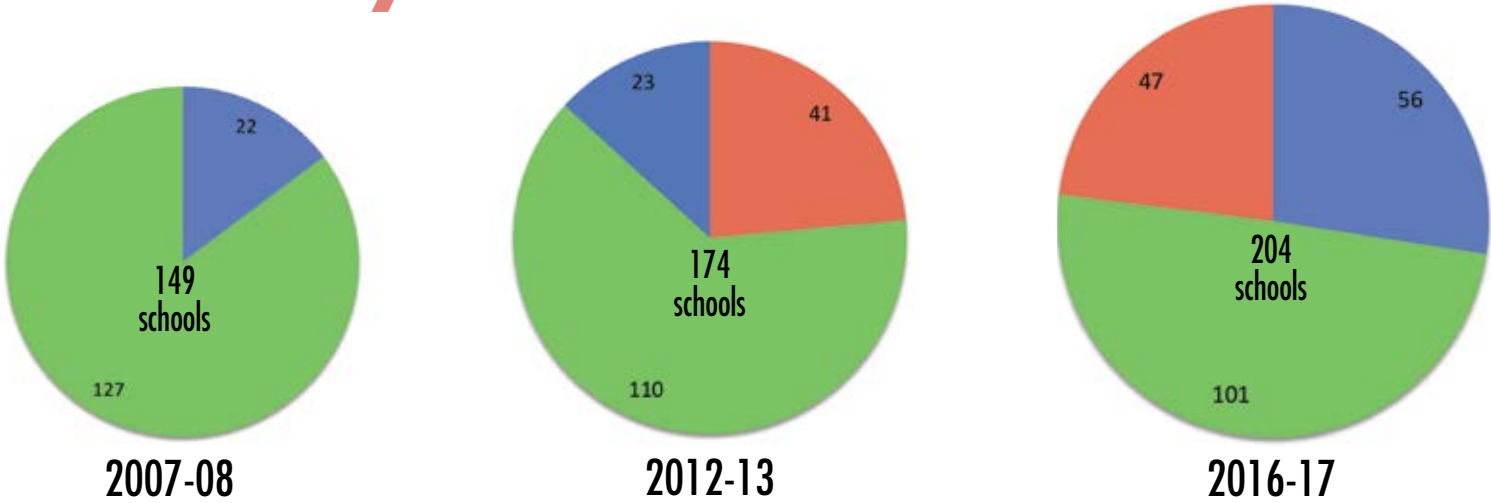
**Contracts and Closures**—Charter schools and waivers for innovation schools are granted by the board for limited periods of time and may not be renewed if agreed-upon standards aren’t met. Traditional (district-run) schools may be closed or restarted with a new program and staff if they aren’t meeting district standards. In fact, DPS has used this authority, as shown in the chart below that shows closures since 2009.

**School Performance Framework**—All DPS schools are held accountable through the School Performance Framework, which is like a report card for schools. It includes multiple measures of student performance, such as scores on standardized tests and other assessments, parent and student satisfaction, and college readiness.

**Financial Transparency**—All charter schools and school districts must comply with the financial transparency act, which includes posting of annual budgets, financial audits, salary schedules or policies, financial data file and list of waivers received by the district or charter school. Charter schools must comply with state statute around bidding processes, although

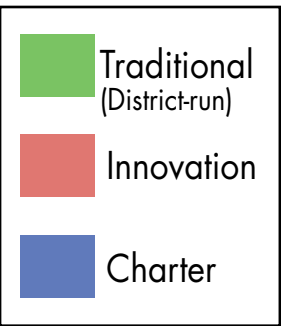
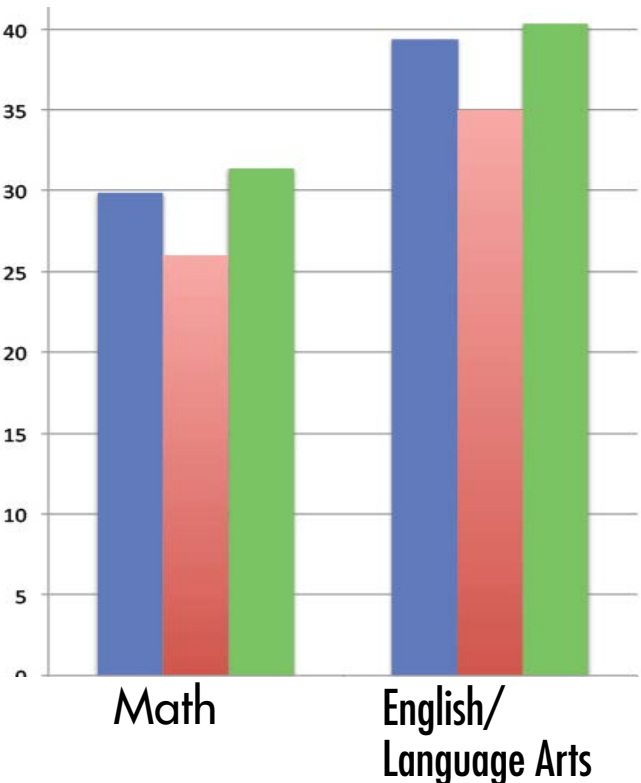
## DPS by the Numbers

### Changes in Types of Schools Since 2007



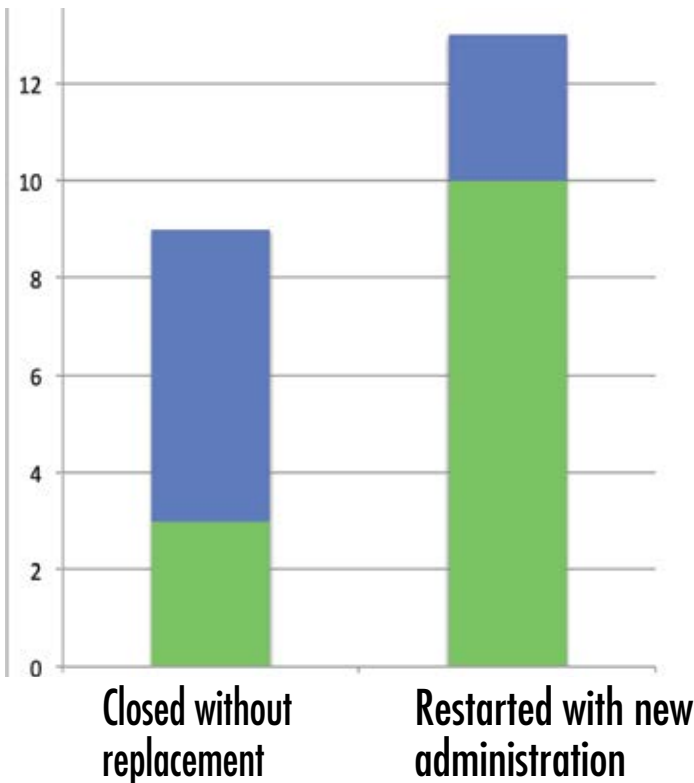
### 2016 DPS Testing Outcomes

(percent proficient on standardized tests)



### Closures/Restarts Since 2009

(number of schools)





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How Will NE Denver Benefit from the Bond on the Upcoming Ballot?

| Projects that Directly Impact NE Denver                   | Est. Cost (Million \$) |
|---|------------------------|
| <b>City-Owned Facilities</b>                              |                        |
| Pauline Robinson Branch Library Renovation                | 2                      |
| Schlessman Family Branch Library Renovation               | 4                      |
| <b>Safety Facilities</b>                                  |                        |
| County Jail Improvements                                  | 2                      |
| <b>Transportation &amp; Mobility</b>                      |                        |
| 56th Avenue Improvements                                  | 27                     |
| Colfax Corridor Improvements including Colfax-Mayfair BID | 20                     |
| East Colfax Bus Rapid Transit                             | 55                     |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$109</b>           |

By John Fernandez  
The Denver City Council will be asking voters to approve issuance of \$937 million in general obligation (GO) bonds at the Nov. 7 general election.

The *Front Porch* has reviewed the list of projects approved by the city council on August 8 and has extracted projects that directly serve taxpayers in our distribution area (see tables above and right). Local taxpayers would also benefit from several citywide programs such as sidewalk construction and major street repaving. Decisions on individual projects within those programs would be made in the future.

Project and program selection for the 2017 package were determined through an extensive public input process that began last fall and culminated in June with a recommendation to the mayor and city council by an appointed bond committee. Throughout this process, city leaders often described their overall approach in project selection as based on a combination of need and “equity,” meaning a fair distribution of projects throughout the city.

No property tax increase is proposed; the city estimates it can retire these GO bonds with the existing 8.433 mill levy already in place. The impact on an owner of the median Denver single-family home is estimated at \$219 annually (median home value of \$360,000 X 7.2% residential assessment rate X 8.433 debt mills).

Golf Course Impacts

One project that did not make the final cut for the 2017 general obligation (GO) bond was a proposal for the city to acquire the 155-acre parcel where the Park Hill Golf Course is located. The land is owned by the Clayton Early Learning Trust, which uses revenue from its golf course lease to support its mission of early childhood education. The lease with Arcis Golf expires at the end of 2018, raising the prospect that the golf course could close as Clayton explores other land uses that could generate more income. Clayton wants to adopt a new vision for its property by this November, giving it time to put the new plan into place before the end of next year. The most recent community open house to develop that vision was held Aug. 10.

Community members advocating for city acquisition of the site believe their effort to have the golf course included in the city’s 2017 GO bond failed for multiple reasons:

- Clayton’s planning efforts occurred several months after the city started identifying bond projects.
- The possibility remains that Clayton may retain some or all of the land as a golf course or open space.

| Projects that Indirectly Impact NE Denver   | Est. Cost (Million \$) |
|---|------------------------|
| <b>City-owned Facilities</b>  |                        |
| ADA Projects  | 10                     |
| Deferred Maintenance Correction   | 7                      |
| <b>Safety Facilities</b>  |                        |
| Fire Station Improvements including #14 (1426 Oneida St.)                         | 5                      |
| <b>Parks &amp; Recreation</b>   |                        |
| Neighborhood Park Improvements  | 15                     |
| Recreation Center Improvements  | 8                      |
| Irrigation Renovation Projects  | 5                      |
| Park Maintenance Facilities Improvements  | 2                      |
| <b>Transportation &amp; Mobility</b>  |                        |
| Citywide Bike Infrastructure (aka Bike Lanes)                                     | 18                     |
| Sidewalk Construction   | 31                     |
| Arterial/Collector Paving   | 45                     |
| Curb and Gutter Repair  | 11                     |
| Major Bridge Rehab including Airlawn and Smith Roads at Quebec St.                | 45                     |
| <b>Arts &amp; Culture</b>   |                        |
| Denver Art Museum – North Building Renovation and Transportation Improvements     | 36                     |
| Denver Arts & Ventures – Improvements to Red Rocks Amphitheatre and Buell Theatre | 7                      |
| Denver Botanic Gardens – Center for Science, Art & Education                      | 18                     |
| Denver Center for the Performing Arts – Bonfils Theatre Complex Upgrades          | 19                     |
| Denver Museum of Nature & Science – Critical Deferred Maintenance                 | 18                     |
| Denver Zoo – Phase One Master Plan Improvements                                   | 20                     |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$318</b>           |

- The city appears to have some leverage over the future of the golf course. It has a long-standing legal arrangement with Clayton to waive certain real property taxes in return for keeping the golf course land as open space.

The uncertainty about the Park Hill Golf Course future arises at the same time two other area-serving golf courses face closure:

**Fitzsimons Golf Course.** The course is owned by the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority (FRA), the entity charged with redeveloping the former Fitzsimons Army Hospital site. It is operated by the City of Aurora under the terms of a lease that is subject to annual renewal. The course will be closed when the University of Colorado exercises a right to purchase land within the golf course and expand its campus north of Montview Blvd. Neither the city nor the FRA will give a specific date for course closure but it could happen as early as the 2019 season.

**City Park Golf Course.** This Denver facility is scheduled to close for the 2018 season for a complete renovation including installation of storm drainage areas associated with the city’s Park to Platte project and the need to relocate the clubhouse. The city hopes to re-open the course sometime in 2019.





# Kids Work Out and Build Confidence

allow kids to explore the gym with their caregiver. Older children may enroll in instructor-led classes designed to teach skills that translate to many sports.

“Parkour classes incorporate a style of movement that involves circuits and obstacle courses,” explains Lozier. “Gymnastics classes are taught by skill level with each child advancing at his/her own pace.” Sessions designed for home-schooled students meet the Colorado state standards for PE. Bounce also offers supervised open gym times. Drop-ins are welcomed as space permits.

All classes and sessions are taught and supervised by experienced gymnastics instructors and parents can observe gym sessions through the floor-to-ceiling observation windows. Birthday parties may be held at Bounce during three scheduled time blocks each Saturday and Sunday from 12:30–6pm.



Fall classes begin Sept. 1, 2017, and summer camp enrollment begins Jan. 1, 2018. Monthly enrollments can begin at any time and there is no membership or annual fee to join. Information, class schedules, wait list, and student enrollment information is available online at [www.bouncestapleton.com](http://www.bouncestapleton.com) or call 720.460.0267.

Top right: Bounce co-owner Robin Lozier (background) joins participants in an outdoor session. Bounce focuses on helping kids have fun while setting and attaining fitness and agility goals.

By Anne Hebert

A passion for encouraging children’s physical activity and movement prompted Robin Lozier, a former physical education teacher, and her business partner Chris Lindley, owner of Endorphin, to open Bounce. Their gymnastics studio at the Stanley Marketplace, designed for kids ages 18 months to 15 years “is a place

where kids can interact with others in a physical education setting.”

Focusing on a recreational approach, rather than a traditional gymnastics environment, the goal is to help kids have fun while setting and attaining fitness and agility goals and developing their confidence.

Geared for the youngest visitors, Bounce offers toddler/adult sessions that

## Inclusive Playground To Be Built at Stanley

By Anne Hebert

A first-of-its-kind all-inclusive playground in the metro area will be built at Stanley Marketplace. The playground will feature handicapped accessible and musical sensory equipment to allow children and families of diverse needs to experience outdoor play with their peers. “There is so much learning that happens on the playground,” says Juliet Dawkins, co-founder of LuBird’s Light Foundation, which, together with other donors, is funding the project. “Playground experiences should be a welcoming and important part of every child’s life.”

There are over 74,000 kids with disabilities in Colorado who are unable to take full advantage of existing playground equipment. The Stanley Marketplace and the City of Aurora have granted approximately 5,000 square feet of outdoor space to build the playground. The site was chosen because of its proximity to Denver metro area pediatric hospitals and the Stanley Marketplace’s community-focused mission. The playground is expected to break ground by the end of 2017.

LuBird’s Light Foundation will host its 5th Annual St. Lucia White Party fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 23 from 7-11pm at the Stanley Marketplace.

To learn more about the foundation or to purchase individual tickets and sponsorship packages, visit [www.lubirdslight.org](http://www.lubirdslight.org) or call 720.854.5995.



Rendering of the playground to be built at Stanley that meets the needs of children with disabilities.

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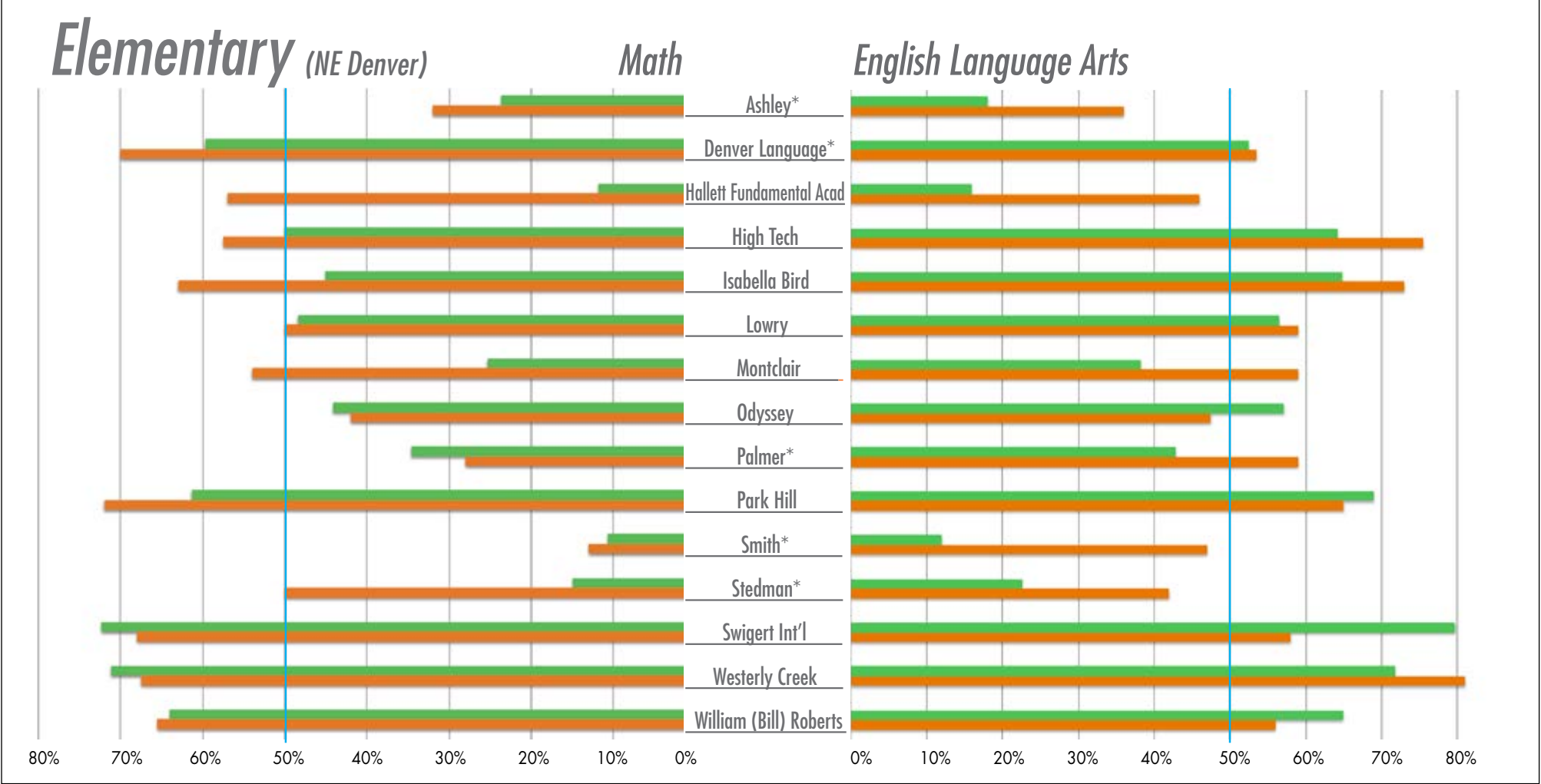
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# 2017 PARCC Test Results



\*Scores represent averages of grades 3–5 for elementary and grades 6–8 for middle schools, except for the following: DLS (6th and 8th Only); Ashley (Math: 3rd Only); Palmer (ELA & Math 3rd/4th Only); Smith (ELA 4th/5th only; Math 3rd Only); Stedman (Math 3rd Only)

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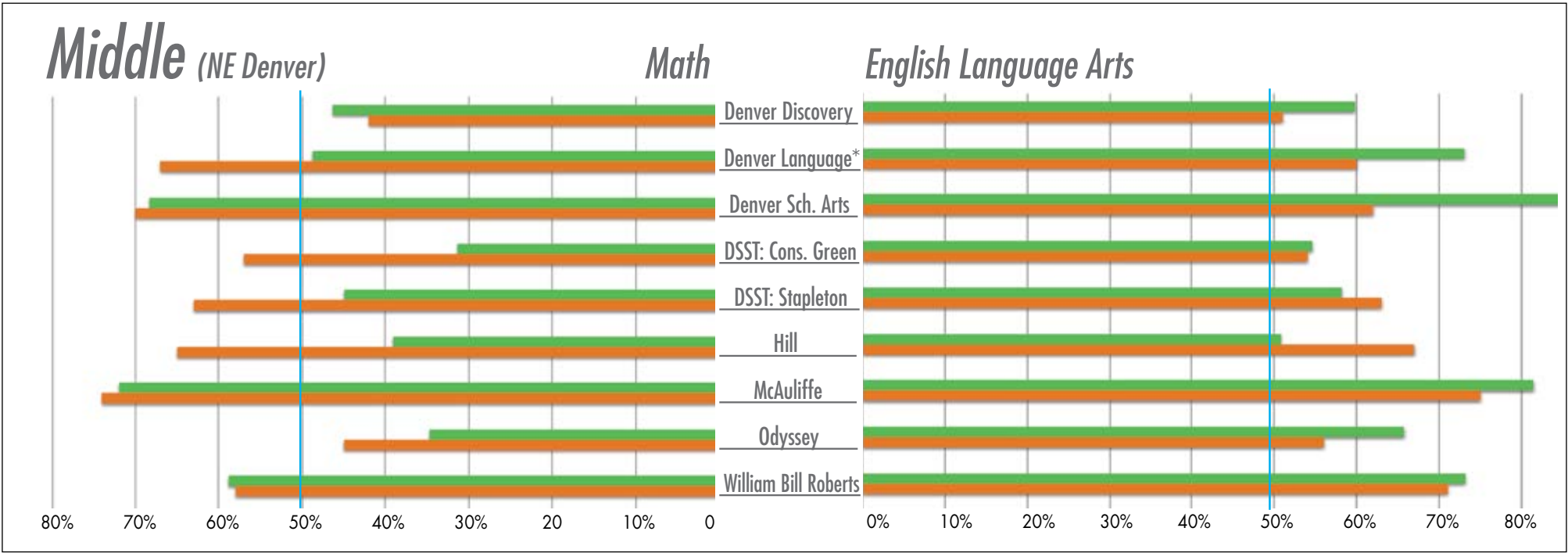
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# for NE Denver Schools



Charts by Melinda Pearson and Carol Roberts

**Proficiency: % Meeting or Exceeding Standards** **Growth since prior year; 50% is median**

## Understanding PARCC Results

In August, scores were released for the PARCC exams (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math. The exams assess student proficiency in meeting grade-level standards set by the state. They are aligned to the Common Core national standards. This is the third year for this test in Colorado.

**Percent Proficient** represents the percentage of students who meet or exceed state proficiency standards in the content area.

**Growth** is the Median Growth Percentile (MGP). Fifty percent represents one year's growth. It is calculated by ordering individual student growth percentiles from lowest to highest and identifying a middle score, which is the median. A median score below 50 percent indicates more than half the students have not achieved a year's growth. A median score above 50 percent indicates more than half the students have achieved a year's growth.

Sources: Colorado Dept of Education; Chalkbeat.org; A+ Colorado.

## Clicking "Done" on PARCC Tests

By Melinda Pearson

State education officials announced in June that Colorado will stop administering the PARCC exams, standardized tests that are used in multiple states to assess student and school achievement of Common Core standards in math and language arts.

The PARCC exams, which have been used in grades 3–8, were designed to allow cross-state comparisons and provide year-over-year achievement and growth data. They have been under fire, however, because of the number of hours of testing required; many schools dedicated several weeks or more to testing. The results from PARCC tests also came out much later than anticipated, making them less useful

than desired by school administrators.

The state will instead adopt a shorter test to assess Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) that is designed by Pearson, the company that also developed the PARCC test. The new test will last no more than eight hours and will be directed by Colorado educators. The turnaround of results will be faster, according to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). The CDE also says that the new CMAS test results will be comparable to prior years, allowing them to hold schools accountable for student achievement and growth.

This year, PARCC questions will still be used in slightly shortened exams, however, with a goal of full transition by 2018.

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# Learn About Quebec/Syracuse

*The public is invited to these informational meetings:*

## Quebec Street Multi-Modal Project East 13th to East 26th Ave.

Wednesday, Sept. 27, 5:30–7:30pm  
The Hope Center, 3475 Holly St.

## Syracuse Bicycle/ Pedestrian Study and Design Project

Monday, Sept. 13, 4:30–7pm  
Ashley Elementary, 1914 Syracuse St

By John Fernandez

City projects are underway to redesign Quebec and Syracuse streets from Stapleton to Lowry.

The changes to these busy north-south corridors are being made to address vehicular congestion and improve inadequate bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Known project elements include:

Quebec: a consistent four-lane road-way with turn lanes, continuous sidewalk and improved bus stops.

Syracuse: continuous on-street “bikeways” on both sides of the street and new sidewalks to close existing gaps.

Although located on parallel corridors and getting started roughly at the same time, the construction schedules for the two projects are very different.

### Syracuse St. Plans

Design concepts for the Syracuse bikeways will be presented at the September open house with a goal of finalizing design by the end of year. These improvements would all occur within the existing curb line.

Construction is hoped for 2018, dependent upon on finding additional funding. Approved funding of \$400,000 will cover design and implementation of the Syracuse bikeways. Funding for missing sidewalks is undetermined but city staff said they would explore the use of funds

from the general obligation bond program that will go to the voters in November (see bond article on page 22).

### Quebec St. Plans

Quebec, on the other hand, is just getting underway with an environmental review that is required as a condition of using federal funds. Construction would not begin until at least 2022. The project is currently funded at \$23 million (half from the City of Denver, half from a federal transportation grant).

The Quebec project would potentially push the curb lines back and may impact private improvements established in the public right-of-way. For that reason, city project staff have been holding a series of meetings with affected property owners separate from the scheduled public meeting.

### Prior Public Feedback

A public open house on the Syracuse project was held May 23. Dan Raine, city project manager in the Public Works Department, says feedback from the open house and an online survey indicate safety is the main concern and open house attendees expressed a desire to maintain parking along Syracuse St. The consistent four-laning of Quebec was selected as the preferred alternative through the Quebec Street Alternatives Analysis completed by the city in 2015.

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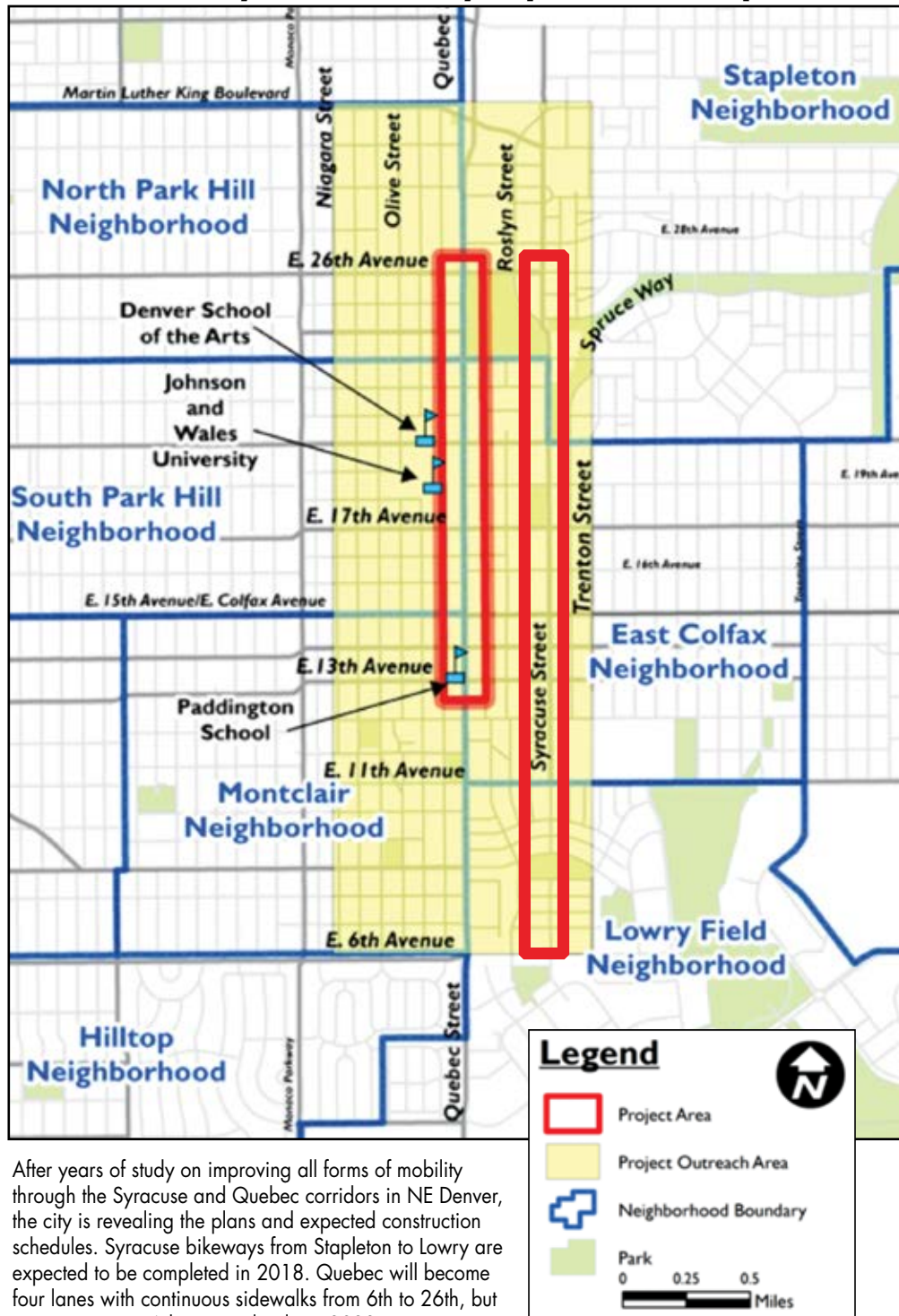
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# se Plans at Sept. Meetings

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# Recognitions

## Stingrays Swim Team Places Second in State

By Anne Hebert

The Stapleton Stingrays finished their season in second place at the Colorado State Summer Swim Club state competition. They also finished undefeated in dual meets in the Metro League.

Coach Rich LeDuc says the group continues to meet expectations ahead of schedule, moving from Division Three to Division One

in just five years. Teams advance entirely on points scored during each season.

"The key to our success required strong performances by our swimmers and a total team effort," says LeDuc. Swimmers prepared for and competed at their highest level at each outing. LeDuc also recognized his swimmers for supporting each other during each competition, an important component of teamwork.



Front Row: Blake Underwood and Thomas Newell.

Second Row: Emily Kahn, Ella Creighton, Lauren Graff, and Delaney Burke

Third Row: Coach Chris Martinez, Will Draper, Caleb Robinson, Laine Draper, Ava Baumann, Hazel Creighton, McCoy Burke and Coach Rich LeDuc

Fourth Row: Talia Kurtz and Sam Modesitt. Photo courtesy of Stapleton Stingrays

## Kids Cook for a Cause



Cattivella chef Elise Wiggins shows school kids how to make lunchbox meatball subs during a cooking class. Fees for the class helped pay lunch debts incurred by DPS students across the district.

Photos courtesy of Rachel Chaparro

By Melinda Pearson

To raise funds for lunch debt accrued by DPS students across the district, Cattivella restaurant owner/chef Elise Wiggins and her partner Rachel Chaparro of Grace and Sky Homes hosted a cooking class for children on August 5.

At the event, 24 children and a few of their parents learned how to make Chef Wiggins's lunchbox meatball sub. In the process, they contributed \$2,500 to a campaign run by nonprofit Kidsgiving365.org.

Chaparro and Wiggins had learned that a number of DPS students had fallen behind on lunch payments and would not get a full lunch as a result, so they decided to host a fundraiser where kids could help be a part of the solution. "We look forward to hosting future kids cooking classes paired with life lessons to benefit the community," said Chaparro.

In all, the campaign gathered donations of \$17,632 towards outstanding lunch debt of \$13,910 in the district. Grant Barnhill, of Shift Workspaces, a parent of an incoming DPS student, had committed to paying the balance, which now appears unnecessary. In fact, the generosity of the community means that the excess, after fundraising fees,

will be directed to the needs of "the poorest children living in the Denver Housing projects," according to the GoFundMe webpage set up by KidsGiving365.

Superintendent Boasberg announced on August 3 that, going forward, the district will ensure that every kid who wants a healthy lunch will get one. "We will feed every kid, every day," Boasberg said. "We know hungry kids aren't the best learners."

DPS will continue to work to collect money from families who owe for their kids' meals. More than two thirds of DPS students already qualify for free lunch and there is additional state funding that allows students who qualify for reduced-price lunch to receive free meals. The food services teams encourage students to fill out applications for these programs, but it is thought that some immigrant families may be hesitant to do so.

The district will also continue to follow federal laws related to school lunch debt. According to DPS, the National School Lunch program audits participating districts to ensure they are not providing free lunch to students who do not qualify for subsidized meals.



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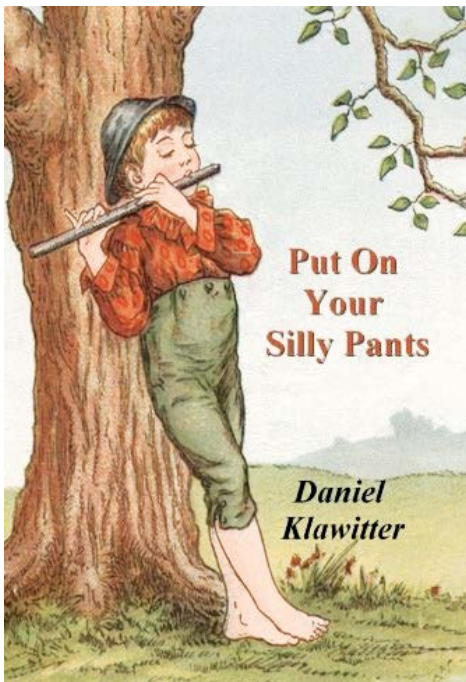
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# Poems for the Kid in Us



By Anne Hebert  
Feeling “slightly burned out” after completing his new book of poetry for adults, north Park Hill author and resident Daniel Klawitter indulged in what he calls the liberating experience of creating children’s poems. Writing his first book of children’s poetry, *Put On Your Silly Pants*, “really returned me to a simpler

state of mind,” he says. “And the poems appeal to the kid in all of us.”  
Featuring, humorous, light hearted, and wistful poetry, the subjects of Klawitter’s children’s poems range from “bullies to boogers.” The book won a Purple Dragonfly Award in the category of children’s poetry for children ages seven and up. The award recognizes and honors accomplished authors in the field of children’s literature, and introduces up-and-coming, newly published authors and younger published writers to readers.  
The success of the book has prompted Klawitter to write a second book of children’s poetry. Currently in the manuscript phase, Klawitter plans to include illustrations in this book, possibly by a local artist.  
Klawitter points out that studies have shown early exposure to poetry helps children with reading comprehension. “Kids love rhymes and humor,” he notes. “Hopefully, children who appreciate poetry early will become lifelong poetry lovers.”  
*Put On Your Silly Pants* is available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). For more information about the author, appearances and book signings, visit [www.poetdanielklawitter.wordpress.com](http://www.poetdanielklawitter.wordpress.com).

# Food Drive Sept. 30 - Oct. 9

By Anne Hebert  
Six years ago, agents at New Perspective Real Estate (NPRE) decided to do a food drive to give back to the community. They’re now in their seventh year, and the effort has been growing every year. Over 50,000 meals were donated last year and their goal is to reach or exceed 60,000 meals this year, says Megan Davis, NPRE office manager.  
On Saturday, Sept. 30, community volunteers will deliver food donation bags to Stapleton homes. Neighborhood kids, parents, grandparents, student clubs and athletic teams have helped distribute and pick up the bags in prior years.  
Residents are asked to fill the bags with non-perishable items and leave them out for pick-up before 9am on Saturday, Oct. 7. Full bags can also be dropped off at participating local business locations through Oct. 9.  
Donated food goes to food pantries at local schools and to Food Bank of the Rockies. Cash donations to the food bank or to a local school’s food pantry are also accepted. For more information, including drop-off locations and making an online cash donation, visit [www.stapletonfooddrive.com](http://www.stapletonfooddrive.com).



The 2015 food drive collected enough food for over 50,000 meals. The goal this year is to collect enough for 60,000 meals.



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Front Porch – NE Denver

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September 2017



# Stories on Stage



Stories on Stage actors

"A story speaks to an audience and gives them an opportunity to take a walk in someone else's shoes," says Stories On Stage Artistic Director, Anthony Powell. The theater company performs short stories, transforming the solitary pursuit of reading into a community experience. Among the nine performances this season are *The Year Of Magical Thinking*, *Love & Marriage*, and *Wild Women*. The upcoming Sept. 17 performance will be *A Little Help from My Friends*. Each show is followed by their popular "milk-and-cookie" reception where audience members can meet and visit with the actors. Shows are performed at Su Teatro Theater, 721 Santa Fe Dr. The company also performs select shows in Boulder. Tickets are \$28 with a pay-what-you-can, 'Low Dough' program available for students and those on fixed incomes.

The company performs a special Storybooks On Stage show for children once a year at rotating locations. Performances are based on stories chosen from submissions by elementary schools in Denver and Boulder. An annual holiday performance entitled *Making Merry* is also performed in both cities each year.

To learn more about Stories On Stage, view the performance schedule or purchase tickets, visit [www.storiesonstage.org](http://www.storiesonstage.org) or call 303.551.3022.



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# View more events or submit events

[FrontPorchNE.com](http://FrontPorchNE.com) > Events

## SEASONAL/HOLIDAY EVENTS

**9/7 to 9/10—Longs Peak Scottish Irish Festival.** Pipe bands, Irish and folk dancing, parade, etc. Estes Park. [www.scotfest.com](http://www.scotfest.com)

**9/15 to 9/16—Broomfield Days.** Broomfield. [www.broomfield.org](http://www.broomfield.org)

**9/15 to 10/29—Botanic Gardens Corn Maze.** Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield, 8500 W. Deer Creek Canyon Rd. [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**9/16 Saturday—33rd Annual Summerfest Festival.** Clement Park, Littleton. Free. Fireworks, arts/craft show, midway games, music, car show. etc. [www.summerfest.com](http://www.summerfest.com)

**9/20 to 10/31—Anderson Farms Fall Festival.** Corn maze, pumpkin patch, hayrides, barrel train, etc. 6728 County Road 3 1/4 Erie. [www.andersonfarms.com](http://www.andersonfarms.com)

**9/22 to 9/23—Denver Oktoberfest.** 20th and Larimer; Ballpark neighborhood. Repeats 9/29-30. [www.thedenveroktoberfest.com](http://www.thedenveroktoberfest.com)

**9/23 to 10/31—Cottonwood Farms Pumpkin Patch and Fall Festival.** Farm animals, straw bale maze, 1½-acre corn maze, wagon rides, etc. Daily 10am -6pm. 75th and Arapahoe, Boulder. [www.cottonwoodfarms.com](http://www.cottonwoodfarms.com)

## DENVER METRO EVENTS

**To 9/4—Parade of Homes.** Neighborhoods in metro Denver; Windsor to Castle Rock and Arvada to Aurora, and Larkspur, Strasburg and Winter Park. Fri. through Labor Day. 11am-6pm. Free tour; 60 newly designed model homes, custom homes, luxury "Dream Homes." [www.paradeofhomesdenver.com](http://www.paradeofhomesdenver.com)

**To 10/7—Free composting classes.** Wed. and Sat. thru mid-Oct. Denver Compost Demonstration Site, Gove Community Garden, 13th Ave. and Colo. Blvd. Sign up: 303.292.9900 or [www.dug.org/compost](http://www.dug.org/compost).

**9/1 Friday—First Friday Art Walks.** Santa Fe Arts District, Tennyson Art Walk, River North (RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Museum, Navajo Street Art District. [www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts](http://www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts)

**9/1 to 9/4—A Taste of Colorado.** Food, music, arts/crafts, fireworks, carnival rides. Civic Center Park. [www.atasteofcolorado.com](http://www.atasteofcolorado.com)

**9/5 to 9/10—Denver Food and Wine Festival.** 6-day festival, multiple events, locations. Details/tickets: [www.denverfoodandwine.com](http://www.denverfoodandwine.com)

**9/5 to 9/12—Last Note Singers Fall/Holiday Season.** Nonprofit a cappella choir starts fall/holiday rehearsals 9/5 & 9/12. Tues eves, Kirk of Bonnie Brae Church (not church-affiliated), \$40

member dues & 6-8 concerts/season. All voices welcome, esp. tenors. [www.lastnotesingers.org](http://www.lastnotesingers.org), [www.lastnotesingers.org/](http://www.lastnotesingers.org/), [www.facebook.com/groups/178408877894/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/178408877894/)

**9/9 Saturday—28th Annual Friendship Powwow and American Indian Cultural Celebration.** Denver Art Museum, 10am-4pm. FREE. [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

**9/9 Saturday—Sunnyside Music Festival.** Chaffee Park, NW Denver. [www.sunnysidemusicfest.org](http://www.sunnysidemusicfest.org)

**9/9 to 9/10—Festival Italiano 2017 at Belmar.** Italian food, wine, artisan vendors. 10am-9pm Sat., 10am-5pm Sun. [www.belmarcolorado.com](http://www.belmarcolorado.com)

**9/9 to 9/17—Denver Coliseum Mineral Fossil and Gem Show.** Denver Coliseum, I-70 and Brighton Blvd. Largest U.S. mineral/fossil show. Hundreds of exhibitors 9am-6pm Mon-Sat, 9am-5pm Sun. FREE admission. [www.coliseumshow.com](http://www.coliseumshow.com)

**9/12 to 9/16—Biennial of the Americas 2017 Festival.** [www.biennialoftheamericas.org](http://www.biennialoftheamericas.org)

**9/14 Thursday—League of Women Voters 85th Birthday.** Brown Palace luncheon, presentation by former Mayor Wellington Webb. Tickets \$50 includes LVVD History Book 1932-2017. [www.lwvdenver.org](http://www.lwvdenver.org)

**9/15 to 9/17—4th Annual Denver Vintage Jazz Festival.** Live swing and traditional jazz music from '20s thru '40s. City Hall Events Center, 1144 Broadway. Tickets/performance info: [www.denervintagejazzfestival.org](http://www.denervintagejazzfestival.org)

**9/15 to 9/19—50th Annual Denver Gem and Mineral Show.** Denver Mart Expo, 451 E. 58th Ave. I-25, exit 215. Tickets \$4-\$6, under 13 free with adult. Cash/check only. [www.denvermineralshow.com](http://www.denvermineralshow.com)

**9/16 Saturday—Denver Dumb Friends League Wag N Trail.** 1.6-mile hike with your dog helps homeless pets at Buddy Center. 8am-12pm. Glendale Farm Open Space, Castle Rock. 303.751.5772 ext. 1378 [www.ddfl.org](http://www.ddfl.org)

**9/17 Sunday—Watoto Ugandan Children's Choir Concert.** 10:30am. FREE. Supports family-style orphanage homes for children in Uganda. Epiphany Episcopal Church, 1st Ave. and Colo. Blvd. <http://watoto.com>

**9/21 to 9/30—National Jewish Health High Holiday Services.** FREE High Holiday services for Denver's Jewish community. [www.servicesatnjh.org](http://www.servicesatnjh.org)

**9/23 Saturday—Amazing Aging Expo.** 10am-4pm, Crowne Plaza, I-70 and Chambers Rd. 75+ exhibitors, speakers, seminars. [www.amazingagingdenver.com](http://www.amazingagingdenver.com)

**9/23 Saturday—Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day Live.** History Colorado Center. Visit [HistoryColoradoCenter.org](http://HistoryColoradoCenter.org) to download free admission pass for this nationwide celebration of art and culture. [www.historycolorado.org](http://www.historycolorado.org)

**9/23 to 9/24—Botanic Gardens Fall Plant and Bulb Sale.** West Terrace, 9-5pm Fri., 9-3pm, Sat. Free admission to gardens both days. Thousands of bulbs, plants and bushes; members get 10% discount. 1007 York St. [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

**9/7 Thursday—Wear Teal Day to Raise Awareness of Ovarian Cancer.** Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month raises awareness of ovarian cancer, causing more deaths than any other cancer of female reproductive system. [www.colorado-ovariancancer.org/](http://www.colorado-ovariancancer.org/)

**9/9, 9/16 9/30—Flu Shot Clinic.** Saturdays, 8:30am-12:30pm. Stapleton Pediatrics, 2975 Roslyn St. [www.stapletonpediatrics.com](http://www.stapletonpediatrics.com)

**9/15 Friday—Cannabis 101 for Seniors.** Free 45-minute presentations open to public by Holos Health physician medical cannabis experts re cannabis health/wellness applications for common senior ailments. [www.stratosthcc.com](http://www.stratosthcc.com), [www.holoshealth.org/](http://www.holoshealth.org/), <http://balfourcare.com/event/cannabis-101-4/>

**9/16 Saturday—2017 Walk to End Alzheimer’s.** Denver’s City Park. 8am. [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)

**9/17 Sunday—8th Annual Hop, Skip and a Jump Start.** Stroller and family-friendly 5K and expo benefits Children’s Museum of Denver. [www.mychildsmuseum.org](http://www.mychildsmuseum.org)

**9/27 to 12/20—Jewish Aging Mastery Program for Older Adults.** 12-week program every Wed. 10-11:45am at Staenberg-Loup Jewish Community Center. 1-week course, different topics impacting older adults by experts in community. \$150. [www.jccdenver.org/event/jamp/](http://www.jccdenver.org/event/jamp/)

**9/28 Thursday—Curves 25th Birthday Bash.** 8am-7pm. 29th Ave. and Roslyn. FREE. [curvesofstapleton@comcast.net](mailto:curvesofstapleton@comcast.net), [www.curves.com](http://www.curves.com)

KIDS AND FAMILIES

**To 9/4—Colorado State Fair.** Pueblo Fairgrounds, Pueblo. [www.coloradostatefair.com](http://www.coloradostatefair.com)

**To 9/24—Alexander Calder Sculpture Exhibit at Denver Botanic Gardens.** Included with admission. [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**To 10/1—Ekar Urban Farm “Days in the Dirt.”** Sundays to 10/1. 9am-1pm; individuals, families, groups plant, tend and harvest together. Small tools for kids. Future Farmers’ Program 10-10:30am ages 4-10 with on-site educator. All harvested produce donated to feed the hungry. Goal: donate 15,000 lbs. this season. 181 S. Oneida St., Lowry. 303.520.7581. Free. <http://ekarfarm.org>

**To 10/31—Dinos! Live at Denver Zoo.** Life-size animatronic dinosaur exhibit. Free with admission. [www.denverzoo.org](http://www.denverzoo.org)

**9/2 Saturday—Home Depot Kids Workshop.** 9am-12pm. FREE how-to clinics first Sat. monthly, ages 5-12. Get Home Depot apron, wooden project and project pin. Metro-area Home Depot stores. [www.homedepot.com](http://www.homedepot.com)

**9/5 to 9/26—Tuesdays in September—Four Mile Historic Park Small Settlers.** Ages 2-5 accompanied by parent/caregiver. 9-10am. \$5/child adults free, members free. 7150D. Forest St. Advance register: 720.865.0814 or [education@fourmilepark.org](mailto:education@fourmilepark.org), [www.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)

**9/9 Saturday—Camp Congress for Girls Denver 2017.** Leadership program introduces girls ages 8-15 to politics. 8am-5pm. 934 16th St., Denver. Tickets \$120-\$160: [www.girlsinpolitics.org](http://www.girlsinpolitics.org)

**9/10 Sunday—Girls STEAM Day.** Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum with fellow institutions, industry leaders, experts in STEAM give comprehensive overview of what it is and how these fields can be used for personal/career development. Movies, 3-D animations, and images of Da Vinci and Michelangelo’s inventions, machines, images of codices, artwork, paintings,

sculptures. <http://wingsmuseum.org/event/steam/>

**9/21 to 9/24—Just Between Friends of Denver.** National Western Complex. [www.jbfsale.com](http://www.jbfsale.com)

**9/21 to 11/26—Denver Puppet Theater Presents Baba Yaga the Boney Legged Witch from Russia.** 3156 W. 38th Ave. Showtimes/tickets: [www.denverpuppettheater.com](http://www.denverpuppettheater.com)

**9/21 Sunday—Captain Underpants Author.** Dav Pilkey talks about his creative process and creates illustrations at Historic Elitch Theatre. 2-6pm. Book signing/activities. Tickets: [www.cognitiforms.com/SecondStarToTheRightChildrensBooks/SecondStarToTheRightPresentsDavPilkey](http://www.cognitiforms.com/SecondStarToTheRightChildrensBooks/SecondStarToTheRightPresentsDavPilkey)

(continued on page 32)



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## LOCAL EVENTS

(continued from page 31)

### LECTURES AND CLASSES

**9/15 to 9/16—Joyfully Jobless Weekend with Barbara Winter.** 3 seminars for aspiring entrepreneurs. Colorado Free University, 7653 E. 1st Pl. Individual seminars, \$51 or \$39/CFU members. Full weekend, \$111 or \$99/CFU members. www.freeu.com, 303.399.0093 ext. 0. http://freeu.com

**9/18 Monday—Drinks and Dialogue: Voter Suppression: fact or fiction?** Denver League of Women Voters. With Sec. of State Wayne W. Williams re voter suppression. 5:30-6:30pm at Bogeys on the Park, 2500 York St. lwdenver.org

### MUSEUMS—FREE DAYS

**9/2 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day.** SCFD Free day. www.denverartmuseum.org

**9/3 Sunday—Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys Free Day.** SCFD Free day. www.dmmtdt.org

**9/5 Tuesday—Children's Museum Free Target Tuesday.** 4-8pm. www.cmdenver.org

**9/8 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Free**

**Day.** SCFD Free second Friday, 12pm-4pm. www.fourmilepark.org

**9/17 Sunday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science Free Day.** SCFD Free day. www.dmns.org

**9/29 Friday—Clyfford Still Museum.** SCFD Free day. Free admission last Friday monthly all day. Free admission Fridays 5-8pm. 1250 Bannock St. www.clyffordstillmuseum.org

**10/1 Sunday—Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys Free Day.** SCFD Free day. www.dmmtdt.org

**DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE** www.dmns.org

**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.

**9/21 Thursday—Science Lounge.** Cock-

tails/entertainment every 3rd Thurs. monthly. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/nonmembers.

**NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS To 9/9—Photography for Healing – A Portrait Exhibition.** Art Gym Gallery, 1460 Leyden St. Open: Tues.-Sat. 9am-6pm. www.artgymdenver.com, www.artgymdenver.com/gallery/

**To 9/30—Da Vinci Machines Exhibit.** Interactive exhibit 65 handcrafted inventions of Da Vinci's 500-year-old designs. Separate ticket required. www.wingsmuseum.org

**9/6 Wednesday—Parent Preview at International School of Denver.** RSVP: www.isdenver.org/frontporch

**9/10 Sunday—39th Annual Park Hill Home Tour and Street Fair.** Tour homes 11am-5pm. Street Fair, 100 vendors Montview and 17th on Forest Pkwy. 10am-5pm. Kids activities, wine/beer garden, music. Tickets: great-erparkhill.org. King Soopers, Park Hill Bookstore and Park Hill Library \$20 adult prior to event; \$25 day of. \$15/\$20 senior (65+) and \$15/\$20 kids (7-14), 6 and under free. www.parkhill-hometour.org

**9/11 Monday—Explore Scouting Meeting.** Pack 34 signup night, (Boys K-5) Bill Roberts Elem., 2100 N. Akron Way. 520.444.1716 or bbweeks@gmail.com

**9/15 to 9/17—Cherry Arts at Stanley.** Arts festival. Tickets required opening night 9/15; Free 9/16 and 9/17. www.cherryartsstanley.org

**9/16 Saturday—Arts and Crafts Market.** Overture Stapleton, 8133 E 29th Pl.

**9/23 to 9/24—Stapleton Open Studios Tour.** 11am-5pm. Stapleton artists' studios on free self-guided tour and local bands. Preview exhibit at The Cube, 8371 Northfield Blvd. www.stapletonopenstudios.com

**9/30 to 10/9—Stapleton Food Drive.** Presented by New Perspective Real Estate. To volunteer or donate: www.StapletonFoodDrive.com

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky\_mountain\_arsenal/

**9/16 Saturday—Kids Fishing Clinic.** 10am-12pm. Hands-on clinic kids ages 6+. Poles available for loan. RSVP required.

**9/16 to 9/30—Wildlife Viewing Tour.** Sat. 9/16, 9/23 and 9/30, 9:30-11am, 2-hour bus tour of refuge. RSVP required

**9/30 Saturday—National Public Lands Day Seed Gathering.** 9am-2pm. With Refuge staff, gather pollinator-friendly seeds to enhance prairie habitat for birds, bees, butterflies, beetles. Ages 8+.

### THEATRE

**9/1 to 10/15—The Oldest Boy.** Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

**9/8 to 10/29—The Little Dog Laughed.** Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

**9/9 to 10/7—The Mystery of Love and Sex.** John Hand Theater, 7653 East 1st Pl., Lowry. www.firehousetheatercompany.com

**9/12 to 10/1—A Chorus Line.** Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada. www.arvadacenter.org

**9/17 Sunday—Stories on Stage- A Little Help from My Friends.** 1:30 and 6:30pm. Su Teatro, 721 N Santa Fe Dr. www.storiesonstage.org

**9/22 to 10/22—Company- A Musical Comedy.** Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

**9/8 20 10 14—My Brilliant Divorce.** Avenue Theater, 417 E. 17th Ave. www.avenuetheater.com

**9/28 to 10/8—The Country Wife.** By Metropolitan State Univ. of Denver Theatre Dept. Reservations/tickets: 303.556.2296

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

**Reading Volunteers Needed.** For students in K-8 grade. 1 hour, 1 student, 1x week. During school hours. julie@partnersinliteracy.org or 303.316.3944 ext. 241.



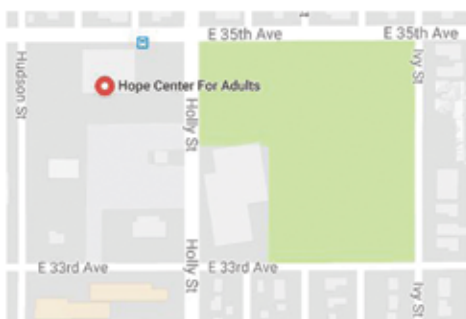
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# Navigating in Uncharted Territory

We, like the majority of our nation, were shocked and horrified to see overt Nazi symbolism in the streets of Charlottesville, Virginia. We never imagined that we'd see a prominent demonstration in the U.S. publicly glorifying Hitler's atrocities. And added to that hurt is the death of Heather Heyer from the (alleged) actions of a young man who marched with the white supremacists. We can't believe we're in this place in 2017.

The images from Charlottesville that we saw on TV were hauntingly like what the Germans saw before Hitler took over—actions that inspired the well-known words of German pastor Martin Niemöller, now posted in the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C.:

*First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—  
Because I was not a Socialist.*

*Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—  
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—  
Because I was not a Jew.*

*Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.*

Is that what Heather Heyer's mother, Susan Bro, was thinking about when she said at her daughter's funeral, "I'd

rather have my child, but, by golly, if I have to give her up, we better make it count...If you're not outraged, you're not paying attention?"

What should do with our outrage?

Demographic data show that we are increasingly dividing ourselves geographically into like-minded groups. When we can't physically gather with like-minded people, we can find them on the internet. And all of the like-minded groups can find websites that they interpret as proof for their beliefs. Author Bill Bishop, who wrote about that phenomenon in his book *The Big Sort*, acknowledges the innate need to be around those who are like us and the discomfort of being around those who don't share our views and way of life—but notes that the geographical sorting has led to a deeper ideological divide in the country.

Our country started as a group of separate entities that didn't really want to give up their individualism, but persisted through a painful and divisive process until the majority agreed on a set of compromises. They understood that the constitution that united them would make them stronger than they could be if they remained separate.

Perhaps in the long process of working out the compromises

that created our constitution, our founding fathers developed some understanding of *why* those with whom they differed had such strongly held beliefs. The author Jonathan Haidt says that in order to communicate with those who have differing opinions, we need to open our minds to the underlying moral intuitions that guide their decisions.

Maybe, when something momentous shakes up our comfortable lives, it helps us find what can unify us. At a time when Congress is as divided as it's ever been, and unable to govern due to the depths of the divisions, the events in Charlottesville brought the divided parties together—united in the assertion that white nationalism will not define the country.

We have too many differences to move forward without some compromises. In Colorado we have a glimmer of hope—legislators compromising to achieve a greater good. Our U.S. senators from opposing parties have worked with each other on legislation and they've both reached across the aisle to other senators. Our Democratic governor is working with a Republican governor on health care—and there is even a rumor that they're considering a unity presidential bid. Maybe, just maybe, this is the way forward.

*Is cooperation possible even though we have big differences and we're each sure we're right? Here's hope.*

Better minds than ours have researched and thought extensively about why and how our country has become so divided. If, like us, you're troubled by the divisions and have a desire to better understand why this has happened, we think you'll find the following authors to be articulate and insightful. What would be a daunting reading list in most of our busy lives is now accessible in small doses on our smartphones. If you don't have time to read the books, just search for any of these names and select among the many podcast interviews with these thoughtful authors and researchers.

*The Righteous Mind, Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion*, by Jonathan Haidt. Haidt takes no one side in political arguments, but helps us understand why we come to such different conclusions—and always will—but how this understanding can give us the ability to cooperate.

*The Big Sort, Why the Clustering of Like-Minded America is Tearing Us Apart*, by Bill Bishop. Bishop's research on decades of demographic data shows that we are sorting ourselves into homogeneous groups that are so ideologically like-minded, we have little understanding of those who are not like us.

*Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*, J.D. Vance. This is a first-person story of the author, whose family moved from Appalachia but couldn't escape the long term effects of alcoholism and poverty in their past. Unlike the other books that are research-based, this is a gripping story of one person's life that gives us Colorado city-dwellers a close up look at a rural way of life that is falling apart in this country.

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(continued from page 1) goes by the moniker Ukulele Loki, spoke at the August 15 Stapleton United Neighbors (S.U.N.) meeting in a renewed effort to change the name of Stapleton.

Inspired by recent efforts to remove historical symbols of racism in Charlottesville and other Southern cities, Johnson drew a parallel to Denver Mayor Benjamin F. Stapleton.

Stapleton joined the Klan in the 1920s, when the KKK was a powerful business and political force in Denver, in order to get elected to his first term. The KKK burned crosses on South Table Mountain in celebration.

"I invite you all to do something really bold and be a force for good," continued Johnson. "It's time we take the Stapleton name down." Johnson suggested Justina Ford as a new name, inspired by the first African-American female doctor in Denver, who called Curtis Park home.

Johnson's remarks drew applause from a number of Denver activists who attended the neighborhood meeting.

S.U.N. chair Amanda Allshouse strenuously objected to Johnson's promotion of the KKKpleton designation, saying "Any tying of this community in any way to anything of that nature is incredibly offensive." Pointing to the neighborhood's response to the racist graffiti at Isabella Bird Community School last year and efforts by S.U.N. to address diversity issues, Allshouse reaffirmed the community's ongoing commitment to inclusion.

A video excerpt from this meeting is posted at [FrontPorchNE.com](http://FrontPorchNE.com)



"When I hear Stapleton, it hits my ear...with a thud. So, I'm not going to be referring to it as Stapleton. I'm now going to call it KKKpleton because that's what people hear when they hear that name."

Aaron Johnson

Neighbors and visiting activists also discussed the challenges of changing the name, which include the cost to small businesses, the

fact that Stapleton is used as a locator but is not an official municipal designation, and the seeming lack of enthusiasm for a name change by the developer,

Forest City. Many urged S.U.N. to take action to stop the glorification of white supremacy through continued use of the name.

Councilmember Chris Herndon, who lives in and represents Stapleton, responded to the issue from both personal experience and as an elected representative.

"When I moved here, I was a single black man," said Herndon, who described his rise from block captain to elected city councilmember. "So, the idea that this is KKKpleton ... you can't be more off base, in my personal opinion. I'm not bothered by the name Stapleton."

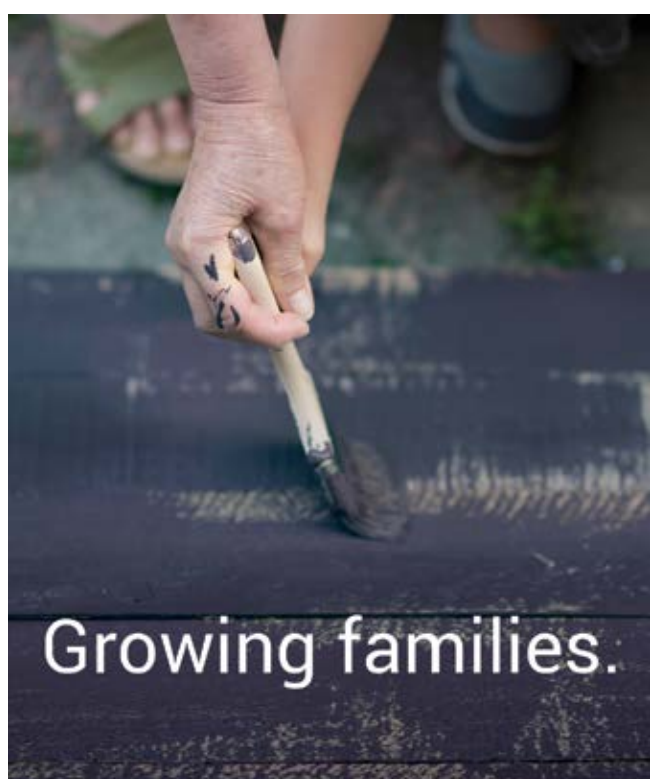
Herndon urged understanding of the whole story, pointing out that

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## A Letter from Our Community Leaders

Dear Neighbors,

We are deeply disturbed by the escalation of hateful sentiment and shocked and horrified by the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. We unify in condemning all forms of hateful acts, violence, racism, anti-Semitism, bigotry and xenophobia, and efforts by alt-right and white supremacy groups, the Ku Klux Klan, and any other group espousing hatred and violence. As we collectively send condolences to the family and friends of Heather Heyer, the woman who was killed, and share our prayers and thoughts for those injured in Charlottesville, we together say clearly, that there is no place for these displays of hatred in our neighborhood nor anywhere.

NE Denver is a strong, diverse, and vibrant community, and we share the hopeful wish that we all can come together to support each other and engage in a productive dialogue.

Sincerely,

Amanda A. Allshouse  
President, Stapleton United Neighbors

Keven Burnett, Executive Director  
Master Community Association,  
Stapleton

Nick Callaway  
Lead Pastor, Go Church

Representative James Coleman  
Colorado General Assembly,  
District 7

Senator Lois Court  
Colorado State Senator,  
Senate District 31

Dr. Rachele Espiritu  
Denver Public Schools  
Board of Education, District 4

Tom Gleason  
Vice President – Public Relations  
Forest City

Representative Chris Hansen  
Colorado General Assembly,  
House District 6

Councilman Chris Herndon  
District 8 Denver City Council

Representative Leslie Herod  
Colorado General Assembly,  
District 8

Rabbi Mendel Popack  
Director, Jewish Life Center -  
Chabad Denver North

Ron Thomas  
Police Commander Denver Police  
District 5

Rev. Randolph C. West Jr.  
St. Stephen Missionary Baptist  
Church

Senator Angela Williams  
Colorado State Senator,  
Senate District 33

Matt Wolf  
Lead Pastor, Stapleton Fellowship  
Church

## SUN September Events

### The 14th Annual Stapleton Kickball Tournament has been postponed indefinitely.

The initial planned field location for the kickball location was not ready in time, and presented safety concerns. Efforts to relocate to another field for the same day were not feasible, as field space in the region is in great demand. With hope that the tournament can be rescheduled in 2017, we announce that the 14th annual Kickball Tournament is postponed, indefinitely.

### Find Neighbors with Common Interests: Saturday, Sept. 16, 8:30–10:30am at The Cube, 8371 Northfield Blvd.

*Contributed by Mark Mehringer, SUN board member*

Neighbors have started dozens of groups and clubs with a wide range of activities and interests. As part of SUN's mission of facilitating community communication, we want to help connect residents and organizations with matching interests. The first-ever neighborhood Social Group and Club Expo will be at "The Cube, 8371 Northfield Blvd. on Saturday morning, Sept. 16 from 8:30–10:30am. Tables will be available for group and club leaders to provide information on their meeting times, topics, and with a sign-up sheet. To find out about getting a table for your group or club, contact Mark Mehringer at [Mehringer@gmail.com](mailto:Mehringer@gmail.com) or 720.840.8492.

### Tuesday Sept. 19, Communities Championing for Children Education Forum

*Contributed by Dr. Jea Arzberger, SUN board member*

As changes are considered and announced for Denver Public Schools, SUN wants to help you stay informed. Join SUN at the Communities Championing for Children Education Forum on Tuesday, Sept. 19 from 6:30–8pm at Central Park Recreation Center (9651 MLK Jr. Blvd.) Because the quality of schools not only nurtures the development of young citizens but also increases safety in our communities and the value of our real estate, all community members are encouraged to attend and participate.

The agenda includes an update from Northfield High School, including a status

update on the resolution and plans for the NHS campus and a School Board Candidate Forum. Join us as we champion for children. Full agenda below:

6:30pm: Welcome and Overview of the Agenda, Jea Arzberger, Geoff Horsfall and Adie Tate

6:40pm: Northfield High School (NHS) Leadership Update, Amy Bringedahl and Polica Houston

7pm: Status update from DPS on the NHS Resolution, Dr. Rachele Espiritu

7:20pm: School Board Candidate Forum, 3–5 minutes/candidate

District 4 Candidates:

7:20 Tay Anderson

7:25 Jennifer Bacon

7:30 Rachele Espiritu

At-Large Candidates:

7:35 Julie Banuelos

7:40 Barbara O'Brien

7:45 Robert Speth

7:50pm: Dismiss. Guests may stay for the SUN Board Meeting or exit to the foyer to interact with community members and board candidates

SUN board meeting immediately to follow (8–8:45pm).

### Parks and Green Space-focused SUN meetings Tuesday, Oct. 17

*Contributed by Lucia Correll, SUN board member*

SUN's monthly meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month in the Central Park Recreation Center Multipurpose Room, 6:30–8:45pm.

The Park Advisory Group, which gives input to Forest City, Park Creek Metro District and Denver Parks and Recreation regarding the development of parks at Stapleton, formerly of the Citizens Advisory Board has transitioned to SUN.

SUN is devoting most of the Oct. 17 Outreach meeting (6:30–7:30pm) to issues concerning parks and greenspace. Please save this date and come with your questions and comments. If you can, send questions, comments and concerns ahead of time to Lucia Correll, [lcorrell@dotnet.net](mailto:lcorrell@dotnet.net), so that the right knowledgeable person can be invited to provide an in-person answer. The SUN board meeting will immediately follow (7:30–8:45pm).

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# Letter to the Editor

## Climate Change: Let's All Do Our Part

Awhile back, I was sitting outside a coffee shop sipping an iced latte after a run. I pulled my cap down to block the sun, wiping beads of sweat from my forehead. Usually, sitting outside in running shorts isn't a big deal—except this was February. I glanced at my weather app: 82 degrees! Then I overheard a young woman nearby say she'd just moved from Chicago and "was really loving this Colorado weather." I resisted the urge to tell her "I'm glad you're enjoying this weather, but this is not normal."

The average temperature for February 11 from 2007 – 2017 was 49°F, and the warmest temperatures have occurred in the last three years. If this warming trend continues, "in a few decades, a summer in Denver might feel like one in El Paso," according to the *Denver Post*. That's not cool, people. Pun intended.

A lifelong Coloradan, I've witnessed the consequences of climate change: floods, torrential rain, little precipitation, higher-than-normal temperatures, forest fires and more. It's time we start paying attention and acting. I implore all Denver-ites, transplants and natives alike, to help protect our beautiful city:

**Use electricity sparingly.** Despite increasing renewable resources, approximately 46% of our electricity comes from coal. Turn off lights and televisions, set your summer thermostat to 78°

and unplug appliances you're not using.

**Don't idle your car.** Park in the shade, turn off your engine and roll down the windows.

**Ditch your car.** If your destination is close by, try biking, walking or using public transportation. Denver is blessed with 85 miles of paved bike trails, a bike share program and a state-of-the-art rail system.

**Call your local representative.** One of the best ways to make change is to express your concerns by email or in-person meeting with your council person.

**Talk with family and friends.** Talk to your friends about your concerns and come up with solutions together. Get your kids involved in making positive choices.

**Volunteer.** One of the best decisions I made was to start volunteering with Wind and Solar Denver. I'm doing something to combat the problem as opposed to simply talking (and worrying) about it. There are so many opportunities to help.

A Native American proverb holds, "we do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." If we all do more today we can ensure that our children will have a healthy environment tomorrow. Let's band together to ensure that Denver remains a beautiful city not only for us but for generations to come.

—Janelle Pepple

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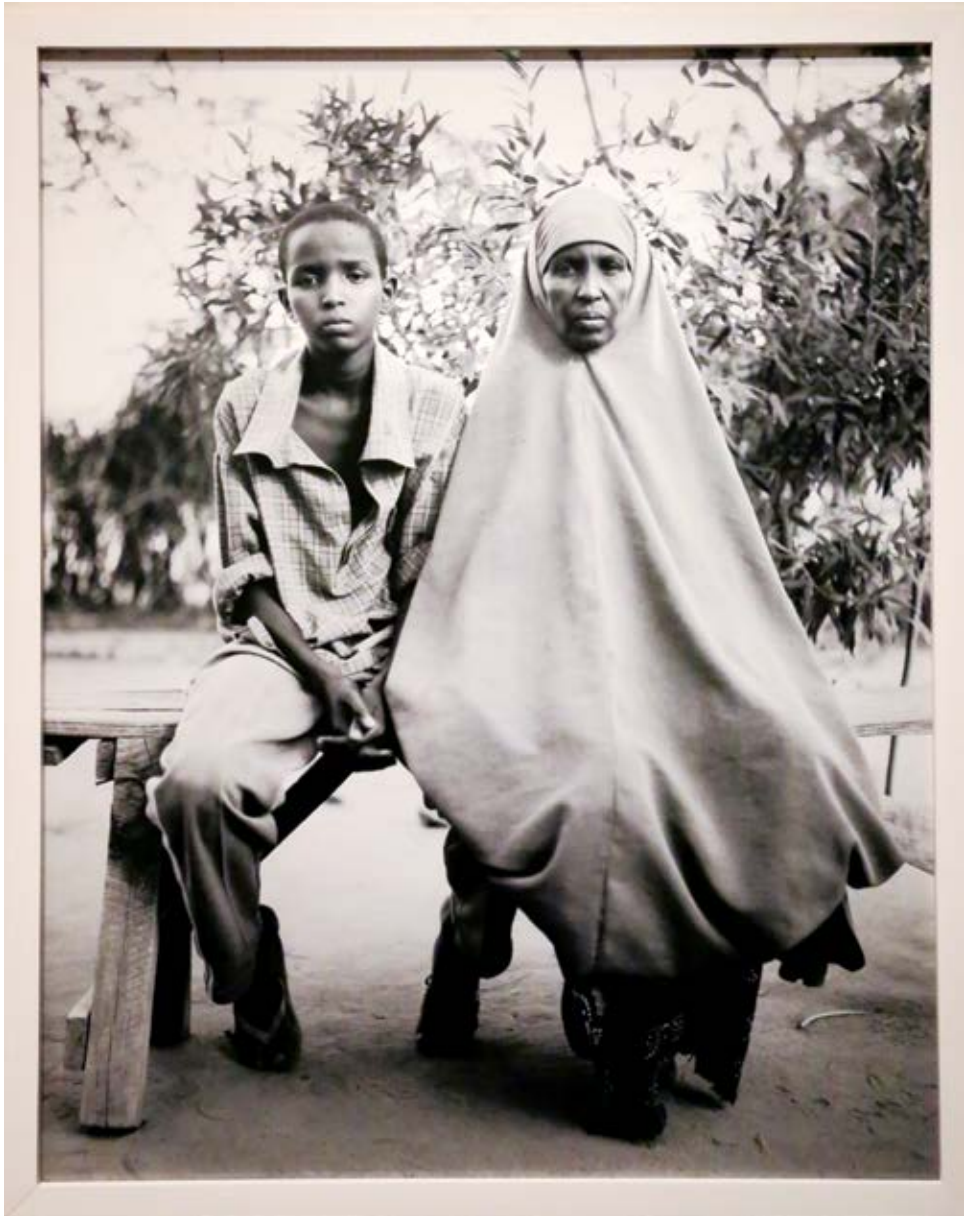
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“I wanted to convey a sense of what refugee life is like—to build understanding,



Left: Salado Hassan Aden and her son Ahmed, Somali refugees at the Dagahaley camp in eastern Kenya, from the series *A Camel for the Son*. An estimated 500,000 people have been killed in Somalia since the start of the civil war in 1991. Above: Scenes at an Indian ashram where widows live after they are put out of their homes. “The widows often chant for eight hours at a time,” said Sheikh. From the series

*Moksha* [heaven]. Below: Abdul Aziz holding a photograph of his brother Mula Abdul Hakim, killed while fighting Communists who had taken their home village. Taken at Khairabad Afghan refugee village in North Pakistan, 1997, from the series *The Victor Weeps*.

(continued from page 1) preview of the exhibition.

*Common Ground: Photographs by Fazal Sheikh 1989-2013*, at the Denver Art Museum (DAM) through Nov. 12, features more than 170 portraits and landscapes chronicling individuals in displaced and marginalized communities around the world. Their circumstances are mainly the result of war, exploitation and poverty.

Sheikh’s global travels connect him to refugees living in exile camps in East Africa,

Afghanistan, Kenya, Pakistan, India and the Netherlands. His early portraits capture refugees of the African wars in the 1990s, including a portrait of two Borana war widows who walked 600 miles barefoot at night to reach a safe camp. “You can see their resolve and their resilience,” said Eric Paddock, curator of photography at the DAM.

Born in 1965 and raised in New York City, Sheikh is the son of a Kenyan father and an American mother. While attending Princeton

in the 1980s, Sheikh visited his father’s native land and was shocked by the victims of war in Africa. “I was ill at ease with the media coverage coming out of this because the people were so generalized,” he said. “I decided to share instead the specific, intimate voices of the people there. I wanted to convey a sense of what refugee life is like—to build understanding, one person at a time.”

Since context is so important to his work, Sheikh spends long periods of time in the places



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September 2017

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Front Porch – NE Denver



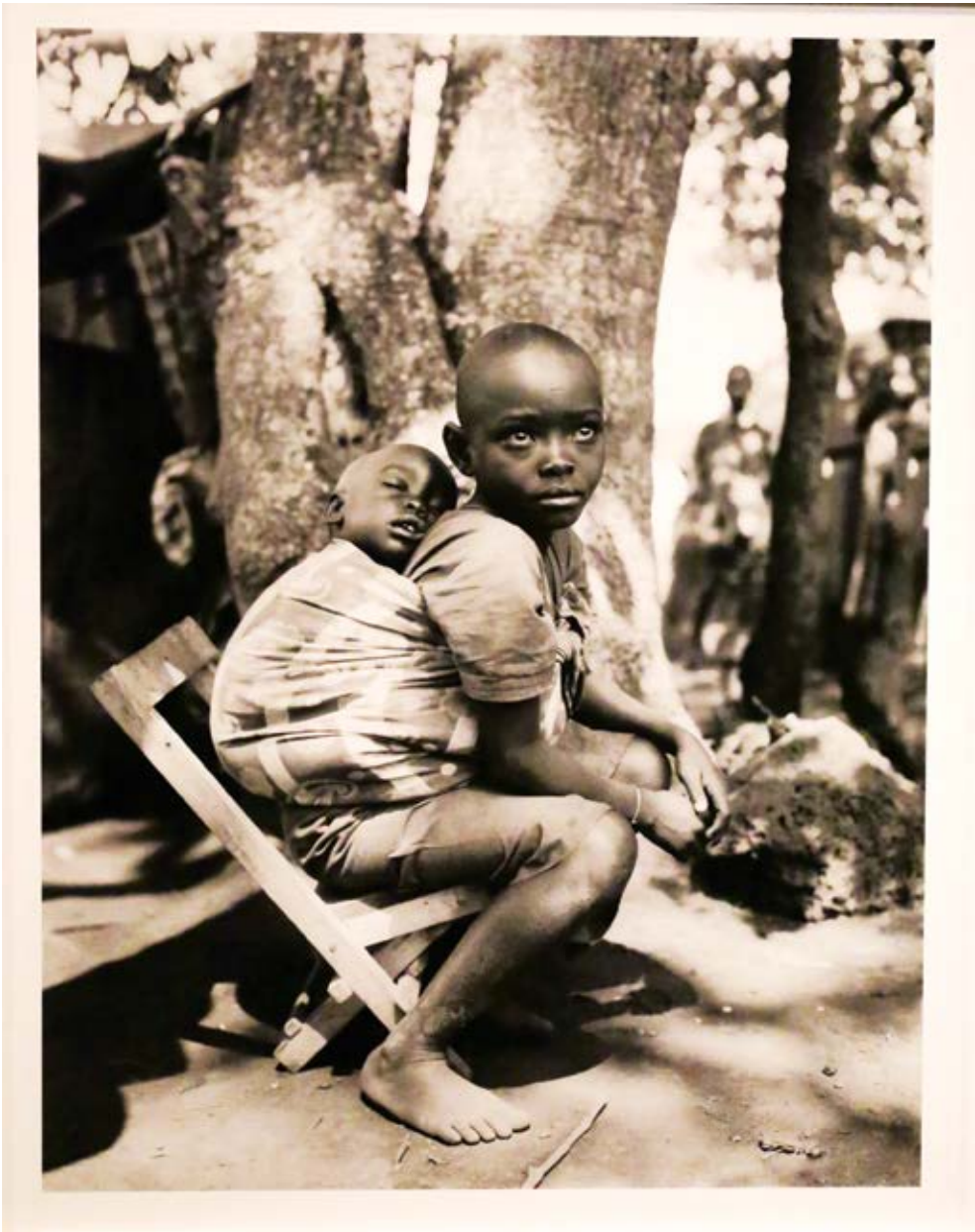
one person at a time.” —Fazal Sheikh



View video of Fazal Sheikh at FrontPorchNE.com

ernment. Ultimately, she was allowed to return to Somalia to retrieve her two daughters. The exhibition features excerpts from refugees’ testimonies, including that of Abshiro Aden Mohammed, the leader of the women’s group in the Dagahaley Somali refugee camp in eastern Kenya: “Often the women who go to gather firewood in the surrounding bush [just outside the camp’s borders] are raped. But we go instead of the men because they are killed. The ability to listen has been lost. The Koran says that women are to be honored and not mistreated. If a person cannot fear and respect Allah, how can he respect a human being?” In India, Sheikh visited women who had been cast off by their families, including widows who were put out of their homes after their husbands died. The widows live in an ashram in Vrindavan, considered to be the birthplace of Hinduism. “Their stories revealed how powerless some of the women had been under the strictures of traditional Hindu law,” says Sheikh’s website. “They were victims of enforced marriage, physical violence, sexual abuse and neglect. Some had been evicted from the family

he photographs. He spent three years in various Somali war camps and nearly four years in Afghanistan. “I sit with the people, drink tea, listen and talk with them through an interpreter,” Sheikh said. Often he writes down what he hears. “My photos are an invitation to know more. The writing tells much of the story.” Sheikh documents the stories of the people he meets in a set of publications, the International Human Rights Series. In keeping with his mission to further the understanding of complex human rights issues, the publications’ text and photos are available online free of charge at fazalshikh.org. Several of his publications have been brought to the attention of the media and political representatives to confront societal prejudice. His *Ramadan Moon* book, about a woman exiled from Somalia with her young son and detained in the Netherlands, was brought before the Dutch gov-



Left: Manjula (portrait above) and other young women flee to shelters to escape draconian practices against women in India. Manjula tells the story of her arranged marriage: “I was 16 and I had no choice in it. After a few years, my in-laws and my husband began to abuse me physically. If we are divorced, my husband will keep the children. After all, they are boys.” Above: A boy carries his brother to the safety of a refugee camp. In 1991 and 1992, refugees from the wars in Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia flooded into camps along the eastern border of Kenya. “Domestic violence is rampant, as is the practice of aborting female fetuses or killing girls at birth. Shakti Shalini provides both shelter for women and advocacy to the Indian government to bring gender equality and an end to violence. “People say I am an activist, but I am just a witness to the real activism that the people themselves undertake.”





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