

Front Porch

Election
Pullout
p.19

COLORADO

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

OCTOBER 2017

NORTHEAST DENVER

New Parks Bring New Public Art

Alena Amundson, with her two kids Elara and Soren Linton, ride through the Central Park Blvd. (CPB) underpass that connects Sandhills Prairie Park to Northfield High School and homes on

the east side of CPB. The yellow strips of metal in the tunnel echo the shapes of the sand dunes that once covered the area. The view of the mountains through the tunnel, like

the views in the new parks, is reminiscent of the wide open spaces of the Colorado prairie. Read about the artist and the sculpture project on page 27. Read about Denver's newest parks on page 42.

By Carol Roberts

Most of us who live in the city are accustomed to a horizon line where nearby rooftops meet the sky. Now, with the completion of Denver's

newest parks in North Stapleton, city dwellers can enjoy the experience of the prairie, with its long flat expanse of open space stretching to the mountains. These new

parks, though located in Stapleton, are Denver regional parks. When the City of Denver sold the old airport land to redevelop it into a neighborhood, a key condition was setting (continued on page 42)

Discussion about Stapleton Name Continues



At the September Citizens Advisory Board Meeting, Stapleton Foundation President Landri Taylor weighs in on a discussion about changing the name of Stapleton based on its association with Mayor Benjamin Stapleton who was a member of the KKK. Behind him, Stapleton Development Corporation President Pat Teegarden listens to Taylor speak. A separate article on page 5 offers a history of Ben Stapleton.

By Carol Roberts

A group of neighbors working on issues relating to racial and economic justice has identified #ChangeTheNameStapleton as the current focus of their efforts. The group brought their cause to the agenda at three citizens' board and committee meetings in Stapleton during September. They feel passionately that because Mayor Benjamin Stapleton was in the KKK and put Klan members in positions of authority in Denver, he should not be honored by having a community named after him.

At the Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) meeting on September 17, attendees learned the magnitude of the task if the name were officially changed. Master Community Association (MCA) Director Keven Burnett (continued on page 38)

Front Porch Election Guide

Register by October 30. Ballots will be mailed to all registered voters starting October 16. Ballot drop-off boxes open November 3.

Two of the ballot questions will be to choose your school board representatives for your district and at-large. To help our readers make an informed decision, the *Front Porch* obtained responses to eight questions from the candidates representing our distribution area.

Also on the ballot is a \$937 million Denver bond question. Our Election Guide has a list of the seven categories you'll vote on and the main projects in each category.

We hope you'll pull out our guide that starts on page 19 and save it until you vote.

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Hitchcock Film Festival

Join the MCA this fall at The Cube for the Hitchcock Film Festival featuring an iconic Alfred Hitchcock film every Friday of the month of October starting Oct. 6. The Indie Prof, Dr. Vincent Piturro leads an educational discussion before each film. The events begin at 6pm and are free and open to the public. There will also be a concessions stand selling beer, wine, soda and popcorn. The Cube is located at 8371 Northfield Blvd.
Friday, Oct. 6: Rear Window
Friday, Oct. 13: Vertigo
Friday, Oct. 20: The Birds
Friday, Oct. 27: Psycho

Wine Education Series at The Cube

Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 7pm
The MCA's fall wine education series will feature a sit-down tasting of different wines from different regions with a wine educator leading the discussion. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased on stapletoncommunity.com.

Pumpkin Patch & Final Farmers Market

The Farmers Market will run on Sundays Oct. 1 and 8 from 8:30am–12:30pm at The Green on Roslyn St., with the final Farmers Market of the season on Sunday, Oct. 15 at The Green, again from 8:30am–12:30pm. The final market includes our annual Pumpkin Patch.

For every \$5 spent at a vendor's booth, shoppers will receive a coupon to the pumpkin patch. Coupons can be redeemed at the pumpkin patch for a free pumpkin, sizes small to large.
1 coupon = 1 small pumpkin
3 coupons = 1 medium pumpkin
4 coupons = 1 large pumpkin
Pumpkin quantities are very limited and coupons are only valid while supplies last.

Concert at The Cube—Dotsero

Thursday, Oct. 19, 6:30pm
Dotsero will perform at the first fall concert at The Cube! Concerts are free and open to the public. The Cube is located at 8371 Northfield Blvd.

Saturday Night Live...For Kids Only!

Saturday, Oct. 21, 6–9pm
Stapleton MCA and Central Park Recreation Center are partnering to host a night of fun for children ages 7–12. SNL will be held at the Central Park Rec Center. Register your child on your activenet account or at the MCA office.

Active Minds Seminar

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

Take a Bite of The Big Apple

Thursday, Oct. 12, 6:45–7:45pm
There's no place in the world quite like New York City. From Broadway to Wall Street, Little Italy to Central Park, New York has a history and energy all its own. Join Active Minds as we virtually visit one of the world's most important cities and explore the city's past and present, as well as important people and places that have shaped this unique city.

Monsters & Legends

Thursday, Oct. 26 6:45–7:45pm
Join Active Minds for a journey into the world of monsters and legends from vampires of Eastern Europe to stories of werewolves, zombies and more, their origins and history of familiar (and not so familiar) tales and how they've evolved and grown over time.

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

Jennifer Olsen
Communications Manager
jolsen@stapletoncommunity.com

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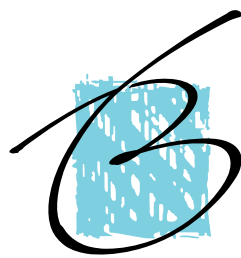
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there would be no *Front Porch*.

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Lowry — East Colfax
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Mayor Ben Stapleton, fifth from left, was instrumental in acquiring and constructing Red Rocks Amphitheater for the City of Denver. Though Stapleton thought theaters sinful, he was convinced by Parks and Improvements chief, George Cranmer that it would be a boon to the city.



Mayor Benjamin F. Stapleton was Denver's longest serving mayor, serving five terms between 1923 and 1947, with a break from 1931 to 1935.

This Klan parade in downtown Denver in May, 1926 appears alarming, but it attracted far fewer than the thousands the waning Colorado KKK had predicted.



Photos courtesy of Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

Who was Ben Stapleton?

By Melinda Pearson

Activists have recently inundated community meetings urging the removal of the name Stapleton from the neighborhood due to

Mayor Benjamin F. Stapleton's Klan ties during the 1920s. As the community ponders the costs and benefits of a name change, how does Ben Stapleton's history weigh into the analysis?

The Stapleton neighborhood sits on the site of the Stapleton airport, which was named in 1944 for Denver's longest-serving mayor, who had championed the project and opened it as

Denver Municipal Airport in 1929. Stapleton International Airport closed in 1995, but city officials and developer Forest City continued using the name (continued on page 7)

New Perspective Real Estate Presents the 7th Annual



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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 or give to the school pantry of your choice at StapletonFoodDrive.com.
- 3 Bring your donations to one of the food drive sponsors and participating schools listed at right.*

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* These sponsors are unable to receive food donations.

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Mayor Stapleton breaks ground for the City and County Building on March 26, 1929.

Ben Stapleton

(continued from page 5) “Stapleton” as a recognizable locator for the neighborhood.

Since 2000, as city leaders worked on the massive redevelopment, there were calls to strike the name Stapleton from the project due to the KKK connection. But “Stapleton” has proved to be enduring, despite repeated assurances from developer Forest City that it is being “phased out.” (See past *Front Porch* articles from August 2015 and October 2015 for the history of this issue.)*

Understanding the life and times of Ben Stapleton might help shed some light on the issue.

Stapleton and the KKK in 1922–1926

According to Professor Robert Goldberg, who wrote *The Hooded Empire: The Ku Klux Klan in Colorado*, Stapleton joined the Klan around 1922, as member number 1128. He was considered an “early joiner,” and thus likely drawn in by Klan recruiting officers (called Kleagles) through Protestant churches or fraternal social organizations like the Masons.

According to Goldberg, Kleagles would arrive in a community and lay low to assess how best to



Charles Lindbergh (center), Ben Stapleton (third from left) and anti-Klan Governor Billy Adams (second from left), likely at Lowry Field in August, 1927, when Lindbergh visited Denver on his cross-country trip after having crossed the Atlantic.

adapt their message. In Denver in 1921, crime was an issue, particularly related to Prohibition violations, so law and order was a key focus, as was anti-Jewish and anti-Catholic sentiment. John Galen Locke, an early leader

in the Denver Klan, approached many friends—possibly even Ben Stapleton—to join the “hooded empire.” A former judge and postmaster, Stapleton likely joined for political reasons. “In the 1920s in the United States or in Colorado, if you had political ambitions or economic ambitions, the Klan would be a good organization to affiliate with,” says Goldberg. “The Klan was not only an organization opposed to crime ... but it was an economic machine and a political machine.” Klan membership rolls yield 17,000 names in Denver during the 1920s, and some estimates say that membership reached 20,000 in a city of about 250,000 at the Klan’s height in 1924–1925.

Despite the large KKK membership, Colorado was relatively quiet in terms of Klan violence, with no Klan lynchings recorded, although cross-burnings were common. “A cross-burning was a signal that the Klan had arrived, but it could also be used as an act of intimidation,” noted Goldberg. Crosses were burned in the yards of Catholic churches and of men accused of domestic violence. “Kavalcades” of Klan members returned from cross-burnings on Table Mountain, a favorite

spot, down through Jewish neighborhoods on West Colfax, jeering and taunting residents as they passed.

Stapleton’s political ambitions became apparent when he ran for mayor in 1923. Born in 1869 in Kentucky and a veteran of the Spanish-American War, Stapleton was a Democrat. In an effort to assuage anti-Klan voters, he stated in May 1923, “True Americanism needs no mask or disguise. Any attempt to stir up racial prejudices or religious intolerance is contrary to our constitution and is therefore un-American.”

But his Klan ties belied his words. This type of strategy was “common practice across the United States,” according to Goldberg, among Klan candidates who wanted to hide their KKK affiliation in order to gain votes.

According to Phil Goodstein, writing in *In the Shadow of the Klan: When the KKK Ruled Denver 1920-1926*, Stapleton narrowly won the 1923 election against an unpopular incumbent and six other candidates. Although Stapleton appointed some Catholics and Jews to city service positions, he also filled many important roles with Klansmen. He initially refused to appoint a Klan chief of police, however, against the wishes of Locke. “Stapleton wanted to be his own man,” said Goldberg. “He constantly chafed under the leadership of John Galen Locke.”

Just as Klan forces were about to circulate a recall against Stapleton, an anti-Klan group began gathering signatures to recall the new mayor. To prevent the recall and keep his mayoral seat, Stapleton needed the political power of the Denver Klan. Finally succumbing to KKK pressure, he appointed Klansman William Candlish as the chief of police, accelerating the anti-Klan recall effort against him.

Then, in July 1924, less than a year after his eloquent anti-Klan exhortation, Stapleton reassured KKK leaders, “I have little to say except that I will work with the Klan and for the Klan in the coming election, heart and soul. And if I am re-elected, I shall give the Klan the kind of an administration it wants.” Grand Dragon Locke responded, “You went back on us once. If you ever go back on us again, God help you.” Throughout the recall, Stapleton refused to denounce the Klan by name, despite repeated requests.

Stapleton prevailed in the recall election, thanks in no small part to the Klan forces, and they burned crosses (continued on page 12)

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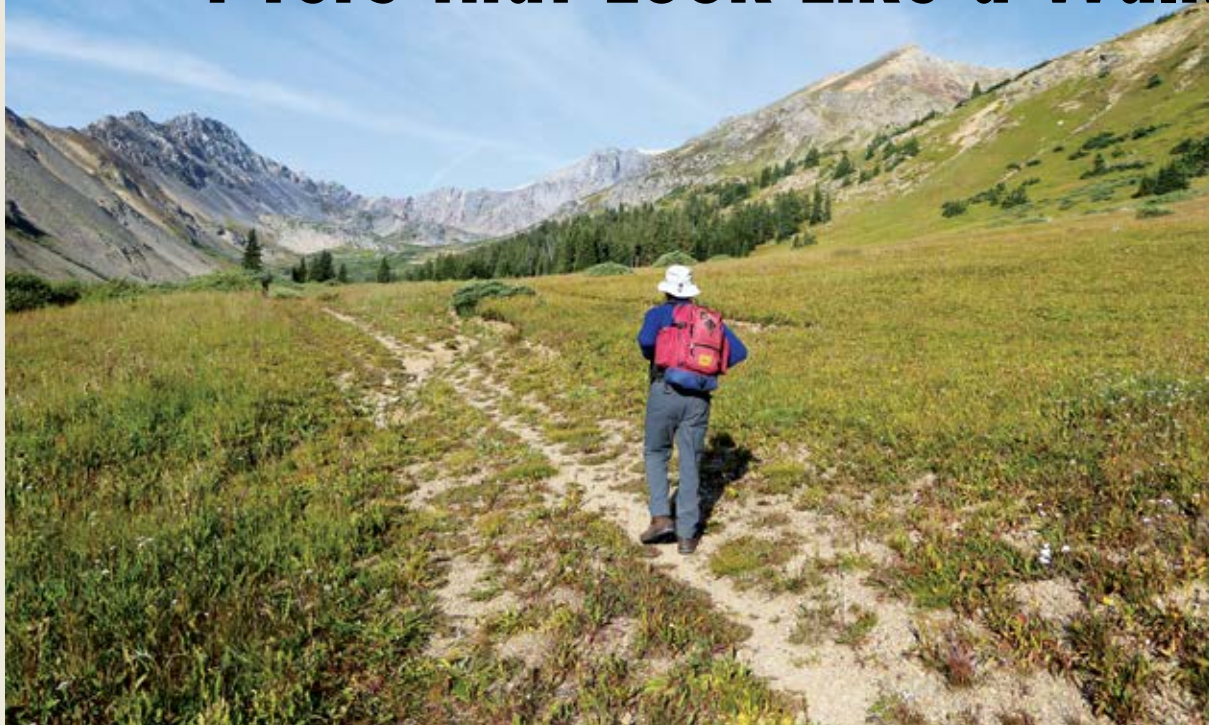
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14ers that Look Like a Walk in the Park Can Turn

Photos by John and Tony Fernandez



The author heads up-valley on a recent climb of Grizzly Peak southwest of Independence Pass. The appeal of Colorado's high country is obvious but hazards abound. Experience gained over time is the climber's best defense.



Capitol is a serious peak requiring careful "scootching" across the Knife Edge. There is no "easier" route to this West Elks summit.

By John Fernandez

Have you been developing an urge to tackle one of Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks? Yes? But then you read of multiple deaths on one peak in the past six weeks. Is it time to reconsider your ambition?

Be assured that if you spend enough time in the mountains, you'll make a mistake: a dropped glove, wrong fork taken, water depleted, late start, disregard of deteriorating weather, stubborn insistence on completing the climb. The key to survival is breaking the chain of seemingly small mistakes that, in retrospect, seemed to lead inexorably to

the incident.

Like the Mother Goose poem about the kingdom lost for want of a nail, an innocent decision made in haste or without consideration of alternatives can be the first in a series of incremental choices that can result in tragedy.

Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks present plenty of objective, or external hazards: steep terrain, rotten rock, exposure, route finding challenges, elevation, remoteness and so forth. But it's how one deals with the conditions under one's control that really matters.

The recent spate of high country fatalities, including five on Capitol Peak alone, remind us that a proper

approach to "subjective" or internal hazards is essential. Have I studied the route? Am I fit

enough? Have I checked the weather reports? Is the climb within my technical abilities? Did I start early enough to beat the afternoon storms? Do I have a partner? Did I tell others where I went? Am I willing to turn around before the summit if conditions dictate?

I climbed Long's Peak the week I moved to Colorado. Twenty-two years later, I reached the summit of Mount Wilson, completing my (initial) tour of Colorado's 54 14ers. Along the way, I made plenty of my own mistakes, each of which was completely preventable:

- Leaving trip planning to someone else, resulting in a treacherous un-roped traverse between Crestone Needle and Crestone Peak.
- Staying high too long on three peaks, and finding myself in an electrified atmosphere with hair standing on end.
- "Bagging" three peaks in one day (Ellingwood, Blanca, Little Bear) and forgetting to drink enough water in the headlong rush, resulting in a crushing headache and nausea.

The large majority of Colorado 14ers are relatively simple nontechnical "climbs." And perhaps that's where the biggest potential for problems arises. Because to do such a climb merely requires that you place one foot in front of the other. To start a 14ers climb, one simply begins to walk. It's not like rock climbing or even scuba diving where you know by the context that you've entered a different world. Without a clear boundary defining your entry into a world of new hazards, you might not be aware that you've become "committed" (a climber's term suggesting that things are getting serious) and those innocent decisions can add up to a significant, subjective hazard. But, as with scuba diving, a carefree, weightless sunny day can quickly turn dangerous. Running out of air 100 feet down or getting cliffed-out above tree line are terrifying but preventable situations.

Although I've climbed all the 14ers and a bunch of the high 13ers, it's been done over the span of 47 years. That leisurely pace helped me learn along the way. It's been more of a lifestyle than a tick-list. Here are some lessons learned and resources that have helped me:

What Is a 14er?

The list is more traditional than official. It's based on a consensus arrived over time: 14,000-foot elevation with a minimum elevation drop of 300 feet to adjacent peaks. Purists add in a requirement that one gain a minimum of 3,000 feet of elevation gain for each summit attempt. The result is 54 peaks, more or less.

Nick's Fabulous Fall Festival

Make It a Memorable Event...Don't Forget Your Camera!

Fall Festival beginning in October and every day through Halloween!

Enjoy Fun Activities for the Kids and the Entire Family! Rain or Shine!



Tractor ride through the "Tunnel of Terror"



Take a Family Train Ride

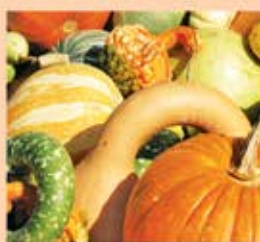


Nick's Incredible Pumpkin Patch

Pumpkins will be arriving starting at the end of September. **Over 100 Tons of Pumpkins all sizes and shapes!**

Looking for Autumn Decor?

We will have a great selection of fall decorations including: corn stalks, straw, Indian corn and colorful fancy gourds. Huge selection of pumpkin carving kits and halloween decorations.



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Tony Fernandez atop Windom Peak in the Needles Mountains. The author and his brother tempted fate by linking Windom, Sunlight Peak and Mt. Eolus in a one-day push as the weather slowly deteriorated, as often happens in the San Juans.

- Ease into it. Start low and slow. Colorado is full of attractive “sub-peaks” that will get you used to exercising sound judgment above tree line.
- Carry the 10 essentials (see sidebar) and pair up with the 11th essential—a partner or better yet, two or three.
- Find a mentor or consider getting some training. The Colorado Mountain Club offers a full range of classes and trips, from simple hikes to high-altitude mountaineering. Professional guide services are another option. Be wary of informal meet-up groups; ascertaining skill levels, experience and safety attitudes is a crapshoot.
- Be humble. You’re not “conquering” any-

The 10 Essentials

1. Map
2. Compass
3. Sunglasses, sunscreen
4. Extra food/water
5. Extra clothing
6. Headlamp/flashlight
7. First-aid supplies
8. Firestarter
9. Matches
10. Knife

thing. You’re there as a guest of the mountain gods. Be prepared to turn around when conditions turn adverse. The mountain will be there the next time you try.

- Study the route ahead of time using one of the excellent guidebooks out there. Learn how to read contour maps as you develop your mountaineering sense.
- Have someone in the party carry a cell phone but don’t depend on it for navigation. You could lose service or simply run down your battery.
- Be aware that altitude can affect anyone regardless of how fit. When I climbed 18,850-foot Pico Orizaba in Mexico, the printer from Loveland couldn’t proceed above 14,000 feet while the software guy from Minneapolis had no problem (he had trained by

running up a 50-foot hill 50 times a day with a 50-pound pack). A recent death at Conundrum Hot Springs near Aspen might have been prevented if the 20-year-

Guide Books

When I started, we were limited to Ormes’ *Guide to the Colorado Mountains*, good for its day but lacking basics like contour maps. My favorite is Jerry Roach’s *Colorado Fourteeners: From Hikes to Climbs*. It is especially helpful in outlining alternative routes that vary in “class” (technical difficulty) and “grade” (the overall difficulty including total length, elevation gain and level of commitment). With it, you can tailor a route to your skill level and tolerance for “exposure.” If you are interested in a thorough orientation to adventuring above tree line, the venerable *Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills* by the Mountaineers of Seattle can’t be beat.

- old hiker had descended upon showing symptoms of altitude sickness.
- Lightning kills. Go down. Minimize the chance of thunderstorms by summiting early. The rule of thumb used to be, Descend by noon! It would be more prudent to start down by 11.
 - Give back to *(continued on page 12)*

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE FORUMS

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Health ONE



This rendering shows the view of Lucky's at 1st and Quebec, as seen from Quebec. Lucky's, on the right, will be the first phase of a project that will include additional buildings, as shown on the left side of this rendering—with more to be built west of (behind) the building shown here.



Lucky's Market Coming to Lowry

By John Fernandez

Natural foods grocer Lucky's Market will break ground in 2018 in Lowry, with anticipated completion in early 2019. The store, anchoring the new Boulevard One development at 1st Ave. and Quebec, will be part of a 200,000-square-foot commercial center that will include multiple restaurants, retail, entertainment and office spaces. Lucky's, a \$45 million project, will be phase one; the additional amenities will be phase two, which is planned for completion in 2020.

With the Lucky's announcement, the *Front Porch* distribution area in NE

Denver will have not one, but two natural foods grocers by 2019. Forest City announced in late June that Sprouts will break ground on a 30,000-square-foot store a block from the Central Park RTD A Line station.¹

Lucky's, a Boulder-based chain offering fresh, local and specialty foods, has two stores in Boulder, one in Longmont, and plans for one in Wheat Ridge in 2018. Lucky's was started in 2003 by two chefs, Trish and Bo Sharon, when they bought a convenience store in Boulder with a vision "to create a grocery store where food lovers like themselves would want to shop."

Phase one consists of a five- to six-building plan on the initial phase of the five-acre mixed-use center, with Lucky's Market as the anchor tenant in a 25,000-square-foot space. This project, the only commercial development at Boulevard One, "is designed for residents and visitors to be able to dine, shop, work and entertain," says Bob Koontz, principal of Kelmor Development, co-owner and co-developer of the site with Confluent Development.

A 350-unit luxury apartment complex is being built one block from the mixed-use site by Embrey Partners.²

Boulevard One is being constructed on a 70-acre parcel that is the last new neighborhood to be developed at Lowry. The cities of Denver and Aurora established the Lowry Redevelopment Authority to oversee the redevelopment of the 1,800-acre Lowry Air Force Base when it closed in 1994. The Boulevard One mixed-use project is currently beginning the design review process with the Lowry Redevelopment Authority.

1— <https://frontporchne.com/article/central-park-tod-phase-seeks-create-sense-place/>
2— See <https://frontporchne.com/article/three-major-development-projects-underway-lowry/>

Sprouts and The Village at Central Park Station



This rendering shows the Sprouts that will be located a block south of the Central Park rail station, along with adjacent retail and condos. The site plan at right is for the northern two-thirds of the lot. Construction is expected to begin in early 2018.



By John Fernandez

Developer David Friedman has offered some additional details about his plans for the transit-oriented development (TOD) a block south of the Central Park Rail Station on the land he recently purchased from Forest City. At the Stapleton Zoning and Planning meeting in September, Friedman shared the rendering and site plan shown above for The Village at Central Park Station—and said he hopes to begin construction of the mixed-use project in early 2018. Project components include:

- A 30,000-square-foot Sprouts grocery store.
- Two retail and personal service buildings totaling 12,000 square feet at the northeast corner of the site near the CPB and 36th Ave. intersection. Uses could include restaurants and personal service establishments like salons, a fitness center and dry cleaner.
- A five-story, 120-unit condominium project at the northwest corner of the parcel. Ten percent of the units would be affordable under the terms of Forest City's development

agreement with the city. The price of the market-rate units will range from the \$200,000s up to \$600,000. Most of the units would be one to two bedrooms. Resident and visitor parking would be located in a parking structure wrapped on three sides by the condominium units.

- Twelve condominium townhomes fronting Uinta Street. They would be two to three stories in height and separated from the Sprouts parking lot by a screening wall. Friedman said it is unusual to have a Sprouts

building located mid-block and fronting on a major street, suggesting their acceptance of these constraints is a measure of the firm's interest in locating in Stapleton. He said the site overall well exceeds the minimum city parking requirements.

For more information about the transit-oriented development at Central Park Station, visit FrontPorchNE.com and search for "TOD" to find articles in the July and August issues of the *Front Porch*.

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Six New Eastbridge Businesses Opening Soon—One More in 2018



Five businesses will reside in this new building at Martin Luther King Blvd. and Geneva Court. The building is accessed from the back using Geneva Court off MLK or using 31st Ave. off Havana.

By John Fernandez

The new Eastbridge Town Center at MLK and Havana is now in full swing with five restaurants, retail, personal care and fitness options—and additional new businesses will be arriving soon just across the street. Six new businesses plus a drive-through ATM will open in three side-by-side buildings on the north side of MLK between Geneva Court and Havana St.

CareNow Urgent Care

October 24 will be opening day for CareNow. CareNow health care providers treat a wide variety of conditions, perform physicals, and offer tests for many common illnesses. CareNow is the easternmost building of the three new buildings on the north side of MLK, across from the new King Soopers.

Dental, Pizza, Haircuts and ATM

The westernmost of the three buildings will consist of Pac Dental, Supercuts, Papa

Murphy's, a Wells Fargo drive-through ATM, and a yet-to-be-named tenant. Papa Murphy's opened in September, the other confirmed tenants will open in October and November.

Premier Integrated OBGYN

Rose Medical Center, part of the HealthOne network, plans to start construction on The Rose Center for Women's Health in November on the middle of the three lots. The 9,100-square-foot building will include a new location for Premier Integrated OBGYN as well as other women's health care services. In a Sept. 12 presentation to the Stapleton Zoning and Planning Committee (ZAP), a Rose spokesperson said she expects the clinic to open by late summer 2018. Premier Integrated OBGYN currently has a temporary location at 8101 E. Lowry Blvd. in Lowry. Premier Integrated OB/GYN provides "complete care for women of different ages and at different stages of life," from early gynecologic care throughout the childbearing years and into mature women's health needs. Parking, shared with the adjacent facilities, will be accessed from 31st Ave. at the back of the building.



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14ers

(continued from page 9) the mountains: leave no trace, pack it in and pack it out, stay on trails, contribute to your local alpine rescue group (e.g., purchase a Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue [CORSAR] card), and volunteer with a group like the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative in their effort to minimize high country trail erosion.

And while we're at it, it's not all about peaks exceeding 14,000 feet. Colorado has hundreds of mountains in the 13,000-foot range. There, you can still find the solitude I enjoyed on 14ers 40 years ago. I hiked up 13,998-foot high Grizzly Peak last year with only my partner and some elk for company.



Photo by John Fernandez

This is a picture of what not to do: find yourself atop a 14er (here, Mt. Eolus) with your hair standing on end because of an electrically charged foggy atmosphere. The author and his brother Tony (pictured here) descended quickly but had to navigate the notorious "Sidewalk in the Sky" in wet, slippery conditions.

(continued from page 7) on Table Mountain in celebration of his victory.

Stapleton Breaks from the Klan

In 1925, Locke fell out of favor with national KKK headquarters in Atlanta, and questions about his corruption were raised locally. Stapleton, despite his 1924 vows of allegiance, "is constantly seeking to get out from under the hood ... waiting for his opportunity," according to Goldberg.

These setbacks to the Klan gave him "the moment where he thinks he has the opportunity to move."

After several months of planning and secretly recruiting American Legion members to help, on April 10, 1925, Stapleton ordered the "Good Friday" vice raids across the city in an attempt to break apart a Klan-police force racket that permeated the city. Many Klan police officers were expelled, although the vice raids also targeted many immigrant- and minority-owned establishments.

John Galen Locke rejected Stapleton in June 1925, when the Grand Dragon split from the national KKK organization and formed the Minute Men of America. Also in June 1925, Stapleton officially welcomed delegates to the NAACP convention, and the city "put up street banners to herald the conference," according to Goodstein. Over 1,500 delegates paraded through downtown Denver.

But Stapleton's real break with the Klan came when he fired the Klan police chief, Candlish, on July 15, 1925. This was a statement of independence for Stapleton, but it was not accompanied by a public, verbal renouncement. None ever came, according to historians Goldberg and Goodstein.

Instead, the Klan faded from Denver, losing most of its power by 1926, when fewer than 1,000 members remained. Many civic leaders, like Stapleton, who had been

"True Americanism needs no mask or disguise. Any attempt to stir up racial prejudices or religious intolerance is contrary to our constitution and is therefore un-American."

— Benjamin F. Stapleton, May, 1923

Mayor Stapleton's Legacy No. 1128 or "Be

involved with the Klan simply moved on, never formally renouncing but no longer doing the bidding of the "invisible empire."

Accomplishments

After losing the 1931 election, Mayor Stapleton returned to serve three additional terms, from 1935 to 1947. He came to be known as "Ben the Builder" for the many civic improvements that he helped foster. He was known for having organized a strong and effective political machine, inherited from his predecessor, Robert W. Speer.

According to *The Denver Post* obituary of May 23, 1950, Stapleton made many contributions to the city of Denver. In 1929, he fought to establish an international airport in Denver against opposition that dubbed it "Stapleton's Folly" and "Coyote Hollow," after a nickname for the land it would occupy. Some suggested Stapleton merely wanted to make a deal with an old friend who owned the land, but even as the Great Depression took hold, the airport was an immediate success.

Stapleton is also credited with having the foresight to acquire important Western Slope water rights for Denver and gaining access to the Moffat Tunnel to transport that water. Working with George Cranmer, his parks commissioner, Stapleton established many of the mountain parks that Coloradans still enjoy, including Red Rocks. Although Stapleton wanted to keep Red Rocks in its natural state for outdoor enthusiasts, he ceded to the vision of Cranmer, who proposed an outdoor amphitheater.

In the face of doubtful opposition, Stapleton championed and built the City and County Building. Supporters also credited him with "cleaning up" Denver and keeping it clean, with raids against gamblers.

"Accused often of favoring his friends, his intimates explain that the mayor always put Denver's

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Legacy: Klan Member in the Builder”?

interests first, and his honorable loyalty to his friends could easily be misunderstood,” noted the *Post’s* obituary.

Historian Views

Goldberg is hesitant to support the idea of a name change for the Stapleton community. Confederate leaders like Robert E. Lee “committed treason against the United States, violated the Constitution, and fired on federal troops,” and the statues memorializing them, erected long after the Civil War, should never have been put up, he said.

On the other hand, “Stapleton did a variety of positive things for the community,” Goldberg said. “My feeling is that, if you keep Stapleton’s name ... it’s so important that you have a corrective with the name ... which indicates there is a flaw here. This is not somebody to be honored, but somebody to be reflective

about and learn from.”

State historian Patty Limerick, who was not available to comment for this article, had expressed a similar view in comments made on Colorado Public Radio last month, when she said, “Benjamin Stapleton is one high-powered cautionary tale” that the

community can learn from.

“How do we draw upon his experience to make our choices wiser?” she asked.

If you erase the name, said Goldberg, “You lose the chance of learning something, you lose an educational moment ... there is a dark side also to be known.”

“It’s not important to forget him. It’s important to remember him, in all of his facets,” said Goldberg. “As a member of a minority, I understand that anxiety” that people of color experience

when the KKK is evoked,” he continued, “but at the same time, erasing it does not improve it.”

*<https://frontporchne.com/article/flyers-remind-residents-stapletons-association-klk/>

<https://frontporchne.com/article/stapletons-name-changed/>

“I have little to say except that I will work with the Klan and for the Klan in the coming election, heart and soul. And if I am re-elected, I shall give the Klan the kind of an administration it wants.”

– Benjamin F. Stapleton, July, 1924

Stapleton Is Possible Amazon Site

By John Fernandez

Stapleton developer Forest City is submitting possible sites to the state as Colorado responds to Amazon’s September 7 announcement that it is seeking to develop a second corporate headquarters. At the Sept. 21 Citizens Advisory Board meeting, spokesman Tom Gleason said Forest City is pitching two sites: vacant land south of the Central Park station, and a “midfield” site (between Northfield and Stapleton south of I-70) in the 40th Ave. corridor. Gleason said the Stapleton sites are suitable for an initial phase on through full build-out.

Colorado’s response to the Amazon request for proposals (RFP) is being coordinated by the Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT). Initial vetting of sites is being run through the Metro Economic Development Corporation (Metro EDC). Submittals from partner organizations were due to Metro EDC on Sept. 22. The state’s response to the Amazon RFP is due October 19. Amazon, which now has its headquarters in Seattle, has said only that the decision on a second site would come sometime in 2018.

The Amazon HQ2 project is of enormous scale: 50,000 employees at build-out with average salaries of \$100,000 in a phase one building of at least 500,000 square feet and a complex at

build-out in the 8 million square foot range on 100 acres with a total investment of \$5 billion. Amazon is open to infill or greenfield sites. In addition to the Stapleton area, rumored locations in Denver have included land near the downtown Pepsi Center or the former Gates Rubber site on Broadway. The City of Aurora has indicated they too will be submitting sites to Metro EDC for consideration.

Site requirements defined by Amazon include location within a 45-minute drive of an international airport, no more than two miles from a major highway, access to mass transit and location within a 30-minute drive of a population center of 1 million or more people. This limits a Colorado submittal to the Denver region.

Amazon’s RFP strongly recommends a coordinated proposal from any given jurisdiction; however, Amazon will consider multiple sites within a unified response. OEDIT will make the final selection of sites to be proposed to Amazon. The state will also address other RFP requirements such as level of financial incentives and, according to OEDIT spokesperson Liz Cahill, preparation of “ancillary” information such as labor and wage rates, partnerships with institutions of higher education and state approaches to workforce development.

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Ensuring Safety for DPS Student Athletes

By Melinda Pearson

The videos that emerged in August of East High School cheerleaders being forced into splits by a recently hired coach, Ozell Williams, have been very disturbing to the community, particularly among parents with middle and high school-aged athletes. It was revealed that Williams had previously worked for the Boulder Valley School District but had been terminated for “concern about his techniques,”

according to the *Denver Post*. What protections do Denver Public Schools (DPS) and individual schools take to ensure that the coaches they hire are qualified and student-athletes are safe?

Hiring Process

According to Northfield High School athletic director Micah Porter, “It takes an attentive effort to make sure that everyone that’s working around your kids is qualified to do so.”

Becoming a coach at DPS requires jump-

ing through a lot of hoops. “There are multiple safeguards,” said Porter. “Almost to the point that I would say it makes it difficult for coaches to be hired, but that difficulty is intended for the safety of the students.”

DPS athletics confirms that candidates have been cleared through HR, which includes background checks and fingerprints. Candidates can “bounce back” for various reasons—traffic convictions, D.U.I., and checking off the box disclosing previous termination.

Coaches who are not teachers must also be registered through the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA), a statewide organization that grants both one-year and permanent coaching approval. Candidates who are hired take a “Fundamentals of Coaching” course that covers “everything from communication, to safety, to culture, to language, to dress. It’s basically how to be a professional in the coaching environment,” said Porter.

Bethany Brookens, an associate commissioner at CHSAA, said they don’t keep records of hirings and firings. There’s no database kept by CHSAA of background information, no place that a district that fires a coach for cause would or could report it—which, Brookens said, is true with other professions, even teachers. If a coach is released, said Porter, he lets DPS Athletics know, but he doesn’t share that information with CHSAA.

The Case of the East High Cheer Coach

According to DPS communications director Will Jones, “On his application form for Denver Public Schools, Ozell Williams did not disclose that he had any previous affiliation with Boulder Valley School District.” Jones added, “If a candidate omits a prior firing from their application, and if neither the references we speak with nor the criminal background check disclose the prior firing, then the district might not learn about that prior employment.”

“[The situation at East] is just incredibly unfor-

tunate,” said Porter. “It’s more than unfortunate, because the safety and health of that student is the most important thing. It’s certainly not indicative of the culture that DPS promotes.”

Safety After Hiring

Once a coach is hired, Porter has a supervision schedule and emergency protocols for every sport, but the coaches are generally entrusted with taking care of their own athletes.

Porter hasn’t personally had experience with any coaches who have pushed their athletes too far, as appeared to be the case in the East High cheer incident. “I’ve had athletes pass out from exerting themselves too hard,” said Porter, but there are trainers and emergency protocols in place to handle it. Northfield coaches keep an eye on their athletes, offering breaks and water frequently, he added.

“We don’t want students to be unsafe or uncomfortable or in pain that can be prevented ... of course there are risks, but all of those risks are mitigated by safety,” says Porter. “Avoidable risks are not part of our experience here at Northfield.”

If parents are concerned about their child’s safety, they should reach out to their school’s athletic director, although parents more often raise concerns about locker assignments or playing time, only rarely contacting him about safety, noted Porter.

“While we compete against each other, we’re still Denver Public Schools and we want to make sure that students at Manual, at Far Northeast, at TJ, all of them have fair and safe opportunities to learn and compete,” said Porter. “As a member of DPS, we care about all of our kids at every school.”

The Outcome at East

Following an independent investigation of the incident at East, the principal, Andy Mendelsberg, retired and assistant principal and athletic director Lisa Porter resigned. East’s former principal, John Youngquist, will return to East as principal, leaving a position as chief academic officer at Aurora Public Schools.



Micah Porter, athletic director at Northfield High School.



East Principal Andy Mendelsberg, now retired, in the historic tower room at East in Aug. 2013.

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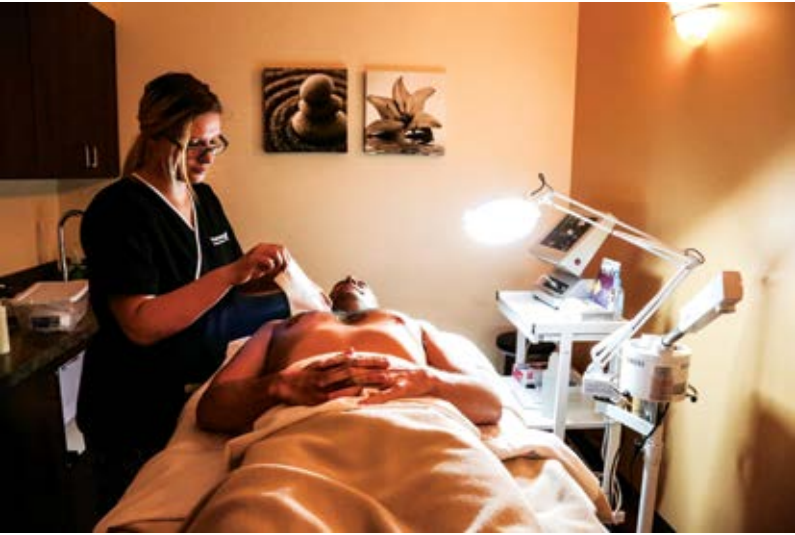
Manscaping: A Different Ball of Wax

By Anne Hebert

M manicures, pedicures, facials and waxing, long thought of as a woman's domain, are increasingly being seen as grooming services for men, according to local business owners. For reasons ranging from professional presentation to personal pleasure and comfort, a growing number of men are getting "manscaping" services. And for readers whose knowledge of waxing is based on the memorable scene in the movie *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*, rest assured, times have changed. New technology has improved the wax—it now removes unwanted hair without sticking to skin.

Culinary Manager and Head Chef Troy Sanchez says presenting a polished, professional appearance is a vital part of making a favorable first impression. "When serving food, clean, neat nails are a must." Commonly used ingredients like balsamic vinegar can stain nails and cuticles, and frequent hand washing dries out his skin. Sanchez says nail treatments keep his hands stain-free and his skin hydrated and healthy. Pedicures are also a regular part of his maintenance routine since he's on his feet all day. "A pedicure every two weeks removes callouses and keeps my feet comfortable."

Leasing Sales Advisor Sean McGeachie points out that grooming services have been common



Waxing and grooming services can help men look and feel their best. New and improved technology helps create a comfortable, relaxing salon experience.

practice for executive men for many years. "Professional presentation and confidence help men look and feel their best." Noting that taking care of one's appearance can boost mental and physical well-being, McGeachie says it's a regular part of his maintenance routine. "I'll go for a mani-pedi with a friend—or by myself. Either way, the massage and reflexology make me feel like a million bucks when I'm done."

The male clientele at Waxing The City in

lobby décor, the salon is welcoming for both men and women.

Scott Kolbe, owner of Hand & Stone in Northfield, echoes the importance of gender-neutral décor. "We know our male clients won't feel comfortable in a space that is overly feminine. This is really the newest trend in salon and spa design."

At Base Coat in the Stanley Marketplace, about 30 percent of the clientele is male, accord-

Northfield is about 20 percent and growing, says owner Amy Meneses. "The demographics of the area, and the fact that Northfield is a destination for those living in adjacent neighborhoods, creates an ideal location for us." She adds that with their gender-neutral

ing to co-owner Tran Wills. "Many of our male customers are athletic and their feet take a beating when playing sports or working out. Taking care of active feet plays a big part in keeping them pain free and comfortable." Gentle trimming and filing helps prevent painful ingrown toenails. Callouses and dry skin are gently removed, and massage enhances circulation and relaxation. Some men bring their daughters for a father/daughter spa outing, says Wills, adding, "It's fun to see the younger girls enjoying time with their dads at the salon."

Sahvia Collins, an esthetician for seven years, says men need skincare too, and she has a growing and loyal male clientele. "Facials condition the skin and reduce problems from irritants like ingrown hairs. Education about how to care for skin between visits is essential, and an emphasis on sun protection is as important for men as it is for women."

Working with steam and grease in the kitchen, Sanchez says he also gets regular skincare and goes to the Emily Griffith Technical College Spa for facials, dermaplaning and back waxing. "They're very focused on the hygiene and comfort of each client as they learn the skills they need to run a business." And in addition to receiving wonderful services, he is supporting students as they train for their careers.

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Voyager in Space, chronicles the entire life of the Voyager probes, from inception, to construction, to launch, to all of their many discoveries along the way. It is both a fascinating study of the science and the people

In lieu of the normal two reviews every month, the Indie Prof reviews here one new film and highlights a new film series in our neighborhood.

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

The Farthest: Voyager in Space (2017)

If you grew up in '70s/'80s and you had the slightest bit of geek in you, there were two space programs that probably kept your attention: the space shuttle and the Voyager probes. The space shuttle speaks for itself and most of us still burn with the memory of the Challenger. The Voyagers, however, were less publicized but much more fruitful in terms of their scientific importance and discoveries. The two Voyager probes were launched weeks apart in 1977. Their journey continues today.

A new documentary, *The Farthest:*

and the probes, and at the same time, it is a very good film. You know from these pages that I believe a documentary film is judged not only on the story and its importance but also on the professionalism of the film and its artistic merits. It is an art form. *The Farthest:*



Voyager in Space checks all the boxes, and ultimately the film is thrilling, interesting, well made, and informative. It does everything a good documentary should do.

The film intersperses raw footage from the '70s and '80s, the actual pictures from the probes in space, press conferences as the Voyagers reached milestones, and current interviews with many of the scientists involved in the program. The interviews are fascinating

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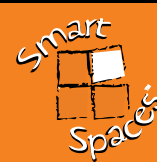
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Rear Window

and illuminating, the raw footage is pure gold, and the dynamic cinematography interspersed between all of the other footage adds depth and texture to the film. This is excellent and important filmmaking.

Now playing at on-demand outlets and on PBS. Check the PBS schedule for show times.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *The Last Man on the Moon*, *Chasing Ice*, and/or *Apollo 13*.

The month of October brings the Alfred Hitchcock film series at The Cube in Northfield. We will screen four films, every Friday at 6pm, and I will lead a discussion about each film. If you haven't seen any of these films from the master filmmaker, or if you haven't seen them in a while, come join us for a fun and illuminating series. Check the MCA for ticket information.

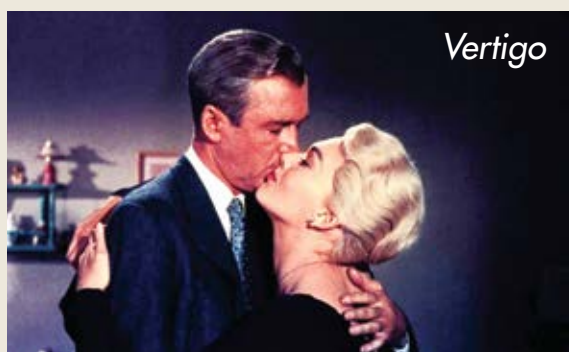
Friday, Oct. 6: *Rear Window* (1954)

When we think of Alfred Hitchcock, we think of suspense, and no film better gives us that edge-of-your-seat, nail-biting suspense than *Rear Window*. It tells the story of a photographer (Jimmy Stewart)

with a broken leg who has to idly sit in his apartment and watch his neighbors through the courtyard of his building. When he thinks he has seen a murder in one of those apartments, he enlists his girlfriend (a sparkling Grace Kelly) and his nurse (a snappy Thelma Ritter) to help him crack the case. It is wonderful filmmaking (the entire film takes place in his apartment), tautly plotted, and it extends out to highlight real-word themes that are still pertinent today.

Friday, Oct. 13: *Vertigo* (1958)

Every 10 years, the magazine *Sight & Sound* does a poll of filmmakers, film critics, and film historians all over the world to determine the 10 best films of all time. The poll started in 1952, and the latest poll was in 2012. Every year since 1952, *Citizen*



Vertigo

Kane was voted the greatest film ever made. Until 2012. The top spot that year went to *Vertigo*. This is master filmmaking from one of the great directors of all time at the peak of his powers; it is simultaneously

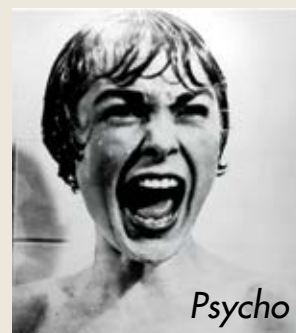
thrilling and disturbing. Want to know why this film is considered one of the greatest ever made? Join us for what should be an illuminating discussion.

Friday, Oct. 20: *The Birds* (1963)

Disturbing. That is the first word that pops into my mind when thinking about Hitchcock's psychological thriller. It is a film that haunts my childhood—it seems that it was on TV every week on one of the five channels available to us in the '70s. The images of schoolchildren running away as a flock of birds attacks them is something I will never forget, and it made me avoid birds at all costs. I still don't trust birds.

Friday, Oct. 27: *Psycho* (1960)

Come enjoy some grown-up Halloween fun with one of the scariest films of all time. It started out as a small B-movie that Hitchcock made in black and white on a small budget, an outgrowth of his popular



Psycho



The Birds

TV series of the time. It turned into one of the most thrilling movie-going experiences of all time, one that changed the way we go to the movies. It also paved the way for changes in movie censorship, and as some think, it saved the movies from virtual extinction in the '60s. And oh yeah, it's terrifying. (I know the soundtrack is playing in your head right now.)

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

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Cutting Edge Technology on Display at Solar Homes Competition

By John Fernandez

A temporary village of full-sized, solar-powered houses will open for public viewing on Oct. 5 next to the 61st and Peña A Line station. The 12 houses lining the village's main street are entries in "Solar Decathlon 2017," a competition sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy. Teams will be judged by ten criteria (hence, the term "decathlon") including innovation, smart energy use, market potential, and water use and re-use strategies.

In this eighth Solar Decathlon, cash prizes will be awarded for the first time, with \$350,000 going to the winning

team. All 12 participating teams have been granted \$100,000 stipends to help defray the considerable expense of research, design, construction and transport of the high-tech structures. The level of effort demanded of the participants is such that DOE refers to the student team members as "decathletes."

But it takes people to make a village and so, the public is invited to attend the event free of charge on nine days over two long weekends:

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

The Solar Decathlon event can be

accessed from the A Line station or, by car, from Tower Road via either 60th or 61st Avenues.

This is the first Solar Decathlon to be located in Denver. The inaugural event was held in Washington, D.C., and the winning team was the University of Colorado at Boulder. This year, a team comprised of students from the University of Denver and the University of California at Berkeley is among the finalists. Other teams come from around the country as well as Switzerland and the Netherlands.

In addition to tours of the solar houses themselves, attendees can choose from a wide range of consumer and homeowner workshops. Topics include solar technolo-

gies, the renewable energy economy, passive house design, a "Solar and Related Industries Career Fair," and water-saving techniques. One session, titled "The Making of a Smart City," provides an introduction to Peña Station NEXT, the 382-acre mixed-use development at the 61st and Peña station being spearheaded by Panasonic Enterprise Solutions.

A Sustainability Expo of energy technologies rounds out the offerings. It includes an opportunity to test drive a variety of electric vehicles.

A detailed schedule of events and workshops can be accessed at the DOE website: www.solardecathlon.gov.

Four of the entries are pictured below:



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PART TWO

Choosing a School Board Representative

By Melinda Pearson

Have you heard? There's a school board election coming up next month—time to start paying attention. Four of seven seats on the Denver school board are contested, offering the potential for an entirely new direction, depending on the outcome of the election.

In recent years, Denver Public Schools (DPS) has experienced remarkable consensus and stability, its seven-member board often voting unanimously and the same superintendent, Tom Boasberg, at the helm since January 2009. Strategically guided by the Denver Plan 2020, the board and Boasberg have steered DPS through a period of notable growth and achievement, including increased enrollment, record gains on state tests, near doubling of graduation rates and narrowing of achievement gaps. The current board and DPS leadership adhere to a model of school reform that promotes school-level autonomy through increased charter and innovation schools and a districtwide system of choice.

Nationally, Denver has been hailed as a model of urban school reform. The Brookings Institution named Denver the best large district in the country for education choice and competition in 2016 and 2017, and it has received accolades from other important national organizations, like the National Council on Teacher Quality and Educational Resource Strategies.

Criticisms of DPS

But critics say that not all is as rosy in DPS as the national acclaim makes it sound. The achievement gap may be narrowing, but it persists, with low-income students and students of color lagging behind their peers. The graduation rate of 67 percent in 2016 still trails the state's rate of 79 percent. Traditional neighborhood schools that were deemed to be failing have been closed, leaving families scrambling to find a school for their child and transportation to go with it, especially burdensome for poor families. And the vast increase in charter schools, whose teachers are non-union, faces vehement opposition from the teachers' union.

Issues Facing DPS

Ironically, one problem the district faces is Denver's growing economy. Former DPS board chair Mary Seawell, who now oversees educational efforts at the Gates Family Foundation, says it brings the new challenge of gentrification "and pushing out a lot of our families in poverty. We want to make sure the gains are not because our kids that need the most support are being driven from the system." Seawell suggests a future challenge for the board may be for it to set the course for serving students "not just in the boundaries of the district but more holistically in the metro area."

Seawell acknowledges the current differences of opinion on whether DPS has too many charter schools and that there have

been calls for a moratorium on approving new charter schools. Based on her knowledge as a former board member, she points out that a quality charter whose application is denied can appeal to the State Board of Education. "If you [deny] enough times, the district loses its ability to authorize at all, and you have a quasi-governmental organization called Charter School Institute (CSI) take over," she said. "DPS would no longer have any control over it." Seawell suggests that keeping local control over charters is important, especially for maintaining the district's equity goals for charters—which are the same goals they have for traditional schools.

Board Member Roles

Many of Denver's school board responsibilities are outlined in state law, according to Seawell. These include overseeing complicated finances, hiring and firing the superintendent, and supervising the superintendent. Representatives also act as a conduit between the community and school administration.

But, where Denver is nationally recognized is in its approach to governance, says Seawell. The Denver school board sets direction and ensures that the superintendent is aligned with that strategic vision. This occurs through the regularly updated Denver Plan 2020, where the board and superintendent outline goals like great neighborhood schools, college and career readiness and closing the opportunity gap.

Seawell also points out that board members do not manage the district's employees—that is the role of the superintendent.

Equity as a DPS Value

Seawell points out that DPS was one of the first districts in the country to put out a statement of how they were going to protect families from immigration enforcement. "We may disagree on the mechanics of the district," says Seawell, but not the way DPS has established equity as a fundamental value. "That starts with the school board, goes through the superintendent and works itself all the way down to the classroom."

Choosing a Candidate

When selecting a school board representative, Seawell, reminds voters of the importance of choosing "someone you know will call you back and be in contact and hear your needs." She also urges voters to consider "the larger good of our city and our district," where 68 percent of the students receive subsidized lunch.

The *Front Porch* submitted eight questions related to current DPS issues and practices to all the candidates our readers will vote on. On the following three pages, you'll find the responses from the candidates for districts 3 and 4, who represent all the neighborhoods in the *Front Porch* distribution area, as well as the at-large candidates that represent the entire city.



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<p>Front Porch readers will vote for either a District 3 candidate or a District 4 candidate, depending on your neighborhood.</p> <p>Everyone will vote for one of the at-large candidates on the next page.</p> <p>Please pull this page out to the left to view these questions next to the at-large candidate responses.</p> <p>Candidates’ responses are posted with this article at FrontPorchNE.com.</p> <p>Readers can find an explanation of Denver SchoolChoice and related issues at frontporchne.com/article/choice-complex-election-issue/</p>		<h1>DISTRICT 3—Lowry, Montclair, E. Colfax</h1>	
		 <p>Mike Johnson I’m the first in my family to go to college. I’ve practiced law for more than 40 years and am one of Colorado’s leading experts on school finance. I began volunteering in our schools when my oldest started kindergarten to make sure my kids received the same quality education that was my pathway to success. My three daughters attended DPS schools from kindergarten through 12th grade. They received excellent educations in DPS but it required a lot of hard work and hundreds of hours of time by my wife and me. I ran for the school board in 2013 to make it easier for other Denver parents to obtain the same excellent education for their children. My website is www.MikeForDenverKids.com</p>	 <p>Carrie Olson I care deeply about strong public education. I am a teacher starting my 33rd year in Denver Public Schools with a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction. I am very familiar with how school board policies impact students, teachers and the community at large. I understand the negative consequences of closing down a neighborhood school and have experienced it first hand while teaching at Kepner that closed during my tenure there. I am a parent of a George Washington High School graduate and was the Executive Director of a nonprofit that supported Kepner. All of this has given me a strong foundation to understand what is needed in our district.</p>
<p>1. In your view, what has DPS done well over the last five years? What has DPS done poorly and you would change?</p>		DPS has done an excellent job in providing high quality neighborhood schools and a wide variety of educational options for students in my district in East Denver. DPS needs to do a better job with community outreach. In order to fix that I have attended hundreds of meetings with residents of East Denver to listen to their concerns, update them and answer their questions.	DPS took a courageous stance to protect undocumented students. Unfortunately, DPS appears to have strongly embraced the national agenda of privatization: school choice, unlimited charters, non-union work-force, high stakes testing, and business model of teacher evaluations. While implementing these reforms, curricula have narrowed, physical education, the arts and other non-tested subjects have been cut. I would step back from this and use research based evidence which we know is proven and tested.
<p>2. What are the two or three most pressing issues affecting the District you would represent, or, if at-large, for DPS as a whole? How will you address these?</p>		The most pressing issues in my district are maintaining our high quality neighborhood schools and a wide variety of educational options with the limited resources resulting from the fact that Colorado is in the bottom 10 for funding education. I will continue to lobby my state legislators to spend more money on our schools so we can maintain and improve the quality of our neighborhood schools and the educational options offered in every neighborhood in Denver.	Families in District 3 are concerned that there is too much testing and focus on teaching to the test instead of developing the whole child through all subjects including developing a love for reading, exploring science and social studies, and developing creative talents in art, music and physical education. Another issue is the concern for the high teacher turnover. They would like to see more support for teachers so that learning increases. The third issue is to focus on strong neighborhood schools that support their communities and the children.
<p>3. Do you support DPS’s system of choice, which has resulted in a trend toward more schools with greater autonomy? Why or why not? Charter and innovation schools now represent about 50% of DPS schools, up from about 20% 10 years ago. A local example of choice is the closure of Smiley Middle School (a traditional district-run school with low achievement scores) and replacing it with McAuliffe International School, an innovation school that draws from a shared enrollment zone.</p>		My number one goal is that every student in every neighborhood has access to high quality neighborhood schools and educational choices so that all students can attend a school that meets their needs. Teachers and school leaders who are on the ground working with students every day should have more control over resources and decision-making because they are in the best position to know what their students need and because, like workers everywhere, they will do a better job if they have more control over their workplace.	No. DPS has made some improvement but not enough. Charter/innovation schools represent about 50% of DPS schools, an increase of 20% from 10 years ago. The community advocates for DPS to resource existing schools to be able to participate in all the schools’ activities close to home. Choice is a large factor in increasing the segregation and an increase in overall inequity. In several Denver neighborhoods the only choices available are one or another “no excuses” charter school. Meanwhile families who don’t know how to navigate the system are left behind.
<p>4. If elected, how would you balance the agenda of DPS and the needs of the community if they are in conflict? For example, in District 4, the majority of the community was in favor of expanding Northfield High School rather than sharing a campus with a second high school, in this case DSST. How will you build consensus between DPS and the community?</p>		I believe that, as a publicly elected body charged with providing the highest possible quality public school education for all Denver kids, the decisions of the school board should always be based on the needs of the entire community. Decisions should only be made after extensive community input and should always be based on what is best for Denver’s students.	I believe it begins by really listening to our teachers, parents, students and community members. Communities feel that the board has arrived at a foregone conclusion by the time they meet with the district to discuss issues concerning their schools. DPS needs to recognize that the Northfield community uniquely understands what their children need most and what it takes to make their school successful. Evidence shows that the co-located schools end up competing for key resources and the already underfunded public schools usually get the short end of the stick.
<p>5. The School Performance Framework (SPF) measures: student achievement; student progress over time; family engagement; academic gaps between groups of students; and post-secondary readiness. Do you believe the SPF is an effective way to evaluate schools? What, if any, are its flaws and what specific ideas do you have for improving it?</p>		The SPF is a good starting point. I would like to improve the SPF by adding measurements of school culture such as the results of the survey from our whole child work that asks students how welcoming their school’s culture is for them and students like them and whether they feel there are adults in the building who will listen to and help them when they need it. I also think we should focus more on growth, status and school culture sub-scores and less on the overall school rating.	I do not. The SPF doesn’t achieve its purpose of providing transparency and encouraging improvement. The “Achievement” and “Growth” indicators are measured by standardized tests which reflect socioeconomic status more-so than academic achievement. Thus, in high-need schools the testing environment is unduly stressful as school’s fate rests in these scores. Some indicators change every year, making it impossible to set goals. The “equity” indicators are a positive shift. The evaluation tool should be a reflection of our priorities: to foster solid educational communities, not stressful, high-stakes tests environments.
<p>6. How should teacher performance be measured? Should it be rewarded and, if so, how?</p>		Teacher performance should be measured by whether the teacher is effectively using best teaching practices and whether her/his students are learning. Teachers should be rewarded in a manner that encourages them to use best teaching practices and increase student learning.	A teacher’s performance should be addressed through collaboration between the teacher and the principal based on pre-agreed upon norms. Teachers should be offered time and support to improve their practice. LEAP (http://thecommons.dpsk12.org/Domain/103) is a good starting point. However, there is a lack of accountability for evaluators which means evaluations can be uncalibrated and used unfairly. Therefore, a teacher’s pay should never be based on LEAP evaluations.
<p>7. Describe the achievement gap(s) in DPS. What causes it? What can be done?</p>		The gaps are correlated with inequities that permeate American society. To close the gaps, we need to: 1. Encourage our best teachers and principals to work in the schools that serve traditionally underserved students by paying them more and by providing the additional supports they need to do their jobs. 2. Allocate additional resources to the schools and classrooms that serve these students. 3. Hire and retain more teachers who look like and can identify with our students.	According to a <i>Chalkbeat</i> article, “the gap in Denver Public Schools was bigger than nearly 90 percent of major U.S. cities, including similarly sized cities such as Seattle, Washington, D.C. and Memphis.” The model of education reform in DPS is not working (See #4). We should look at well-researched studies that delineate frameworks to improve our schools such as ASCD’s Book, “Turning High-Poverty Schools into High-Performing Schools.” Leadership by teachers and administration that is both collaborative and distributed was critical to the school’s success. Schools should foster and support high expectations as well as create a safe nurturing community. (<i>Chalkbeat</i> article is titled: “Denver and Aurora Achievement Gaps Among Nation’s Highest, Index Finds”)
<p>8. How much money have you raised as of September 5, 2017. Please list the top five contributors and how much they have contributed.</p>		I have made a commitment to not accept corporate or PAC money or money from PAC-like small donor committees whose contributors are not disclosed publicly. I only accept money from real live human beings. To date my top five contributors are five individuals who live in Denver and have contributed \$1,000 each.	As of September 5, 2017, I had raised \$8,821.10. 1. DCTA \$5000.00. 2. Jack and Connie Thompson \$500 3. Dr. Steven Antonoff \$300 4. Paul Day-Lucore \$250 5. Jessica Timian \$250.
<p>Front Porch graphic by Carol Roberts, Melinda Pearson and Steve Larson</p>			

DISTRICT 4—Stapleton and Park Hill



Tay Anderson

I have the most direct experience what our public schools are facing day to day having just spent the bulk of my life in that system. We’ve heard our leaders speak to the importance of getting our young people involved, but we tell them to sit back and wait when they try. We have been waiting for so long to have a seat at the table and this November I believe that we can invest more funding into student voice.



Jennifer Bacon

As a public school teacher, school administrator, lawyer, and parent advocate, I’ve committed my career to advancing opportunities through education. Whether through serving as the board chair of a parent organizing group, facilitating “Know Your Rights” trainings for students, or developing teachers on how to make change civically, I work every day on the belief that the best decisions are those made by those most impacted. I’m running for school board because Denver students and families need that experienced advocate now, who can move us forward together. I’m working to campaign the same way I would govern – accessibly and inclusively. You can reach me on my cell at 720-593-9618, email me at BaconForDenver@gmail.com, or find more information on my website www.BaconForDenverKids.com.



Rachele Espiritu

As a parent of two DPS students, I understand the incredible responsibility of serving DPS. The first immigrant to serve on the board, I am committed to public service and am a deeply engaged member of our community. As an expert on childhood development and wellbeing, I know that children learn and succeed when they are safe, supported, and cared for. Throughout my professional life and during my tenure on the board, I have focused on the Whole Child and want to continue improving DPS, from Early Childhood Education through High School graduation. I’ll continue to partner with community and bring their voices, my personal experience, and professional lens to the important work of the board. w: www.rachelefordenver.com e: rachele@rachelefordenver.com

DPS’ commitment to college readiness, IE concurrent enrollment and job preparedness is a move in the right direction in setting our students up for success. DPS has lacked accountability and transparency. I would change the dynamic of community involvement, creating more opportunities for engagement.

As a teacher, I believe in the ambitious student-focused outcomes set in the District’s 2020 plan, including early childhood literacy and whole child wellness. When it comes to implementation, I have concerns about the pace of growth. DPS’ goal is to have 80% of third-graders reading on grade level by 2020. Last year, only one of the 25 elementaries in District 4 met that bar. From a process standpoint, there is a wide disconnect between policymakers in central office and the families, teachers, and students who are most impacted.

The legacy of the past five years is one of systems transformation. DPS has made strides towards greater equity, given schools more autonomy and flexibility, and worked towards the goal of giving all parents a choice of high-performing schools in every neighborhood. The first implementation of the School Performance Compact was challenging. The need to engage community in decision-making is real; however, we fell short in providing the vision, timelines, and expectations for the stakeholders involved, including some of our DPS teams, and need to improve this.

Our teaching shortage, in particular, teachers of color, the school to prison pipeline and the expansion of charter schools. Essentially, these issues stem from a lack of equity in the District. As a school board member, equity will be the lens from which I operate.

In conversations with community members, I heard two clear issues I plan to address: ensuring all schools are great options for kids and prioritizing inclusive, transparent decision-making processes. Right now, many families are faced with the false choice of sending their children to a low-performing school or traveling across town. For kids to succeed, DPS needs to invest resources in their neighborhood schools. As D4 looks to the future, we will only arrive at the best answers if we listen to community members on the front end.

I stood up to serve on the board to address two pressing issues in our district – the Whole Child and Opportunity Gaps. Many students face enormous economic, social, and societal challenges. I will work towards bringing best-practices in trauma-informed schools that support safety, prioritize relationships, and use a restorative approach to discipline. We also need to improve our efforts to authentically engage community and address community traumas. I have worked extensively with DPS to develop and implement community engagement plans and will continue that work.

The word choice is mis-leading at best. Yes, you can choose any school in your district, but that school may burden the parents with long travel times. There should be a quality walkable school in every neighborhood.

When I speak with parents, they want to be able to find schools that meet their students’ needs and they welcome the ability to choose schools with specialized programming (e.g., dual-language, arts-based). However, for a “choice” system to work, all schools must be good options. Right now too many families face a false choice: attend a low-performing school or drive across town if you have the means. That’s why my platform includes investing in our neighborhood schools, so families have a true choice.

School choice in Denver should be about having a great school in every neighborhood – no matter the governance model. I support our school choice policies which provide our community with: enrollment equity for all, data transparency, and a year-round placement process. Choice participation in high quality seats is higher for non-FRL students; there are opportunities to improve access to quality schools for all families. I think that we need to improve and expand enrollment zones to promote integration and inclusion and maximize opportunities for high-needs students to attend quality schools.

The agenda of DPS should be the agenda of the community. DPS serves the community, not the other way around.

District 4 is the most diverse in Denver, with different neighborhoods each having their own needs and assets. We’ve also been the epicenter of so much change over the past decade: the challenges of schools facing increasing and declining enrollment, the opening and closing of schools. That’s why we need a school board member who engages with the community proactively and puts parents, teachers, and students at the center of decision making processes. This is a public district so the agenda of DPS must be responsive to the public’s needs.

While absolute consensus produces decisions of high quality and support for the decision is unequivocal, it is difficult to achieve—especially in a diverse community such as District 4. As a current board member, I always try to make decisions in the best interest of our students. When building consensus, I will collaborate with the community to inform my decision-making, including: implementing a culture of listening; recognizing diverse opinions; considering pieces of opinion within whole district considerations; applying our DPS values of equity, integrity, and accountability; and finding mutually satisfactory interests.

The SPF can be one measurement, however we have seen the SPF change drastically over the past 10 years. It is a moving target, disproportionately affecting our public schools. I would suggest putting a moratorium on the use of the SPF as a measurement for school closures until an SPF is vetted by all parties.

DPS’ definition of performance is based on tests. This is important piece; we always need to know if students are reading at grade level or if there are gaps in performance within the school, for instance with students of color. However, testing is only one measure. DPS can become a leader in broadening a definition of success. The SPF could be improved by more completely measuring a school’s community engagement with metrics like completed home visits, or changing the equity measures to reward those schools that close gaps between students.

The SPF serves many purposes: as a tool to assess progress on our 2020 goals, informs the tiering of supports for our most high-needs schools, plays a critical role in the SPC, highlights performance discrepancies, serves as a common definition of effectiveness, and informs parents regarding the school choice process. The SPF is complicated, with measures that change often and are difficult to understand and communicate. I support simplification of the SPF and the development of communication tools to make it more accessible to parents, community members, and school leaders.

Teachers should not be solely evaluated on high stakes testing. The only way we are going to have veteran teachers to mentor the new crop of teachers is by giving teachers time to develop their craft. Parents and students should have a say in teacher’s performance too. Mechanisms should be in place to reward veteran mentor teachers for their important role in developing other solid teachers.

When I talk with teachers, most agree it’s fair for educators to be accountable to helping their students succeed. However, teachers want a fair evaluation process and recognition that test scores are but one measure of learning. It’s also time for a public audit of ProComp dollars, which includes performance rewards, to ensure that money is spent in ways that get us the most impact.

Leading Effective Academic Performance (LEAP) is the growth and performance system that DPS uses to measure performance through: Observation, Professionalism, Student Perception Survey, and Student Growth. Designed in collaboration with teachers and school leaders, I support the opportunities that LEAP provides for continued improvement and growth, and the rewards based on student growth, market incentives, knowledge and skills, professional evaluation, and teacher leadership.

Denver has the second worst graduation rate of all metro area districts in Colorado. Last year almost 12,000 students dropped out of Colorado schools. Graduation rates are in greater decline for Black, Brown and Native-American students. The so-called “Reform Schools Movement,” which our current school Board has adhered to, has resulted in a move toward the privatization of our public schools and has NOT produced the desired effects. A new school board is required to effectively and fairly represent our students, our teachers, and our community. I am committed to hiring more diverse teachers and staff and providing students with a culturally rich curriculum.

I believe all kids should be able to attend schools that set them up for a fair shot at success. That’s not happening equally right now. Achievement gaps are a legacy of our country’s history. We see lasting disparities in graduation rates, test scores, and discipline metrics across race, poverty, and student’s language. As a teacher, I know that all students can succeed given the right supports. DPS can take steps to make that a reality: diversifying the teaching force to be more representative, investing in wrap-around supports for students, and starting kids off with quality pre-k.

While DPS students have made significant academic growth in the past decade, gaps between our white students and our Black and Latino students, our English Language Learners, and our students with special needs are significant and unacceptable. While the root causes of inequities are complex (e.g., social, cultural, policies, and economic factors) and many are beyond our control, there are opportunities that DPS can take. We can look at our enrollment policies and structures that support access to high quality schools; ensure integrated classrooms with culturally responsive curricula; and increase diversity amongst our educators.

Total: \$13,000
Susan Barnes Gelt \$1500
Kayvan Khalatbari \$1000
Jeannie Kaplan \$750
Earleen Brown \$500
Nita Lynch \$650

I’m proud over 300 individuals have donated roughly \$30,000. Among my top donors are Denver Classroom Teachers Association (\$5,000), mentors Dawn Bookhardt (\$3,000) and Joyce Moorehead (\$1,000), and my father (\$2,500) and brother (\$1,000). These donors represent my broader support base: teachers, family, and leaders committed to my leadership.

My largest contributors are family and community members who support my vision for improving Denver Public Schools for all students. I will only accept donations from individuals or committees that are transparent in their funding. I will return contributions from individuals/organizations who want to cut education funding or replace our public schools with private vouchers.

AT-LARGE—Pull prior page out to left to see questions.



Julie Bañuelos

I spent 15 years in DPS as a teacher, a union leader and community advocate. I bring a unique voice to the at-large seat on the DPS board of education, one that draws from many intersectional communities; I come from a working class immigrant family where I was brought up bilingual while living in a bicultural world. I attended my neighborhood schools, Gilpin and Ebert, in the Curtis Park Neighbor-

hood. It's time to put a teacher's perspective on the board, especially one that shares the experience of the majority of students in DPS. My platform is focused on protecting students, defending families, supporting teachers and monitoring district spending. website: juliedps.com; social media: <https://www.facebook.com/banuelosforeducation/> <https://twitter.com/banuelos4Ed>; email: feedback@banuelos4education.org; phone: (303) 900-8912



Barbara O'Brien

I am a lifelong champion for our kids. I fought to increase access to early childhood education, counseling services, and health care for Colorado's kids as the head of the Children's Campaign and as Lieutenant Governor. As a Denver school board member, I'll keep pushing for more autonomy for principals over their budgets and curriculum, more shared leadership for teachers in their schools, accountability for

chronically underperforming schools so that student have a chance to attend a high performing school that meets their needs, a continued focus on improving reading in the early grades, and making college or careers more affordable with paid apprenticeships and community college credits while still in high school.



Robert Speth

Unlike my competitor Barbara O'Brien, I am not likely to be supported by hundreds of thousands of dollars of out of state super PAC money. Unlike my competitor Barbara O'Brien, I have not been sitting on the DPS board while also serving as president (until recently) of another company, Catapult, which has been receiving payments from DPS. I'm a parent with two children in DPS who has three key areas of focus: What's

best for our (1) students, (2) schools, and (3) communities. No strings attached. If you are reading this and can help, please do so! Can you take a yard sign? Help knock doors? Donate? We are a grassroots volunteer organization! Please join us! www.spethforstudents.org; Facebook/spethforstudents; email: spethforstudents2017@gmail.com

DPS created a colorful website, established monthly English learner advisory committee meetings, launched teacher and parent portal platforms and established EDUCA Radio. However, the district still must comply with the federal court order regarding English learners and improve retention of experienced teachers of color, which would improve student learning given the district pupil demographics. DPS boasts about its school choice model but doesn't mention how few benefit, while closing neighborhood schools that serve working class families and sending them to schools far from home while hoping for a "better" school.

Since 2013, as a member of the Denver School Board, I called for a study of reading achievement in elementary schools which led to a new literacy and reading curriculum, a new system of progress monitoring for young students, and professional development in the teaching of reading for all elementary paraprofessionals and teachers. We saw historic gains in reading in K-3rd grade last year. I will apply those same strategies to math and science so that young students are ready for the challenging work of middle school.

DPS' move to give principals more control as to how they operate their schools is a good step in the right direction. I have seen firsthand the benefits that can come from a quality principal operating with some measure of autonomy. DPS has done a poor job of meeting the goals of the Denver Plan 2020, specifically early literacy, college readiness, and closing the achievement gap. We need more money in the classrooms, we need to stop outsourcing public education, and we need to listen to our communities.

1) Ending "school choice" as we know it and its admin-heavy, expensive structure. Respecting the organic, first choice of parents, which often is their neighborhood school. 2) Ending discriminatory policy via fidelity to the English learner federal court order and recalibrating school ratings to reflect growing English fluency instead of scapegoating English learners. This practice applies to our students with disabilities. 3) Pursuing a cost-benefit analysis of initiatives like "choice," Success Express and charter schools. Pushing for promised bond-funded improvements in schools like air conditioning and modern HVAC systems.

Too many students face uncertainty with unstable housing, poverty, and hunger, making it difficult to learn. Last year, 22,000 DPS students changed schools due to housing or family instability. I will continue to work with the board on breaking down barriers for our kids and on supporting the "Whole Child." We also have to resist harmful Washington policies that undermine the community values that make Denver so unique. Our schools need to be a safe place for ALL kids, regardless of who they are or where they come from.

DPS has made lackluster progress on the Denver Plan 2020. Less than 38% of 3rd graders are reading at grade level or above, graduation rates are among the lowest of any major city in the US, and the achievement gap persists and is even growing in some cases. All of this is a result of pursuing a portfolio strategy of school management, and a continued outsourcing of public education. We need more money in the classrooms and we need to listen to our communities.

"Choice" depends on an unfair representation of school effectiveness. DPS must reform the School Performance Framework so that students in poverty or with disabilities and English learners aren't used as an excuse to close schools. Schools should be recognized when students show subject mastery on Spanish assessments and English proficiency growth. Schools need leeway as they transitions students from Spanish to English-only classes.

I support more autonomy for principals over their budgets and curriculum, more shared leadership for teachers in their schools, and accountability for chronically underperforming schools so that student have a chance to attend a high performing school that meets their needs. Autonomy lets principals be flexible and fast in using his or her budget to meet the unique needs of their students. Elementary schools in particular have improved due to principal and teacher leadership. Denver was rated as having the best school choice system in the nation, with more than 80% of families getting their first choice of school.

In general I am supportive of choice, but strongly in favor of supporting and enhancing strong neighborhood schools. We need to be cognizant that due to a myriad of issues, lack of transportation options being one, choice is, on average, being leveraged more by people of means. While spending on transportation could be increased, most communities indicate a strong desire for investment in their neighborhood schools so their children can be learning and spending time with friends and family vs. sitting on buses.

As an elected official, my fidelity and decision making would be guided by the community needs, as opposed to the current push for Portfolio Management, a neoliberal strategy that represents elements of competitive market forces. The current board unanimously votes 7-0 against the wishes of school communities, which is evidence that there is no balance on the board. Building consensus entails meeting students and families in their community more than once, not just selecting which groups to meet with that best reflect the values of the superintendent.

. I am an elected at-large board member. I listen to a community and try to balance what I hear with the needs of the whole district. After attending several Stapleton community meetings, I helped find funding in the 2012 bond to accelerate the buildout of Northfield. Sometimes there are different perspectives within a community but I look for solutions to ensure that every child has access to a high performing school and will graduate college and career ready. That is my continued commitment to the voters of Denver.

Northfield was a classic bait and switch. DPS told the community one thing in order to get the bond passed, and then after it was passed they revealed their true plan. DPS cannot and should not have secret agendas. If their plan is truly what is best for students, then they should be open and transparent about it, period.

The SPF unfairly targets English learners by ignoring the growth of a student's English proficiency. It ignores achievement on Spanish-language assessments, and this is matters in a district of nearly 50% English learners. For some low income families, getting the child to school demonstrates a high level of engagement, and the SPF does not allow for the impact of poverty on student achievement.

Overall, the SPF is still too dependent on standardized testing. Every family has the right to opt out of standardized testing without persecution from school officials.

The SPF has been successful in identifying schools that are good for students and schools that need to improve. The academic gaps between groups of students are now being highlighted in the SPF and we have the opportunity to learn from schools that are closing their gaps. I hope that my focus on adding meaningful SPF measures of school culture and the social-emotional health of students will give parents a better understanding of their children's schools and give the district better insight into a school's performance.

The entire reason the SPF exists is because the district needed a justification to close schools as part of their portfolio strategy. I believe we should not be closing schools, we should be helping them. We shouldn't be creating a system that force ranks schools, we should be ensuring that all schools have the necessary resources that they need to meet the challenges that they face.

The LEAP system measures teacher performance. Teachers could earn more through professional development and the school's SPF ratings. However, teachers that earned the most taught in schools of mainly affluent students. Teachers in high-poverty schools rarely saw increases based on the SPF. Today, paying our teachers a base salary large enough to live in Denver without having a second job has become a greater need.

Teachers helped develop the LEAP evaluation system. Every year, teachers report through an anonymous survey on the fairness and usefulness of LEAP. The results from last year's survey were the highest they've been. Teachers tell me that the addition of observations by master teachers has been a high quality improvement to the evaluation process because they receive classroom-based, individualized feedback for their professional development.

Teachers should be evaluated by principals, assistant principals or senior teachers based on a set of standards that are known in advance. Teachers should also be given the opportunity for self assessment and possibly peer reviews, although the latter might be too burdensome. The veteran teachers I have spoken with don't believe good performance should be rewarded, but there should be ample opportunities for career advancement.

I prefer to refer to the opportunity gap, since DPS' students are nearly 50% English learners, more than 70% low income, and more than 70% students of color. When only the affluent receive resource-rich schools, while the most vulnerable get zero-tolerance and high-stakes testing, it's little wonder that a gap exists. Every child deserves arts and music, gym and recess, languages and sciences. Providing wraparound services must be prioritized, and these services are just as crucial as learning how to read and write. We must make our schools safe and functional community centers, to build cooperation from families.

The achievement gap often begins before children enter school. DPS is partnering with community groups to expand early learning opportunities for vulnerable children. We are using 2016 mill levy funding to direct extra literacy services, teacher leaders and social-emotional supports toward students who are behind. We know that minority students benefit academically by having a teacher of color, especially in elementary school. DPS has a number of new programs to recruit and retain educators and administrators of color. I support the new achievement gap metric in the SPF to increase accountability for closing the gap in every school.

The achievement gap is the difference in test scores between particular groups of students. For example, the difference in reading proficiency between students on free and reduced lunch, and those not. In a "Focus on Achievement" session in September, the district released results that show that the achievement gap is increasing (i.e. getting worse). Determining causality is a very complex question - certainly worthy of many years of research. Part of the solution is what I've outline above: giving schools and teachers the resources they need - not pursuing policies such as school closure and more high stakes testing.

I have raised approximately \$12,000 as of September 5, 2017. My top five contributors are friends and members of the community who have each given approximately \$250 apiece. More specific information will appear on the first campaign finance report due in October.

I file all of my contributors publicly with the Colorado Secretary of State. I am incredibly grateful to the hundreds of people who have stepped up to support me.

Robert Speth - \$2,100
David Grasch - \$1,986
Craig Kaley - \$600
Larry Lovelace - \$500
Laura Curtis - \$500

Guide to the \$937 Million Bond

By John Fernandez

About every 10 years, the Denver City Council places before the voters a list of capital projects that it would like to fund through the issuance of general obligation (GO) bonds. This year voters will be asked to approve a total of \$937 million in GO bonds.

How will the bond revenue be used?

Citizens will vote on seven separate ballot questions for the GO bond:

- Transportation
- Cultural facilities
- Denver Health
- Public safety
- Libraries
- Parks and recreation
- Public facilities

In most cases, very specific projects have been identified (see the listing of projects on the next page). Some of the funding is set aside for citywide programs that will require individual project selection in the coming months and years based on defined criteria. These include arterial re-paving, which is prioritized by a city pavement index database, and construction of missing sidewalks, which will be prioritized based on proximity to transit stops and bike share locations.

If all categories are approved, the bond package would fully or partially fund 460

separate projects with \$50 million set aside as a contingency fund. Transportation accounts for about 44 percent of total project funding. The \$937 million is divided about evenly between new projects and repair of existing facilities.

Capital projects are defined as city-owned assets with a normal life span of at least 10 years. Generally, bonds must be issued within 10 years of voter approval and bond proceeds from a specific issuance must be expended within three years.

For a list of projects specifically benefiting northeast Denver, see “Denver Bond Projects in NE” in the September *Front Porch* (frontporchne.com/article/will-ne-denver-benefit-bond-upcoming-ballot).

Will this increase my property taxes?

No tax increase is proposed; instead, the city expects to continue imposing the existing 8.433 mill levy for debt service on the GO bonds.

The current mill levy is likely to continue indefinitely regardless of results from this election. A Denver Finance spokesperson said, “The reality is, these projects represent critical infrastructure needs that are too extensive to incorporate in the annual capital project budget. The longer we wait to execute these

projects, the more costly they will be to address later.” In other words, expect future bond elections that would depend on this mill levy.

What is the “Our Denver” Bond Campaign?

An “Our Denver” campaign committee has been formed to promote information about and support for the bond. Campaign manager Jake Martin worked in a similar role in the 2015 Mayor Hancock re-election effort. As of the most current reporting cycle, the campaign had raised \$1.5 million from individuals and corporate sponsors such as Xcel Energy, Oakwood Homes, the Western Stock Show Association and several law firms. Martin says, “Many of the contributors have a history of supporting civic projects.” He is not aware of any organized opposition but adds, “We are not taking anything for granted. It is fortunate that the bond package was unanimously supported by City Council and I am thankful for the extensive public participation used to shape the proposal.” He said he expects fundraising to exceed the \$1.6 million collected during the 2007 Better Denver campaign.

What is Denver’s history with past citywide GO bonds?

- **1989**—Voters approved \$241.7 million in 10 project categories. Support ranged

from 50.5 percent to 75.6 percent

- **1998**—Voters approved the \$98.6 million “Neighborhood Bond” with five project categories. Support ranged from 58 percent to 64 percent.
- **2007**—Voters approved the \$550 million “Better Denver” bond package with seven categories of capital projects and a tax increase question. Support for the seven capital projects ranged from 52 percent to 66 percent. The eighth vote authorized a new 2.5 mill levy designated for capital maintenance (in addition to the previously existing 8.433 mills devoted to debt service on the general obligation bonds).

By August of this year, 364 of the 387 total bond projects authorized by votes in 2007 had been completed. Seven projects were in design, 14 were under construction and one project had not commenced. Current projects underway include: I-25/Broadway reconstruction from Mississippi to Arizona, Hadley Library Branch renovation, Denver Art Museum Welcome Center buildout, new Galleria canopy lighting at the Denver Performing Arts Complex, new restrooms at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Red Rocks paving and patron amenities, and 13th Street pedestrian streetscape.



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Colfax bus rapid transit rendering



A. Transportation & Mobility Systems

Millions

8th Avenue Bridge Reconstruction (over Platte)	\$8.60
16th Street Mall Plan Implementation	\$13.00
47th and York - Bike Pedestrian Bridge	\$9.40
56th Avenue (Peoria to Pena)	\$27.00
Alameda Ave. Underpass Replacement - Bike/Ped/ADA (Santa Fe to Broadway)	\$7.00
Broadway Corridor Multi-Modal Improvements (Colfax to I-25)	\$12.00
Buchtel & Colorado Blvd Intersection Improvements (includes Colorado Station Bike/Ped)	\$8.40
Central Street Improvements (Central Street Promenade)	\$0.85
Citywide Bike Infrastructure	\$18.00
Colfax Corridor Improvements	\$20.00
Colfax Transit Implementation - Bus Rapid Transit (Auraria to Yosemite)	\$55.00
Connecting Auraria (Auraria Downtown Connection Vision Plan)	\$7.00
Deferred Maintenance (Arterial/Collector Repaving, Curb & Gutter, Major Bridge Rehab)	\$101.00
Federal Boulevard Pedestrian Improvements	\$2.85
Globeville Elyria-Swansea Pedestrian Connectivity Improvements	\$17.00
Hampden Corridor Multimodal Improvements	\$5.00
High Line Canal Connections	\$3.70
Jewell/Evans Station Bike/Pedestrian Bridge	\$13.00
Morrison Road Improvements*	\$12.24
Citywide Sidewalk Construction	\$30.70
W. 13th Avenue Multimodal Reconstruction/Realignment (Federal to South Platte River)	\$16.70
Washington Street Reconstruction (47th to 52nd)	\$23.00
West Colfax Transit Enhancements	\$1.90
Yale Avenue Improvements (I-25 to Quebec)	\$1.00
Yale Station Pedestrian Safety	\$1.20
	\$415.54

B. Cultural Facilities

Millions

Denver Art Museum - North Building Renovation and Transportation Improvements	\$35.50
Denver Arts & Venues - Improvements to Red Rocks Amphitheatre and Buell Theatre	\$6.80
Denver Botanic Gardens - Center for Science, Art & Education	\$18.00
Denver Center for the Performing Arts - Bonfils Theatre Complex Upgrades	\$19.00
Denver Museum of Nature & Science - Critical Deferred Maintenance*	\$17.61
Denver Zoo - Phase One Master Plan Improvements	\$20.00
	\$116.91



C. Denver Health & Hospital Authority

Millions

Denver Health and Hospital Authority (DHHA) Ambulatory Care Center	\$75.00
	\$75.00

Vote in

TOTAL BOND




D. Public Safety System


County Jail Improvements
Fire Station at 72nd & Tower Road
Fire Station Restrooms and Kitchen Upgrades
Improvements to Police Department Buildings*
Police District 5 Replacement
Police District 6 Replacement

Total bond amount includes \$50 million contingency

*Rounded to two decimal places



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What

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- 10:00 Comments & Questions
- 10:15 Panel Discussion

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7 Categories on the Denver Bond

\$937.42 Million*



F. Parks & Recreation System *Millions*

Arkins Court River North Promenade	\$5.00
Bear Valley Tennis Courts Replacement	\$1.80
City Park Playground Replacement	\$2.00
Civic Center - Greek Theater Improvements	\$4.00
Congress Park Pool Reconstruction	\$8.30
Downtown Park Acquisition & Existing Park Improvements - Skyline Park	\$2.50
Green Valley Ranch Indoor Pool	\$15.60
Harvey Park Recreation Center Improvements	\$2.00
Inspiration Point Playground*	\$2.14
Irrigation Renovation Projects	\$5.00
Mountain Parks Conservation Camp Facility Restoration	\$2.00
Neighborhood Park Improvements (playgrounds/courts/walks/picnic sites)	\$15.00
Paco Sanchez Re-imagine Play (Phases II & III)*	\$6.55
Park Maintenance Facilities Improvements	\$2.00
Recreation Center Renovations & Improvements	\$8.00
Sun Valley Park Development - Phase I	\$2.00
Swansea Recreation Center Indoor Pool	\$15.23
Westwood Recreation Center	\$37.50
	\$136.62



G. Public Facilities System *Millions*

ADA Projects/Corrections mandated per Department of Justice	\$10.00
Deferred Maintenance Correction (Facilities Condition Assessment Program)	\$5.00
	\$15.00

E. Library System *Millions*

Athmar Park Branch Library Renovation*	\$2.42
Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library Renovation*	\$2.89
Byers Branch Library Renovation*	\$1.47
Central Library Renovation	\$38.00
Eugene Field Branch Library Renovation*	\$2.15
Pauline Robinson Branch Library Renovation*	\$1.52
Ross Barnum Branch Library Renovation*	\$2.26
Ross-Broadway Branch Library Renovation*	\$2.39
Ross-University Hills Branch Library Renovation*	\$3.20
Schlessman Family Branch Library Renovation	\$3.51
Smiley Branch Library Renovation*	\$1.53
	\$61.34

Millions

\$1.50
\$16.17
\$4.60
\$2.44
\$17.30
\$25.00
\$67.01

Front Porch graphic by Carol Roberts, Steve Larson and John Fernandez



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Lowry-Stapleton Bike Conne

Motor vehicle lane

Bike lane

Buffered bike lane

On-street parking

No on-street parking

This graphic was created by the *Front Porch* to show anticipated block-by-block changes along Syracuse. For more information, go to DenverGov.org and search for Syracuse-corridor. The final plan will be determined after one more public meeting.

By John Fernandez

Lowry and Stapleton will soon have a continuous bike and pedestrian connection. City officials have almost finalized the plans to build bike lanes and sidewalks on Syracuse St. from 8th Ave. in Lowry to 26th Ave. in Stapleton. These recommendations will be not be considered final until one more public meeting is held later this fall. Because the roadway will not be widened, the improvements will be made possible by narrowing travel lanes, by eliminating parking, or eliminating a travel lane in portions of the 1.7-mile corridor. Implementation of the bicycle improvements will take place in 2018. The plans, as presented at a September 13 open house, are described below:

24th to 26th Ave.

No change except the addition of buffering in bike lanes (extra striping to create more distance between cyclists and motor vehicles). Motor vehicle lanes will be narrowed. The city says the road narrowing is feasible due to the moderate traffic volumes.

Montview Blvd. to 24th Ave.

Buffered bike lanes will be added and one lane of motor vehicles each way will be removed to create space for buffering. The city also hopes narrowing to a single lane will help moderate vehicle speeds in this area (as well as from 24th to 26th Ave.)

Montview right turn to Syracuse

The right turn lane from Montview to go north on Syracuse is being closed to slow traffic and also as a safety measure, particularly for school children crossing Montview on their way to Ashley.

11th Ave. to Montview Blvd.

“Conventional” bike lanes will be installed for the first time in this segment. These are like the bike lanes that currently exist on the northern end of Syracuse: a five-foot-wide space delineated by striped lanes. The space for the lanes will come from eliminating parking on one side of the street.

All told in this segment, 120 or more spaces could be eliminated (red lines show where parking is being eliminated). Tweaks to the proposed design could be made as a result of a “parking utilization” study to be conducted this fall for the area centered on the Zion Temple Church at 16th and Syracuse.

8th Ave. to 11th Ave.

Conventional bike lanes are proposed for this three-block stretch. No changes to on-street parking are proposed for this stretch.

Graphic by Carol Roberts and John Fernandez

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Montview

Ashley School loading zone

19th Ave

17th Ave

Zion Temple Church

16th Ave

Colfax

14th Ave

13th Ave

12th Ave

Garden Court Apartments

11th Ave

8th Ave

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McNichols Park

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North

Front Porch – NE Denver

October 2017

26

ction Coming in 2018



Above: Attendees at a Sept. 13 open house view the plans for bike lanes on Syracuse from 8th Ave. to 26th Ave.

Below: The photo rendering shows before and after views of the street.



The enhanced bike facilities along Syracuse are intended to complement the widening of Quebec from 13th to 26th Ave. Right-of-way limitations along Quebec have forced the city to focus bicycle and pedestrian improvements along Syracuse. Although the Quebec widening project is funded, construction there will not begin until at least 2022 because of the need to conduct federally mandated environmental analyses.

Final plans for the Syracuse project

will be developed following a last public open house later this year. The city has set aside \$400,000 for the design and implementation of the bicycle improvements with an additional \$260,000 reserved for construction of missing sidewalks in the corridor.

Detailed project information can be found at the city website: <https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/bicycling-in-denver/planning/syracuse-corridor.html>.

Sculpture Installed in Underpass to Sandhills Prairie Park



Artist David Franklin, with the help of his father, installs his sculpture, Drift Inversion, to the ceiling of the Central Park Blvd. (CPB) bike/pedestrian underpass that connects Sandhills Prairie Park to Northfield High School and homes on the east side of CPB.

By Barbara Neal

“H eads up” takes on new meaning in Sandhills Prairie Park. There’s a new public art installation on the ceiling of the underpass beneath north Central Park Blvd. Entitled Drift Inversion, the sculpture features a series of 258 yellow painted metal profiles suspended throughout the 128-foot concrete tunnel. The dramatic shapes echo the sand dunes that covered this area long before it became the lively urban landscape it is today.

The artist, David Franklin, grew up in the Denver area and was especially attracted to his project. Although he now resides in Indianapolis, Wash., he retains vivid memories of going through the tunnels in Clear Creek Canyon. His intent for this artwork was to create a sense of wonder and surprise for the pedestrians and cyclists using the tunnel. The east/west orientation gives the space transformational qualities throughout the day and throughout the seasons

as light and shadow play on the artwork.

Park Creek Metropolitan District awarded the \$175,000 commission for this artwork on the recommendation of an art selection committee composed of artists, engineers, landscape architects, representatives from Denver Parks and neighbors from this area. The funds for this commission come from the Denver Urban Renewal Authority. Thanks also go to the many engineers, designers and architects who assisted David with the technical requirements of this site and installation of 12,400 components of this unique artwork.

For more information about this sculpture or the Public Art Collection at Stapleton, contact Barbara Neal, public art consultant for Stapleton, at barbneal@mindspring.com.

Read about Sandhills Prairie and other new Denver parks starting on page 1.



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Strengthen, Balance, and Relieve Pain with Pilates



Kinesis Pilates owner, Sophia Briegleb, provides student instruction during a class. Students master the use of specialized equipment to tone and balance muscles and enhance health and well being.

By Anne Hebert
Sophia Briegleb became a Pilates devotee after finding it helped ease her hip pain when other treatment methods had failed. It inspired her to train and become a Pilates Method Alliance (PMA) certified teacher, initially offering classes in her home. Seeing few classical Pilates studios in NE Denver, she looked for a location that could serve clients from Stapleton and nearby neighborhoods—and recently opened her Kinesis Pilates studio at Stanley Marketplace. “The Stanley Marketplace is very supportive of small businesses and the location really meets the demand I’ve found here,” she notes.

Briegleb, with a B.S. in Sports Medicine and an M.S. in

Neuroscience, says being a Pilates instructor combines her passion for teaching with her knowledge of human anatomy. Pilates is a fitness program designed to strengthen, balance, and relieve pain in the body. Certified instructors must complete 950 hours of advanced teacher training. A “whole body” program, Pilates can assist the rehabilitation and recovery process after an injury, or help relieve chronic pain while strengthening and improving overall fitness. “The exercises really bring awareness to movement patterns and help people achieve the mind/body connections required to reach their goals,” says Briegleb. “Pilates has been around for a really long time – and people still find value in the exercises.”

New members of Kinesis Pilates complete six initial private instruction sessions to learn the foundation and principles of Pilates and the proper use of equipment. Students develop



a plan with their instructor during these sessions to address their specific issues and goals. Once the one-on-one sessions are complete, group classes of no more than five participants at a time are available, or students may choose to continue individual instruction. “Many students also reap the benefits of massage, acupuncture and/or chiropractic care,” says Briegleb. “We welcome working with other practitioners so our clients benefit from a harmonious team of therapists.”

Those interested in Kinesis Pilates can visit www.kinesispilatesdenver.com to learn more about the practice of Pilates at the new Stanley Marketplace location. To schedule a tour or speak to an instructor, please call 303.921.7017.

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October & Early November Events

NE DENVER/NW AURORA EVENTS

To 10/9—Stapleton Food Drive. Presented by New Perspective Real Estate. To volunteer/donate, www.StapletonFoodDrive.com

To 10/9—Denver International Airport Sustainable BARKitecture Dog House Competition. 15 creative dog houses built by local architects. Plaza at DIA. Vote until 10/5; bid to buy till 10/9: www.flydenver.com/bark. Proceeds to Dumb Friends League.

To 10/15—Pumpkin Patch and Final Farmers Market. Farmers Markets, The Green at Roslyn St. Sundays. 8:30am–12:30pm. Final market. 10/15 includes annual Pumpkin Patch. For every \$5 spent at vendors booths, get coupon for free pumpkin. Quantities limited. <http://Stapletoncommunity.com>

To 10/31—Free Flu Shots in October. Rose Stapleton ER, 4930 Wabash St. Mon/Wed/Fri 7:30-12:30pm, Sat 10/28, 8am-5pm. 303.577.1500, www.RosestapletoER.com.

To 11/15—DAVA Innovation in Art. By DAVA (Downtown Aurora Visual Arts) youth solving problems, inventing new devices. Free. 1405 Florence St. www.davarts.org, gallery@davarts.org

10/6 to 10/27—Hitchcock Film Festival. Iconic Hitchcock films with Indie Prof Piturro at The Cube, 8371 Northfield Blvd, 6pm; free, open to public. Beer, wine, soda, popcorn available. 10/6: Rear Window. 10/13: Vertigo. 10/20: The Birds. 10/27: Psycho.

10/7 Saturday—CorePower Yoga Fundraising Event for Sexual Assault Prevention. All-levels yoga class, live music to support The Blue Bench (formerly RAAP), a comprehensive sexual assault prevention and support center. The Green at Roslyn St., 5:30pm. Core Power: 303.377.7444. Suggested donation \$30.

10/7 Saturday—Free Compost Workshop with Denver Urban Gardens Master Composters. FREE demonstration/talk on composting 9-10:30am. GPHC, 2823 Fairfax St. <http://greaterparkhill.org/events>

10/10 Tuesday—Swing Night at Stanley

Visit our online calendar
to view more events or submit events
FrontPorchNE.com > Events

Marketplace. West Patio. Free swing dance lessons, live music, family/kid/dog-friendly event. 6-9pm. www.stanleymarketplace.com

10/11 Wednesday—Wine Education Series at The Cube. 7pm. MCA's sit-down tasting of regional wines with wine educator discussion. \$10: <http://stapletoncommunity.com>

10/11 Wednesday—Second Star to the Right and the Denver Public Library Presents Author Dan Santat, After the Fall. Festivities 3:30pm, presentation 4:30, Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. Tickets: secondstartotherightbooks.com or 303.455.1527.

10/11 to 10/31—DCPA Presents The Wild Party at Stanley Marketplace. Interactive musical for guests 21+. Tickets \$45-\$65, 1920s attire encouraged. www.wildpartydenver.com

10/13 Friday—Northfield Stapleton Candy Crawl. Halloween fun, 6pm, Northfield Stapleton. Entertainment, candy, contests, hayrides, crafts. NorthfieldStapleton.com.

10/14 to 10/15—Art Garage Open Studio Tour. 14 local artists open studios tour. 10am-5pm. Free map at The Art Garage, 6100 E. 23rd Ave. Refreshments. 303.377.5413 or www.artgaragedenver.com

10/15 Sunday—Ekar Farm's Annual Farm-to-Fork Dinner. Vegetarian, multi-course meal at SAME Café (2023 E. Colfax Ave.): 5pm and 7:30pm. \$36/person. Register: ekarfarm.org

10/19 Thursday—Concert at The Cube. Dotsero. The Cube, 8371 Northfield Blvd. Free, open to public. 6:30pm

10/21 Saturday—Family-Fun Open House at New Stapleton CareNow Urgent Care. Free bagels, coffee, food trucks,

games, kids' activities. Meet care team; free blood pressure checks. 9am-12:30pm. 3001 N. Havana St. by new King Soopers. 303.584.8133, <http://carenow.com/denver>

10/21 Saturday—Saturday Night Live...For Kids Only! 6-9pm for kids 7-12. Central Park Rec Center. Register child on activenet account or MCA office. <http://Stapletoncommunity.com>

10/28 Saturday—Boo on the Bluff-Trick or Treat Trail at Bluff Lake Nature Center. 10am-1pm. Learn about nature while enjoying treats/crafts. Costume contest. \$5/person, 3 and under free. www.blufflake.org.

10/28 Saturday—Lowry Halloween Festival and School Expo. 3-6 pm. Trick or treat, mini train rides, kids' activities; School Expo with Lowry area schools. www.lowrydenver.com

10/28 Saturday—Aurora Hosts People's Building Sneak Peek. Tour Aurora's newest space for arts-related programming. Refreshments and "Aurora arts sampler" of dance, music, films. 6-8:30pm. 9995 E. Colfax. Free but registration required: VintageTheatre.org or 303.856.7830.

10/29 Sunday—2017 Fall Masterworks "Heavenly Life" – Aurora Symphony Orchestra. 40th ASO anniversary with Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 4 in G Major. www.aurorasymphony.org, <http://2017fallmasterworks.brownpapertickets.com>

10/29 Sunday—Hauntings at the Hangar. Halloween festivities at Wings Over the Rockies Museum. 12-4pm. Free with museum admission. www.wingsmuseum.org

10/29 Sunday—Free Morrison Nature

Center Trick or Treat Trail. Star K Ranch. Booths, scavenger hunt. 1-4pm. 16002 E. Smith Rd. www.auroragov.org/nature

11/3 Friday—Full Moon Hike. Morrison Nature Center, Star K Ranch. 5:45-6:45pm. www.auroragov.org/nature

CIVIC MEETINGS AND EVENTS

10/10 to 10/12—School Board Candidate Forums. By Denver Decides, League of Women Voters and Denver Inc. 10/10 Districts 2(SV) and 4 (NE), 10/12 District 3 (Central) and At Large. www.denverdecides.org

10/12 to 10/14—City Park Golf Course Redesign Meetings. Redesign plans shared; Park Golf Course clubhouse, 2 identical meetings. 10/12 5:30-7:30pm and 10/14 9:30-11:30am. 2500 York St.

10/16 Monday—School Board Elections—Who Is Funding Those Campaigns? League of Women Voters of Denver. 5:30pm. Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St. www.lwvdenver.org

SEASONAL/HOLIDAY EVENTS

(MANY MORE SEASONAL EVENTS ONLINE)

To 10/29—Botanic Gardens Corn Maze. Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield, 8500 W. Deer Creek Canyon Rd. www.botanicgardens.org

To 10/31—Haunted Field of Screams. Denver's largest haunted attraction, with Dead Man's Night Maze and Zombie Paintball Massacre. <http://hauntedfieldofscreams.com/>

To 10/31—Maize in the City. Free 20-acre Craze Corn Field Maze, mini maze, petting zoo, pony rides. 10am-6pm. maizeinthecity.com. 15 minutes from Denver

To 10/31—Nick's Fall Festival. Daily family fun activities. 10/7. Nick's Garden Center, 2001 S. Chambers Rd, Aurora. 303.696.6657, www.nicksgardencenter.com

To 11/11—13th Floor Haunted House. www.13thfloorhauntedhouse.com

(continued on page 30)

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(continued from page 29)

10/7 Saturday—12th Annual Denver Zombie Crawl. 11am-5pm. Skyline Park. www.eyehartbrains.com

10/7 to 10/8—Pumpkin Harvest Festival. Four Mile Historic Park. Horse-drawn wagon rides, pumpkin patch, build a scarecrow. 10am-4pm. 715 S. Forest St. www.fourmilepark.org

10/13 to 10/28—Victorian Horrors at the Molly Brown House. Fri./Sat. evenings, 6-8:45pm. \$16-\$19. Reservations required. Ages 12 and up. www.mollybrown.org

10/18 to 10/26—Glow at the Gardens. Select Wednesdays/Thursdays. 6-9:30pm. Jack-o-lanterns, luminarias, storytellers, scavenger hunts. Tickets: www.botanicgardens.org

10/21 to 10/29—Boo at the Zoo. Weekends. Trick/treat stations, animal demos, family-friendly entertainment. Free with admission. www.denverzoo.org

10/27 to 10/29—Trick or Treat Street at The Children’s Museum. 9am-7:30pm. Trick/treat stations, Halloween activities included in admission. www.mychildsmuseum.org

10/28 to 10/29—Colorado Railroad Museum’s Trick or Treat Train. Rides/activities. 10am-4pm. Ticket prices: www.coloradorailroadmuseum.org

DENVER METRO EVENTS

10/1 Sunday—15th Annual Balistreri Vineyards Harvest Party. Balistreri Vineyards, 1946 E. 66th Ave. 12-5pm. Tickets: www.balistrerivineyards.com

10/1 Sunday—Be the Astronaut Exhibit Grand Opening, Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum. All ages interactive exhibit developed with NASA. 7711 E. Academy Blvd. www.wingsmuseum.org

10/6 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Santa Fe Arts District, Tennyson Art Walk, River North (RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Museum, Navajo Street Art District. www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

10/7 Saturday—Carousel Ball. Hyatt Regency Denver. Rock icon Lenny Kravitz performs. Benefits Children’s Diabetes Foundation: www.childrensdiabetesfoundation.org/event/carousel-ball/

10/10 Tuesday—Ignite! Nite: Story. Adult after-hours at History Colorado Center; different theme monthly. Members free. Ticket nonmember prices: www.historycolorado.org

10/13 Friday—Journey to the Uncanny Valley. Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys explores why dolls and clowns give the creeps. 1880 Gaylord St. Costumes encouraged. Discretion advised for younger kids. education@dmmtdt.org or 303.322.1053. www.eventbrite.com/e/journey-to-the-uncanny-valley-tickets-37540314090

10/14 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. Free with admission, Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-2pm. www.wingsmuseum.org

10/14 to 10/15—Maker Faire Denver. All ages. Inspires, educates. 120 U.S./UK exhibitors with hands-on activities in arts, technology, fabrication of all kinds, Combat Bot competition, Build your Own Drone Workshop, etc. 10am-5pm, Denver Mart. Denver. makerfaire.com

10/20 Friday—Stepping Up! Warren Village Gala. Cocktail reception, silent/live auctions, music by Phat Daddy, seated dinner. 6-10pm, The Pinnacle Club at The Grand Hyatt Denver, 555 17th St. Benefits low-income, single-parent families working toward self-sufficiency. Register: <https://warrenvillage.org/stepping-up-2017/>

10/21 Saturday—4th Annual Couture For Confidence. Silent auction, drinks, appetizers and fashion show to support Bella Boutique, providing free prom outfits to high school girls with financial need. Tickets: www.bella-boutiquedenver.org/events

10/21 to 10/22—Repticon 2017. Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, vendors offer reptile pets, cages, merchandise, live animal seminars. www.repticon.com

10/26 to 10/28—Rocky Mountain Weavers Guild Annual Sale. Unique handwoven, home décor, Live textile demos. Kids welcome. Free admission/parking. Englewood Civic Center, 1000 Englewood Pkwy. Hours: <http://rmweaversguild.org/fiber-arts-sale-2>

10/28 Saturday—Black Genealogy Heritage Festival. Denver Public Library Main Branch, 10 W 14th Ave. Pkwy. 9:30am-3:30pm. www.bgsdgen.org

10/28 Saturday—Spirits & Spirits. Explore Victorian mysticism/superstition.

21+. 6-9pm. Four Mile Historic Park, 715 S. Forest St. 720.865.0800. No pets/smoking. www.fourmilepark.org/events, www.fourmilehistoricpark.eventbrite.com

10/28 to 10/29—Westernaires Annual Horsecapades Show. World’s largest precision drill team. National Western Complex. Tickets at door or from Westernaires members. www.westernaires.org

11/4 Saturday—Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Celebration. Traditional Aztec dancing, crafts, face painting. 9am-3pm. Free with admission. Denver Botanic Gardens. www.botanicgardens.org

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

To 12/20—Jewish Aging Mastery Program for Older Adults. 12-week program every Wed. 10-11:45am, Staenberg-Loup Jewish Community Center. \$150. <https://www.jccdenver.org/event/jamp/>

10/20 Friday—Scream Scram 5K. Benefits Boys and Girls Clubs of Denver. Washington Park. 6:30pm. Prizes for costumes, Trick or Treat Street, 100-meter kids dash. www.bgcmd.org/events/scream-scam

KIDS AND FAMILIES

10/3 to 10/31—October Tuesdays Four Mile Historic Park Small Settlers. Ages 2-5 with parent/caregiver. 9-10am. \$5/child, adults and members free. 715 S. Forest St. Advance register: 720.865.0814 or education@fourmilepark.org

10/13 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Hay Bales and Tall Tales. 12-1pm. Free with admission. 715 S. Forest St. www.fourmilepark.org

10/21 Saturday—Pumpkin Carving at Next Door American Eatery. 2 seatings: 3pm and 5pm. \$10 includes pumpkin, carving kit, kid’s drink. Reserve: bit.ly/eastbridgepumpkins. 10155 E. 29th Dr., #160. www.nextdooreatery.com

10/24 Tuesday—Inside the Orchestra Tiny Tots Concert. Temple Emanuel, 51 Grape St. 9:30am and 10:45am. Tickets. www.insidetheorchestra.com

10/27 Friday—Disney in Concert: Tim Burton’s The Nightmare Before Christmas. Colorado Symphony, Boettcher Concert Hall. 7:30pm. Family-friendly pre-concert activities, 6:30pm. www.coloradosymphony.org

10/28 Saturday—Colorado Symphony: Halloween Spooktacular! Boettcher Concert Hall 7:30pm. Family- friendly pre-concert activities, 6:30pm. www.coloradosymphony.org

LECTURES AND CLASSES

10/2 Monday—The Upside of Stress: Applying to Positive Psychology. This and more classes at Colorado Free University, 303.399.0093. 6-9pm. CFU Lowry: 1st & Quebec. Fees: www.freeuregistration.com

10/10 Tuesday—Lowry Speaker Series Presents: “Denver Zoo: Wildlife Conservation and What It Means to Be a Zoo Today.” 7-8:30pm. Eisenhower Chapel, 293 Roslyn St. Free. Brian Aucone, senior VP animal care/conservation, addresses commitment to animals globally. Karen House: 303.757.7658.

10/12 Thursday—Active Minds Presents: Take a Bite of the Big Apple. Free MCA public program. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 6:45–7:45pm. No place like NYC, its history and energy. <http://Stapletoncommunity.com>

10/26 Tuesday—Free Winterize Your Garden Workshop. Seed/instructions provided plus giveaway! 6-7:30pm. GPHC, 2823 Fairfax St. www.greaterparkhill.org

10/26 Thursday—Active Minds Presents Monsters and Legends. 6:45–7:45pm. World of monsters/legends from vampires of Eastern Europe to werewolves and zombies. <http://Stapletoncommunity.com>

10/26 Thursday—Active Minds Presents: Putin’s Russia RSVP: 303.770.7673. Rosemark Senior Living, 833 Jersey. 9:30-11:30am. Free. <http://activeminds.com>

11/4 Saturday—Montview Distinguished Lecture Series. Rev. Dr. Teresa Fry Brown explores “Living Boldly with Compassion and Justice in Uncertain Times.” 9am-12pm, Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St. 303.355.1651. www.montview.org

MUSEUMS—DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE

www.dmns.org

To 1/1/18—Nature’s Amazing Machines. Free with admission.

To 10/31—IMAX. Mysteries of China 3D (ends 10/5) Incredible Predators 3D (ends 10/5) Dream



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Big 3D: Engineering Our World; Conquests of the Sky 3D (Opens 10/6)

10/6 to 1/15/18—Ultimate Dinosaurs. Free with admission.

10/19 Thursday—Science Lounge: Blood Curdling Beasts. Cocktails/entertainment 3rd Thurs. monthly. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/nonmembers.

MUSEUMS—FREE DAYS

SCFD/Target Free Days

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

10/3 Tuesday—Children’s Museum Free Target Tuesday. 4-8pm. www.cmdenver.org

10/7 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day. www.denverartmuseum.org

10/13 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Free Day. 2nd Friday, 12-4pm. www.fourmilepark.org

10/16 Monday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science Free Day. (Fossil Day) www.dmns.org

10/27 Friday—Clyfford Still Museum. Also, free admission last Friday monthly all day and every Friday 5-8pm. 1250 Bannock St. www.clyffordstillmuseum.org

11/4 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.denverartmuseum.org

11/5 Sunday—Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys Free Day. www.dmmtdt.org

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

More events at: www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

10/4 to 11/26—7th Annual Refuge Amateur Photo Contest. Vote for favorite in Visitors Center; winners announced early Dec.

10/7 Saturday—Kids Fishing Clinic. 10am-12pm. Hands-on clinic kids ages 6+. Loan poles available. RSVP required.

10/7 Saturday—Wildlife Viewing Tour. 9:30-11:00am, refuge bus. Repeats 10/28. RSVP required.

10/14 Saturday—Refuge Day. 10am-2pm.

10/21 Saturday—The Masked Bandit. 10am-10:45am. Learn about refuge’s black-footed ferrets.

10/22 Sunday—Fall Hike n Bird. 9-11:30am. Guided hike explores woodland, wetland and prairie habitats. Able to hike 3 miles. RSVP required.

THEATRE

To 10/7—The Mystery of Love and Sex. John Hand Theater, 7653 E. 1st Pl., Lowry. www.firehousetheatercompany.com

To 10/8—The Country Wife. Metropolitan State Univ. of Denver Theatre Dept. Tickets: 303.556.2296

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

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

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

10/6 to 10/15—Dracula. Colorado Ballet. Ellie Caulkins Opera House. www.coloradoballet.org

10/8 Sunday—Mystery Radio Theatre. 7pm. Vintage Theatre. \$10. www.vintagetheatre.com

10/14 to 11/11—Buyer and Cellar. Spotlight Theater Company at John Hand Theater, 7653 E. 1st Pl. in Lowry. www.thisisspotlight.com

10/20 to 12/31—Comedy Sportz. Avenue Theatre, 417 E. 17th Ave. www.avenuetheater.com

11/3 to 12/17—Honeymoon in Vegas. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St., Aurora. www.vintagetheatre.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

10/31 Tuesday—Food Bank of the Rockies Volunteer Opportunity. Denver Stapleton Rotary Club volunteers from 7:30-11:30am. Details/RSVP: www.facebook.com/DenverStapletonRotaryClub. http://facebook.com/DenverStapletonRotaryClub


Ronald McDonald Family Rooms at Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children. At Presbyterian/St. Luke’s Hospital for once-a-week commitment, 6-month minimum. www.ronaldhouse.org under “How You Can Help” for info.

Single Volunteers of Greater Denver. Volunteer, not-for-profit singles group, meet others and assist nonprofit organizations. 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.

Project Worthmore. Nonprofit organization of committed community volunteers who mentor, befriend refugee neighbors. 1532 Galena St., Ste. 380. 720.460.1393

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Try Out These Alternative Transportation Pilot Projects

By John Fernandez

Starting this month, two alternative mode transportation pilot projects are getting underway in Stapleton. They are sponsored by Northeast Transportation Connections (NETC), the transportation management nonprofit that serves Stapleton and other northeast Denver neighborhoods.

Sundays, October to December, 10am–2pm

Free eTuk Ride from 29th Ave. Town Center to Stanley

The eTuk is an electric version of the three-wheeled rickshaws found in developing countries from Southeast Asia to Latin America. NETC, with support from the Stapleton Foundation, has contracted with

eTuk Denver to bring two of the vehicles to Stapleton for a three-month test of a circulator between the 29th Ave. Town Center and Stanley Marketplace. The circulator will run from 10am to 2pm on Sundays beginning in October. Rides will be free and wait times at each end and at the two intermediate stops are anticipated to be in the five-minute range. The pilot will run through the end of the year.

The vehicles are street-legal but restricted to roadways posted for top speeds of 35 miles per hour or less. They are heated and can seat six. Eric Herbst, of NETC, cautions that the vehicles won't run in snowy conditions. Herbst says the service will test the value of eTuks in providing the so-called "first mile/last mile" transportation seen as a necessary complement to mass transit systems such as RTD's FasTracks rail service. If the pilot is successful, NETC will be looking at expanding the circulator to include the Central Park Station and North Stapleton.

Best bike routes to Stanley Marketplace

BikeHere.com — Routes from North Stapleton, City Park, Lowry and Anschutz Campus

Arleigh Greenwald has taken it upon herself to encourage bike usage by providing potential riders with turn-by-turn descrip-

tions of safe rides to popular destinations. Greenwald, a Stapleton resident, has created BikeHere.com, where riders can access route descriptions including maps and videos of the routes. Initial routes will use Stanley Marketplace as the destination, with pre-tested routes originating from the Anschutz Medical Campus, Lowry Town Center, City Park and North Stapleton. (These routes to Stanley are shown under the "casual" rides link.)



Free eTuk rides will be offered from the 29th Ave. Town Center to Stanley Marketplace on Sundays from 10am to 2pm from October to December.

Greenwald cites research that 60 percent of the general population refrains from biking due to safety and wayfinding concerns. Having moved here from the East Coast four years ago, she found Colorado to be well supplied with recreation and sport-oriented biking facilities but not so well set up for the use of bicycles as a basic transportation tool. In describing her BikeHere program, she said, "Think of Yelp for food reviews applied to bike routes." Indeed, the website allows for crowdsourcing to keep route information current and at the level of detail needed to provide cautious users the reassurance needed to head out on two wheels. Her goal is to "empower people to use that bike sitting in the garage."

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October Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9am Zumba (MLK Rec Center) 6:30pm Guts, Butts & Cardio (Central Park Rec Center)	2 5:30pm Block Captain Training (RSVP at 303.468.3228) 6pm Healthy Cooking (Hiawatha Davis Rec Center)	3 9am Zumba (MLK Rec Center) 6pm Healthy Cooking (Central Park Rec Center)	4 5:30pm Block Captain Training (RSVP at 303.468.3228) 6:30pm Yoga (Hiawatha Davis Rec Center)	5 9:15am Zumba (MLK Rec Center) 10:30am Boot Camp (Hiawatha Davis Rec Center)	6 5:30pm Block Captain Training (RSVP at 303.468.3228)	7 12:30pm Share Fair (Northfield Apartments)
8	9 5:30pm Block Captain Training (RSVP at 303.468.3228) 2018-2025 be well's Community Action Plan*	10	11 5:30pm Block Captain Training (RSVP at 303.468.3228)	12 2018-2025 be well's Community Action Plan*	13 2018-2025 be well's Community Action Plan*	14
15	16 5:30pm Block Captain Training (RSVP at 303.468.3228) 2018-2025 be well's Community Action Plan*	17	18 5:30pm Block Captain Training (RSVP at 303.468.3228)	19	20	21
22	23 2018-2025 be well's Community Action Plan*	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

***What is Your Vision for the be well Zone Neighborhood?**
Join us as we develop be well's 2018-2025 Community Action Plan held at Stapleton Foundation.
RSVP at 303.468.3228

Now Accepting Nominations!

Salute those who volunteer their time or go above and beyond their professional responsibility to motivate others, initiate change and/or provide key services to advance healthy lifestyles in the be well Zone! Nominations are now being accepted for the 8th Annual be well Awards & Community Celebration. Help us identify these incredible individuals who make a difference in our communities by logging on to www.bewellconnect.org and registering your nominee!

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Central Park Rec Center
9651 MLK Blvd, Denver, CO 80238
Hiawatha Davis Rec Center - 3334 Holly St, Denver, CO 80207
Martin Luther King (MLK) Rec Center - 3880 Newport St, Denver, CO 80207
Northfield Apartments - 4900 North Trenton Street, Denver, CO 80238
Stapleton Foundation - 7350 E 29th Ave, Suite 200, Denver CO 80238

Bike Drive Brings Transportation to Africa



Bicycles for Humanity Director, David Hewitt and Leah Grossman unload bicycles donated by Stapleton resident Paul Frohardt. The bicycles will be sent to Africa to provide needed transportation.

it might be the perfect service project for her. Searching online and contacting

the non-profit organization helped her start a bike drive to collect over 60 bikes to donate. Using local social media sites has helped her raise awareness about the charity and her project.

Grossman says the idea of BFH had special

appeal to her because it “makes the biggest little impact.” She says, “For the people who get bikes, it really matters.”

BFH donates bikes to locally owned and operated shops in Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and Namibia. They are sold and maintained at minimal cost to individuals who rely on them for their sole or primary transportation.

Grossman, who attends Denver School of the Arts (DSA), will continue collecting bikes through the fall. To donate a bike, please email Arturo.lbarra@centurylink.com. To learn more about Bicycles for Humanity or to make a monetary donation to help ship bikes to Africa, please visit www.b4hcolorado.org.

By Anne Hebert

Preparing for her November 2017 Bat Mitzvah, 13 year-old Leah Grossman remembered seeing a Bicycles for Humanity (BFH) flyer and thought

Park Hill Youth Earns Eagle Scout Honors



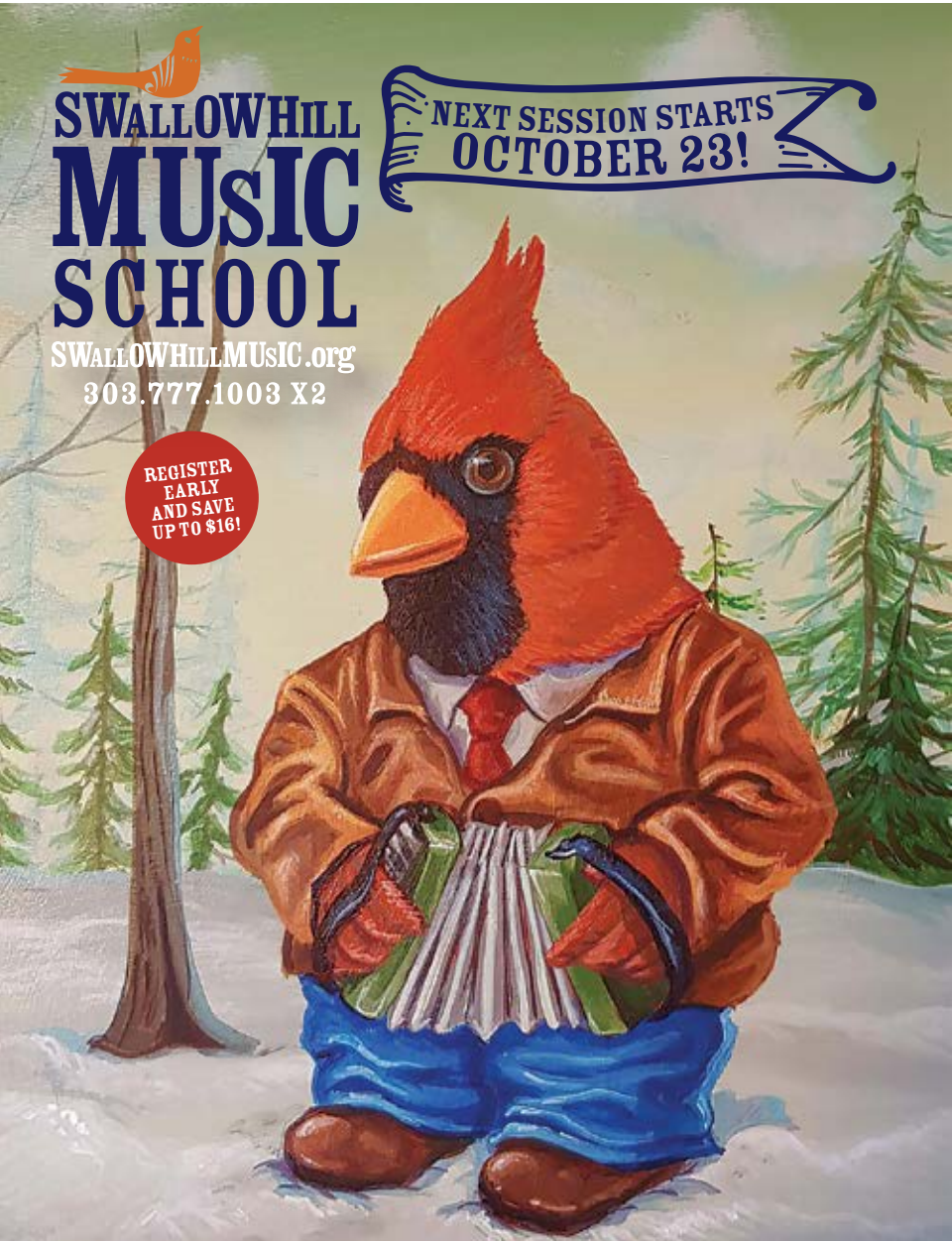
Tom Cassidy repainted the children’s education room at his church and created the mural of Noah’s ark.

By Anne Hebert

Park Hill teen Tom Cassidy earned his Eagle Scout award through a multi-year, dedicated focus, earning over

21 merit badges and completing a 160-hour Eagle service project.

Cassidy also received bronze, silver and gold “palm” awards. (continued on page 38)



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Positive Reinforcement Teaches Kids Swim and

By Anne Hebert

Stapleton residents Patrick and Amy Turner, parents of two children ages 7 and 3, have introduced the Goldfish Swim School business model, and its mascot Bubbles, to NE Denver. Amy says comprehensive lessons teach children how to swim with an emphasis on the importance of water safety skills.

Using a competency-based curriculum built on recognition, praise and positive reinforcement, the swim school offers classes that allow children to advance at their own pace. Instead of defined sessions, the monthly swim school membership is similar to a gym membership. "There is no set time limit for kids to learn new skills," says

Patrick Turner. "Kids progress at a pace that is comfortable for them."

Swimming lessons are offered for children ages 4 months to 12 years. Parent/child lessons are available for the youngest swimmers; independent lessons for children begin at age 2. Little swimmers are given "homework" that can be practiced in the bathtub at home. Older kids can practice their skills at family swim sessions offered throughout the week.

Designed with a vibrant, tropical decor, the school has a comfortable parent observation area with free Wi-Fi and a play area for siblings. Pool water is maintained at 90 degrees to ensure "shiver-free" swimming. Staffed by experienced, trained and certified swim instructors, class sizes are small to



Above: Amy Turner helps students learn basic swim and safety skills.

Right: Children staying at the Ronald McDonald house take a swimming lesson donated by Goldfish Swim School owners Patrick and Amy Turner.



provide individual attention to each student. Parents receive student progress reports and children earn colorful ribbons to mark skill advancement or the accomplishment of a water safety skill.

With a blow-dry station and swim suit dryers, gone are the days when kids freeze in the car on the way home and moldy smelling suits are discovered in a forgotten swim bag. Items like goggles, suits and reusable

swim diapers (required at the pool) can be purchased at the on-site Treasure Island Pro Shop. Hungry swimmers can purchase healthy, \$1 snacks at the center's Snack Shack. Birthday party packages are available by reservation.

The Turners and Goldfish Swim School are committed to community involvement, providing free water safety presentations to community groups and schools. Scout

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Water Safety Skills



Above: Patrick Turner introduces the Goldfish Swim School Mascot, Bubbles, to a young swimmer. Bubbles is used as an interactive tool to teach water skills.

Left: Drying hair at the swim school's blow dry bar is part of the fun.



troops can participate in an activity at the school to earn an achievement badge. Children with special needs are welcome to join classes or take private lessons. “We do everything we can to accommodate special needs in a group class or a one-on-one setting. Staff and instructors work closely with parents to determine what will best suit a child’s ability so they have fun while learning water skills and safety,” Amy explains.

To schedule a tour or register for swimming lessons, visit www.stapletongoldfishswimschool.com or call 303.757.SWIM.



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Meet CORA — A Citizen's Best Friend

If you want to be an informed citizen but can't go to all the public meetings and track down all the public documents, you'll be happy to know the Colorado legislature has taken a step that will help you. On the last day of the 2017 session, lawmakers passed a bipartisan bill that strengthens the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA). Originally passed in 1968 it allows any person to request public records. The requester is not required to state a purpose, even if asked.

Senate Bill 17-040. The new legislation addresses how CORA records are provided—it adds the stipulation that the requested records must be provided in a searchable or sortable format if the records are maintained that way. The need to update the law became clear after the *Fort Collins Coloradoan* newspaper requested compensation information from Colorado State University to write an article comparing pay raises in different staff positions. Instead of providing access to the electronic database, the university provided 145 photographed images from it. The newspaper then spent several weeks re-building the database from these images so they could do comparisons and analysis.

Sunshine is the best disinfectant. We applaud the bipartisan legislators who recognized the need for this update to CORA. A healthy democracy depends on the free flow of information—or as stated in the new *Washington Post* motto, "Democracy dies in darkness."

With government growing in complexity and the number of journalists declining, citizen involvement is as important as it has ever been. However, it's impossible for citizens to attend all the meetings and read all the documents. Journalists do attend the meetings, and now this valuable tool has been strengthened to allow access to data that otherwise might have been hidden.

Front Porch CORA Requests. The *Front Porch* has regularly used CORA to obtain information, including for recent articles on A Line train horns, a sound wall on the proposed extension of Martin Luther King Blvd., and contaminated fill material used in Stapleton-Aurora development.

Our Unsuccessful Efforts to Get Public Information. Unfortunately, obtaining materials produced under a public/private partnership has not always been a straightforward process. On several occasions, Stapleton developer Forest City has presented material to the Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) and its committees, but has been unwilling to release it to the *Front Porch*.

A few years ago, during the planning for the 26th Ave. Park in the Stapleton Aurora development, the *Front Porch* requested the color plans shown by Forest City at a public meeting of the Citizens Advisory Board highlighting the features of that long-awaited park. Our request for the plans (which were produced using funds from taxpayer financing for

the development) was denied. In order to share the information with the public, we used the black and white line drawing Forest City had submitted to Aurora's planning department and spent hours recreating a color version that highlighted the various features of the park.

Such withholding of public information from the community is a disservice to residents whose tax money is paying for the development. These meetings, convened to discuss public business, are defined as "public" under Colorado's Sunshine Laws*—but if the materials from the meeting are withheld from the press, that information will be known only to those in the room. And here's additional clarification that these meetings are subject to CORA: The Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC) was found in a 2000 lawsuit brought by *The Denver Post* to be subject to CORA since it serves as an instrument of the City to oversee the development of Stapleton. CAB and its committees are organizationally under SDC and report to SDC.

CORA Request for Stapleton Development Information. This past April, Forest City refused, with no reason given (despite multiple requests), to share graphics for the Central Park Station transit-oriented development that were shown at a Citizens Advisory Board meeting. In this case, the *Front Porch* followed up with a CORA request to the Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC).

In response, SDC staff said at the April SDC meeting they could not provide the requested information because "SDC did not make the presentation and the presentation was not distributed." The SDC president, the SDC board members who spoke, and the city's representative all sided with Forest City's argument that it was appropriate to withhold the information because it was still a concept, not a final plan. The co-chair of the Citizen's Advisory Board, however, did speak out for the community, saying he supported the CORA request. He added that he believes the public understands what "preliminary" or concept plans are and it made him uneasy that SDC board members (people appointed to represent the community) just left the decision in Forest City's hands.

How We Finally Got Information. About five weeks after the SDC meeting, the *Front Porch* saw the story in *The Denver Post* and the *Denver Business Journal*. We again requested the material and got what the other papers had. We give Forest City full credit for successfully creating a neighborhood of beautiful homes and parks that residents love. But, we think withholding information presented at a public meeting is a disservice to the community, particularly since we routinely give Forest City articles about Stapleton development for fact-checking prior to publication. And we were disappointed that SDC did not support the community's right to see what was presented at public meetings. (Forest City, SDC staff and board chair, and CAB co-chair were all given a copy of this editorial for fact-checking prior to publication with an offer to run a response from any of them.)

The Front Porch will continue to use CORA. The implication of the SDC Board's response to our CORA request is that the public should learn about a development proposal only after it becomes final. This turns the development review process on its head. The purpose of such a process is precisely to obtain public input. And in the case of Stapleton, with the land owned by Denver (i.e., the citizens), efforts to withhold information presented at public meetings are even less justifiable.

The approaching build-out of Stapleton does not mean the need for public information is over. Many site planning and governance issues remain. They include Forest City performance on its affordable housing obligations, completion of key infrastructure, debt levels and repayment schedule, and relations between the special district that collects tax for Stapleton development and the special district that uses the tax revenue for development.


If anything, a tool like CORA is especially important in a place like Stapleton that has a very complex public/private development arrangement. We encourage members of the public to take advantage of their rights under CORA and Colorado's Sunshine Law.*

Information about these laws and how to file a CORA request can be found at the Colorado Freedom of Information Coalition web site (coloradofaic.org).

*Colorado's Sunshine Law states that all meetings of "public bodies" convened to discuss public business must be open to the public. Meetings are defined as two or more members of state entities such as the General Assembly, or three or more members of local public bodies such as city councils.

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Eyes on Neighborhood Watch

By Melinda Pearson

“In Stapleton, crimes are overwhelmingly property crimes and crimes of opportunity,” says Lt. Ian Culverhouse, who presides over the Stapleton/Northfield section of Denver Police Department’s District 5.

And while Culverhouse insistently repeats the prevention mantra—close garage doors, keep porch lights on at night, check to make sure doors and windows are locked—he also wants to get the word out about the updated Neighborhood Watch program.

“Studies have shown that thoughtful communication between residents and the police department reduces crime and creates safer neighborhoods,” says Culverhouse. To that end, District 5 promotes a very simple, straightforward Neighborhood Watch program.

It doesn’t require participants to engage in mandatory training or go to meetings. It’s a partnership between the police and the citizens. “This program really is for the community and by the community,” says Culverhouse.

“In a nutshell ... it is just encouraging the community to come together and get to know the neighbors on your block,” says Culverhouse. When a crime occurs or there is information that he thinks is important to get out to the community, the lieutenant will send it to volunteer Neighborhood Watch block captains, who in turn will send it out to their neighbors. “All we ask is that you simply be a representative for your block so that we have a conduit to pass along information.”

Block captains can use email, social media or even the old-fashioned telephone call, said Culverhouse, whatever it takes to communicate to their neighbors

Culverhouse described a recent instance where he sent out information to block captains on a burglary suspect who was active in the area. “The very next day, a resident who had seen my email and pictures saw this individual on a bicycle riding to the Walmart. She called 911 and kept eyes on him until we were able to safely take him into custody. It was fantastic, and it was all because she had just seen the message on Neighborhood Watch.”

Currently in Stapleton, almost 250 people are signed up as block captains in the program, but Culverhouse says more are needed. Volunteer coordinator Tracy Korabic says currently the gaps are most acute in the new areas of Conservatory Green, Willow Park East, Wicker Park and Beeler Park. “If you’re not getting my emails or you don’t know who your Neighborhood Watch captain is, sign up!” urges Culverhouse.

To sign up for the program or find out who your block captain is, email Tracy Korabic at tkorabic@gmail.com or learn more from Lt. Culverhouse at ian.culverhouse@denvergov.org. In addition, the DPD will no longer be using social media, like Facebook, instead using PocketGov for communication. Residents can go to www.denvergov.org/pocketgov and click on “DPD Virtual Neighborhood” for additional crime alerts.

Farm Fest



At The Urban Farm’s (TUF) annual Farm Fest, Sam Gary Librarian Lily Rose Kosmicki reads a story as a goat tries to eat the sign. On Saturday, September 23, 350 visitors joined in festivities that included petting and grooming numerous farm animals, farm-related crafts and activities, music and food.

The event raised almost \$3,000 that will go toward fitting out the interior of the farm’s new Gompers Greenhouse (named for the major donor). Harold Skramstad, TUF’s board president, says they need an additional \$15,000 for doors, heating, plumbing, and fixturing that will give them a year-round growing space—and a teaching space for field trips and other classes at the farm.

For more information, visit TheUrbanFarm.org. The Urban Farm is located at 10200 Smith Rd., Denver. They can be reached at 303-307-9332 or info@TheUrbanFarm.org.

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Eagle Scout
(continued from page 33) These awards signify the scout has earned, respectively, 10, 15, and more than 15 merit badges beyond the 21 required for an Eagle Scout honor.

Cassidy performed his Eagle service project at his church, Christ the King. “My church has been a pretty foundational place for me since I moved to Colorado,” he says. Giving a facelift to a room that was in disrepair, Cassidy recruited his dad, brother and a team of school friends to re-paint the entire room, including a Noah’s Ark mural on one wall. The updated room will be used for religious education for young children.

Cassidy relocated to Colorado from New York with his family in 2015. There, he belonged to a troop with a 100 year history. He says its been fun to join Stapleton Troop 34 and have the opportunity to help them grow.

Cassidy will graduate from Regis Jesuit High School this spring and plans to join the military, applying to West Point and the U.S. Naval Academy. Passionate about history and economics, he hopes to study those subjects in college.

City Buys Park Hill Golf Course

By John Fernandez
The City of Denver announced on September 21 that they will purchase the 155-acre Park Hill Golf Course from Clayton Early Learning Trust. A City Council committee will consider the draft agreement early in October. Evan Dreyer, the mayor’s deputy chief of staff, says he hopes to have formal City Council agreement before the end of the month.

Charlotte Brantley, CEO and president of Clayton, said the deal satisfies the trust’s need for a \$24 million fund whose investment proceeds would be used to fund its mission of providing early childhood education. Clayton has been receiving \$700,000 annual lease payments from the golf course operator whose lease is set to expire at the end of 2018. Brantley hopes the golf course sale will allow Clayton to generate annual revenue of \$1 million.

The agreement calls for the purchase in two phases: city acquisition of an initial 80 acres for \$10 million and a lease-to-purchase of the remaining 75 acres with annual payments to Clayton of \$350,000 over 30 years. These transactions would take place in January 2019, at the end of the golf course lease. The two transactions would generate \$20.5 million for Clayton, with the balance (\$3.5 million) made up from future sales on older land transactions.

The agreement does not specify what the future land use will be of the Clayton land. It has been a golf course for more than 100 years. Clayton’s visioning process has revealed strong interest by neighbors in retaining much of the land as open space. Affordable housing and retail have also been advocated by residents participating in the planning process. “The agreement contemplates really a full spectrum of possibilities,” ranging from open space to “full development,” said Dreyer. The likely outcome is somewhere in between, he said.



Jamie Hodgkins favors changing Stapleton’s name. She spoke at both the SUN meeting (above left) and at the CAB meeting (below right).

Gregory Diggs (right) says whereas the rest of the #ChangeTheNameStapleton group will use Martin Luther King-style methods to peacefully but insistently push their cause, he will be an agitator. “When we have peaceful conversations, there’s no urgency.”

Far right: Justin Ross (left) and Tom Gleason (right) listen to Jamie Hodgkins talk about the cultural importance of symbols.



Stapleton Name (continued from page 1)

told the group that any community can change its name with a vote of 67% of homeowners, but it is very difficult legally. From the first sale of land to Forest City, the property was legally named Stapleton. From that point on, the name Stapleton has been tied to all zoning documents with the city. All the deeds, title documents and mortgages contain the word Stapleton in the legal property descriptions.

In response to that information, a member of the audience spoke up. “We’re talking about the branding, the signage. The name of our neighborhood association.”

Bryan Penny, one of the founders of the neighborhood association acknowledged, “I think the name of our neighborhood association could send a signal to these other things... but give us the time so we can make...the best decision for the community.” Not, he said, a rash decision that could come back to haunt them.

SUN Board President Amanda Allshouse read an Inclusivity Action Plan—actions the organization will take to promote the goals of inclusivity and diversity (listed on page 40). But with ten minutes allocated for comments, the #ChangeTheNameStapleton attendees were more focused on presenting their demand that SUN remove Stapleton from its name than on hearing the legalities or SUN’s action plan.

The first speaker, Gregory Diggs, pointed out that the community responded quickly when swastikas were painted on a local school. And it responded quickly to condemn Charlottesville in a public letter. “We didn’t have to wait for consensus or a vote. At a time the country is dismantling its monuments to white supremacy, it is time for us to dismantle ours.”

Caley Orr offered empathy to those who are on the fence about changing the name. “I was initially on the fence. I thought, “What does it matter? There are bigger fish to fry. But we are the privileged people, surrounded on all sides by areas that have much different demographics than we do. We have to find a way to make this change. We can come up with another way to brand and name the place we live, whether it’s legally or not.”

As the meeting ended, a voice in the room called out, “If I had to wait for community consensus, I would still be a slave.” Another voice added, “No change ever came from consensus, ever.”

At another meeting, a sub-committee of Stapleton’s Citizens Advisory Board (CAB), a group has gathered monthly for many years to talk about ways to promote more affordable housing and diversity in Stapleton. #ChangeTheNameStapleton brought their cause to be discussed at that group’s September meeting—and following that meeting, the issue was placed on CAB’s September agenda for discussion by the larger group.

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As an anthropologist, she says, “Symbols are incredibly important and they actually drive culture.” Amanda Allshouse (above right), president of Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN), informed the group of SUN’s Inclusivity Action Plan and reads its eight points.

Keven Burnett, executive director of the Stapleton MCA, talks about the technicalities that would be involved to officially change the name. The name Stapleton is tied to all zoning documents with the city. And every property’s deeds, title documents and mortgage contains the word Stapleton in the property’s legal description.



was raised—people will just keep using the old name. The example of Fitzsimons/Anschutz was cited. Oldtimers may call it Fitzsimons, but Caley Orr, who works there, said the younger generation, at least, calls it Anschutz. “In a generation,” he says, “it will change.”

Tom Gleason pointed out that Forest City has named all the neighborhoods, streets and parks and not one has Stapleton in the name—and added that the vision was that individual neighborhoods, like Eastbridge or Conservatory Green would develop their own neighborhood identities.

Diane Deeter of the Stapleton MCA followed Gleason’s statement by telling the group that Forest City recently hosted a new homes event, and the marketing material did not have the Stapleton logo on it, “the first time that’s happened,” she said.

Landri Taylor, Stapleton Foundation president, reminded the group that the founding fathers were white supremacists who owned slaves, “But we’re not renaming the Constitution.” And he pointed to all the work that’s been done to create a community with businesses that provide employment where none existed before.

Wagenlander, the CAB chair encouraged everyone to continue to have civil discussions, adding, “Inflaming this issue will turn off people we need to convince to do this [create more diversity]. CAB will address this and the greater issue strategically and tactfully and work with people of all opinions as long as they are interested in making Stapleton more diverse and have more affordable housing.”



CAB chair Jim Wagenlander said CAB has “consistently and continuously pushed for more diversity at Stapleton.” He added that changing the name “for some is a tactic to increase diversity and for others it’s a way to attack racism and bigotry.” He saw the discussion as an opportunity to explore the best and most effective means to increase diversity in the community.

Justin Ross, one of the earliest Stapleton residents said, “I think symbolically it’s an easy thing. I don’t think the long line of people prepared to buy homes in Stapleton would stop buying homes if Stapleton is dropped from FC advertising.” But as the owner of a business with Stapleton in its name and with many years spent establishing the reputation and identity of his business, Ross said he would be concerned about reestablishing it with a different name. The difficulty of getting people to adjust to a new name

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October SUN News and Events

School Board Elections

The League of Women Voters is hosting a school board candidate debate on Thursday, Oct. 12, broadcast on Denver Channel 8. The District 4 portion will begin at 7pm and At-Large portion at 8pm. Important Dates: Oct. 16: Voting registration deadline. Nov. 7: Election Day and last day to return ballots. A ballot drop box is located at the Central Park Rec Center.

<https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/denver-elections-divison.html>

October SUN Monthly Meeting

October 17, 2017

Central Park Rec Center

Outreach Hour, 6:30–7:30pm, Parks Advisory Group-focused meeting

Tentative Agenda for Parks Discussion:

Wicker Park: John Buetow, Frank Goldsmith, Mandy, Doug Marsh, Maureen Upton. Issues are dead plants, lighting, sun shade, parking, information about sports fields in the area and funding for area east of Central Park Blvd. and north of Prairie Meadows Pkwy.

Sports Complex and Lacrosse fields, Scott Peterson: Lack of places to play

Uplands and Westerly Creek North: Paul Frohardt: Are wildflowers a possibility?

Prairie Basin Park: Genin Valerie, Genin Yuri, Jeff Hottle: Update on status

Beeler Park, Tom Gleason: Report on status and park plans

26th Ave. Park, Lucia Correll: Update on status

If interested in being a primary contact for a park, contact Lucia: 1coryollary@gmail.com

SUN Board Candidate Bio

The SUN board meeting will follow the parks meeting (described above), from 7:30-8:45pm. During this meeting, the board will vote on a candidate for the board, Dr. Jeff Ederer, biography below.

Dr. Jeff Ederer recently retired from a career in higher education administration where he served in leadership positions at seven different universities in the public and private sector. Since his retirement, his days are spent as a realtor with Greenfield & Associates as well as starting a new business called “College Route Map” where he and his associates will be offering workshops and services for students and families who are navigating the college search and process, focusing on finding the right college and achieving success throughout all four years.

Dr. Ederer is regularly asked to lead workshops and provide consulting services to educational and corporate clients. Focus areas include leadership development, social justice education, performance management, and team building. Additionally, he has authored articles and served as presenter/facilitator for numerous professional, regional, and community-based conferences.

As a child Dr. Ederer made a goal to set foot in all 50 states and travel to all seven continents, a dream that seemed bold and challenging to achieve. However, he completed the 50-state quest in 2005 when he trekked to Alaska for the first time. As of now, he has traveled to 61 countries on six continents with more to come.

Dr. Ederer has lived in five different states and often finds ways to contribute to the communities where he has lived, participating in various civic activities as well as serving on nonprofit boards. He currently lives in Stapleton with his wife and their dog, Truman.

Inclusivity Action Plan

SUN’s Inclusivity committee’s initial meeting was Oct. 4, 2011; however, community support of a separate initiative proved to be unsustainable. Efforts around inclusivity and diversity were then folded into ongoing activities of the full SUN board. In order to highlight ongoing and promote future efforts around inclusivity initiatives, an Inclusivity Action Plan is now a reference point for community members who would like to engage in the community in a way to create a unified and inclusive environment where diversity is celebrated.

1. In partnership with Denver’s Agency for Human Rights and Community Partnerships, participate in discussions around race and justice (see *Citizen* Denver Talks, more information below).
2. To address traditional settings of institutional racism, we will continue to advocate for affordable housing goals in the community, strong public schools in Denver, and contribute to criminal justice reform in partnership with the Denver DA’s office.
3. In partnership with the MCA, continue to develop events meeting the needs and preferences of a robust community.
4. In partnership with Colorado’s state historian, we will establish an annual community event around reflection—learning about our complicated past. Planning meeting: Dec. 5 – Central Park Rec Center
5. Consider ways in which we can honor the land on which we reside.
6. Improve connectivity between Stapleton and surrounding communities through open dialogue with neighboring Registered Neighborhood Organizations, and seeking opportunities to connect residents.
7. Support initiatives with local organizations to promote equity.
8. Reflect on SUN board composition; identify ways in which the board is diverse and representative of the full range of intended stakeholders. Identify opportunities for improvement as applicable.

Denver Talks – Read. Listen. Discuss.

Save two dates to participate in the citywide conversation about race, social justice, and Claudia Rankine’s *Citizen: An American Lyric*. Both events are free and open to the public.

Denver Talks Kickoff Party: Saturday, Oct. 7, 2–5pm Clyfford Still Museum

Pick up your free copy of *Citizen* at the party and listen to a series of readings inspired by the book. Snacks and drinks will be available.

Participate in a talk facilitated by a Lighthouse Writers Workshop instructor Tuesday, Nov. 14, 6:30–8pm Central Park Recreation Center

Other talks will be taking place across the city. For locations, or to schedule an additional discussion, visit <https://denvertalks.org> or <https://lighthousewriters.org/events/>

Rankine uses *Citizen* to talk candidly about racism today, from outright brutality to incidents so subtle “you begin to distrust that they even happened,” Rankine writes. “And yet you know that you feel bad somehow.” What can we learn from the experiences presented in *Citizen*? How can we use what we learn to create a more inclusive and accepting community? Lighthouse Writers Workshop, the City and County of Denver, and NEA Big Read want Denver-area residents to read the book and start talking. Free copies of *Citizen* are being distributed throughout the city, and metro-area public libraries will have print, e-book, and audio editions as well as book club kits available.

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Letters to the Editor

Stapleton's name — Does it really matter?

This is a summary of a letter sent to the SUN Board — read the full letter at www.stapletonmoms.com

Stapleton is 78% white and seen as an upper-class, exclusive area. For most white residents, the name isn't a problem, but it bothers many in the 22% who are not white. Since our Green Book touts diversity and inclusion, how can we *not* replace a name that embodies racism for some of our residents? Changing a name isn't easy, but it's not impossible.

The command to love our neighbors is one of the strongest in most world religions. My pastor preached on this issue and initially had two thoughts: "1) Would changing it make any difference; and 2) there must be bigger issues to tackle?" He ultimately concluded with, "If my neighbor says this hurts them, then I can do no other than side with the commandment, 'Love does no wrong to a neighbor.'" We don't change the name for those *not* bothered by it, we change it for those *for* whom it's an issue.

What an opportunity for our community! Should we change the name and state why, local and national media will cover the story, resulting in tons of positive free publicity. More minorities might move here if our community takes action and says, "This isn't who we are. We welcome you." So many of us have "Hate has no home here" signs in our yard. Does that only apply to immigrants and refugees, or do we mean it for *everyone*?

Some argue that rebranding will hurt businesses. We don't have to replace every mention of the name immediately, but could start small. Change it now, and rebrand over time.

What we do today is a gift to our neighbors and our future. The question shouldn't be why *should* we change the name, but why *shouldn't* we? Let's make the right choice.

—Mindee Forman

Recognize how people, including Ben Stapleton, can change for the better

Regarding the effort to change the Stapleton name; if Aaron Johnson wants to influence Stapleton residents he might want to reconsider starting out with a childish insult, referring to our community as KKKpleton. Sadly, he seems more interested in inflammatory statements then working towards consensus on the issue of what to call the community. Stapleton did join the KKK as a young man but later renounced the organization. That must have taken a great deal of courage as the KKK was a powerful political force and I am sure they did not take kindly to his effort to distance himself from them.

Stapleton should be praised for making that change and that should be the focus of this discussion — how people can change for

the better. Another example is Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black who also joined the KKK in his youth and later renounced the organization — another act of courage, especially in his home state of Alabama. Justice Black became a champion of civil rights while serving on the Supreme Court for over 30 years and is credited with being a major force in the battle against racism and segregation. Is Mr. Johnson ready to also throw Justice Black, along with Ben Stapleton, on the trash heap of history or can he recognize the powerful healing force of redemption?

—Bert Singleton

Change name to reflect positive transformation

Mayor Stapleton was a member of the KKK, a hate group. Charlottesville was a startling wake up call, reminding us what hate groups are all about: subjugating others, violence and destroying that which is good.

This place was admirably transformed by Forest City from a functional international airport, but also with its resultant contaminated soils and compromised ecosystems, into an earth-friendly, walkable community of interconnected neighborhoods. Forest City positively changed this place. It (we?) also need/s to change Stapleton's name to reflect that positive transformation.

Mayor Stapleton even lied about his KKK membership in order "to appease his Jewish and Catholic supporters." (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_F._Stapleton) I'm so tired of politicians who lie out of political expediency! One can see how such 'traditions' get started and then become acceptable even in this modern (progressive?) age. A democracy is essentially a contract of trust between the people and the politicians we elect. Stapleton violated that trust and it's high time we say "No more!", to this lack of moral integrity.

And let's make a HUGE deal about making a name change; hold a naming contest of sorts with the ultimate goal of choosing a name that accurately reflects this model community. This will send a message loud and clear to those five hate groups that currently operate in and around Denver, to the KKK or to other white supremacist groups that might want to hold rallies or conventions in our community, that Denver will not be another Charlottesville. In addition, we will not turn back the clock and become a haven for the KKK like Denver was in the '20s and '30s. Maybe, just maybe, by taking such a proactive stance, we can prevent the needless death of another person like Heather D. Heyer. We cannot allow the sacrifice of our children to such hate groups.

—Paul R Bareis

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Bridge on the east side of Prairie Meadow Park



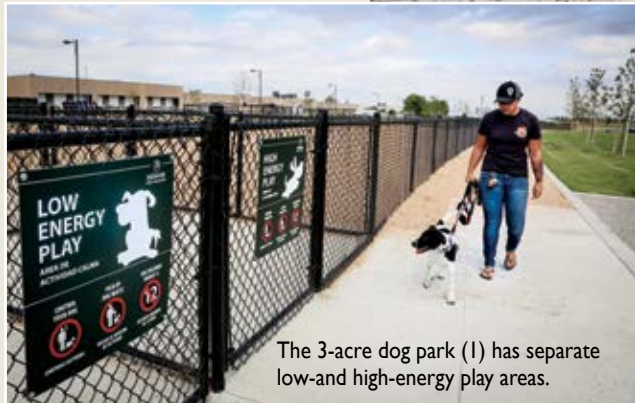
(continued from page 1) aside public park land, with big parks like these intended for use by all Denver residents.

On September 16, landscape architects, planners and builders who had worked on the parks came out to celebrate their completion and share their vision with the community. Craig Vickers, landscape architect with Civitas, gazes out over the big circle at Prairie Meadow with the enthusiasm and wonder of a child who has just received the grandest gift ever. Vickers, who works on national and international projects, says, “The whole thing is pretty remarkable. I’m trying to think of anywhere else in the country that has this. Not like this. Not to this degree. I mean there are great parks and park systems everywhere, but, associated with one community, having so much diverse park space as Stapleton has, let’s put it this way, there are not many.”

Colorado’s prairies were the inspiration for these grand parks. “The prairie is at its most beautiful when it’s untouched by humans. Where you just see beautiful vegetation that meets the sky on the horizon line. Uninterrupted,” says Vickers. So how did that inspiration lead to this grand circle we’re looking at? He explains how the wind from the Rocky Mountains pushes around the sand and silt and it piles up in a series of crescent shapes.

The architects’ idea was to take the curve of the crescent, “purify the form” (into a circle), and build it at a giant scale. “We thought if we created that, it would be a really interesting grand scale gesture that would enframe a big public lawn for all the festivals and informal soccer and play... This was meant to be the livingroom space.”

The circular walkway atop the mounds (and over the bridges) offers a beautiful, wide-open view of the city and the mountains. But there was a hidden objective to those mounds. “We thought if we made the



The 3-acre dog park (1) has separate low-and high-energy play areas.

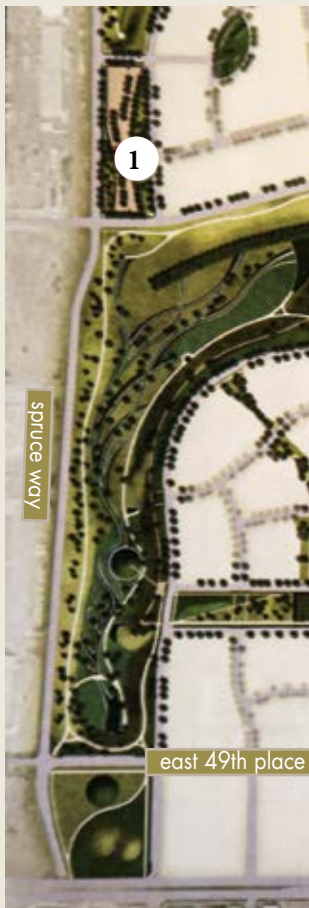


landform large enough that there would be places where you could see the sky at the top of the landform—and it would be a prairie-like experience,” says Vickers. “And so when we were originally conceiving this, we thought, maybe in the middle you couldn’t see any houses. Then we started thinking about the accessibility of it and we had to lower it. But you can get that experience in places, and that’s a really neat thing.”

The parks were engineered to serve as a stormwater drainage system, but the drainage area was also designed as an amenity. “We’re trying to vegetate this with natural wetlands species and grass species, where our intent is that this is as fun for kids to play in as these kinds of environments were to play in when I was a kid. Playing in water and messing around with stones and catching frogs and stuff,” noting that there will probably be a trickle most of the time.

Vickers adds that it took countless exceptional designers, constructors and development leaders to build all the parks in Stapleton—and all were teams that brought the same level of enthusiasm and attention to a vision as what he described for Prairie Meadow.

Most of these new parks and paths are open, but some will be roped off through November while new plantings take hold. Please enjoy what’s open and respect what’s closed off.



Conservatory Green



Uplands Pavilion (5) provides custom ping pong tables in addition to the shaded gathering place with picnic tables. In the 14.4-acre Uplands Park (6), paths and plantings were designed to create a feel of “garden-like outdoor rooms.” Lawns and crusher fines define informal gathering spaces. As with the other parks, the long east-west configuration and native plantings evoke a feeling of walking through the prairie where the natural environment meets the sky in the distance.

Conservatory Green (7) has a grassy amphitheatre and performance stage (the arc shade structure is visible in the background) that are managed by the Master Community Association and used for many free and open-to-the-public performances. In the foreground (the south end of the Green) are a water feature, shaded seating, a firepit, and raised planters that double as seating. A number of informal restaurants are located right near the green.



Uplands Pavilion

Uplands Park





The Prairie Meadow central lawn area is surrounded by a raised circular walkway.

2



Bridge on the west side of Prairie Meadow Park

2

er's Newest Parks

Prairie Meadow Park (2), at 14.5 acres, has a 1/4 mile inner loop at ground level and a 1/3 mile raised loop walkway. From the central lawn, the raised slopes give park visitors a direct horizon-to-sky view with none of the surrounding homes in sight. The upper loop offers views of the mountains and downtown. The drainage channel that flows through the park was built to accommodate storm water, but for the time it's not filled with rushing storm water, it was designed to be a kid-friendly creek bed. Due to new plantings, this park won't open until November.



To visit the parks, exit I-70 and go north on Central Park Blvd. and west on Prairie Meadow Drive. Or exit I-70 and go north on Quebec, east on Northfield Blvd., and north on Uinta or Verbena Street.

Above right: Sandhills Prairie Park (3), was inspired by the crescent-shaped sand dune landforms that existed in the windswept plains. The 14.7-acre park contains the highest landform in all of the Stapleton parks, offering views of the mountains and downtown—and a seating area at the high point offers a quiet place to reflect, read or watch the sunset. The view from the high point also shows the repeating theme of crescent-shaped landforms within that park. Park amenities include picnic areas, a nature playground with boulders and logs, and strolling paths. At the northeast end of the park, the path crosses under Central Park Blvd., where the public art pictured on the front cover and on page 27 is displayed.



Sandhills Prairie Park

3



Cottonwood Gallery

4



Cottonwood Gallery

4

Cottonwood Gallery (4), a 15.7-acre park, has something for everyone. Three separate playgrounds are designed to meet the needs of different age groups. A large shade pavilion with multiple picnic tables provides a gathering place for family or group picnics. Rows of turf mounds invite the young and young at heart to invent games on the grassy slopes. And mounds that shield the path from the road are covered with colorful cosmos that go on for blocks.

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