

# Front Porch

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JANUARY 2018

NORTHEAST DENVER

## Stock Show Honors the Past While it Looks to the Future

By Laurie Dunklee

The history of the National Western Stock Show is Denver's history. Visitors and exhibitors experience Denver's roots every January, as Western culture pervades the city for two weeks. As the National Western Center undergoes major renovations over the next few years,

the changes will be met with a mix of nostalgia and anticipation.

"In the old days, ranchers brought their livestock to market at the Stock Show by train and by horseback," says Clinton Laflin, a fifth-generation rancher from Montana whose family has brought Black Angus cattle to

the Stock Show since 1958. "My family has grown up along with the National Western. My great-grandfather judged livestock at the Stock Show back in 1932. It's nostalgic for me there."

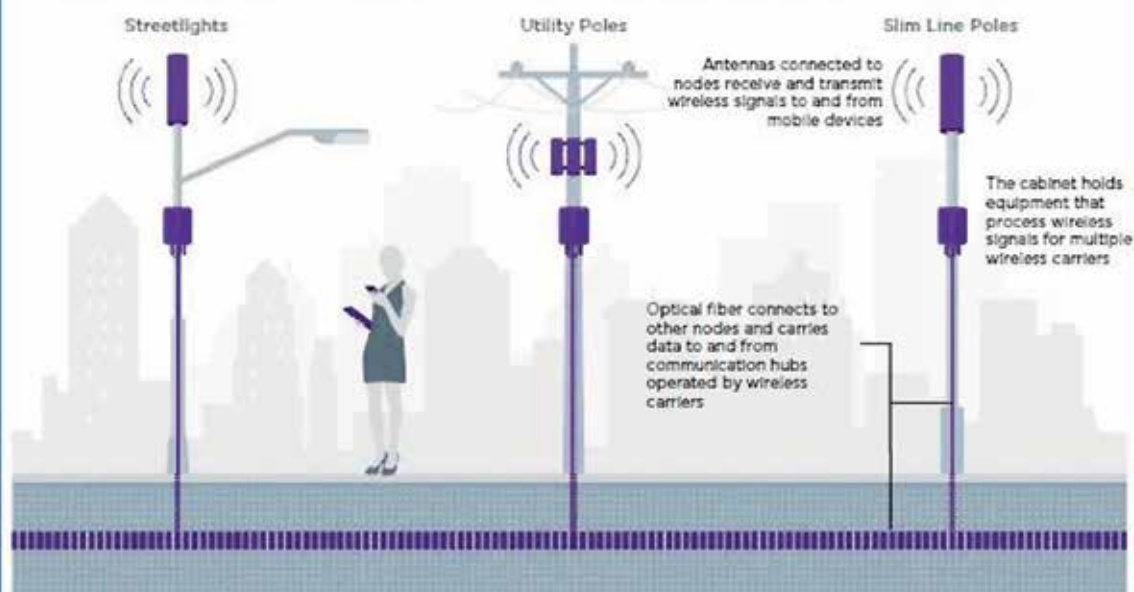
But Laflin welcomes the changes to come as the area is transformed into the National Western Center. Between (continued on page 6)



## Small Cells – Coming Soon to a Street Near You

### What Are Small Cell Deployments?

Small cell deployments are complementary to towers, adding much needed coverage and capacity to urban and residential areas, venues, and anywhere large crowds gather



Source: Crown Castle

Denver has been receiving a growing number of requests from wireless providers and wireless infrastructure companies to construct small cell facilities in the public right of way. This graphic is from "Small Cell Infrastructure in Denver," a September 2017 publication by Denver Public Works. Story by John Fernandez on page 8.

## Start Early With Kids to Promote Healthy Relationships and Prevent Sexual Harassment

With sexual harassment in the news, this article by Melinda Pearson looks at how local middle schoolers are being taught to recognize and respond appropriately to unhealthy and unwanted behaviors. Among other elements of the curriculum, a video called *Tea Consent*, in a humorous and simple way, shows how inappropriate and ridiculous it is to push another person to do something they don't want to do. Story on page 30.






Rabbi Mendel Popack drove the lead car in the Menorah Car Parade on Dec. 17 from The Shops at Northfield to the 29th Ave. Town Center, where the Grand Menorah Lighting was held.



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

Visit FrontPorchNE.com to comment and find articles from past issues.

## CORRECTION

Marlon Green story, pg 6 of the December 2017 edition:  
The correct title of the book is *Turbulence Before Takeoff: The Life and Times of Aviation Pioneer Marlon Dewitt Green*.  
Marlon Green attended Xavier Prep School. He corresponded with, and later married, a teacher at Xavier University (not one of his teachers from Xavier Prep).  
The explanation of Green's complaint with the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Commission and Continental's suit in Denver District Court has been revised for clarification in the online article (FrontPorchNE.com).  
We apologize for the errors.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome your letters. Send to Carol@FrontPorchNE.com

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# Events & Announcements at Stapleton



## Game Night at The Cube

Friday, Jan. 12, 5–9pm, The Cube  
Come to The Cube for game night! The MCA will be hosting an open house game night featuring different board games for the community to play. Bring your family and friends for this free event. January's theme will be classic games such as Yahtzee, Sorry, Clue, Life and much, much more!

## Wine Education Series

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 7pm, The Cube  
The MCA series features an educational aspect to wine tasting. This sit-down tasting will showcase different wines from different regions with a wine educator leading the discussion. Tickets are \$20 and go up to \$40 the day of the event. To purchase tickets, visit [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com). Must be 21 to attend and no refunds are allowed.

## Harry Potter Trivia Night at the Cube

Friday, Jan. 26, 7–9pm  
Come with a team or join a team and test your Harry Potter knowledge! There will be prizes, drinks and more. Details coming soon to [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com).

## Harry Potter Movie Marathon Lock-In\*

Friday–Saturday, Feb. 2 and 3, 2pm–10:30am, The Cube  
You are invited to a magical night at Hogwarts! Witches and Wizards will be sorted into houses, where we will show all eight Harry Potter movies. Beginning at 2pm, the sorting will begin. Check-in and the sorting ceremony will be from 2–4pm, with the first movie beginning promptly at 2:20pm. While movies are showing, students will be entertained with crafts, food and snacks from HoneyDukes. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part II* will finish at 10:20am, at which time the gates of Hogwarts will re-open. All students should be picked up by 10:30am.  
\*This event is for children in grades 2 through 5. For more details and to register, visit [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com).

## Active Minds Seminar

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

Thursday, Jan. 11, 6:45–7:45pm

## Wine

The story of wine is as rich and diverse as the lands where grapes are grown. It is a tale intertwined with influences of civilizations, agricultural methods, cuisines and more. Join Active Minds as we describe the history of wine and an overview of various types of wine and their most salient characteristics.

Thursday, Jan. 25, 6:45–7:45pm

## Iceland

After many years of strong economic growth, Iceland's banking system collapsed in 2008 resulting in a severe economic depression. Today the economy is growing again and Iceland has become a popular tourist destination. Join Active Minds as we review Iceland's history and explore characteristics of the country that make it unique among the world's countries.

## Snow Removal Policy

During Major Snow Events as defined by current Denver City & County standards, the Stapleton MCA will initiate its emergency snow removal plan for the alleys along with the city's plan for neighborhood streets. In the event of a major snow event, the snow removal plan will include the continuous use of heavy equipment, light equipment and hand work to remove the snow from alleys, intersections and major pedestrian paths. Alley work will be limited to the removal of enough snow from the alleys so residents can access their garages. This emergency-only procedure involves attempting to open up a single drive lane through each alley in the community. The drive lanes will not be scraped down to pavement, to eliminate the need to truck any snow off-site.

This procedure does not negate individual property owners from participating in the snow removal during these types of storms. Although we are unable to address the complete removal of snow on the roads, it is our goal during major snow events to remove enough material to allow for some level of travel in and out of the alleys. Paths and parks are done to open up some level of pedestrian travel. We will continue to address all the pocket parks and pathways to ensure that they are as snow free as possible to promote pedestrian access throughout the community. For detailed information about the snow removal policy, visit our website at [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com).

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

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# Front Porch

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The Front Porch – NE Denver distributes approx. 35,000 free papers during the first week of each month. Papers are delivered to homes and/or racks in Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair, East Colfax and NW Aurora. The Front Porch is printed with soy-based ink and the paper contains 30% post-consumer waste. We contribute monthly to replant trees equivalent to the amount of paper used each month.



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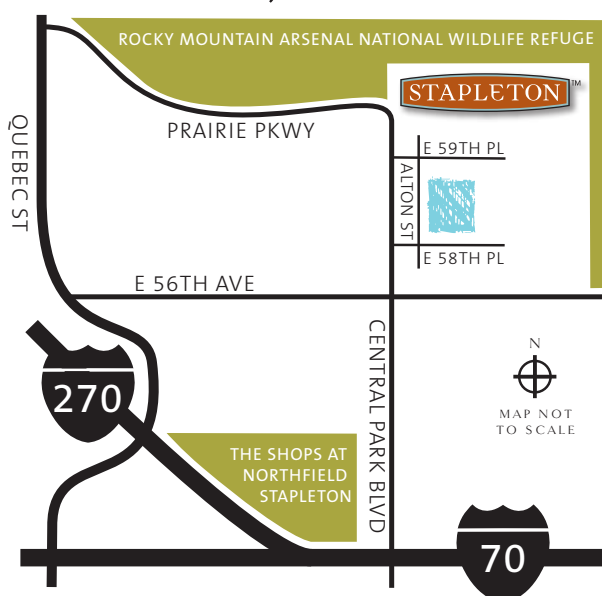


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Above: Ranchers lead their cows to the judging area.



Left: Animals are lovingly groomed before judging.

Right: The MLK Jr. African American Heritage Rodeo is one of multiple rodeos held annually at the Stock Show.

Lower right: The Stock Show offers tired visitors numerous options for food, drink or simply absorbing the western culture all around them.



## Stock Show

(continued from page 1) now and 2023, the grounds will be expanded and new facilities and infrastructure will be completed. “Things need updating for better accessibility, electrical and ventilation, especially in the old barns,” Laflin says. “To be relevant, the Stock Show, like all of agriculture, needs to evolve and improve.”

Paul Andrews, president of the Western Stock

Show Association, says the National Western is considered the premier stock show in the U.S. because “we do the big four elements of a show: a huge livestock show, multiple rodeos, horse shows and a trade show, all at a very high level.”

He says the renovation is a necessity to keep it competitive. “The deferred maintenance of the buildings over time had become too big of an obstacle for the association to overcome—around \$100 million. The buildings also became noncompetitive in the world of rodeo, livestock shows and horse shows.”

As part of a longtime ranching family, Andrews understands the feelings of nostalgia surrounding the old facilities. “We (the Stock Show) have been here since 1906. The yards, for instance, have been in their position since 1906. We will maintain this area and expand our yards so that they can be the celebrated

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Left and below: Western wear (and wares) abound at the Stock Show, from a vendor with unique boot colors and patterns to a young cowboy decked out in his best Stock Show clothing.

Lower middle: One of many children's educational activities is learning how to milk a cow.



asset they should be moving forward. We are going to reuse much of the wood around the site as part of the new build-out of the complex in creative ways so that we are honoring the past while we're heading toward the future."

Lafin and his father, Guy Lafin, own and operate North Camp Angus Ranch in St. Ignatius, Mont., where they run an average of 150 cattle. "Our business is improving cattle genetics to improve the quality of meat," Lafin says. "Most of our cattle don't go into the food chain, but provide

genetics to commercial cattlemen. Most people don't know that 90 percent of cattle ranches in the U.S. are still family owned and operated. The vast majority have not been taken over by factory farming."

Lafin, 28, has cerebral palsy. "It's caused by a brain hemorrhage that can affect various capabilities, like speaking and walking. I'm fortunate that mine affects me like a stroke: the coordination on my right side is more compromised than on the left. I use a cane most of the time and a walker where the ground is uneven. I live, work and drive independently and I can do most things on the ranch. You won't see me carrying big sacks of feed or moving cattle through a chute. I'm typically on a horse and not in a situation where I have to move fast."

(continued on page 8)



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Clinton Lafflin, interviewed in this article, is pictured at far right in 2012, the year he won Champion Cow/Calf Pair at the National Western Stock Show. Pictured with him are his extended family, (left to right) Josh Lafflin (his cousin), R.D. Lafflin (his uncle), and Guy Lafflin (his dad).

## Stock Show

(continued from page 7) Other branches of the Lafflin family raise cattle in Kansas and Nebraska. The Lafflin family reunion is at the Stock Show each year. “We don’t see everybody at Christmas; instead, we wait until the second week of January,” says Lafflin. “My aunts, uncles and cousins all come. The cattle stalls are situated in aisles and we call our shared extended family area the ‘family aisle.’ I love to walk around the barns with my cousins and evaluate the cattle.”

The Montana Lafflins drive 16–24 hours to Denver in a pickup with a gooseneck trailer. This year they’ll bring two bulls and two females to the Stock Show. “We’ll target our longtime customers to market our program and sell cattle. We’ll spend 10 to 14 days in

Denver,” Lafflin says.

Andrews says the new Stockyards Events Center, where livestock auctions will take place, is one of the improvements that will benefit ranchers and visitors in the future. The new building is slated for completion in 2021. “The public can watch auctions anytime. The Pen [3–5 animals] and Carload [10–12 animals] Show is really a good



Rancher Clinton Lafflin, who uses a cane or a walker due to cerebral palsy, is shown with one of his calves.

one. In the new facility it will get larger. The current facility is run down, and it’s very tight in putting people in there. The new facility will be set up better to run cattle in and cattle out. So more people can bid, more people can watch, and the animals can move around better.”

The new facility can be bigger because the National Western Center, through land purchases by the City of Denver, has more land, growing from 95 to 250 acres, says Andrews. This year and in 2019 that extra land will still be empty, offering more parking for visitors than in the past. “2020 is when you’re going to see some things shifting around, potentially with the yards being rebuilt and the Stockyards Events Center inside the yards being built.”

Along with the new Stockyards Events Center in 2021, construction of the livestock and equestrian centers will be underway, as well as plans to turn the complex into a year-round facility. “The livestock pens are going to be temporary,” Andrews says. “They’ll go in in January, and come out at the end of January so we can use that area as an events pavilion from February to December.”

Lafflin says the renovations will make agriculture more accessible for visitors. “But it will still have the historic tie. So many families like ours bring cattle to the National Western. We’ll be sad to see it change, but we’re also excited. It will be different, but the National Western will always be important in my life.”

## Small Cell

By John Fernandez

Cell towers began popping up across the landscape in the mid-’90s. Now, as wireless communications continue to evolve, “small cell” installations will proliferate on city streets. The cause? Massive increases in mobile data demands and the need to densify networks. Verizon representatives say industry projections are for a fivefold increase in data demand by 2021.

Quoting from a city of Denver fact sheet, “To meet the demands for wireless data, carriers have begun using new lower-powered antenna technology to ‘offload’ data traffic from the larger cell towers. Each of these smaller antennas serves a much smaller area (1–2 blocks) but with much higher data volumes. This type of wireless infrastructure is referred to as ‘Small Cell.’” The city expects hundreds, if not thousands, of these new installations in the next few years. By contrast, Aurora anticipates the number of such facilities to number in the dozens. The small cell equipment will initially meet current 4G (LTE) voice and data demands but it may be modified with future 5G higher-speed equipment as technology changes.

Small cell antenna equipment is typically the size of a medium suitcase and must be under 20 cubic feet in total volume including an antenna, radio, power source and optical fiber connections. The size limitation is set by state law; House Bill 1193 passed in the 2017 session. Its major thrust is to create an expedited permitting process and to mandate the right of telecommunications providers to locate the small cell facilities on a local government entity’s utility poles, traffic signal poles or on wires between poles.

So, whereas the “macro” towers of a

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# Facilities – Coming Soon to a Street Near You



Source: (1)

Photo Sources:  
(1) scientists4wiredtech.com;  
(2) steelintheair.com;  
(3) wade4wireless.com



Source: (2)  
Source: (3)

Small cell antenna equipment is typically the size of a small to medium suitcase and can be located on utility or street lighting poles, strung on wires between poles, or on new freestanding poles in the public right-of-way. The equipment can also be mounted on existing buildings on public or private property.

generation ago were generally located on private property (and thus, subject to zoning), the small cell facilities will tend to be located in public rights-of-way, i.e., streets.

Both Denver and Aurora will push colocation as much as possible, with a goal of multiple carriers per pole—and both will require applicants to notify adjacent property owners and registered neighborhood organizations.

In Denver, a total of 56 applications from three providers are in various stages of review and approval. Only one application, 845 Yosemite St. in Lowry, is

located within the *Front Porch* distribution area. Verizon representatives would not commit to when applications might be submitted in northeast Denver but left no doubt that the need for network densification will include this part of the city.

One complication is that the vast majority of utility poles in the public right-of-way are owned by Xcel. Even where poles are owned by a municipality, they may be occupied by traffic signals and emergency service equipment, making them unsuitable for small cell installation.

So, carriers, the municipalities and Xcel are engaged in an elaborate negotiation now to reduce pole clutter, avoid negative impacts on police and fire communications equipment, and find ways to have the new facilities blend into the streetscape as much

as possible.

It is unclear how successful they will be. The Denver Public Works website says, “Under current law, it is not clear how the City can restrict height, design or location ... of (continued on page 20)



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# Colfax Avenue Finally Gets Its Due



By Laurie Dunklee

“The story of Colfax deserves to be told,” says Jonny Barber, a musician, former Elvis impersonator and curator of the new Colfax Avenue Museum. “Here all things Colfax go on the wall: the good, the bad and the ugly, from the Denver Mint and the Capitol, to strip joints and dives,”

says Barber. “Everyone who has lived in Denver has a story about Colfax. We welcome all artifacts, photos and stories.” The Colfax Avenue Museum is stuffed with an eclectic collection of memorabilia, from matchbooks, posters and photos, to a 150-million-year-old stegosaurus footprint, “quarried when they put the original Highway 40 through,” Barber says. Barber was collecting the items in his basement for 14 years, until he was offered a space in the back room of Ed Moore Florist at 6109 E. Colfax. He’s getting new donations all the time, including photos of the historic York Theatre and the Famous Pizza sign, and a set of salt-and-pepper pigs from Eddie Bohn’s Pig ‘n’ Whistle restaurant on West Colfax. The collection includes mementos of former Colfax landmarks like Sid

King’s Crazy Horse Bar, a notorious strip joint featured in the 1978 Clint Eastwood film *Every Which Way But Loose*, and a metal pin with two dangling skates from Mammoth Gardens’ days as a skating rink. Colfax Ave. is part of Highway 40, once a transcontinental route that stretched from Atlantic City, N.J., all the way to San Francisco. “All the tourists passed through Colorado on Highway 40,” Barber said. “It was like a little Las Vegas, with its elaborate neon signs enticing travelers to restaurants, entertainment and motels.” He said Colfax runs 53 miles, from Table Mountain in Golden to the Eastern Plains. “I don’t know whether it’s the longest street in America, but it’s the longest main, commercial street.” Colfax’s heyday as a tourist attraction ended when traffic was diverted onto the new Interstate 70 in the late 1960s and 1970s. “The Colfax strip went to hook-




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Far Left: Colfax historian Jonny Barber opened the Colfax Avenue Museum with his collection of memorabilia. Recent donations to the museum include a photo of the former York Theatre, which Barber hopes to use for the museum’s permanent home.

Left: Barber performed as an Elvis impersonator from 2004 until 2011, when “The Velvet Elvis” was pronounced dead of a heart attack en route to Rose Medical Center (however, he made a temporary “comeback” in 2013). Photos acknowledge famous East High grads Hattie McDaniel, Marilyn Van Derbur (Miss America 1958), and singer Judy Collins.

Below: Barber’s T-shirt commemorates Sid King’s Crazy Horse Bar, a Colfax strip joint owned by “The Sultan of Striptease.” Sid’s neon sign featured a mannequin on a pole.



“there would have been no Beat Generation,” said Barber.

He hopes to illustrate the extremes to be found on Colfax. “We had the Klan here, but also Charlie Burrell, the first African-American to perform

Left: The storied history of Colfax Avenue is chronicled in photos, road signs and other memorabilia. The Satire Lounge, with its martini glass neon sign (left-hand side, halfway up), still can be seen on Colfax.

in a symphony orchestra, who played the Playboy Bar on Colfax. Hattie McDaniel, the first African-American to win an Academy Award, attended East High School.”

Other East High grads on the walls are actor Don Cheadle, silent film star Harold Lloyd, and 1970s TV star Pam Grier.

Barber hopes to expand the museum’s 17-by-12-foot space to include outdoor space for a “neon garden.” “Some of the signs, like Pete’s Kitchen, are still up. The ones that aren’t are still around, being sold on eBay. I’m like Indiana Jones: these signs should be in a museum where everyone can enjoy them.”

For Barber, the weird history of Colfax is worth protecting. “Whatever it says about me, Colfax is the street where I feel most at home, where I can be myself. I say ‘Keep it weird.’ The city’s got to grow and change, but I hope our future vision embraces the important history of places like Colfax.”

The museum is open during the florist shop hours, 8am–5:30pm Mon.–Fri. and 8am–5pm Sat.

For more information, see [colfaxavenue.com](http://colfaxavenue.com) and [jonnybarber.com](http://jonnybarber.com), or call 303.525.5840.

ers, drug dealers and hippies. In the 1980s, it was like a ghost town.”

Barber arrived in Denver in 1995. “There were some incredible characters on Colfax, like pimps out of a 1970s *Starsky and Hutch* episode. I was intrigued by the seediness, and because I had read Jack Kerouac’s *On the Road*, some of which takes place in Denver.”

His favorite artifacts include a first edition of *On the Road*, in which he discovered a photo of Kerouac sitting on a bench on Colfax, near the Immaculate Conception Cathedral. “It’s really special, since there are so few photos of him.”

Kerouac’s Beat generation crony Neal Cassady, also on the wall, grew up in Denver. Cassady met Hal Chase, a Columbia University student, at the Denver Public Library and Chase introduced him to Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg. If they hadn’t met,

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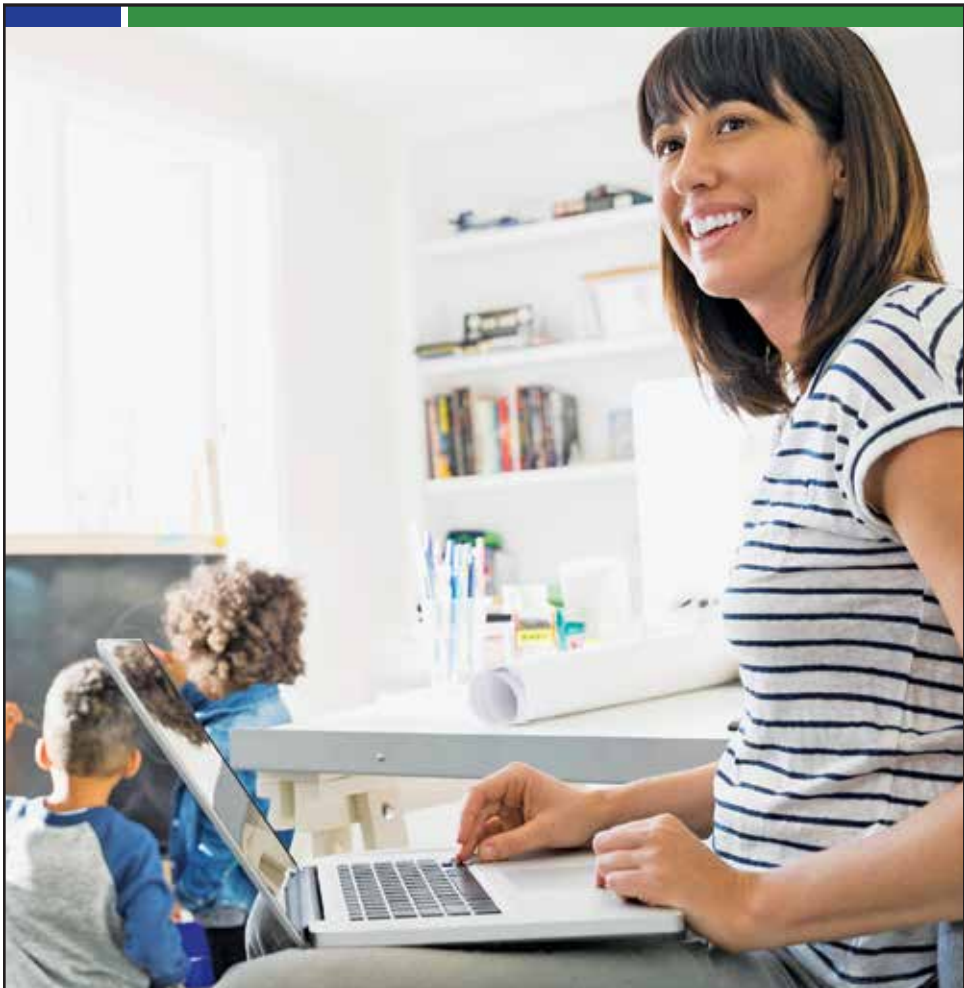
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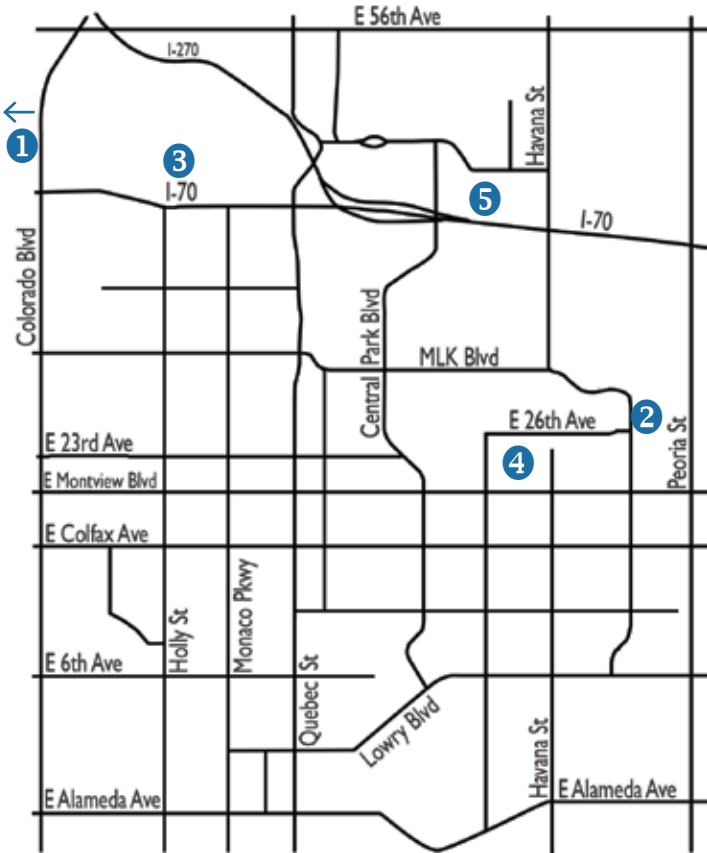


(left to right) Alexa Fuller, NP, Katie Rustici, MD, Sarah Shepard, DO and Peter Kim, MD



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# .....NE News Updates



By John Fernandez

## 1 Central 70 Project Reaches Milestone

The project to widen I-70 from I-25 to Chambers Road, the Central 70 Project, reached a milestone in November when CDOT reached agreement with Kiewit Meridiam Partners (KMP) on a complex public-private partnership (P3) for building, operating and maintaining the 10-mile stretch of highway. Public meetings in the spring will provide details such as construction sequencing. CDOT spokesperson Rebecca White said construction will begin all along the corridor but couldn’t identify a specific start date other than to say it will definitely begin no later than next summer. Construction is expected to last four years. KMP’s successful bid was based on CDOT’s 30 percent design. Final design is underway.

The widening of I-70 from I-25 to Chambers Road involves the removal of a 1.8-mile-long viaduct and placing the highway below ground level in a stretch of road near York St. The selected contractor, Kiewit Meridiam Partners (KMP), rose to the top of CDOT’s bidder list in part because they propose a shallower trench—30 feet at maximum depth rather than CDOT’s original estimate of 42 feet. This raises the lowered roadway out of groundwater, reducing construction and long-term maintenance costs.

The project still faces legal challenges from community groups and environmental organizations, but David Spector, director

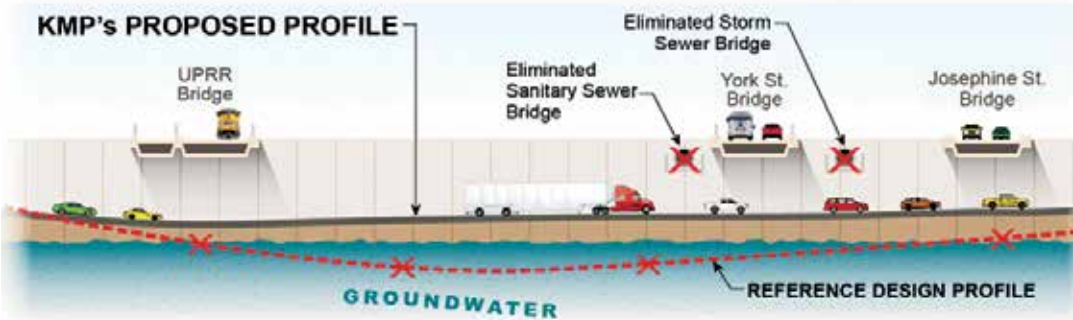
of CDOT’s High Performance Transportation Enterprise (HPTE), told the *Front Porch*, “We are full-speed ahead. Do the lawsuits have an effect? Yes, but not a real impact. We feel pretty confident about where we’re at and our position.” The lawsuits have raised issues about air quality impacts and alleged links between the highway widening project and storm drainage improvements at City Park Golf Course.

White and Spector

lauded the “mitigation” efforts associated with the \$2.2 billion project (\$1.2 billion is the construction cost, the balance is for operations, financing, maintenance, etc.) They include:

- A “local hire” requirement that 20 percent of the jobs on the project have to be filled by individuals residing in the neighborhoods adjacent to I-70. White said 200 people have come through the program since it kicked off in July.
- \$15 million in improvements to Swansea Elementary School.
- Upgrades to 284 homes next to the corridor (e.g., insulation and noise-reducing windows and doors).
- CDOT’s contribution of \$2 million for affordable housing and Kiewit’s commitment of \$1 million to “invest in the community” (e.g., scholarships for local schoolchildren).

The project will expand the six-lane highway to eight lanes including toll lanes. Major features include removing the 1.8-mile viaduct through Elyria-Swansea and lowering the roadway by as much as 30 feet below grade. A four-acre parkland cap will cover the highway next to Swansea Elementary. The Quebec interchange will be completely rebuilt to lengthen on- and off-ramps and widen Quebec, including sidewalks, as it passes under I-70. White said KMP is obligated to keep three lanes of traffic open in each direction throughout construction during peak travel times. She said there will be only four or five overnight closures of the roadway during the four years of construction.



KMP, the selected contractor, was able to raise the level of the roadway by re-routing the two sewer lines shown in the illustration. This, and thinner profile bridges, resulted in a shallower trench—(30 feet rather than CDOT’s original 42-foot estimate) and lowered the cost of the project.

This view is looking north and shows eastbound traffic. Swansea Elementary School is located to the right (east, between Columbine and Elizabeth streets), where the roadway will be topped by a four-acre park. The top of the retaining wall sits roughly at ground level.





Jason Smith, a ReyLenn Properties LLC partner, points out the portion of Solana Stapleton located in Denver. All 10 apartment buildings, seen here fronting perimeter streets, are located in Aurora.

### 2 Solana Stapleton Fits Into the “Toe of the Boot”

A 280-unit market-rate apartment project is expected to win city of Aurora approval in February allowing construction to proceed early in 2018 next year. Solana Stapleton comprises 11 buildings on a 9.06-acre parcel bounded by 26th Ave., MLK Blvd., Newark Ct. and Oswego St. It occupies one of the larger parcels in an area of Stapleton referred to as “the Boot” due to its shape at the far east end of Stapleton. (See the August 2017 *Front Porch* for an article about this part of Stapleton: <https://frontporchne.com/article/toe-boot-takes-shape/>.) The site is unique in that the Denver-Aurora boundary splits the parcel. Thus, the clubhouse and pool complex adjacent to the future MLK Blvd. are located in Denver while all the three- and four-story apartment buildings will be in Aurora. The developer is ReyLenn Properties. KTGy is the project architect. Developer representative Jason Smith says the project is “highly amenitized” including a resort-style pool. The project requires no zoning waivers and exceeds city requirements for parking. It was well received by the Stapleton Zoning and Planning Committee (ZAP) at the Dec. 12 meeting.

### 3 “Expedited” PUC A Line Review Drags to March

Federal regulators in September signed off on RTD’s crossing technology but the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), which has separate regulatory authority for at-grade (surface street) crossings in Colorado, denied the RTD application that same month citing excessive and erratic warning times. RTD appealed the PUC’s denial of its A Line crossing gate warning regime. That appeal will be considered at a three-day hearing starting March 12. A PUC spokesman indicated a final decision by the commission could occur within a month of the March hearing. At the December 8 pre-hearing conference, PUC Administrative Law Judge Robert Garvey indicated the hearing could be moved up to February 15 if no objections are raised by the Union Pacific and BNSF railroads or the cities of Denver and Aurora to RTD’s “pre-file testimony.” In November, when the PUC commissioners voted to allow RTD to appeal the denial, the commission directed that the appeal be expedited. At the December 8 pre-hearing conference, RTD said they may file a motion before the March hearing requesting permission to remove flaggers at the 11 A Line street crossings.

The PUC is known to be under considerable pressure to approve the A Line positive train control system (PTC) both because it would end financial penalties im-

posed by RTD on its concessionaire (Denver Transit Partners) and also because such approval would pave the way for federal approval of a quiet zone that would eliminate the need for train horn soundings each time a train passes through a street intersection. Such train horns have plagued northeast Denver for more than two years since the A Line began operating. RTD has estimated that federal review of the pending PTC applications by Aurora and Denver would require an additional 60 to 90 days.

PTC is intended to be a failsafe system for preventing accidents caused by human error. Accidents such as the recent Washington state derailment are termed “PTC-preventable.” The A Line PTC is the first such technology designed for a brand-new commuter rail service in the U.S. As such, the A Line system, once fully approved, may serve as a template for other systems in the country. In 2008, Congress mandated PTC for commuter rail passenger service by 2015, later extending the deadline to 2018.

### 4 Aurora Public Schools/ DSST Contract Approved

In November, the Aurora Public Schools (APS) board approved a contract with the DSST Public Schools for the charter network’s first school outside Denver. The contract is for a middle school and high school on a nine-acre campus to be located north of 25th Ave. between Fulton and Iola streets in Aurora. The middle school would open in the fall of 2019 and the high school would open in 2022. DSST would give students in the surrounding Aurora neighborhoods, those served by elementary schools Rocky Mountain Prep, Paris, Crawford and Montview, first preference for half of the school’s open seats. The remaining half would first go to any other Aurora students, but if seats are still available after that, students outside the district may enroll. DSST will have a cap of enrolling no more than 450 students. The contract requires that DSST show they’ve enrolled at least 75 of those students by April 1, 2018. By March 30, 2018, both the district and the charter network must identify the money to construct the school building. The district is still in the process of acquiring 1.7 acres of privately owned land (the South Stapleton Office Warehouse Park building) through condemnation and anticipates a legal hearing next April to complete that acquisition.

### 5 Greenway Trail Grant Denied

A \$1.6 million grant application prepared by Denver last spring to complete paving three of the remaining unpaved portions of the Sand (continued on page 14)

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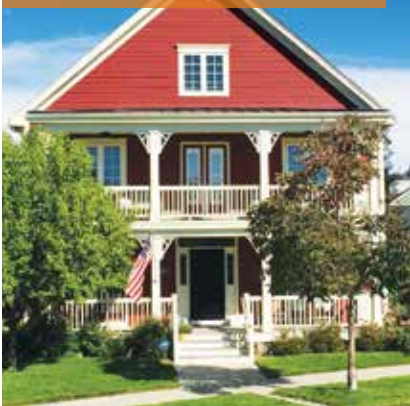
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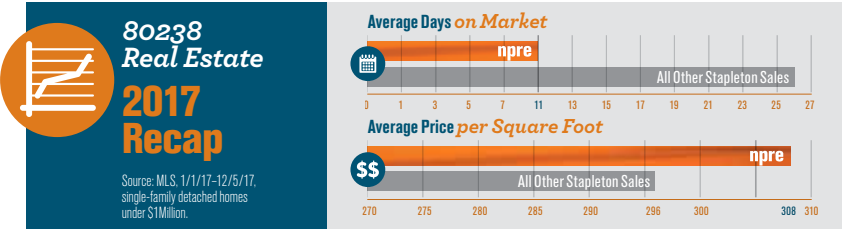


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## NE News Updates

(continued from page 13) Creek Regional Greenway trail in Denver was denied by the Great Outdoors Colorado board in a very competitive funding cycle. Beth Nobles, who became executive director of the partnership in July, said she learned of the denial in September. Sand Creek projects were not included in the Denver general obligation bonding approved by voters in November. The Greenway is pursuing funding through Denver's regular capital improvements program. Moving west to east, the three segments to be paved extend from the Smith Road underpass to the Westerly Creek confluence, from the recently completed Prairie Uplands Park to Martin Luther King Blvd. at Havana St., and from the east end of the Bluff Lake Nature Center down to the Aurora/Denver boundary near the Peoria St. underpass.

## New Denver Water Rates Start March 1

In November, the Denver Board of Water Commissioners approved rate changes that take effect March 1, 2018. Monthly bills for most Denver residents will increase by about \$2.25 or less if they use water the same as they did in 2017. The rate increase will fund a five-year, \$1.25 billion capital improvements plan that includes a new, 8.5-mile water pipeline, a new water quality lab and expansion of Gross Reservoir. Customer water bills are comprised of a fixed charge tied to meter size (to stabilize Denver Water revenues) and a three-tiered volume rate that prices water use above the average winter consumption—typically used for outdoor watering—at the highest rate. Denver Water, which is separate from the City and County of Denver, is funded by water rates, bond sales, hydropower sales and fees for new service (called system development charges). The water provider's collection system covers more than 4,000 square miles. It operates in 12 counties in Colorado. For more information, see Denver Water's website at [www.denverwater.org](http://www.denverwater.org).



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Follow “Indie Prof” on Facebook for updates about film events and more reviews. Each month the Indie Prof reviews films in theaters and on DVD or streaming services.

### Thelma (2017)

We critics love to categorize films: “a psychological puzzle,” “sci-fi,” a “coming-of-age story,” “a supernatural thriller.” Such labels can sometimes be reductive and fall short of capturing the various nuances of a film; still, we love them and use them freely, mostly as shorthand. I will do no such thing with the wonderful new Norwegian film from director Joachim Trier, *Thelma*. Rather, I will label it as “all of the above.”



The film tells the story of young Thelma, who is just off to college for her freshman year and the first time away from her overbearing, devout, Christian parents. She soon struggles with her intense feelings for another young woman (which run counter to her faith), and that’s when things start to get strange. Whenever she fights off her feelings, or urges, she falls into something akin to an epileptic seizure. She sees doctors who finally tell her that she may have a psychokinetic condition—one which allows her to move things with her mind. This happens when she is attempting to suppress her feelings. She then uncovers secrets from her past, and we realize that everyone may not be who/what

they seem.

Joachim Trier is a talented director who has made a string of excellent films, including *Oslo August 31st*, and *Louder than Bombs*. He is a master storyteller, and in the tradition of great Norwegian films, he is able to quietly display the psychology of his characters through the filmic apparatus, particularly the cinematography and editing. His films remind of another great director of thrillers, one Alfred Hitchcock, and *Thelma* is very much in the vein of the master. The performances in the film are particularly good, especially Eili Harboe as the titular character. She begins the film as a blank slate that envelops the audience as her character moves in different directions. The film follows along.

And oh yeah, it has one of the most arresting—and disturbing—opening scenes I’ve seen in a long, long time. Make sure you are ready from the start for this one.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, *Twin Peaks*, and/or *Psycho*. Starts Jan. 5 at the Sie Film Center.

### Icarus (2016)

Most documentary filmmakers will say they start out with an idea for a film that changes, sometimes drastically, once they start working on the project. *Icarus* is a case in point: what started out as a film to address the doping issue in the world of cycling took a hard turn into a very contemporary film about politics, world amateur sports, and international intrigue. And that is not hyperbole.

Director Bryan Fogel is a filmmaker who was also the creator of the popular *Jewtopia* play and subsequent film of the same name. *Icarus* took shape as a vehicle for Bryan to track his own progress as a competitive amateur cyclist. He wanted to see if he could beat the doping test in the famous Haute Route, a race that is known as the amateur Tour de France. He was introduced to Grigory Ridchenkov, the head of Russia’s anti-doping system, and Ridchenkov helped him begin a program of hormone injections and steroid use. When he finally gets to the race, Vogel



finds that his performance is not really enhanced, and his experiment is essentially anticlimactic.

That’s exactly where the story gets interesting. Fogel and Ridchenkov become fast friends, and the mercurial Ridchenkov quickly becomes the star of the film. Fogel visits Russia, and Ridchenkov visits Los Angeles. Their Skype talks are even interesting. But then the film quickly turns darker as Ridchenkov gets swept up in an investigation by the World Doping Administration (WADA) and is summarily dismissed from his position in the Moscow lab. As he tells more of his story and we find out about his role in Russia’s doping program, his situation becomes more tenuous. He finally flees Russia (in a tense, suspenseful scene) for the United States and moves in with Fogel. He soon meets with the U.S. Department of Justice and tells his story to *The New York Times*. News reports of mysterious deaths of friends come out of Russia. His family is hounded. He fears for his life.

All this began with a bike race. It then turned into a very timely story of how far Russia will go to achieve excellence and dominate the world stage—in this case, sports, but it has larger implications for our current political climate. The film is both engaging as well as a true cautionary tale for our times. You can bet it will make an appearance at the Oscars.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *The Cove*, *Exit Through the Gift Shop*, and/or *Blackfish*.

Now playing on Netflix.

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

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# Affordable Housing Roundup

By John Fernandez

As Denver metro housing prices continue to rise, so also does the community focus on affordable housing. The *Front Porch* offers this overview of recent activities affecting affordable housing in northeast Denver.

## SDC Calls for Special Meeting on Affordable Housing at Stapleton

At its Dec. 7 meeting, a majority of Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC) members called for a special meeting with the city to discuss the status of affordable housing in Stapleton. They requested the meeting take place within 30 days or as soon as possible. The request followed a presentation by Tom Gleason of Forest City on the status of the developer's progress toward meeting the company's affordable housing obligations under its development agreement with the city. Those may generally be described as a requirement to provide 10 percent of all for-sale units as affordable units (firm contractual number) and 33 percent of all units as rentals (not a contractually required amount) with 20 percent of rentals being affordable (contractual number). At present, 6.8 percent of for-sale units are affordable. Rentals stand at 32 percent of total supply but only 17 percent of rentals are affordable. Committee members said time is running out with Stapleton at more than 64 percent buildout. They challenged Gleason's statement that the supply of affordable housing in Stapleton is "market driven," saying the demand exists for all types of housing.

## City Housing Director Provides Update on Stapleton Affordable Housing

The *Front Porch* interviewed Denver's director of housing and neighborhood development on Dec. 14 to see where things stand with the analysis of Forest City's performance and with other items such as the Stapleton Foundation's interest in preserving existing affordable housing units in Stapleton. Rick Padilla said the analysis of land set-asides and development pacing continues and that his office continues to work with Forest City to "boost production and attract more development partners." He said his last meeting with Forest City was in August and hopes for a meeting in January to continue discussions. He said he is "very much interested in pursuing the opportunity" represented by the foundation's proposal to use some of its funding for affordable housing preservation. The source of that funding is the community investment fee collected each time properties in Stapleton are sold (0.25 percent of the sales price after the first \$100,000).

## Council Considers Housing Plan

A Denver City Council committee met Dec. 6 to consider "Housing an Inclusive Denver," its first long-term plan since creation of the city's 10-year, \$150 million housing fund last year. Members of the Safety, Housing, Education and Homeless Committee (aka "SafeHouse Committee") urged city staff to revise the plan to include more specifics and be more aggressive. The *Front Porch* notes that the plan speaks to a city goal of preserving 1,000 affordable units by 2023 citywide.

With 90 percent of the preserved units designated as rentals, this means the city goal is limited to preserving 100 for-sale affordable units in that time frame. Stapleton alone has nearly 400 deed-restricted units, the first of which will begin timing out next year. The SafeHouse Committee also heard a proposal from All in Denver to present voters an affordable housing bond issue in the fall of 2018 to generate additional dollars upfront to address the affordable housing crisis. City finance staff expressed some reservations about the proposal, which will undergo further consideration by the committee and the city's new Housing Advisory Committee.

## Elevation Community Land Trust Announced

A coalition of nonprofits and foundations announced the creation of a land trust to buy and build housing units that would remain permanently affordable. Led by Gary Community Investments, the group has garnered \$24 million in commitments and hopes to provide about 700 housing units in the Denver area over the next five years. A land trust owns the land on which units sit. The units are sold to homeowners who are subject to a long-term land lease. Taking land out of the equation significantly reduces the unit cost. This was the approach used in the Lowry redevelopment through the Colorado Community Land Trust, but has not been used in Stapleton. The Globeville-Ely-

ira-Swansea neighborhoods (GES) have approached the city with a request for \$3 million to set up their own land trust but no decision has been made. Interestingly, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has committed \$2 million for affordable housing in GES as part of its effort to mitigate the impacts of the I-70 widening project known as Central 70. CDOT will be issuing a request for proposals (RFP) in January for the best ideas on how to implement that contribution. It is possible that all of those monies could be funneled to a land trust serving the GES neighborhoods.

## Affordable Housing for Veterans in Stapleton

A new affordable housing project in Stapleton, the Moline Apartments, will include 11 units set aside for veterans at 30 percent and 40 percent of area median income (AMI), most of whom will qualify as homeless households. (This project was originally profiled in the November 2017 *Front Porch*; see <https://frontporchne.com/article/180-affordable-apartments-come-mlkmoline26th/>). Dominique Acevedo of Northeast Denver Housing Center says the project will also include 11 units for households with disabilities among the 180 total units. The project will be located at the southeast corner of MLK Blvd. and Moline Street and is slated to be under construction starting in January.



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# Do What You Love: For Glover It's Quality Scratch-Made Food



By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Caroline Glover loves to give dinner parties. It's not uncommon for her to have 10 close friends over to her house, with people gathered in the kitchen, talking to her as she prepares the meal. Same goes for dining at her restaurant, Annette, at the Stanley Marketplace, only 40 or 50 people can gather, still free to chat with Glover in the kitchen. It's a nightly dinner party, just as Glover envisioned it, spurred on by the lessons learned from the restaurant's namesake, her great aunt, Annette.

"She was just a really strong personality and super confident in her decisions and choices. I always really looked up to her," says Glover of Annette, who passed away when Glover was 24. "She was always very vocal about doing what you want and if you feel strongly about something, that probably means you're right."

When Glover was a sophomore in college

in Texas, she was planning to become a doctor or physical therapist but found herself increasingly dissatisfied with college life. "I just didn't feel right and didn't feel happy. I started working in a restaurant and it did feel right to me, so I feel like that mantra my aunt had about following your heart and your gut—that was really a jumping point for me." She applied to culinary school in New York and was accepted but chose to wait a year before attending to work at a resort in Yosemite. "It let me get

out of my bubble and have different experiences. Then I was ready to move on," says Glover.

Glover also worked on farms as part of her culinary experience. "It really makes you appreciate what it takes to get the product," she says. "It makes you aware of when there are shortages and prices have to go up. You have to roll with the punches and maybe take (an item) off the menu rather than order it from Mexico, for instance. It just makes you more aware."

Glover deliberately doesn't refer to her restaurant as "farm-to-table," instead calling it "scratch-to-table." "To be truly farm-to-table is quite a feat so I didn't want to do any false advertising," she says. For her, scratch-to-table means they make just about everything in-house. "We break down our chickens, make our own stocks, our sauerkraut, our crème fraiche—a lot of little details that are easy to buy but we take the time to make them ourselves." Although Glover says doing things from scratch adds 8–14 hours to the week, she feels it's worth it and that it shows in the meals.

Approaching its one-year anniversary, Annette is Glover's first, and probably only,



Left: The photo session offered Caroline Glover a rare quiet moment in her long days making just about everything the restaurant serves from scratch. She says doing things from scratch adds 8–14 hours to her week, but it's worth it.

Above: Neatly stacked logs for the wood-fired oven fill an entire wall.

Below: Glover prepares food in the Annette restaurant's kitchen.

foray into restaurant ownership. Working 11–13-hour days, six days a week, she can't imagine opening another restaurant. "This is my life! I would want to be there all the time and I couldn't imagine splitting my time," she says. "This just works on this scale." It helps that Glover's husband, Nelson, runs the business side of the restaurant. On their day off, they often go on a long trail run, have a nice dinner, and then sleep for 12 hours.

Although Annette is part of the Stanley Marketplace, it is tucked away, providing a bit of an oasis from the rest of the bustling space. A long, darkened hallway leading to the main entrance helps set the tone for the calm, low-key feeling of Glover's restaurant, which is exactly what she was after.

With her great aunt Annette's influences ever-present for Glover, she is doing exactly what she wanted to do—create a small, neighborhood restaurant where people could gather. "I hope people can feel comfortable and cozy and that they can hang out and spend time here," she says. "And although it might not be a familiar setting at first, I want it to feel familiar to them by the time they leave."



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# Biergarten Brings A Taste of Germany to Northfield



Proprietors Jason Bell and Brett Johnson had their grand opening of Dog Haus in The Shops at Northfield on December 16.

By Anne Hebert

With outdoor seating featuring a firepit, a rotating selection of 24 American craft beers, and hormone- and antibiotic-free hot dogs, sausages and burgers, the new Dog Haus restaurant brings a German biergarten-inspired eating/gathering place to The Shops at Northfield. Proprietors Jason Bell and Brett Johnson say they have created a family-friendly, food-first business model with hormone- and antibiotic-free meats, vegetarian and gluten-free choices like their veggie smoked apple

sausage, lettuce wraps, and their proprietary veggie burger. Most menu selections are served atop a grilled King's Hawaiian bun. All menu choices can be customized by selecting from a list of toppings, most of which are made from scratch in-house. The outdoor biergarten seats 50, indoor seating accommodates 65 patrons, and garage-style doors "let the inside out and the outside in" on days when weather permits. Nine HD TVs show sports events and play YouTube-styled videos that are "funny and fun to watch." Called Dog Haus TV, the videos keep customers of all ages entertained. "We do

show televised sports, but we are definitely not a sports bar," says Bell. Johnson says their music and entertainment helps make dining at Dog Haus enjoyable for the entire family. Bell and Johnson say they chose Northfield for the sense of community. "It's about building relationships. Dog Haus aims to become a part of the neighborhood, greeting customers by name," says Bell. Dog Haus is a franchise, but both partners say "there is nothing cookie-cutter" about their way of doing business. They take pride in running each store as if it was a "Mom and Pop" operation.

With a commitment to community involvement, Dog Haus donates proceeds to charitable organizations and sponsors local sports teams as a way of giving back. Ten percent of the proceeds from their Northfield grand opening went to the Colorado Veterans Project, a nonprofit that hosts special events and raises awareness and funds for local veterans.

Bell owns the Dog Haus restaurant in Centennial and partners with Johnson in Northfield. Bell, who has a background in the food service industry, enjoys the "controlled chaos" of working in a restaurant and says the partners complement each other and work well together. "Our strengths



Customers gather around the fire pit (left) and shared tables (below) at Dog Haus.

and weaknesses are very different," says Johnson, who handles the behind-the-scenes business.

Featuring the tagline, The Absolute Würst, the first Dog Haus opened in Pasadena, Calif., in 2010. In Colorado, two other Dog Haus restaurants are located in Centennial and Colorado Springs. To view the menu or learn more about Dog Haus, visit <http://northfieldstapleton.doghaus.com> or call 303.353.4385.



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# Meals on the Go, Argentina Style



Lorena Cantarovici opened her third Maria Empanada at the Stanley Marketplace. She recently received a \$3.5 million investment from the Colorado Impact Fund to upgrade, train, hire and open new locations.

By Anne Hebert

Lorena Cantarovici is introducing a taste of Latin America to the metro area one empanada at a time. Her third Maria Empanada store, located at the Stanley Marketplace, opened this past August. She says the 350-square-foot space was one of the “last spots available” and the smaller size was exactly what they needed.

When Cantarovici came to Denver from Argentina, she found she was dying for an empanada like those made by her mother and grandmother. She decided “if it’s not here, we will make it.” Part of the pleasure of owning her business is introducing empanadas to new customers. Hand-crafted empanadas, as opposed to mass-produced alternatives, are “a dying art,” she explains.

The Stanley Marketplace reminds Cantarovici of the gallerias in Argentina where customers can find many vendors under one roof. Able to identify with the concept, she felt it was a perfect venue for her business. Cantarovici, the mother of two boys, is especially pleased with the number of families and children that visit the Stanley. “My heart is happy that there are lots of kids asking for empanadas there.” She says it “makes her day” when children become return customers. “Kids are our best critics and our best customers.”

In Argentina, empanadas are fast, casual, kid-friendly and reasonably priced. A popular choice for meals on-the-go, empanadas occupy the same food category

as pizza for their ease and convenience and are available in a variety of flavors, including breakfast empanadas on the weekends at the Stanley.

Maria Empanada is embarking on collaborations with Stanley businesses, Cheluna Brewing Co. and Infinite Monkey Theorem. Creating empanada pairings to go with beer and wine selections keeps the creative juices flowing and challenges Cantarovici and her staff to come up with new, innovative recipes.

A recent recipient of a \$3.5 million investment from the Colorado Impact Fund (CIF), a Denver-based venture capital firm, Maria Empanada will use the funds to expand their brand by upgrading kitchen equipment, opening new locations, and hiring and training new employees. Expansion without compromising the quality of her product is of paramount importance. Cantarovici, who was named in 2017 as the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Colorado Small Business Person of the Year, is committed to the ideals that motivated her to begin her business with only \$4,000 to invest.

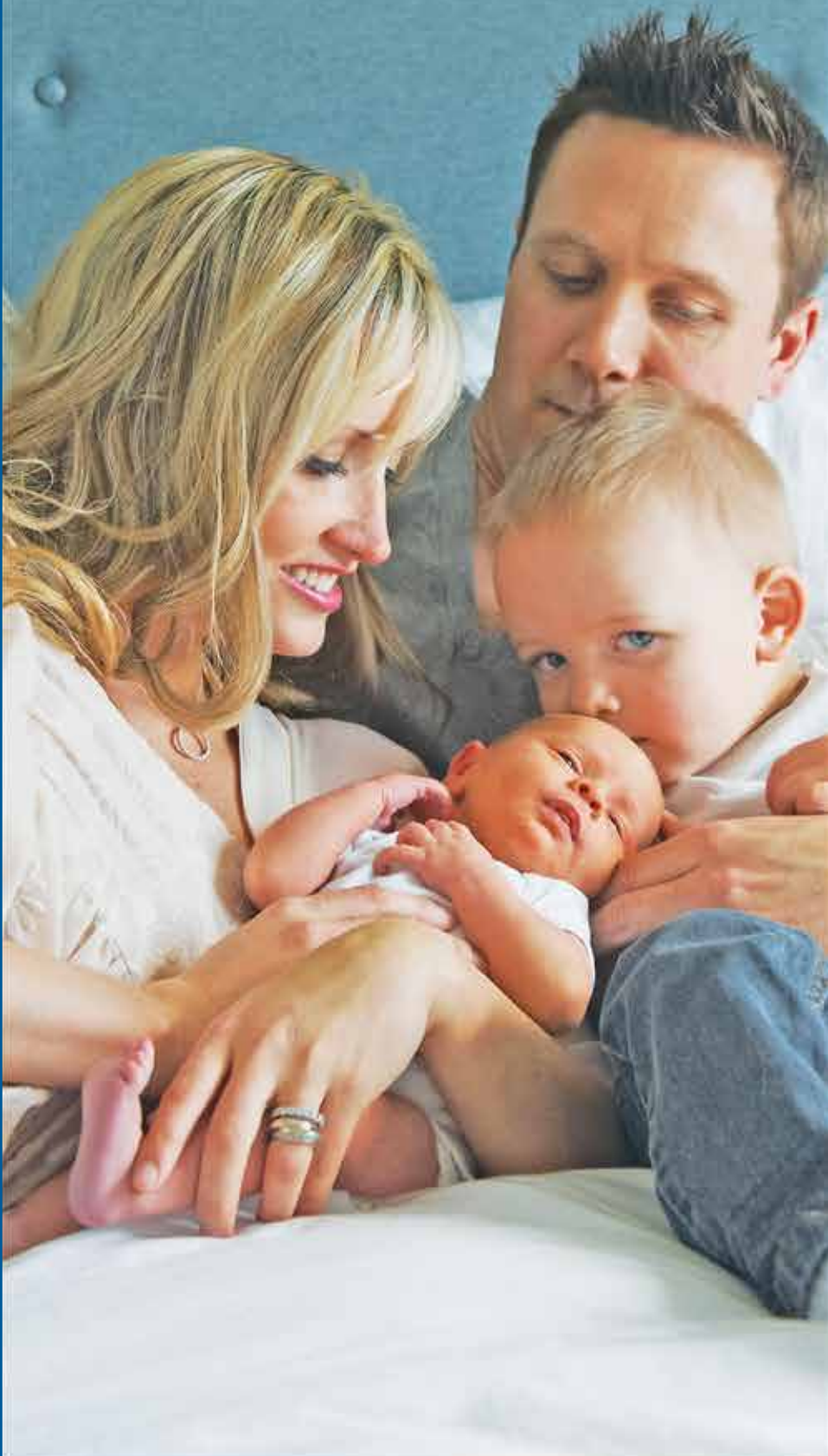
Customers may pre-order empanadas for parties and gatherings. Orders of 100 empanadas or more should be made at least 48 hours in advance. For more information, visit [www.mariaempanada.com](http://www.mariaempanada.com) or call 720.484.5927. The Stanley location is open Tuesday–Friday, 11 am–8 pm, Saturday, 9 am–9 pm and Sunday, 9 am–5 pm. The shop is closed on Mondays.



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# Small Cells



A "colocated" small cell installation placed on a street light yardarm. Street lights in Denver are typically owned by Xcel.

(continued from page 9) Small Cell infrastructure." However, Denver has some general design requirements in place for small cell equipment and is considering additional design guidelines. Aurora representative Hector Reynoso says, "We are really limited in our ability to regulate these new facilities. The city can't say no to facilities in the right-of-way. To minimize the number of new poles is our priority."

Xcel spokesperson Mark Stutz says his company has "historically allowed communications equipment to be attached to its electric distribution poles throughout its service area (including Denver) and has had agreements in place with multiple wireless carriers to allow the carriers to colocate 'small cells' on Xcel Energy's distribution poles since 2015, when wireless carriers were planning their first small cell deployments."

"Since then, upon discussion with the cities/communities ... that it serves, Xcel Energy has decided to make additional company-owned infrastructure available for the colocation of small cells and is working on finalizing agreements with various wireless carriers that would further reduce the need for additional infrastructure in the right of way to support the carriers' small cell deployments."

Hector Reynoso, Aurora's real property manager, says he expects the basic installation to be a five-foot "silo" atop a 30-foot pole. Aurora rejected the initial set of small cell applications because of conflicts with emergency service equipment. Reynoso expects applications citywide in the coming months.

Verizon spokesperson Meagan Dorsch said her company supported the 2017 legislation to "modernize and streamline the permitting process" and its provisions for "local government oversight." The new state law requires permits to be processed in 90 days or less.

It's OK to

# Be a Little Bit Selfish while Helping Others

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Tricia Chinn Campbell feels moms should be a little selfish. As the mother of two, Campbell knows it can be challenging for moms to take time to focus on their own needs. She also knows that school fundraisers are always popping up, so she found a way to benefit Colorado schools while also benefiting moms.

On January 25, through her company, Mom's Night Out Productions, Campbell will host the inaugural Mom UP! Project at The Hangar at Stanley Marketplace. The event, which runs from 4-9:30pm, will have pop-up shops and restaurants, a cash bar and speakers throughout the evening covering relevant topics. The \$25 ticket, which must be purchased in advance, includes an \$8 donation to the Colorado public or private school of the mom's choice and a swag bag of offers and samples valued at more than \$300.00. VIP swag bags are available for \$40, with upgraded offers and samples. Attendees can also add on a cheese plate from So Damn Gouda, a local business in attendance. Campbell encourages moms to come when they can during the evening, stay as long as they like or even come and go.

Formerly in advertising, Campbell worked as a consultant once her children were born. As they reached school age, she realized there were lots of school fundraisers but many of them involved the same kinds of activities. She wanted to do something different that also gave something back to the moms.

The Mom Up! Project is a branch off of her Mom's Night Out Production movie nights, created when the movie *Bad Moms* came out in 2016. While trying to come up with a twist on a mom's night out, Campbell thought about how she could create a fun evening and provide

exposure to businesses and swag bags for moms. Adding the element of benefiting schools would help alleviate any guilt pangs moms might have. The first event, which benefited one school, sold out. People from other parts of the city found out about the movie nights as did requests to give to other schools. Creating the Mom UP! Project meant being able to have a different format and the opportunity for more moms to attend, while still giving back to the school of their choice.

The speaker lineup for the Mom UP! Project is varied: Eric Gorski, bureau chief of Chalkbeat Colorado; Chef Maggie O'Toole, a cooking teacher and chef; Heather Hunter, a psychic medium; Bridget Molloy, dealing with women's health and sexual well-being; Sarah Stabio, owner of The Bar Method Denver; and Wendy Gos-

sett, a family temperament specialist. Pop-up shop exhibitors include Tea-koe Tea, Plum Consignment, Hand and Stone Massage, Wills and Wellness Estate Planning, Denver Vein Center, Gypsy Stitches Studio, and Smartwool.

"Sometimes it's nice to get a little something back that has nothing to do

with our kids," says Campbell. "It's not only about being a mom but it's about being a woman too. There's a little selfishness involved." Campbell hopes that between the food, drink, shopping and speakers, moms will leave with something that has added to their lives. "If they learned something, bought something, made some new friends or hung out with friends they haven't been able to see, that makes it worth it. That, to me, is what will make it a successful event."

For more information, visit <https://momupproject.buzz>.



Tricia Chinn's company, Mom's Night Out Productions, will host the inaugural Mom UP! project at Stanley Marketplace in January, an event that will include speakers and pop up shops and restaurants. The ticket includes a donation to the school of the mom's choice.

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# January & Early February Events

## NORTHEAST DENVER/ AURORA EVENTS

**Denver School of the Arts.** Montview and Quebec. Tickets/complete listings: [www.dsapresents.org](http://www.dsapresents.org), [www.dsa.dpsk12.org/performances](http://www.dsa.dpsk12.org/performances)

**To 1/12—Youth at DAVA Holiday Show and Sale: Peace in the Universe.** Downtown Aurora Visual Arts youth exhibit. Handmade gifts for sale. 1405 Florence St. Mon.-Fri. 10am-5pm and by appointment. [www.davarts.org](http://www.davarts.org)

**1/13 Saturday—6th Annual Preschool Showcase.** Presented by Denver Preschool Program, a family-friendly, one-stop opportunity to explore quality early learning options and tuition support for their 4-year-olds. Free food, dental screenings, story time and family entertainment. 9am-12pm, Dahlia Center for Health and Well-being, 3401 Eudora St. [www.dpp.org](http://www.dpp.org)

**1/17 Wednesday—Wine Education Series at The Cube.** Sit-down tasting showcasing different wines from different regions with wine educator leading discussion. Tickets \$20, \$40 day of. 21+ [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com)

**1/20 Saturday—3rd Annual Speakeasy Soiree.** Live music, vintage vendors, cash bar, Charleston dance lessons, etc. Tickets from \$20. The Hangar at Stanley, 2501 Dallas St., Aurora. [www.speakeasysoiree.com](http://www.speakeasysoiree.com)

**1/26 Friday—Harry Potter Trivia Night at The Cube.** Come with a team or join a team and test your Harry Potter knowledge! Prizes, drinks and more. Details coming soon to [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com)

**2/2 to 2/3—Harry Potter Movie Marathon Lock-In at The Cube.** 2pm Fri. to 10:30am Sat. For kids 2nd-5th grade; all 8 Harry Potter movies will be shown along with crafts, snacks, activities, etc. Details: [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com)

## SEASONAL/HOLIDAY EVENTS

**To 1/1—Blossoms of Light.** Denver Botanic Gardens, York St. [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

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

**To 1/7—Denver International Airport's Ice Skating Rink.** 9am-9pm, Free, complimentary skates available. DIA [www.flydenver.com](http://www.flydenver.com)

**To 1/2—Denver Pavilions Holiday Carousel.** 11am-9pm, \$3 or free with voucher from Pavilions Merchants. [www.denverpavilions.com](http://www.denverpavilions.com)

**To 1/22—City and County Building Holiday Lights.** 6-11pm. Free. [www.downtowndenver.com](http://www.downtowndenver.com)

## DENVER METRO EVENTS

**To 1/14—Women Artists in Paris.** Denver Art Museum, exhibit ticket required. [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

**To 2/14—Downtown Denver Rink at Skyline Park.** FREE ice skating; bring skates or rent: \$6/pair. [www.downtowndenver.com](http://www.downtowndenver.com)

**1/4 to 1/6—Colorado RV Adventure Travel Show.** Tickets: \$12. 12 and under free. Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th St. [www.gsevents.com](http://www.gsevents.com)

**1/4 Thursday—National Western Parade.** Downtown Denver. FREE. [www.nationalwestern.com](http://www.nationalwestern.com)

**1/4 to 1/21—National Western Stock Show and Rodeo.** National Western Complex. Events: [www.nationalwestern.com](http://www.nationalwestern.com)

**1/5 Friday—First Friday Art Walks.** Santa Fe Arts District, Tennyson Art Walk, River North (RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Museum District. [www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts](http://www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts)

**1/5 to 1/12—TreeCycle 2018.** Questions: call 311 or visit [DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles](http://DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles).

**1/6 Saturday—The Whiffenpoofs.** World's oldest and well-known acapella group, 14 Yale men. Newman Center for Performing Arts, DU campus.

2pm and 7:30pm. [www.newmancenterpresents.com](http://www.newmancenterpresents.com)

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

**1/6 to 1/9—MLK Tribute.** 7:30pm. The Colorado Symphony Presents Sacrifice for Justice. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1400 Curtis St. FREE. Tickets required; request free tickets: [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org).

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

**1/12 to 1/14—Denver Boat Show.** Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th St. downtown Denver. [www.denverboatshow.com](http://www.denverboatshow.com)

**1/13 Saturday—A Tribute to Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops.** Presented by Colorado Symphony, 7:30pm. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1400 Curtis St. [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org)

**1/14 Sunday—Rocky Mountain Bridal Show.** Colorado Convention Center, 11am-4pm. Tickets \$10-\$15. [www.rockymtnbridalshow.com](http://www.rockymtnbridalshow.com)

**1/15 Monday—Martin Luther King Jr. Parade and Program.** Largest in U.S. Gather in City Park at Colfax and Columbine, and march to Civic Center Park. Program 8am-2pm. [www.drmartinlutherkingjrhc.org](http://www.drmartinlutherkingjrhc.org)

**1/19 to 1/21—37th Annual Indian Market and SW Showcase.** Fri. 1-7 pm; Sat. 10am-7pm; Sun. 10am-5pm. Denver Merchandise

Mart, 451 E. 58th Ave. [www.indianmarket.net](http://www.indianmarket.net)

**1/19 to 1/21—Vivaldi's The Four Seasons.** Presented by Colorado Symphony, 7:30 pm. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1400 Curtis St. [coloradosymphony.org](http://coloradosymphony.org)

**1/25 Thursday—Mom UP! Project.** Raise funds for our local public schools, give moms a fun night out and increase activity for community businesses. Pre-ticketed event held at Stanley Marketplace. Receive swag bag with offers/samples from participating businesses during check-in, shop at 60 pop-up shops and hear 30 UP! Showcase Presentations. Cash bar. \$8 of \$20 ticket donated to PTA of attendee's choice. [www.momupproject.buzz](http://www.momupproject.buzz). Tricia Campbell: [campbell@momsnightout.buzz](mailto:campbell@momsnightout.buzz), 720.841.2545, [www.momupproject.buzz](http://www.momupproject.buzz)

**1/26 to 1/27—Denver Winter Brewfest.** 7pm. Mile High Station. \$35-\$50. Benefits Swallow Hill Music. [www.denverbrewfest.com/winter](http://www.denverbrewfest.com/winter)

**2/3 Saturday—A Night with Janis Joplin.** Paramount Theatre. \$39.50 up. [www.anightwith-janisjoplin.com](http://www.anightwith-janisjoplin.com)

**2/6 to 2/20—New Members Welcome at Last Note Singers.** Spring rehearsals start 2/6; new members welcome thru 2/20. All voices welcome, no audition, seek basses and tenors. \$40 dues. [www.lastnotesingers.org](http://www.lastnotesingers.org)

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

**1/2 to 1/31—Fitness Classes at Augustana.** 5000 E. Alameda. Class info: [www.augustanadenver.org](http://www.augustanadenver.org) or 303.388.4678.

**1/6 Saturday—Reslove 5K/10K.** Denver City Park, 9am. [www.featonthestreet.com](http://www.featonthestreet.com)

**1/13 Saturday—20th Annual Quaker Oatmeal Festival and Quicker Quaker 5K Walk/Run.** Downtown Lafayette. [www.lafayette-colorado.com](http://www.lafayette-colorado.com)

**1/26 Friday—8th Annual bewell Awards and Community Celebration.** 5:30-8:30pm, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 3203 Quebec St. RSVP by 1/19: [www.bewellconnect.org/awards.htm](http://www.bewellconnect.org/awards.htm), [SValeriano@stapletonfoundation.org](mailto:SValeriano@stapletonfoundation.org), 303.468.3226. [www.bewellconnect.org](http://www.bewellconnect.org) (continued on page 22)

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(continued from page 21)

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KIDS AND FAMILIES

**To 1/27—Denver Puppet Theater.** The Snow Queen. 3156 W. 38th Ave. [www.denverpuppettheater.com](http://www.denverpuppettheater.com)

**To 3/31—Be the Astronaut.** Interactive space exhibit, Wings Over the Rockies Museum. [www.wingsmuseum.org](http://www.wingsmuseum.org)

**1/4 to 1/25—Star K Kids.** Thursdays, 9:30 and 11am; kids 5 and under. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. [www.auroragov.org/nature](http://www.auroragov.org/nature)

**1/6 Saturday—Home Depot Kids Workshop.** 9am-12pm. FREE how-to clinics 1st Sat. monthly, ages 5-12. Get Home Depot apron, wooden project and project pin. Metro-area Home Depot stores. [www.homedepot.com](http://www.homedepot.com)

**1/7 Sunday—Junior Rangers.** Ages 6-12, 1:30-3pm. Learn about plants/animals of Star K Ranch. RSVP required, 303.326.8650. [www.aurora.gov/nature](http://www.aurora.gov/nature)

**1/9 to 1/30—Tuesdays in January Four Mile Historic Park Small Settlers.** Ages 2-5 with parent/caregiver. 9-10am. \$5/child adults free, members free. 7150D. Forest St. Advance register: 720.865.0814 or [education@fourmilepark.org](mailto:education@fourmilepark.org). [www.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)

**1/13 Saturday—Hands on History Family Fun Days.** History Colorado Museum. \$25 Family pack includes 4 museum admissions, discounted family meal deal, and backpack with ways to explore the museum, Jan. thru May. Available only online at [www.historycolorado.org](http://www.historycolorado.org).

**1/15 to 1/16—Xtreme Dogs at National Western Stock Show.** Featuring Sara and Hero from *America's Got Talent*. Family 4-pack includes tickets and meal deal, starts at \$79. 1/15 3pm and 1/16 at 6:30pm. [www.nationalwestern.com](http://www.nationalwestern.com)

LECTURES AND CLASSES

[www.ActiveMinds.com](http://www.ActiveMinds.com)

**1/2 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—South Korea.** 10-11am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. 303.316.6359.

**1/9 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—South Korea.** 12:30-1:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727

**1/11 Thursday—Active Minds Seminar (Free)—Wine.**

6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325.

**1/23 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—Spain.** 5-6pm. Tattered Cover. 2526 E. Colfax 303.322.7727

**1/25 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)—Afghanistan.** 10-11am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. 303.316.6359.

**1/25 Thursday—Active Minds Seminar (Free)—Iceland.** 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325.

**2/1 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)—Yemen.** The Grove at Stapleton, 2980 N. Syracuse. 2-4pm; program 2:30pm.

MUSEUMS—DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE

[www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)

**IMAX.** Dream Big 3D: Engineering Our World; Conquests of the Sky 3D

**To 1/1—Nature's Amazing Machines.** Free with admission.

**To 1/15—Ultimate Dinosaurs.** Free with admission.  
**1/4 to 1/6—Star Trek.** Special showing at Phipps IMAX Theater

**1/18 Thursday—Science Lounge.** Third Thursdays, 6:30-9:30pm. \$10/members; \$12/nonmembers.

**1/30 Tuesday—A Colorado Winter with John Fielder and Jon Kedrowski.** 7pm. Tickets \$10-\$15. [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)

MUSEUMS—FREE DAYS

**1/2 Tuesday—Denver Botanic Gardens Free Day.** [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**1/5 to 1/26—Clyfford Still Museum Free Friday Evenings.** Free admission every Friday evening, 5-8pm. SCFD Free day 1/27 10am-8pm. 1250 Bannock St. [www.clyffordstillmuseum.org](http://www.clyffordstillmuseum.org)

**1/6 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day.** [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

**1/6 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day.** SCFD Free Day. [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

**1/6 Saturday—Denver Botanic Gardens Free Day.** [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**1/8 Monday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science Free Day.** [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)

**1/11 Thursday—Denver Zoo Free Day.** [www.denverzoo.org](http://www.denverzoo.org)

**1/12 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Free Day.** 12-4pm. [www.denverzoo.org](http://www.denverzoo.org)

**1/15 Monday—Denver Botanic Gardens Free Day.** [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)


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1/19 Friday—Denver Zoo Free Day.  
www.denverzoo.org

1/20 Saturday—Denver Zoo Free Day.  
www.denverzoo.org

1/28 Sunday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science Free Day. www.dmns.org

2/3 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day. www.denverartmuseum.org

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1/5 Friday—First Fridays at National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repository. 10-11am and 2-3pm. Explore wildlife items confiscated by U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Reservation by email only: nwpr@fws.gov

1/20 Saturday—Wildlife Viewing Tours. 9:30-11:30am. Naturalist leads bus tour thru refuge to view bald eagles, bison, coyotes, deer, raptors, etc. Repeats 1/24, 1-2:30pm. RSVP required.

1/21 Sunday—The Masked Bandit. 10-10:45am. Learn about black-footed ferret in Refuge ferret exhibit; naturalist-led program. RSVP required.

1/27 Saturday—Hawk Talk. 10-11am, presented by Natures Educators. See 5 live raptors and learn in auditorium program.

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2/3 Saturday—Falcon Frenzy. 10-11am, presented by Natures Educators. See 4 live falcons and learn why they are the “fighter jets” of the bird world in auditorium program.

**THEATRE**

1/6 to 2/3—Rumors. Spotlight Theatre Company at John Hand Theater. www.thisisspotlight.com

To 2/24—Detroit 67. Curious Theatre Company, 1080 Acoma St. www.curioustheatre.org

1/12 to 2/18—Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar and Grill. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

1/19 to 2/10—Hedwig and the Angry Inch. Aurora Fox Theater, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

1/25 to 1/30—Steal a Pencil for Me. Wolf Theater at Mizel Arts and Cultural Center, 350 S. Dahlia St. www.maccjcc.org

1/26 to 2/25—American Mariachi. Stage Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, 14th and Curtis. www.denvercenter.org

1/26 to 5/6—Sense and Sensibility. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. www.arvadacenter.org

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**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 members give, volunteer, mentor, befriend refugee neighbors. 1532 Galena St., Ste. 380. 720.460.1393

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



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By Carol Roberts

What's Next?" is the question we've heard since the Dec. 11 community-wide listening sessions about keeping or changing the Stapleton name. Five organizations that contribute to the community in different ways sponsored the two sessions, one afternoon and one evening, to get a sense of community views on the subject. All five organizations have Stapleton associated with their names.

*Four of Stapleton's community organizations have it within their power to change their name. Two have already done it.*

#### Stapleton Foundation

Four days after the listening sessions, the Stapleton Foundation issued a press release that they had dropped Stapleton from their name and will begin doing business as "The Foundation for Sustainable Urban Communities" effective January 1, 2018. CEO Landri Taylor says the new name better reflects the scope of the foundation's work, which has grown beyond Stapleton. The Foundation's press release thanks those who "have brought focus to the Stapleton name and its relationship to the old airport's namesake, Ben Stapleton and his connection to the Ku Klux Klan." Taylor, however, emphasizes that The Foundation's priorities will continue in the areas of healthy living, affordable housing and education with particular emphasis toward eliminating the achievement gap experienced by the majority of kids in northeast Denver Public Schools. Taylor believes spending time and energy on the community name change distracts from these core community challenges.

#### Stapleton Citizens Advisory Board (CAB)

In a 3 – 2 vote, CAB approved a resolution at their Dec. 21 meeting that the

group would drop Stapleton from its name, ask Forest City to stop using it in their marketing (though recognizing it may need to be used legally), and acknowledged that the naming issue can be effective in bringing more attention to the kind of community Stapleton intends to be as described in the Green Book—socially diverse, inclusive, broad-based and welcoming.

Nadine Caldwell and Alice Kelly, each of whom have been on CAB and SDC for over 25 years opposed the motion. Kelly explained, "Rather than spending a lot of time changing the name, I suggest that the energies that are going toward this go to helping make this community more diverse. You work on affordable housing, you help kids feel safer in their schools, and help residents understand and appreciate each other and their ethnicities.

*One is laying the groundwork that would make a change possible.*

#### Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN)

Amanda Allhouse, SUN president writes in this month's SUN Spot (see page 28), "The board has discussed that although the call for SUN to change its name is not coming from the majority of the community, it is still within SUN's charge to propose an action to the community based on the strength and nature of this voice. Over the coming weeks, the SUN board will begin preparing a proposed change in the SUN by-laws, which is the mechanism by which SUN would remove Stapleton from its name.

*One has plans to talk about it.*

#### Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC)

SDC Board Chair Pat Teegarden said, by email, he expects the board

# The Stapleton Name: What's next?

will have a discussion about the name at their next meeting in late January. President and CEO Tammi Holloway says the organization has not received feedback on this issue from the community, but starting many years ago, the organization, for convenience, chose to use its acronym, SDC, rather than its full name.

Teegarden says, "We are certainly pleased that...using SDC...also prevents our organization's name from being perceived as offensive to others or a distraction to our more pressing goals with respect to affordable housing and other key issues facing the community." He adds that he's personally comfortable with the community being named after the old airport, but if it's a barrier to achieving a community identity of diversity and inclusiveness, then it's fine to have another name.

Terry Whitney, currently an SDC board member who also served on CAB for many years, says he does not personally favor a name change because he believes it is action—the right kind of action—that's important. He'd prefer to see people spending their time helping at schools where students really need the extra support.

*The fifth organization is legally bound to the name Stapleton and changing that name would be more difficult.*

#### Master Community Association, Inc.

The MCA is tied to legal documents that define the geographic area it serves (as well as regulations about how it operates) —and that geographic area is legally named Stapleton. It's possible to change the name, says MCA Executive Director Keven Burnett, but the first hurdle is that the geographic area the MCA represents must have a name—so the change process would require a simultaneous decision on a new name.

At least three routes to changing the name are legally possible, says Burnett. (1) Sixty-six percent of all owners would have to vote in favor of changing Stapleton to a designated new name.

(2) The Stapleton neighborhood has 10 elected delegates to the MCA. A delegate could request to put a name change on the agenda and have a vote on the issue. If the majority of delegates agreed, the recommendation would be passed on to the MCA board, which, as of Jan. 1, 2018, is made up of three residents and two representatives of master developer Forest City. If the board approved, then the master developer would need to approve the recommendation in order for it to take effect. (3) The MCA Board could put a name change on their agenda for a vote. If the board approved the change, again, the master developer would have to give final approval. (Burnett points out that residents can bring concerns about the community to the attention of MCA staff, board members and delegates through the MCA website at StapletonCommunity.com.)

A fourth option may be the entity that assigned the name in the first place, says Burnett. The DenverGov.org website says: "The Statistical Neighborhood boundaries were developed in 1970 by the Community Renewal Program (CRP), which was administered by the current Denver Department of Community Planning and Development. Statistical neighborhoods are typically combinations of census tracts. Geographic place names...were assigned to each area and reflect commonly used names of subdivisions and historical parts of the city."

*But it's not just about the name.*

A recurring theme among longtime members of the community groups quoted above is a concern that changing the name doesn't bring Stapleton closer to the goals in the Green Book that describes the vision for Stapleton.

One of the observations by Dr. Nita Moseby Tyler, who moderated the Dec. 11 sessions, is "a substantial number of the speakers agreed that changing the name was not the final solution. There was agreement that there would need to be strong community focus to tackle gentrification, racism and the lack of racial diversity in the community. The name change, alone, would not solve those issues."

Happy New Year!  
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# And what are people saying?

Approximately 60-65 people attended each listening session on Dec. 11, with some attending both. A total of about 45 people spoke—with the majority of those who spoke in favor of a change.



Kathy Duda—We moved here from Chicago and San Francisco kicking and screaming (because) it didn't seem that diverse. What caught my eye was the slogans... about inclusivity and diversity... (But) this is a gated community. Children that feel really safe at DSST walk through this neighborhood and they don't feel as welcome. If we truly came here with the intent to be inclusive...then let's let the people the name means something to make the change.



Michael McMurray—Despite being mixed race and brown skin, I grew up in a middle class home. (By graduate school) I became aware of the privilege my life afforded me...What's important to others is also important to us...We care. It (changing the name) would be a huge statement of inclusiveness.



Sandra Burroughs—I fear the name will attract others who are proud of Stapleton's association with hate. Let's show them they're not welcome here. I've also thought about people with the same fears as mine who choose not to live here. Let's loudly tell those people they are welcomed here.



Harold Scramstad—The great American stain was built around race. It's not going to go away no matter what gestures we make...A name is what you make of a name...We have to wash the name with great schools...with economic and social opportunity for everyone. We can't go back. The only place we can go is forward.



Mandel Rousseau—I don't think it is just to have that (Stapleton) legacy continued...because of the pain that goes with the KKK. If you know something is wrong and you have the ability to do something about it, I challenge you to think about that and decide to make a change for the better.

10 days later at the CAB meeting...



Ellen Miller Brown—What are the children thinking about as they watch us? We cannot divorce ourselves in this decision from what's going on today in the larger community...I want to change the name. And I want to show the children that we...stand up for what's right and I hope they will watch us and do the same.

A summary of statements and conclusions was created by the moderator Dr. Nita Moseby Tyler and is posted with this story on our website at FrontPorchNE.com.



Dipti Nevrekar—I have a dark-skinned son who has faced racism at school. I have to tell him...don't wear a hoodie, you can't act evasive or defiant. People of color face disparities every day. Here's an opportunity to change it.



Rajeev Vibhakar—We love living in Stapleton. In Stapleton and Denver I have friends from every spectrum of society...the people who live in this community are probably about as inclusive as any you could find anywhere.



Gregory Diggs (left) has been an outspoken advocate for changing the name. Ron Adams, at the Dec. 11 event said, "Stapleton was a complex person who did something bad, then did something good...Stapleton is a meritocracy. You work...you can buy a house...There's no such thing as white privilege." The two are exchanging phone numbers to meet and talk.

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june 11-15

june 18-29

july 9-27

august 6-10

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# Meet Jennifer Bacon —New District 4 School Representing Stapleton and Park Hill

By Melinda Pearson

The Front Porch sat down with newly elected District 4 school board member, Jennifer Bacon, to discuss her recent election win and her priorities. Bacon was supported by the teachers' union, which opposes many recent board reforms implemented around school choice, accountability and school closure. The following interview has been edited and condensed.

## You won the election, beating out two other candidates in District 4. What does that mean?

[My opponents'] dynamic allowed me to have something unique... It's like I'm speaking a language that isn't reform or anti-reform. What I started to say was listen, what does community-driven leadership look like, which means we need, together, to identify the problems we have?

Let's lean on each other to solve them. For me, that meant understanding the whole landscape, not just the anti-reform space or reform space.

Elections are also important because they demonstrate where public will is. With three candidates and two carrying a lot of votes [against reform], that means something. I also feel like ... people are prepared to understand we have to have these conversations right now. That's what I'm looking forward to doing with the board. When I come, I come as an elected official. Sure, I got 42% of the votes, but another 20% voted for a non-incumbent, and they want to see change.

## The Denver Classroom Teachers' Association (DCTA supported you). What does that mean for you and the school board, which is largely pro-reform?

I didn't come to the DCTA with fire and brimstone. I said, let me tell you what I see is happening in this district. It just so happens that we agreed on a lot of things. What we need to understand about the charter movement is what is the ending? Is it literally being 50% of our schools?...The fact that the question's on the table, that in and of itself is an issue.

The other thing is I've been a teacher. I was also a union member when I was in the classroom. I understand what that work does to support the professional.

[The union] creates mandatory floors. It creates accountability. I've worked a lot with teachers in charter, innovation, and district schools. There is something to be said about doing something to save this profession, especially in this day and age. That's what I talked to them about. I also said, I know what the impact is of school closure.

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# Board Representative k Hill

## What are your priorities as you join the school board?

Honestly, the first priority is understanding where schools are at, particularly around closure and performance, and evaluating what is DPS’ role in either the failures or successes. The data to me isn’t exactly as objective as people think it is.

The other thing is we have to understand our leadership structures, and what’s going on by way of the equity measure, the parent survey, all of those things. One of the things that’s really important, that I have always loved about me as a candidate, is that I come with relationships for parents and kids in schools to be able to create a picture outside of the School Performance Framework (SPF) indicator.

I know the board has heard a lot about school closures. but it’s actually been true that when schools close a charter pops up. Not everybody hates the charter schools. I don’t. I give DPS the credit for saying we actually have the tools to meet these needs now. I worked at DSST. I know what they do well...but we haven’t been doing it in places where it really matters.

We have to now become more efficient, clean up our messes, and level the playing field. That means it’s not



In a wide-ranging interview, Jennifer Bacon shared her thoughts on subjects ranging from her campaign to her priorities as a board member.

**What is the definition of a quality school?**

When we say high-quality schools, that means two different things to two different groups. Who has the power in determining them? I think that...it is our job as a district to bring the quality. You tell me what you need. I will give you the best services to get there versus me telling you... this is what you’re going to have, right? At least that’s my vision.

For me, I say this: the kids need to not only master reading, writing, science, but

they need to know who they are in their place in this world as readers. That identity piece and cultural competency as well as self-determination are critical. I think...of public education where the outcome is to create citizens who are able to carry on for themselves.

about finding new money all the time. It’s reallocating the way we’re spending it.

From afar, I’ve only watched the board talk. Now being in it is a completely different world. I’m looking forward to knowing versus making conversation. What I want to be is a conduit for communication so we can be held accountable.

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

# January SUN News and Events

*By: Geoff Horsfall, SUN Sustainability  
Committee Chair*

## Stapleton Joins the Denver Sustainable Neighborhood Network

The Department of Public Health and Environment at the City and County of Denver welcomed the Stapleton Community into the Sustainable Neighborhood Network on Dec. 20, 2017. Members of the Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) Sustainability Committee drafted and submitted the application earlier in the month with support from Councilman Christopher J. Herndon, Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership, Stapleton Mortgage & Realty, the SUN board, and over 350 neighbors.

Community feedback and support was an important part of the application process. To date, 75 residents have requested to be involved in the implementation of planned sustainable activities. Of all community members who provided input, projects of most interest were (as shown in the figure at right): a tree planting event, an electronics recycling event, and a trash pickup event, all of which have been identified as priority year one projects. The stated goal of program participation was to connect people and build community in and out of Stapleton while promoting sustainability. In turn, proposed projects were aligned with the five broad goal categories (Air, Land, Energy, Water, People) and associated target areas established by the Sustainable Neighborhoods Program, with priority given to projects that would benefit not only Stapleton but neighboring communities as well.

Year-one priority projects included in the application were:

**Air: A tree planting day in community parks.**

Aligned to the “Trees and Vegetation” target area, this project will improve our parks, reduce solar gain and improve air quality. Neighboring communities will



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be invited to participate through respective Registered Neighborhood Organizations (RNOs) and the city's Parks and Rec Dept.

## Land: An electronics recycling drive.

Aligned to the “Chemical Pollution” target area, this project will decrease the chemical pollution in our city’s ground and water. Envisioned as an annual event, neighboring communities will be invited to participate through their respective RNOs. SUN will promote the city’s e-cycle program as part of this effort and work with recycling centers directly to make the event as

## Community Interest in Sustainability Projects



cost-effective as possible.

**Energy: A renewable energy & energy conservation fair.**

Aligned to the “Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation” target area, this project will need the most effort. The goal will be to serve as host to an expo for residents, of Stapleton and neighboring communities, interested in learning about their energy options from vendors, city services, nonprofits and experts.

## Water: A Trash-Pickup Day at Westerly Creek.

Aligned to the “Storm Water Management” target area and done collaboratively with the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership, this project will span the portion of Westerly Creek from Aurora to Sand Creek. It would have downstream benefit for the South Platte, which collects storm water from Westerly Creek. As a traveling event, neighboring communities would be invited to areas identified for cleanup.

**People: A Sustainability-themed movie & dinner night.**

Aligned to the “Community Outreach” target area, this project will increase the community’s awareness, engagement and social vitality of the neighborhood. Envisioned as an event that can happen a couple of times a year, the sustainability-themed entertainment would double as a fundraising event. Proceeds would go to Denver-based sustainability programs.

In the early stages of the program, the SUN Sustainability Committee will organize, promote and execute our projects. A parallel effort to the projects themselves will be establishing “Green Teams.” The goal of the Green Teams will be to identify committed residents with common interests who can organize and execute events themselves, with the SUN Sustainability Committee serving in a supporting and administrative role.

The details of a communitywide kickoff meeting will be announced in the second half of January. If you would like to participate in the implementation of this plan, please email SUN Sustainability Chair Geoff Horsfall at [geoff.horsfall@gmail.com](mailto:geoff.horsfall@gmail.com).

## SUN Monthly Meetings

By: Amanda Allshouse, President,  
SUN Board of Directors,  
StapletonUnitedNeighbors@gmail.  
com

SUN hosts meetings on the third Tuesday of each month, 6:30–8:45, in the Central Park Rec Center Multipurpose room. SUN's next in-person meetings will be Jan. 16 from 6:30–7:30pm for Outreach, and 7:30–8:45pm for the Board of Directors meeting.

**Discussion of the organization name**  
**Stapleton United Neighbors**

The SUN board has reviewed themes in community feedback and opinions about the community name from multiple sources of communication. The board has discussed that although the call for SUN to change its name is not coming from the majority of the community, it is still within SUN's charge to propose an action to the community based on the strength and nature of this voice. Over the coming weeks, the SUN board will begin preparing a proposed change in the SUN bylaws, which is the mechanism by which SUN would remove Stapleton from its name.

During the Outreach meeting in January (6:30pm), the SUN board will summarize feedback received from the community via multiple sources in 2017: in-person (Dec. 11), email (ongoing), and online (two instances: spring and fall). After communicating the range and depth of feedback received, evolving plans for a community vote on a proposed bylaw change later this spring will be described. The language that would be proposed for a community vote and the accompanying consideration of regional impacts of any such change will continue evolving in early 2018. Any proposed change to SUN's bylaws must be posted 30 days in advance of a vote, and must pass with 67 percent of a vote of community members over the age 18.

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# Letters to the Editor

## Regretfully, Goodbye Stapleton. You’re too expensive.

Goodbye Stapleton  
As I’m getting ready to move to Aurora, I want to say goodbye to Stapleton, where I’ve lived for over three years. I will miss it here. I, a single professional who makes a six-digit salary, can no longer afford to live here due to ever increasing rent. Something is wrong when a neighborhood starts to force out upper middle-class single-earners. The low-income threshold for qualification for “affordable” housing here in

Stapleton and soaring rents and home values will soon make this a neighborhood of only the rich and the poor. Only those people who bought homes a long time ago will be able to afford to stay. A neighborhood loses a certain something when this happens, and it is sad to see. Affordable housing is not an issue that concerns only the poor, but also the middle class and especially single-earner households.

Lindsay Kaun

## Thanks to SUN President Amanda Allshouse

An open letter to Amanda Allshouse and my NE Denver neighbors  
I want to take a moment to thank Amanda Allshouse, the President of SUN. We have been in regular contact and I’ve thanked her via private text messages and also publicly at the Listening Sessions, but I wanted to write a letter for the greater NE Denver community to receive, especially after seeing how it was Amanda that initiated honoring Marlon Green using graphic screens in Eastbridge (<https://frontporchne.com/article/marlon-green-jackie-robinson-commercial-aviation/>). That action exemplifies the Amanda that I regard, and I wanted to share why with all of you. I view Amanda as genuine and thoughtful. She paid tribute to Marlon Green’s achievements, before drafting the letter in response to Charlottesville; the letter that unintentionally reawakened the #ChangeTheNameStapleton movement. In spite of its beautiful message that, “there is no place for these displays of hatred in our neighborhood,” the letter created a spark in our community and reignited an issue that has

never been resolved. It was printed on SUN’s letterhead, which displays the name Stapleton.  
Amanda is passionate about public health and, as President of SUN, wants to address the disparity between health in the Stapleton neighborhood vs. that of surrounding communities. The Rename St\*pleton for All initiative has taken time away from this. Amanda is suddenly, and very publicly, in a leadership role during an incredibly necessary conversation about racism in our society and in our neighborhood. She realizes how much community members have to say about this issue, and was instrumental in planning the Listening Sessions, facilitated by Dr. Nita Mosby Tyler, on December 11. She has shown that no matter how uncomfortable this may be for her, and regardless of her own opinion, she continuously shows up, is open and honest, cares about her community, listens, and strives for fairness. She is proving herself to be a President we can be proud of.  
*Sincerely, Genevieve Swift*  
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# It's Never Too Soon: Promoting Healthy Rel

By Melinda Pearson

Recent reports about widespread sexual harassment in entertainment, politics and newsrooms have captured the attention of the nation. In response, the #metoo movement has burgeoned on social media, with women affected by sexual harassment speaking up about abuses they've suffered, many after years of scared silence.

The national #metoo movement gives hope that the culture will change. Women's voices are finally being heeded, and the powerful men who have committed sexual harassment are being stripped of their control and privilege.

But more quietly, the work to change the culture is taking place in our own backyard, at local middle and high schools that are working to prevent the problems of sexual harassment and sexual assault before they emerge.

## "Let's Talk About It" in Middle School

Denver-based nonprofit The Blue Bench works across the state to eliminate sexual assault and diminish its impact through advocacy, prevention and care. Among other programs, The Blue Bench provides sexual assault prevention education, serving 13 schools and an additional 14 community organizations in Northeast Denver.

McAuliffe International School, which serves around 1,000 middle-school students in the Greater Park Hill/Stapleton area, uses The Blue Bench's "Let's Talk About It" curriculum to teach its eighth-grade students about healthy relationships and consent in mixed-gender classes.

Susie Roman, director of prevention and education for The Blue Bench, says their developmentally appropriate, scientifically supported approach helps



Kendra Collings, PE/Health lead teacher and wellness director at McAuliffe.

kids talk about healthy and unhealthy relationships, distinguish characteristics of each and understand boundaries.

The curriculum uses scenarios and activities to engage the students. Instructors might describe a behavior and ask kids who think it is healthy or unhealthy to move to opposite sides of a room and then unpack their thoughts about it, said Roman. "We also talk about the range of behaviors ... everything from sexual harassment to sexual assault," says Roman.

## Empathy and Peer Relationships

Empathy can be a powerful teaching tool. Teachers ask, "If somebody's experiencing unwanted sexualized comments at school, how do you think that person's going to feel if nobody's willing to intervene and help them out, and it happens every single day? What environment does

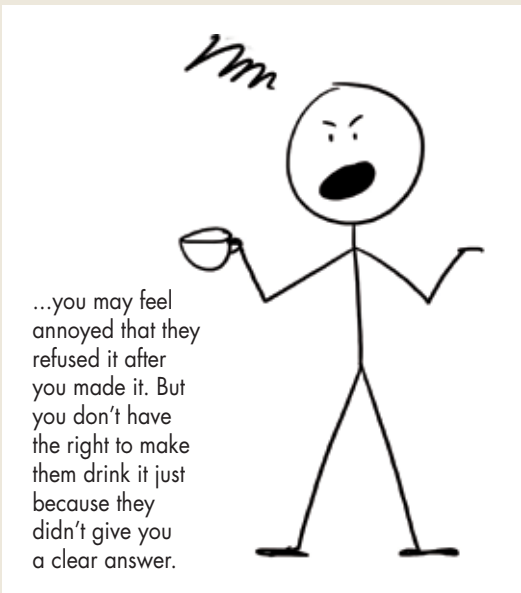
that create when they go to school?" said Roman. "We use scenarios particularly around sexting. How might somebody feel if their picture was being shared? Then they have to go school ... and people are sharing it and laughing at them."

They work a lot on how to intervene in such scenarios, especially focusing on how powerful peers can be. Roman describes a scenario where one person demands to see all the texts being sent by a boyfriend or girlfriend, explaining it's because they care.

"We have a discussion around what's the difference between behavior that is controlling versus caring, and how do you make that distinction?" Roman says. "We really focus on the social context of it—thinking about the fact that youth are having these conversations among themselves, and talking about what's going on in their relationships. (We focus on) giving them the skills to be what we call a positive bystander, being able to point out to somebody else if there's something that seems concerning."



Kendra Collings teaches the "Let's Talk About It"



Above images are from Tea Consent (Clean) on YouTube. Used with permission from Blue Seat Studios.



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# Relationships, Preventing Sexual Harassment



class for 8th graders at McAuliffe. (Front Porch file photo.)

## Consent

The messaging around consent has changed from the days of their parents, noted Kendra Collings, who is the PE/Health lead teacher and wellness director at McAuliffe. “They changed the message from ‘no means no’ to ‘yes means yes’ so that it’s absolutely clear,” said Collings. “And I think that’s probably the most powerful thing [for both] the kids and adults.”

One tool used to explain this “firm affirmative” notion of consent is a quirky video of stick people. One stick person offers another some tea. The video goes on to show that if the respondent doesn’t want tea, changes her mind about tea or becomes unconscious, it is not appropriate to still give her tea. (“Tea” stands in for any unwanted romantic behavior, such as sex).

“Making sure that kids of all genders are really educated about consent, whose responsibility it is, what it looks like to re-

spect boundaries, and then being able to intervene and to tell others when you have boundaries is important,” says Roman. “We spend a lot of time on that.”

## Talking to Our Kids

Experts admit that often tweens and teens are reluctant to speak with their parents about romantic relationships. The “Let’s Talk About It” curriculum intentionally harnesses the power of peer relationships to influence romantic/sexual behavior. But there is a lot that parents can and should do to support the process.

“I always tell parents to be as honest as possible with kids within their comfort zone,” says Katherine Howe, the eighth-grade counselor at McAuliffe. “If you can comfortably have a conversation with your child about what’s going in the #metoo movement and standing up for yourself and knowing your limits and your body and your bubble, I think that’s a really good quality conversation.”

Experts advise starting early with such conversations, even in kindergarten, teaching children that their body is their own, and it is not OK for others to touch them. It is important to teach young kids the correct vocabulary for their bodies also, says Roman, to make sure they are able to express their boundaries—or transgressions of their boundaries—when needed, even if that means telling a beloved auntie that they don’t want a hug.

The Blue Bench also offers a program called “Keeping Me Safe” for



Susie Roman, director of prevention and education for The Blue Bench.

educators and parents. Offered at schools like McAuliffe and other community organizations, the two-hour workshop helps parents develop strategies to talk with their children about relationships and boundaries. Collings says it is helpful for parents to be prepared with the vocabulary to address whatever situations arise in their children’s lives, even ones involving harassment or assault.

“We need to make sure that 100 percent of our youth understand that this is not right. Just because it was accepted for a while doesn’t mean it was ever OK. And it wasn’t OK then and it’s not OK now,” says Howe. “This is how we move forward, and this is how we show each other kindness and respect. This is how we work together.”



Blue Seat Studios also has the video *Consent for Kids* on YouTube. Here a child decides what level of physical contact they are comfortable with.

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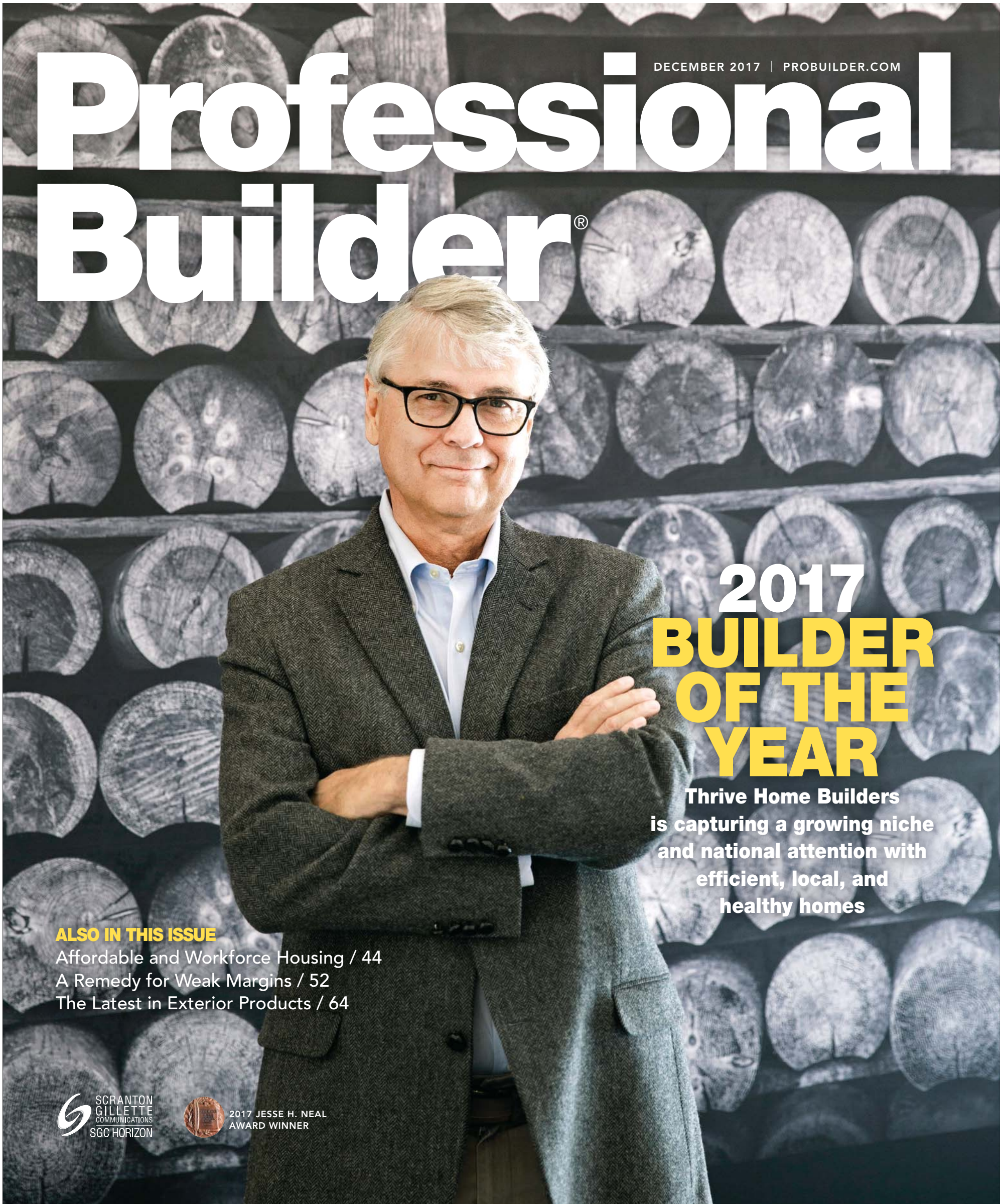
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