

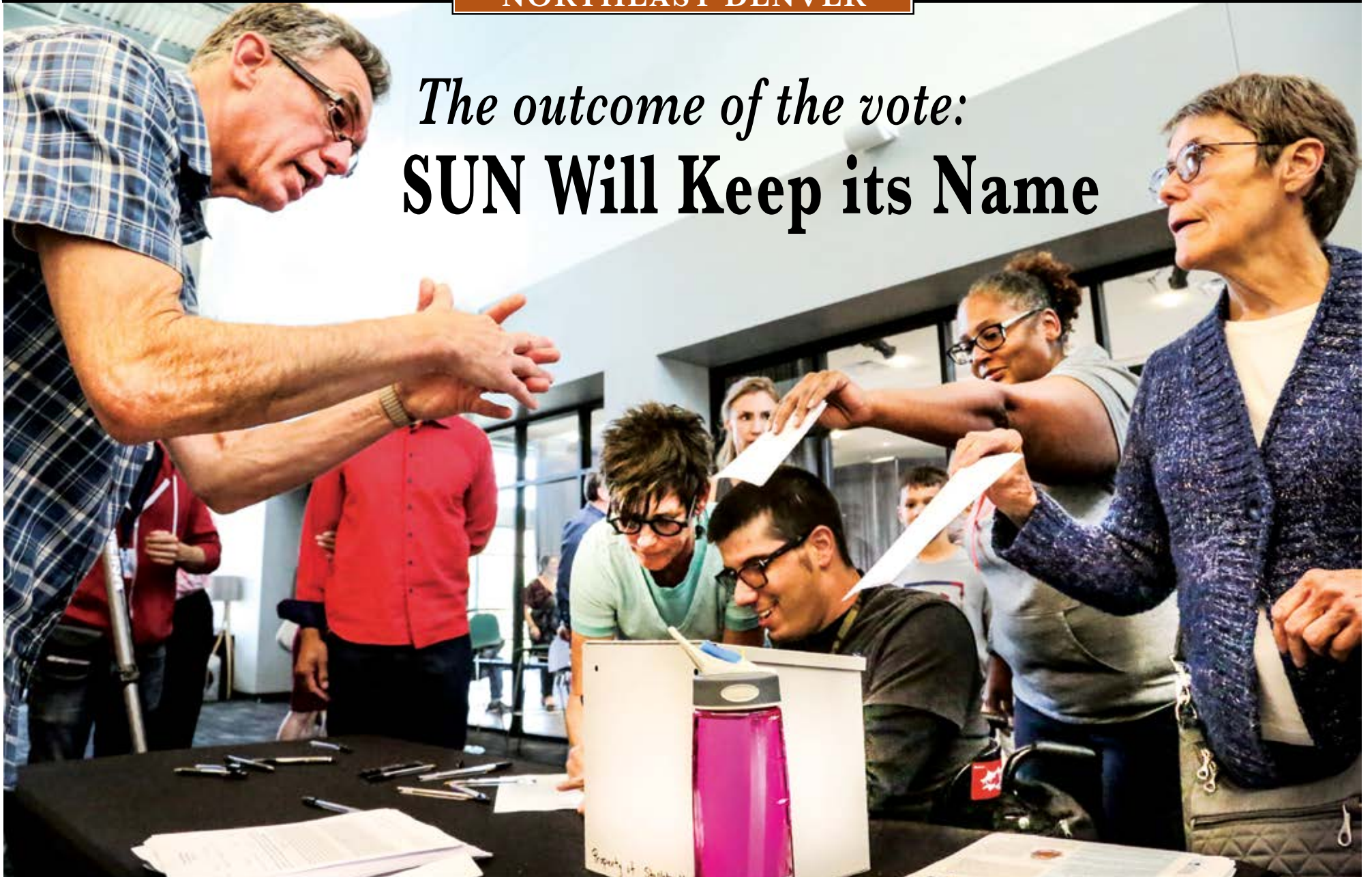
Front Porch

COLORADO

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JUNE 2018



The outcome of the vote: **SUN Will Keep its Name**

Stapleton residents cast their ballots on the question of whether the neighborhood association name should change to Central Park United Neighbors or remain Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN).

On May 15, Stapleton residents voted on whether to change the name of their registered neighborhood organization to Central Park United Neighbors or keep it Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN). The bylaws of the organization require 66 percent approval by in-person vote to make the change. Of 452 ballots cast, 58 percent were in favor—but since that did not meet the 66 percent threshold for a bylaw change, the name remains Stapleton United Neighbors. Read neighbors' comments about the process on page 11.

Final Days of 2018 Legislative Session Were Nail-Biters



The legislators in the *Front Porch* distribution area share their thoughts on the session on page 30. Back row, Reps. James Coleman and Leslie Herod. Front row, from left, Sens. Lois Court and Angela Williams. Not pictured is Rep. Chris Hansen.

Who tries to solve big problems like fixing Colorado's roads, shoring up the state pension system and rescuing the state's civil rights commission in just 48 hours? Colorado's 100 legislators, of course.

Former Denver Post city editor Todd Engdahl brings Front Porch readers the highlights of the 2018 session on page 31.

2020 Vision: DPS Looks To Increase NE School Seats



DPS Supt. Tom Boasberg

DPS Superintendent Tom Boasberg thinks by 2020 additional seats will be needed in the Greater Park Hill/Stapleton middle school enrollment zone and Northfield High School. The district is exploring how to finance those seats in advance of the 2020 bond.

Article by Melinda Pearson on page 4.



Stapleton photographer Molly Garg's photo of Jack Kirkwood, taken at Jet Stream pool last summer, was a winner in the National Association of Professional Child Photographers (NAPCP) competition.

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Letters to the Editor

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

Where to Find a Copy of the Front Porch

We now have papers in both King Soopers in Stapleton and in the Mayfair King Soopers. We also have papers at the Safeways in Lowry and Mayfair.

Events & Announcements at Stapleton



Movie on The Green – *The Greatest Showman*

Friday, June 1, at dark, *The Green*

Join us on The Green (29th & Roslyn) for our first outdoor movie in 2018! We will be showing the musical movie, *The Greatest Showman*. Concessions will be sold and proceeds will benefit a local nonprofit. Food trucks will also be available.

Concert on The Green – *The Long Run*

Saturday, June 9, 6–8pm, *The Green*

Find your spot on the lawn and take in food-truck treats while you enjoy our first concert of the summer on The Green. We will feature The Long Run band, a group of professional Colorado-based musicians dedicated to the faithful reproduction of music by the Eagles. All concerts are free and open to the public.

Active Minds presents Winston Churchill

Thursday, June 14, 6:45pm., *Sam Gary Library*

As one of the key architects of the Allied victory in World War II, Winston Churchill is widely regarded as one of the most important political leaders of the 20th century. Join us as we examine Churchill's life before becoming prime minister of England, his years in the job, and his lasting impact on his country and the world.

MoJaBlu Concert Series – *Tunisia*

Thursday, June 14, 6:30-8:30pm, *Conservatory Green*

Stapleton MCA and Live@Jack's invite you to enjoy an evening of Motown, Jazz and Blues on Conservatory Green (49th Pl & Valentia St) Our first MoJaBlu concert of the season features the great voices and amazing sounds of Tunisia. Free concert open to the public, food trucks available.

Summer Wine Series

Friday, June 15, 6–8pm, *The West Crescent*

The MCA hosts a series of monthly outdoor wine tastings boasting a unique theme and a variety of wines, provided by The Grape Leaf. Registration is \$15 for residents and \$20 for non-residents. Space is limited. Your registration includes an evening of wine tastings and cheese samples. Tastings will be held from 5–7pm at the West Crescent (29th Ave & Roslyn St). Tickets can be purchased on the day of the event (with space available) for \$30. No refunds or exchanges, please. Must be 21 years old.

Movie on The Green – *Boss Baby*

Friday, June 15, At Dark, *The Green*

It's a great time of year to be on The Green for a movie under the stars. We will show a comedy featuring Alec Baldwin's voice in *Boss Baby*. Concessions will be sold and proceeds will benefit a local nonprofit. Food trucks will also be available.

Stapleton Farmers Market

Sunday, June 17 and 24, 8:30am-12:30pm, *The Green*

The Stapleton Farmers Market is held every Sunday from mid-June through mid-October on The Green in Stapleton. Local vendors provide Colorado-grown produce, tasty baked goods, specialty

meats, gourmet food items and more. o become a vendor or if you would like more information about the event, visit coloradofreshmarkets.com.

MoJaBlu Concert Series – *Sammy Mayfield Blues Band*

Thursday, June 21, 6:30-8:30pm, *Conservatory Green*

Join the Stapleton MCA and Live@Jack's on Thursdays for an evening of Motown, Jazz and Blues on Conservatory Green. Our MoJaBlu Concert features the Sammy Mayfield Blues Band. Sammy is a master blues guitarist, singer and composer who gigs all over the world. This is a free concert open to the public and food trucks will be there to serve you.

Concert on The Green – *That Eighties Band*

Saturday, June 23, 6–8pm, *The Green*

Experience one of the hottest 80s tribute bands in the country. Enjoy an evening on The Green, featuring That Eighties Band, and sample menus from local food trucks available that evening. All concerts are free and open to the public.

Active Minds presents China's Economic Evolution

Thursday, June 28, 6:45pm, *Sam Gary Library*

In the four decades since the death of Mao Zedong, China has moved rapidly from a stagnant communist economy to a bustling market-based one, albeit under single party rule. Join Active Minds as we examine the rapid change in China's economic stature and the effects it is having both domestically and internationally.

MoJaBlu Concert Series – *The Mary Louise Lee Band*

Thursday, June 28, 6:30-8:30pm, *Conservatory Green*

Join the Stapleton MCA and Live@Jack's on Thursdays for an evening of Motown, Jazz and Blues on Conservatory Green. Our MoJaBlu Concert features The Mary Louise Lee Band. Known for her amazing range, emotional fire and sheer charisma onstage, Mary Louise Lee and her full band always deliver. This is a free concert open to the public. Food trucks will be available.

Movie on The Green – *Spiderman Homecoming*

Friday, June 25, At Dark, *The Green*

Enjoy some popcorn and one of your favorite action heroes on The Green. Join your neighbors for the movie, *Spiderman Homecoming*. Thrilled by his experience with the Avengers, young Peter Parker returns home to confront new villains. Concessions will be sold and proceeds will benefit a local nonprofit. Food trucks will also be available.

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

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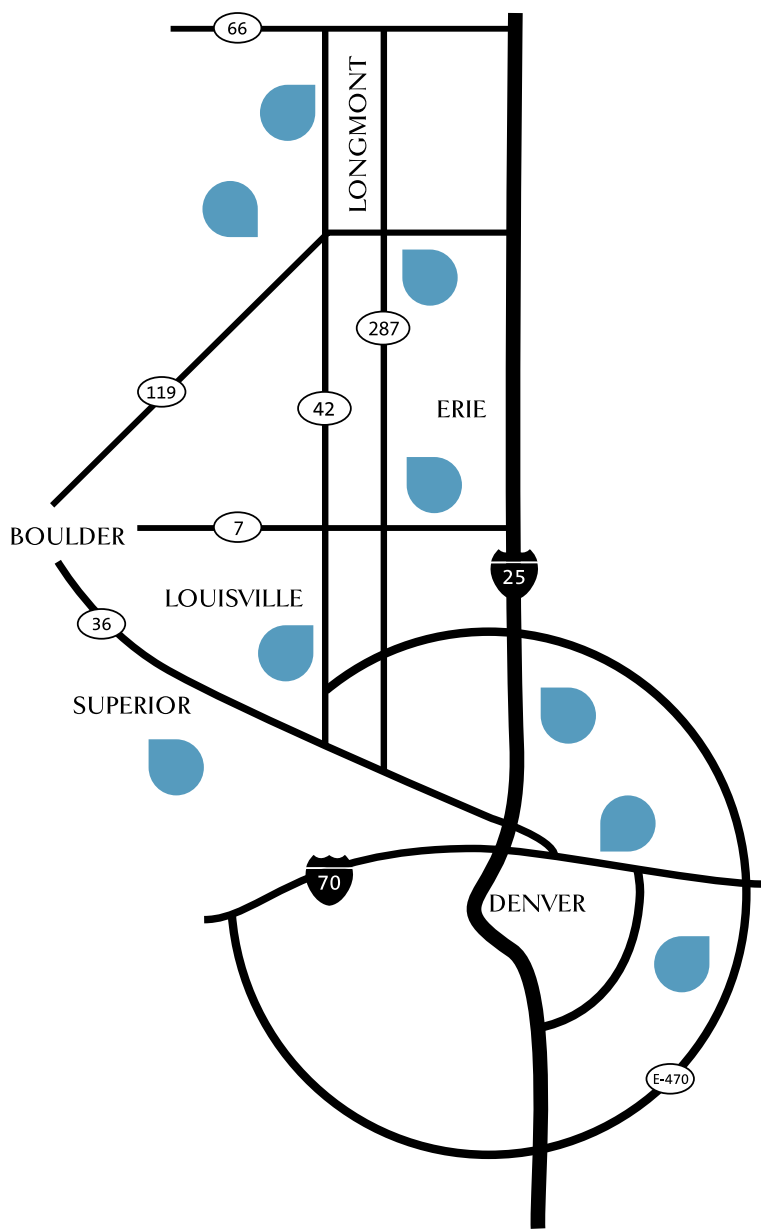
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The Front Porch – NE Denver distributes almost 30,000 free papers during the first week of each month. Papers are delivered to doorsteps and/or racks in Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair and NW Aurora.

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2020 Vision: DPS Looks to Increase NE School Seats

By Melinda Pearson

In a May 17 interview with the *Front Porch*, DPS Superintendent Tom Boasberg suggested that new seats would be necessary as soon as 2020 in the Greater Park Hill/Stapleton (GPHS) middle school zone and at Northfield High School (NHS). Previously, the district had said that capacity would likely be added in 2021 or later, after passage of a school bond in 2020.

“Preliminarily, I think a new middle school is needed in 2020,” said Boasberg. He also stated, “I think it’s likely that we will need to have additional capacity on the Northfield campus by Fall of 2020, and in order to do that, we effectively have to take out financing that would then be repaid in 2020.” Boasberg said DPS will continue looking at the data and confirm this in the fall.

Typically, the district would wait for passage of a bond in 2020 to fund the construction of new school buildings, but the district is already exploring how to finance added capacity in advance of the bond, he confirmed.

While district projections published in the *Front Porch* in February suggested there was sufficient capacity at

middle and high school levels to accommodate in-zone or in-boundary students, it appears that several factors have contributed to pushing up the timeline for adding seats. “We build capacity to allow all families in the zone to have a seat but also capacity for families outside the zone,” said Boasberg, in order to “drive greater socioeconomic diversity” and to foster connections between Stapleton and neighboring communities.



DPS Supt. Tom Boasberg

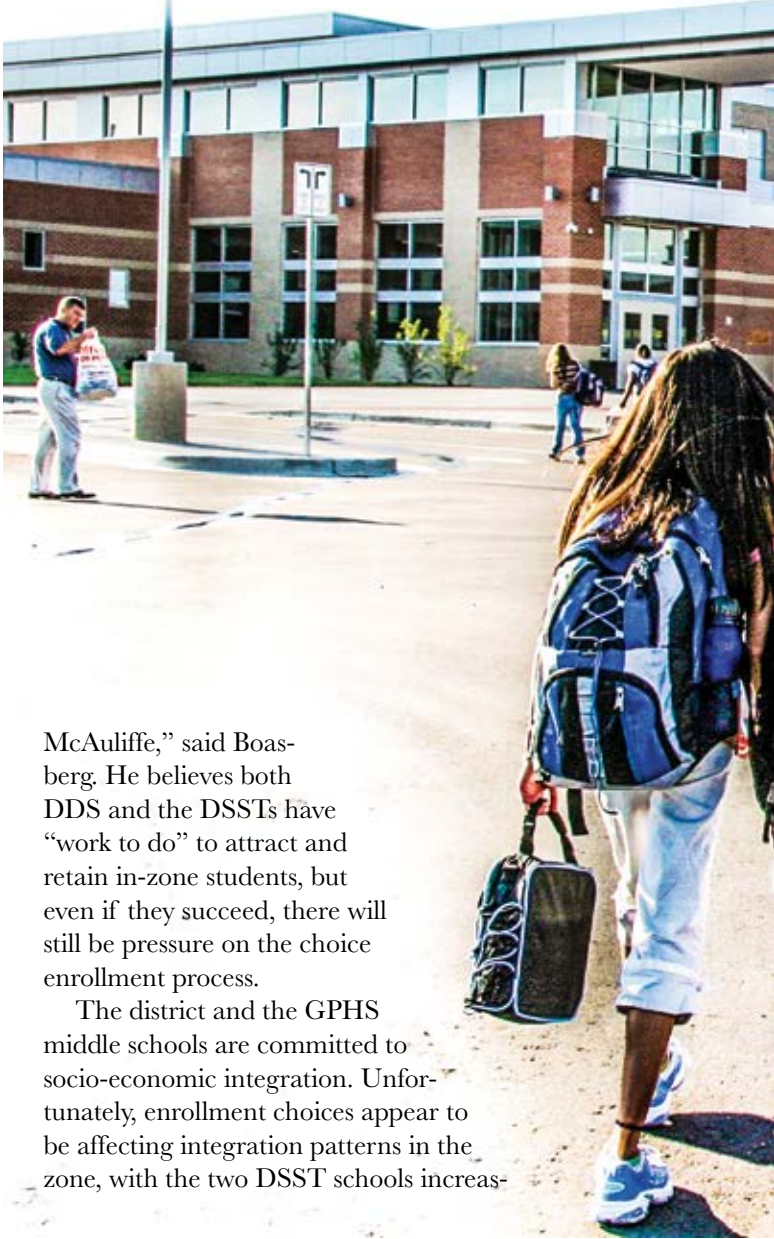
Middle School

At the middle school level, GPHS families have shown a strong preference for the comprehensive, International Baccalaureate programming of McAuliffe to smaller, more specialized offerings at schools like DSST: Stapleton/Conservatory Green or Denver Discovery School (DDS). This year eight percent of GPHS students didn’t get their first choice, a figure that is certain to rise with an additional 90 6th graders in the zone next year, and likely 30 fewer seats at McAuliffe.

While DPS expects greater choice-in to DDS and more interest in DSST: Conservatory Green (DSST:CG), whose in-zone appeal has remained low and flat for four years, “It won’t take all the pressure off

McAuliffe,” said Boasberg. He believes both DDS and the DSSTs have “work to do” to attract and retain in-zone students, but even if they succeed, there will still be pressure on the choice enrollment process.

The district and the GPHS middle schools are committed to socio-economic integration. Unfortunately, enrollment choices appear to be affecting integration patterns in the zone, with the two DSST schools increas-



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ingly serving more low-income students and students of color, while McAuliffe and Bill Roberts have to reach outside the zone to ensure socioeconomic diversity. Boasberg said, “We would love to see all the schools be closer to the zone average,” which is reportedly

comprised of about 30 percent of students receiving free and reduced lunch (FRL), a proxy for poverty. Building more capacity could allow for greater integration.

A call for a new middle school would come out in December 2018 if the district commits to the 2020 opening date, with a decision made by April 2019, based on past timelines. The new middle school would likely be built north of I-70, either attached to the Inspire Campus, at

a new building further north, or possibly at Sandoval, though the latter seems increasingly unlikely, as that campus has its own capacity issues.

High School

Current enrollment projections for the 9th grade class at Northfield High include 151 in-zone students and 84 from neighboring communities, in line with the goal of 35% out-of-boundary enrollment for the high school. According to a statement by NHS Principal Amy Bringedahl at the Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) meeting on May 15, there are over 200 students on the waitlist for Northfield. Overall, the school expects 800 students this year, and has capacity for 1000, which DPS projections show will occur by 2020, thus necessitating the expansion prior to passage of the 2020 bond.

Northfield High School shares the

Paul Sandoval Campus with DSST: Conservatory Green High School, because “it is significantly more cost-effective to have a set of shared facilities,” according to Boasberg, and taxpayers want to see the “absolute maximum use of their tax dollars.”

But the shared campus has been a source of contention for in-boundary residents of Stapleton and Park Hill, as well as the 35 percent of students from far Northeast who attend NHS. Some feel that by constructing a 500-seat building for DSST:CG, which is underutilized by students living in the boundary, DPS has prevented the full build-out of Northfield in terms of capacity and facilities. The facilities are in turn further strained by being shared between two schools.

DPS’s intention to add 500 seats to Northfield in 2020 should ease the capacity problems, if the financing comes through, but the question of sharing facilities remains.



NHS Principal Amy Bringedahl

Already, there is concern the athletic facilities are inadequate to serve both schools. DSST:CG will play under the Northfield Nighthawks banner in some sports, like varsity football, where it wouldn’t otherwise field a team. But in other sports, like soccer, both schools want to have teams, yet currently it is a challenge to navigate field space.

Boasberg hopes the athletic facilities crunch can be helped in two ways. First, he says, he wants to work with Denver City Parks and Recreation to expand the amount of field space available. And second, “I think there needs to be greater sharing. On most of our shared campuses, we don’t have separate athletic teams....the campus is not built for DSST and Northfield to have separate teams,” said Boasberg.

The community will be keeping a close eye on the build-out of Northfield, and Boasberg looks forward to receiving community input on the design of new facilities for the growing school.



Front Porch file photo of McAuliffe students at a school assembly.

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How would *you*

By Carol Roberts
Business students from the University of Colorado and the University of Denver recently competed in the 16th Annual Rocky Mountain Real Estate Challenge to create the best development plan for 15 acres in Stapleton owned by RK Mechanical, Inc.

RK purchased the land in 1999, before Stapleton development began—land that is now conveniently located just east of the Central Park Train Station. The growing company, which provides mechanical, electrical and plumbing contracting; steel fabrication and erection; and water treatment solutions, among other services, now has 2,000 employees. With a need for more space than their current 90,000-square-foot building offers, they leased a 280,000-square-foot facility in Aurora. RK COO Jon Kinning says the company is moving gradually and has no specific timeline for when they will sell their Stapleton property or partner with a developer for its future use.

An architect RK has been working with to discuss future use of the Stapleton land—who is on the board of the Rocky Mountain Real Estate Challenge—suggested the future development of RK land would be a good subject for that annual student competition. RK agreed.

The students' ideas for the highest and best use of their land were exciting, says Kinning, but he emphasizes that this was a student project—not an actual plan for development. At this time RK has not



made a decision exactly when the land will be sold or how it will be developed.

In this year's competition, the students' development projects were judged based on how well they addressed the following objectives set out by RK for their 15 acres in Stapleton, after the business moves to another site:

- Maximize value for RK which may include selling the land or using the land as equity in the development
- Maximize profit for the developer
- Integrate into the surrounding neighborhood of predominately single family homes
- Have a sustainability component

The primary sponsors of the competition were NAIOP, a commercial real estate development association for developers, owners and investors and Land Title. Judging of the student projects by development



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develop a 15-acre plot in Stapleton?



The winner of the annual Rocky Mountain Real Estate Challenge was Denver University's Odyssey Development Group, which named their project Strommen, a Swedish word that loosely translates to "by the stream." The focus of the project was to create a diverse residential community with a variety of housing options including townhomes, condos, market-rate apartments and a senior living campus where residents can age in place.

Left: The DU Team's winning site plan shows their use of the land for 558 residential units spread between the different types of housing. It went lightly on commercial space, with just 4,000 square feet for an urban market and a similar sized early childhood learning center. A consideration in the team's design was to have a 1:1 ratio of floor area to land.

Above: The rendering shows the plaza and condo buildings in the Strommen project.



The second place winner in the competition, University of Colorado's Paracord Development team, named its project Harvest Point.

Above: Harvest Point's central feature is described as, "Colorado's first vertical hydroponic greenhouse. This four-story urban farm, encased in glass and illuminated with its agricultural LED lighting, will be visible from I-70 and the A-Line, both day and night, drawing visitors from across the Front Range."

Left: The for-sale residential shown in the site plan is described as "stacked flats...a unique housing product that young families, young professionals, and empty-nesters can afford." The rental includes studio, one-, two-, and three-bedroom high-end units with amenities for an urban lifestyle. The plan includes a total of 434 living units and 112,000 square feet for restaurant, retail and small office in the area around the plaza. The 16,000-square-foot vertical growing space would be operated by an experienced hydroponic food producer.



professionals was based on:

- The financing and ownership strategy that generates the best risk-adjusted return
- The creation of a vibrant, inclusive and environmentally sustainable development
- Consideration of market conditions, pricing, and returns to an investor.

The final competition came down to the two plans shown here, with an all-day judging session on May 3—and a presentation of the students' plans at an event attended by hundreds of real estate development professionals, where the winner was announced.



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By Melinda Pearson

The rise of electronic media and online shopping has dealt a blow to both print media and brick-and-mortar bookstores, but millennial entrepreneur David Chung and his sister, Annie, are swimming against that tide. The Chungs recently opened a retail bookstore, 50/50 Books, in an industrial warehouse space near Colorado and I-70.

Open on the weekends since February, 50/50 Books' community shop operates on a unique model: customers pay what they can for high quality used books. Proceeds from sales and donations are split evenly between supporting the nonprofit bookstore's operating costs and giving back to other community organizations.

For example, 50/50 recently partnered with We Don't Waste, an organization that reclaims food waste from caterers and restaurants and redistributes it. Proceeds from 50/50 sales donated to We Don't Waste in April generated 9,131 meals for needy people in the community, said Annie Chung.

The mission of 50/50 Books is three-fold: loving the community, reducing book waste and promoting

literacy. In a reversal of traditional retail trajectories, the brick-and-mortar nonprofit grew from an online business, DreamBooks, owned by David Chung

DreamBooks

David Chung has been in the book business for a decade, selling used books online through marketplaces like Amazon and eBay through his company, DreamBooks. Chung started DreamBooks in his parents' basement, with little more than a computer, printer and small stack of used books. The company is now one of the top 50 online book sellers in the country. It processes over 5 million pounds of books a year. (Yes, you read that

A Bookstore Shared 50/5



David Chung explains the concept behind 50/50 Books. Customers pay what they can for gently used books. Proceeds are split between the nonprofit bookstore and local nonprofits selected on a rotating monthly basis.

right—books are measured by the pound, not volumes, in the used book industry!)

But Chung says DreamBooks only ends up selling about 10 percent, or 500,000 pounds, of that total amount. His pro-

prietary algorithm determines which books are worth selling online. The rest are either sent back to thrift organizations like Goodwill for resale, or they're recycled—which is inefficient. "When you recycle a book, it's not quite as good as recycling office paper or cardboard. It takes more energy," said Chung "And after you recycle a book, it turns into a lower grade product. A book cannot be re-turned into a book."

A visit to the DreamBooks warehouse can be an anguishing experience for a bibliophile. Large trucks bring cardboard bins filled with used books. DreamBooks buys

stock from Goodwill, Salvation Army and other sources. Employees use a long-handled garden fork to sort through the books as they pour onto a conveyor belt.

Books that are too old, in poor condition, and even some that are too heavy to be worth shipping long distances flow through to a second bin, destined for shredding. Browsing through a large tote of such rejects, it's impossible not to find old favorites and feel a sense of dismay, knowing that they will soon be destroyed.

"We recycle 4.5 million pounds of books a year," explained Chung, "But there are



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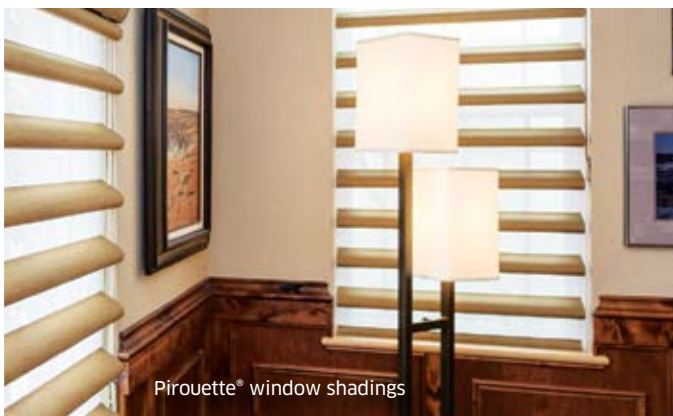
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Left: Siblings Annie and David Chung wanted to create a “bookstore with a heart for the community” where customers are treated with dignity and compassion. Behind them are well-stocked shelves of children’s books available for whatever price customers want to pay, or nothing.

Above: The Chungs stand in front of the shelving area for DreamBooks, David’s online, for-profit, used book business. DreamBooks provides warehouse and retail space at low or no cost to 50/50 Books to support its mission.



Behind the scenes of DreamBooks is a fascinating operation.

Above: Large totes of books are sorted by a proprietary algorithm, with over 90 percent of them headed for shredding and recycling, like the ones in the foreground bin.

Right: The lucky books that made it through processing are headed out to DreamBooks customers across the country.



literally kids across the highway, at Adams-14 High School, that can’t afford the book that they need to read for their classroom. It kind of baffles me that there’s such a discrepancy.” Chung saw a way to fill that gap.

The Beginnings of 50/50

While it doesn’t make financial sense for DreamBooks to save old books, the Chungs felt a longing to do better. “The reality is, once you recycle a book from the ‘50s or early 1900s, there’s no way you can replicate that again,” said David “I thought it would be so important to create an area where people can adopt

those older books.” The safest place for a book, he says, is in a personal library.

David Chung began a Kickstarter campaign in December 2017 to fund his vision of a community nonprofit bookstore and has leveraged his for-profit company to support it. DreamBooks provides warehouse and retail space at low or no cost and also sells used books to 50/50 at wholesale prices. 50/50 also receives donations from personal libraries. 50/50 sells some of these books online and others through the brick and mortar store, which is lined with used

books, both old and current.

“We’re a bookstore with a heart for the community,” said Annie Chung. “Every person that walks through the door, we want to treat them with dignity and compassion.” The Chungs have intentionally made the retail store a warm, welcoming place with interesting and appealing titles that are in good condition. It feels like an offshoot of the Tattered Cover, not a thrift store. “You don’t know where people are coming from, what their backgrounds are. A lot of times people don’t have access to

books, and we don’t want it to feel like a handout,” said Annie Chung.

50/50 has provided large stores of books to teacher groups, nonprofits like Reach Out and Read and directly to schools. But the clean, well-lit space also invites individuals to come in and shop. Find a treasure, pay what you can, and know that you’re reducing waste, preserving old books, and giving back to the community. *50/50 is located at 4425 Grape Street, across from Green Solution. Hours are Sat.-Sun. 10am-4pm.*

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Each month, the Indie Prof reviews a current film in the theater and second film or series available on DVD or instant-streaming service. Follow “Indie Prof” on Facebook for updates about film events and more reviews.

Jane (2017)

“I wanted to do the stuff that men were doing.”

So said Jane Goodall in 1957, setting off to Gombe, Africa to study chimpanzees for Dr. Louis Leaky. Leaky wished to do a prolonged study of chimpanzees—something never before undertaken—because he believed that life started in this part of the world, and humans were linked to the chimpanzees. Goodall had no formal training, no degree, no scientific background. Leaky chose her because she loved animals and he believed she had the right temperament for the job. She went off by herself, (joined by her mother at one point,) and had no fear of what she was getting herself into. After months of being ignored by the chimpanzees, she finally broke through and became welcomed into the fold. The film and the footage is fascinating, beautiful, and downright ethereal.

Wildlife videographer Hugo van Lawick shot the more than 100 hours of footage in the early 60s, and aside from pieces of footage used right away, it remained lost in the



Jane

National Geographic Archives for the last 50 years. Director Brett Morgen (*The Kid Stays in the Picture*, *Cobain: Montage of Heck*) took on the monumental task of editing it all and creating a movie. The verdant beauty of the footage is matched by current-day Goodall’s narration. Aside from some visual flourishes added to the mix, and the wonderful score by titan Philip Glass, the film is very straightforward and unadorned.

And that is exactly why it is so beautiful. There is no parade of friends or notables

lauding Goodall and her work; no fawning or feting; no unnecessary explanation. The shots of the chimpanzees using tools (the first ever recorded) as Jane quietly watches are more than enough to tell the story. The footage of a baby chimpanzee taking his first steps are the burning images known to every parent on the planet. The film is not without its low points, such as when Jane sees and experiences the brutality of the chimpanzees. Still then, she understands the context of it all and comes to terms with it, as she does everything else.

Even her personal fame as she traveled back and forth

didn’t/doesn’t faze her: she became “beauty” to the beasts and newspapers wrote about her “honeysuckle skin and long legs.” She found it all “stupid,” and said she used it to raise money for her efforts. To say the story of a primatologist studying chimpanzees in the wild is a love story may sound like

hyperbole, but it is no exaggeration. Jane and Hugo fall in love and marry; a chimp is born and raised in front of them; and Jane’s love affair with the chimps and the jungle is perhaps the most beautiful of all. There are so many reasons to fall in love.

You will like this if you enjoyed *Gorillas in the Mist*, *Strong Island*, and/or *Human Flow*.

Available at most on-demand outlets.



Solo: A Star Wars Story (2018)

I don’t often review big-budget films; there are plenty of avenues to find such reviews and see such films. After attending a screening of *Solo: A Star Wars Story*, however, I felt compelled to do so. Like most people of a certain age, I grew up with *Star Wars*. I endured the highs (*The Empire Strikes Back*) and the lows (Episodes I – III), and I have come to appreciate the latest iterations of the universe. And with my own son now enjoying the films, I have re-discovered my childhood passion for all things *Star Wars*: the simple hero’s journey, the fight between good and evil, and most of all, the wonderful characters. And Han was always my favorite: brash, fun, and adventurous, he was the antidote to the brooding (and mostly whiny) Luke. This prequel telling the story of young Solo captures the essence of Han and also makes the material accessible to all, including 9-year-old boys. There is no overly complicated and convoluted plot here (see *Rogue One*). This is just plain fun.

Adam Ehrenreich as young Han nails it. He has the panache and the charisma to carry the film and carry the burden, and it works. After a somewhat shaky start, the film gathers steam and finds its footing; veteran director Ron Howard hits all the right notes and delivers the goods. The supporting cast is also excellent: Emilia Clarke as Qi’ra is solid, and Donald Glover as young Lando Calrissian is the best of the bunch. Chewy is as good as usual (!), and even the Millennium Falcon looks sharp in its youth (forgive me such indulgences, I just had to say that).

You will love this if you enjoyed any *Star Wars* film!

So get out to the movies this summer, or stay in for the movies this summer. These two reviews cover the spectrum of what film can do, and do so well: one is important, informative, and beautiful. The other is exciting, exhilarating, and can make us feel like a kid again. Feel it all this summer.

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.

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The Community Responds to the Vote

By Melinda Pearson

The *Front Porch* posted the results of the SUN name vote on our Facebook page (Front Porch Newspaper) along with an invitation for the community to share their thoughts on the process and the outcome. With a 66 percent affirmative vote required by the bylaws, the 58 percent vote in favor did not meet the threshold to change the name. As of press time, our Facebook page had received over 1,800 views and approximately 60 comments plus several emails and comments on our website.

We reached out to SUN founding board members Bill Fulton and Elizabeth Garner by email to learn how the bylaws were originally created.

Fulton replied, “While we didn’t address the specific question of how to change the name of the neighborhood in those early days [of creating the bylaws], we did think a lot about how SUN should go about making unforeseen changes to its own ways of operating, and thus included a provision for amending the bylaws in the bylaws themselves. We chose what is a fairly standard threshold of a two-thirds majority of those voting at the annual meeting to be a high enough bar to make sure changes were not taken lightly, but that they would still be possible when warranted.”

Elizabeth Garner added, “We were using templates from the Neighborhood Resource Center...We did not develop the bylaws in a vacuum but incorporated information from neighborhood associations around the metro area.”

In response to the vote, Rename St*pleton for All, the activist group urging the change, said in a statement, “We thank everyone who came out to vote on Tuesday, those still on the fence, and even those who voted no. To the growing community of people who are willing to work toward a more welcoming, equitable neighborhood, we have this message: Our work is not done.”

Many Commented on the Process

Forcing the vote to be in-person during a very small time window meant people who wanted to vote could not do so. I felt it set up a high probability of loss for people who want to have the name changed.

—Caroline Lim Starbird

Voting has to be inclusive of all members of Stapleton, not just those who go to the meeting, in order to have fair representation. —Rick Henry

I would like to emphasize that the SUN board members (who are all volunteers with jobs and families) worked in good faith to listen to the community in bringing this to a vote.

—Caley M. Orr

This is a multi-step process. Ask if residents are willing to remove the name Stapleton. Facilitate focus groups, conduct surveys and interviews to determine a new more fitting name for the community next and then offer the residents two or three options from which to choose. Make this a separate question and create excitement about the options. Validate the final selections before offering a broad vote for a new name. The new name is as important as the one you want to remove. —Edie Revi

It's About Finding a Better Alternative

Why not have a weighted vote for our top three favorites, awarding 5 points



452 Stapleton residents cast their vote on May 15. With a 66 percent affirmative vote required by the bylaws, the 58 percent vote in favor did not meet the threshold to change the name.

for first choice, 3 for second and 1 for third per ballot, then take the highest point total? This binary choice with a supermajority option seems highly biased.

—John Seifert

I’m sure that many would agree with me that they are resistant to vote for any name which they don’t want representing the community at large, irrespective of the motivations behind all this. Voting on the name and voting on whether or not

to change it are two very separate issues. Conflating them into a single vote is a mistake. —Thom Westergren

I find it hard to believe CPUN was the best name they could come up with. Why not poll the community for better names? How many places do we need named Central Park in Denver?

—Tony Welborn

Broader Perspectives

I really hope we keep talking about how to be an inclusive and welcoming community. I personally believe that another community name is an important step in that direction, but it is far from the only step. —Molly Ferensic

Just leave it. This tearing down statues and name changing is getting old and has no impact on people whatsoever. No

one is perfect. Heck if we do this let’s rename Martin Luther King Blvd while we are at it, because he had flaws as well. In fact tear down all monuments, rename everything so a few can feel satisfied. —Richard Caldwell

This journey has opened up so many great teaching moments as a parent, ranging from being a good steward of one’s civic duty and voting, to what we want our family to stand for.

—Tina Lin

The Effort Will Continue

If simple acts like changing a community name signals an intent to listen to requests from Black Lives Matter, and the Native American, Jewish, Asian, and Latino neighbors who have asked for a change, it’s worth it. If it signals an intent to understand the past, to take a step toward creating a more welcoming community (one envisioned by the Green Book), then 30 minutes to cast a vote was worth it. While 58% yes votes didn’t change the name this time, hopefully, the future will bring change.

—Jamie Hodgkins

I firmly believe the final numbers though reflect our larger reality as a culture right now...more people are on board with doing the morally right thing than clinging to a painful past for many. This effort was lost, but the greater effort is worth fighting for every single day. —Schelli Nimz

For white folks who oppose a name change because Denver’s KKK history doesn’t affect you and because you think you already live in a welcoming & inclusive community, I urge you to open your eyes and ears to the experiences of our neighbors of color—both here in 80238 *and* in the neighborhoods that surround us. —Liz Stalaker

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Tired of gridlock? Vote in the primary.

New this year, Unaffiliated can vote in primaries

By Carol Roberts

Broad turnout in primary elections is critical to ensure that candidates on the ballot represent the views of the majority. Primaries typically have lower voter turnout than the November elections. And non-presidential midterm elections have lower turnout than presidential elections. In this midterm primary, let your voice be heard so the candidates on the November ballot will reflect the views of the majority.

Polls Show Voters Want their Representatives to Compromise

Political scientists have observed that voters with the strongest views turn out for primaries—and they have been able to elect candidates with strong views who are not as open to compromise as the broader population says they want. That has led a situation where often the two political parties can’t reach compromise—though surveys have shown most voters want compromise. Results of a Gallup Poll released Oct. 9, 2017 showed this:

“Fifty-four percent of Americans want political leaders in Washington to compromise to get things done. This far outpaces the 18% who would prefer that leaders stick to their beliefs even if little gets done, while the views of 28% fall somewhere in between.

“...44% of national rank-and-file Republicans and independents who lean Republican prefer that leaders compromise, while just 23% favor leaders sticking to their beliefs. For their part, 62% of Democrats and Democratic leaners favor compromise, while 12% favor the “stick to principles” alternative.”

Ballots will be mailed to active voters

starting June 4. We hope you will look for your ballot and make your voice heard in this upcoming primary election.

To register, check your registration, view a sample ballot, or find voter service or polling centers, go to www.govotecolorado.com. Or for information call 720.913.VOTE or text 303.653.9668. Voting Service Centers and polling places will open starting June 18 from 7am to 7pm. Ballots must be received by 7pm on Tuesday, June 26.

Unaffiliated Voter Instructions

This year, for the first time, Unaffiliated voters in Colorado will receive two ballots, one for Democratic races and one for Republican races. Those voters should **select one ballot to vote** and **return only one voted ballot**.

Unaffiliated voters returning a Primary Ballot will remain Unaffiliated, however, under state law the party of the ballot you choose will be recorded in your voter record

Registration Requirements

Up to eight days prior to the election you can register online. Through Election Day, you can register in person at the Denver County Clerk’s office or at a Voter Service Center in Denver.

To register, you must be a U.S. citizen, a resident of Colorado for at least 22 days, and at least 16 years old (with understanding that you must be 18 years old to be eligible to vote). Following are valid forms of I.D. to register:

A valid Colorado Driver’s License or Colorado ID card OR present an acceptable form of identification for voting (valid U.S. passport, government employee I.D., valid U.S. military card, Medicare or Medicaid card, certified copy of birth certificate, current utility bill, paycheck or government check showing name and address, valid student I.D. with photo, valid veteran’s I.D. card, valid I.D. card from a recognized tribal government.

Democratic Party Candidates on Local Ballots

US House	Diana DeGette*	degette.com
US House	Saira Rao	sairaforgocongress.com
Governor	Cary Kennedy+	carykennedyforgovernor.com
Governor	Jared Polis	polisforcolorado.com
Governor	Donna Lynne	lynneforcolorado.com
Governor	Mike Johnston+	mikejohnstonforcolorado.com
Secretary of State	Jena Griswold	jenaforcolorado.com
Treasurer	Dave Young	daveyoungforcolorado.com
Treasurer	Bernard Douthit+	douthitforcolorado.com
Attorney General	Phil Weiser+	philforcolorado.com
Attorney General	Joe Salazar	salazarforcoag.com
CU Regent	Lesley Smith	lesleyforcu.org
State House	District 6 – Chris Hansen*	hansenforcolorado.com
State House	District 7 – James Rashad Coleman*	colemanforcolorado.com
State House	District 8 – Leslie Herod*	leslieherodforcolorado.com

Republican Party Candidates on Local Ballots

Governor	Walker Stapleton	stapletonforcolorado.com
Governor	Greg Lopez	lopezforgovernor.com
Governor	Doug Robinson	dougforcolorado.com
Governor	Victor Mitchell	vic4gov.com
Secretary of State	Wayne Williams*	winwithwayne.org
Treasurer	Justin Everett	everettforcolorado.com
Treasurer	Polly Lawrence	polly2018.com
Treasurer	Brian Watson	brianwatson.vote
Attorney General	George Brauchler	george2018.com
CU Regent	Ken Montera	monteraforcuregent.com
State House	District 7 – Jay Frank Kucera	

* Incumbent +Lives in *Front Porch* distribution area

Note: Neighborhoods within each state house district (6,7, and 8) are noted on page 30 with the comments by incumbent legislators.



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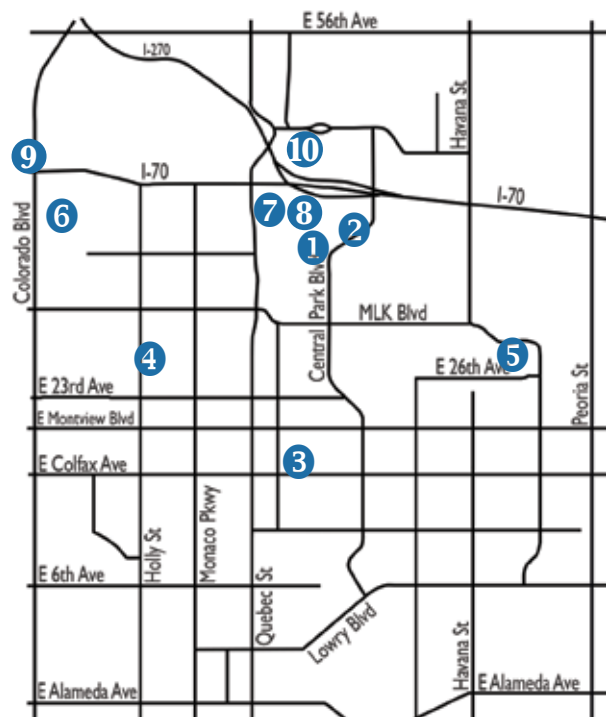
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NOT AN AMBULANCE RIDE AWAY — FROM ROSE L&D



...NE News Updates



By Carol Roberts and Melinda Pearson

1 What’s happening with the Sprouts by Central Park Station? And other upcoming development?

Forest City Senior Vice President Jim Chrisman provided the following development information at the May 15 annual SUN (Stapleton United Neighbors) meeting:

- The property sale to David Friedman near the Central Park Station (36th and Uinta), which will include Sprouts, is scheduled to close May 31. Chrisman estimated construction could start within a month. In addition to Sprouts, that project will include about 12,000 square feet of retail and 130 one- and two-bedroom condos priced from about \$300,000 to \$500,000. For information on this project visit FrontPorchNE.com and search for Sprouts.
- A one-acre lot on the northwest corner of Montview and Central Park Blvd. is under contract to a developer who will build small retail that will include a Starbucks. It is scheduled to close in December so construction will likely start in early 2019.

2 A Line to close June 23-25 for bridge construction

Construction work on the Central Park Bridge project will disrupt service on the entire A Line on Saturday, June 23 starting at 2pm and ending Monday, June 25, at 3am, according to RTD communications office. Information about the closure will be posted at www.rtd-denver.com.

3 Is urban renewal coming to East Colfax?

Denver Urban Renewal Authority (DURA) is conducting a blight study along East Colfax from Colorado Blvd. to Yosemite, the necessary first step in determining whether the area qualifies for tax increment financing (TIF). DURA sent a letter to property owners informing them that the study will be done and met with them at a public meeting on May 10 at Johnson and Wales.

TIF financing is considered when redevelopment is not feasible for the private sector to accomplish on its own. The blight study determines if the area qualifies for TIF financing and sets the boundaries of the area that qualifies for TIF. Under TIF financing, the tax base before improvements is determined, and that base tax revenue goes to that area’s usual taxing authorities. As the area gets redeveloped and property values increase, the additional tax revenue over and beyond the base amount goes into a fund overseen by DURA and is used to pay for redevelopment expenses.

We will follow up with the outcome of the blight study.

4 Will there be an innovation zone for some of the northeast area schools?

Swigert International School, McAuliffe International School, McAuliffe at Manual and Northfield High School have applied to create an Innovation Zone within the Denver Public School system. An Innovation Zone operates in the “space between the charter sector and the district operator,” according to DPS, which allows greater financial flexibility and promotes close collaboration among participating schools.

The four schools applying to create a new Innovation Zone are seeking to create an International Baccalaureate-focused vertical alignment, overseen by a board of directors, but still held accountable to state and local standards. Teachers at the four schools have already voted to approve the plan. After the schools present to the DPS Board of Education on June 11, the Board will vote on the plan’s approval June 14.

5 Who is the new Izzi B principal?

Veteran teacher and administrator, Lisa Schuba, has been named the new principal for Isabella Bird Community School (Izzi B), according to a letter from DPS Instructional Superintendent Monica Nurrenbern. Schuba has been a principal at the Boulder Valley School District and in Durango, in addition to having 18 years of teaching experience. Assistant Principal Laura Glaab, who had also sought the principal position, will remain in her current role at Izzi B, helping to ease Schuba’s transition, according to the May 11 DPS letter.

In a letter to the community, Schuba noted her connection to Izzi B founding leader, Sonny Zinn, whom she cited as an “unofficial mentor.” She also expressed excitement at joining the school, which is “on the forefront of innovation and school reform.” Schuba began spending time at Izzi B during the final weeks of school while continuing her work in Boulder. Principal Brian Ricker, who had led the school for two years, stepped down in April.

6 What’s happening at Park Hill Golf Course?

Arcis Golf, which leases the Park Hill Golf Course from Clayton Early Learning, has a clause in the lease that gives them the first right of refusal to purchase the land. On April 24, Arcis Golf, filed a lawsuit claiming Clayton had failed to honor that clause. The lawsuit states the Clayton Trust and the City drafted a purchase and sale agreement and made a public announcement about it—actions that show it was a bona fide offer. Arcis is asking for an order from the court allowing them to purchase the Park Hill Golf Course land on the same terms as were in that offer. The Trust says it was not a bona fide offer, as is required by the terms of the lease. Brantley says a court date has not yet been set.

The golf course land carries a “conservation easement” that requires the land be used only for a golf course, and that restriction would be passed on to a buyer. The only way to change or remove that requirement would be through a vote of the City Council, according to Charlotte Brantley, president and CEO of Clayton Early Learning.

Separate from the lawsuit, the terms of Arcis’ current lease, which extends through the end of 2018, requires that Arcis inform Clayton by June 30 if they choose to renew their lease for five years starting January 2019.

Brantley is continuing to hold public meetings to hear what the community thinks should happen to the golf course land in the future. The next meeting will be held in July.

City Council voted in January to pursue acquisition of up to 90 acres of Park Hill Golf Course land as a permanent stormwater detention area that will temporarily hold and



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Z.E.N. 2.0 at Beeler Park	from the Low \$600s	303.665.6100
Panacea at Beeler Park	from the Upper \$800s	720.941.0359

slow floodwaters. The entire golf course is likely to be closed for a year beginning January 2019 with approximately nine months of construction time, according to Nancy Kuhn of Denver Public Works. The city has money in its budget to restore the land as a golf course when construction is finished.

Design of the detention area on the Park Hill Golf Course property will be getting underway in the second half of 2018. There will be a public process as part of design development

7 How is RTD dealing with train delays?

Scott Reed from RTD communications emailed in response to our question: “RTD has now implemented a much more comprehensive audit and review process to help ensure that DTP’s internal operating procedures, response plans and employee training are appropriate and proper to continually meet the high standards of RTD and our customers.”

8 Is there any progress toward a quiet zone on the A Line?

“We are continuing final testing of the grade crossing technology on the University of Colorado A Line in partnership with Colorado Public Utilities Commission staff. We are nearly complete with those tests and will then await approvals from the PUC. Those final PUC approvals will permit the removal of the flaggers as well as consideration by the Federal Railroad Administration of the applications for establishing quiet zones along the CU A Line. All of the communities along the A Line have filed applications for quiet zones,” said Scott Reed of RTD communications via email.

9 When will I-70 construction begin?

Reconstruction of the 10-mile Central 70 Project is set to begin this summer. Commuters will see construction crews all along the corridor as the contractor team works to widen I-70 and rebuild several major interchanges between Chambers Road and Brighton Blvd. The I-70 viaduct will remain in place until 2020 as

initial excavation of the lowered highway between Brighton and Colorado boulevards will occur north of existing I-70. Additional early construction activities include: rebuilding the I-270/I-70 overpass (the new bridge will be constructed adjacent to the existing structure so minimal traffic impacts are expected); relocating various utilities; and constructing a railroad bridge requiring a permanent closure of 46th Avenue between Brighton Blvd. and York St. To stay updated on traffic impacts, please visit c70.codot.gov and email us at central70info@state.co.us to sign up for updates.



I-70 update provided by CIG, which provides public information for Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT).

10 What’s happening with future drilling in Stapleton?

At the Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) meeting held on May 15, Assistant City Attorney Jessica Brody announced that she is the new local government designee (LGD) for the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. If the State Land Board (SLB) or any other entity seeks to lease mineral rights under properties in Denver, Brody would be notified and, in turn, would notify affected registered neighborhood organizations.



Above: The Central Park bridge was closed from 3am, Saturday, April 28 until 3am April 30. This photo was taken at 3:30am April 28 showing the cranes needed to install the girder.

Left: A photo taken of an A line train passing under the bridge less than a month after the closure shows the additional lane added to the bridge.

to someone who might buy the land, say a commercial developer, because we do not want those mineral rights developed.”

Gleason, in an email to a Stapleton resident, noted that since Forest City doesn’t intend to develop any mineral rights, it has not “spent any time or money determining whether or not those rights exist” and so cannot confirm its ownership of mineral rights under specific parcels.

Brody noted that there are regulations in the city and the state about setbacks and locations for drilling to protect residential neighborhoods. Brody did acknowledge that innovations in horizontal drilling technology could lead to attempts to drill miles underneath to access oil and gas stores from remote sites, however.

In January, the SLB was considering an application to auction a lease for mineral rights under portions of north Stapleton controlled by the SLB. The LGD for the City failed to notify affected neighbors at that time. Fortunately grass-roots social media efforts and SUN organizing contributed to the defeat of the auction proposal, putting it out of consideration for two more years. See the February edition of the *Front Porch* for more detail on those events.



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Jeffrey Gibson: Like a Hammer is organized by the Denver Art Museum. It is presented with the generous support of Vicki and Kent Logan, the National Endowment for the Arts, U.S. Bank, the donors to the Annual Fund Leadership Campaign, and the citizens who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD). Promotional support is provided by 5280 Magazine, CBS4, Comcast Spotlight, and The Denver Post.

YOU CAN FEEL IT ALL OVER, 2015. Repurposed punching bag, glass beads, artificial sinew, steel; 41x14x14 in. From the collection of Teresa and Lorenzo Fertitta; *I PUT A SPELL ON YOU*, 2015. Repurposed punching bag, glass beads, artificial sinew, and steel; 40x14x14 in. Collection of the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina. Museum purchase, 2015.11.1; All artworks by Jeffrey Gibson (Mississippi Band Choctaw/Cherokee). All images courtesy of Jeffrey Gibson Studio and Roberts Projects, Los Angeles, California. All photography by Peter Mauney.



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Left: At a celebration that concluded Schlessman Library's Photography and Memory Project, DU student Mariel Hernandez talks about how meaningful the experience was for her. Above: DU student Di Sun from Beijing points to the photo of Lenore Sande holding the photo she brought to the program. The connection between Lenore, Di Sun and Roy Sande began with a conversation about that photo.

By Carol Roberts

A room full of strangers of multiple races and ethnicities, half young and half old, finds themselves sharing personal stories of their lives that they've never talked about with anyone but close friends. The group meets and talks for an hour on three Fridays in April—and all say what a meaningful experience it was to connect with the others in the group. “I want to remember how happy this made me.” “The entire experience was affirming, welcoming, fun-filled...” “We came in as strangers and we made lifelong friends.” “This experience was eye opening for me. I came in nervous. I have not connected like this with someone who doesn't look like me.”

In a world where digital connections are outpacing human connections, what happened there?

Schlessman librarian Amy DelPo believes human connections are what really matter in life. In the January 2016 *Front Porch* we told the story of The Memory Café, a group DelPo started where people with memory loss and their caretakers can gather and know others will understand. The group is still meeting. She also started a singers group where people of all ages gather to share the

joy of singing together just for fun.

Her next idea for helping people connect came when she met DU photography professor Roddy Macinnes at a meeting of leaders from Denver cultural institutions who are trying to transform what it means to age in Denver...“to bring creativity to the process of getting older to make it a richer, better experience.” DelPo learned Macinnes had taken his photography students to nursing homes where the students and nursing home residents connected over conversations about personal photographs.

DelPo immediately thought a similar experience would be meaningful for people aging in their homes—and a partnership was formed between DU and Denver Public Library. She announced the library-sponsored Photography and Memory Project, asking participants to bring the one photo they would take with them as they left a burning building.

In preparation for the project, DelPo and DU Writing Professor Anne Walker led a class session with the participating students—which was everyone registered in Macinnes' Photography 101 class. In Walker's written reflections on the project, she noted that when the students were teamed up with an older person to talk about

their treasured photo, “What happened next was nothing short of magical. Faces young and old lit up recalling fond memories of special [occasions]. All it took to talk to one another was a snapshot...”

DelPo describes the photos as catalysts that created really deep conversations and created a wonderful bridge so that people connected across different ages, backgrounds, races, gender. “We tend to be put in our little categories. It was a beautiful thing for people to step out of those categories and just connect and be reminded of what we have in common.”



Mariel Hernandez (left) and Park Hill resident Sandra Keys hold a photo of Sandra's family that was printed in the Denver Inquirer on Mother's Day in 1953. Thirty family members were pictured, including 11 of the 12 siblings in Keys' family. The conversation about that photo, and the conversations that followed, sparked a close bond between the two that proved their generation gap to be unimportant.

SUMMER EVENTS

at Northfield Stapleton



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FARMERS MARKET
SATURDAYS, JUNE 2
-AUGUST 25



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JUNE 16



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Jody's Garden

By Carol Roberts

Jody Hodges, who worked as an animal keeper at the zoo with the orangutans and gorillas for 27 years, has been a do-it-yourself gardener at her home on Magnolia St. for 27 years. Her front and back yards, which were all grass when she moved in (above), today are an exuberant mix that reflects her independent spirit.



Though she now says her advice to a beginner would probably be to hire someone and make a plan, she couldn't afford that when she started—so she read books, took classes at the Botanic Gardens, and just tried different plants. She says the rule is to plant in groups of three—but when she shops, her inclination is still to try one each of what likes.

Jody's husband of seven years, Andy Nelson, chimes in with a story that illustrates her independent streak. "We dated for 14 years and the first thing Jody said the day I met her was, 'I don't want anyone telling me what to do, I don't want anyone moving in with me, and I don't want to get married.' Fourteen years later she said, 'Don't you think it's about time we got married?'"

Though Jody has done most of the gardening herself, Andy gets credit for building the pergola (top middle photo) and the garage/workshop where Jody makes jewelry (above right).

Plant steppables. Jody's flagstone (left) is interspersed with wooly thyme, Turkish Veronica (purple flowers), Johnny jump-ups, and snow in summer is at the far edge.



Ideas from Jody's Garden

Save water with xeriscape plants. Jody's front yard (above right) only needs watering about once every two weeks in the summer. Her

The trick for getting rid of grass without hurting your back. Jody lost 10 pounds the summer she dug out and hauled away a section of grass. Then she learned she could cover the grass in the fall with three or four sheets of newspaper held down with bricks. In the spring she had the dead grass and newspaper roughtilled and she had soil with compost ready to plant.

Don't make this mistake. To fill in a bare area, Jody planted bishop's weed. The variegated leaves are attractive, but it invades and squeezes out the plants around it. She killed it all off at one point—but it all came back.

Save water with xeriscape plants. Jody's front yard (above right) only needs watering about once every two weeks in the summer. Her



plants include wooly thyme, irises, penstemon and columbine. On the street she has a couple of big plants that provide privacy and never need watering—apache plume and fern bush.

Prevent dog paths among your plants. Jody posted on Next Door looking for stepping stones and created a dog run along the fence (above right) with free material from a family in Stapleton.



"It works," says Jody. The dog runs there and doesn't wear paths among her plants. Anabelle hydrangea that will have big white flowers late summer and fall are planted along the path.

A Favorite Plant. Love in a mist is fern-like with foliage that looks like asparagus and the flowers have a mix of colors.

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www.ParkHillGardenWalk.org

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Lollie & Jamie's Gardens

Left: A gate connects Lollie and Jamie's back yards to facilitate their shared gardening.

Below middle: In the front where pumpkins and spaghetti squash are grown, Lollie has discovered how to protect them from squirrels. She pulls women's tights around them, drawing curious stares from passers by but saving her produce.



The annual Park Hill Garden Walk on June 24 offers visitors a look at 10 unique gardens with a multitude of ideas including “urban farms” with chickens, bee hives and veggies, yard art, outdoor kitchens and water features. Repurposing, xeriscape and shared gardening among neighbors are among the features we found in the gardens illustrated here.

Next door neighbors Lollie Roduner and Jamie Forsberg share the work on their adjoining gardens. Lollie has a more traditionally manicured back yard. Jamie says he rearranges and replants much of his back yard each year.

With an eye for repurposing, Lollie found doors at the salvage yard (far left) that she used to create a

privacy screen in her back yard. The plant on the far door sits in a light fixture. Her grown daughter's childhood wagon at right is a planter; and the drawers of an old red tool box will have flowers in the summer. It also doubles as a tabletop for afternoon drinks in the back yard.

The mulch on Lollie's sloping front yard (left) doesn't wash away because she uses gorilla mulch that forms a layer that holds together. The mulch shown at right, however, is rubber so water along the house doesn't soak in; it drains toward the back yard.

Jamie has recently planted “steppable” wooly thyme (above right) in the brick walkway at the front of his house.



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Growing Number of Grads Sparks New Test Prep Biz

By Laurie Dunklee

The three owners of Next Level Prep are parents with kids the same ages: each has a son age 17 and a daughter age 15. Their high schoolers are part of the first generation born in Stapleton.

“We were some of Stapleton’s first residents and our kids came up through school together,” says Doug Draper, who opened Next Level Prep in February with his two partners, Melanie Mayeranderson and Tom Cummings. “A lot of kids in the area are hitting this age and we saw a lack of resources to help them prepare for the SAT/ACT tests and college. So, we decided to do something about it.”

Next Level Prep, in the Stanley Marketplace, offers subject tutoring for K-12 students; SAT/ACT preparation classes and tutoring; and college coaching.

“Our kids are in the first group to graduate from high school; there are thousands more in elementary and middle school. There will be a massive wave in future years,” said Mayeranderson.

Subject tutoring is available for students who need help with schoolwork. “They can meet with a tutor once a week to master the content of their classes,” said Draper.

The SAT/ACT classes meet once a week for six weeks before the exams. “Preparing for the SAT/ACT is less about learning content and more about building confidence and applying the knowledge

Next Level Prep owners Melanie Mayeranderson and Tom Cummings (back middle and right) are pictured in their Stanley space with their families, (L to R) Kari and Katie Cummings, Joel Mayeranderson and Tommy Cummings.

you already know,” Draper said. “We work with students on strategies to put their score over the top—like time management and understanding the questions. With multiple choice questions, what are they really asking? First you eliminate the answers that are obviously not right, so you can focus on just one or two possibilities. Students learn how to calmly manage the test.”

Mayeranderson said Next Level Prep also offers one-on-one college coaches who provide a wide range of services. “We’ll assist with everything from recommending what high school classes to take for college, to listing college possibilities, to filling out applications. We’ll review financial aid packets and set up college visits.”



Next Level Prep’s 1,000-square-foot space features a conference room with a flat-screen TV for small classes to work collaboratively, as well as study areas, says Draper. “The Stanley is great because it’s local and walkable. The students can get ice cream and

coffee and parents can enjoy the marketplace.” For more information about Next Level Prep, including prices and class dates, see NextLevelPrepCo.com, call 720-788-3370 or email info@nextlevelprepco.com.

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Freedom and Happiness Here after Life in a Burmese Refugee Camp

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Toe Ma rarely stopped smiling throughout our interview. That smile is something he is known for among the staff at the Next Door restaurant in Stapleton’s Eastbridge Town Center, where he works in the kitchen. Originally from Burma, “Toe Ma” is his first and last name, which everyone uses as if it was one word. Or they call him by his nickname, Tomatillo. He can also be called grateful—for his freedom from a decade in a refugee camp and a new life in Denver.

Executive Chef Chris Collins hired Toe Ma out of the Culinary QuickStart program, a one-month, fast-track, free cooking school that prepares students for careers in the restaurant industry. “The school contacted me and said they had a guy with a great personality, who was kind of green, and had a language barrier,” says Collins. “I said ‘absolutely,’ because as long as you have a great attitude, I can teach you how to cook.”

Toe Ma’s cooking experience began in

a restaurant at the refugee camp in Burma. He, like so many others, was forced out by the Burmese military who took over farms and moved into homes. He was able to leave through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which helps protect and assist refugees around the world. Burmese refugees were taken to Australia, Canada, Sweden, Japan and the United States. Toe Ma landed in Denver and lives just south of Stapleton, near a church where he enjoys playing guitar, singing and “making time happy with God,” he says.

“Happy” is a word Toe Ma uses often when describing his life in Denver and at the restaurant. “It was difficult to live. Now I am here and I am lucky and happy,” says Toe Ma. “This is now really freedom.”

The language barrier was tough at first, but Collins says, “(Communicating about) food is easy, it’s international, and everyone knows it—so it’s easy to break through those barriers.”

Toe Ma describes learning English as uncomfortable at times because he wants to



Toe Ma, a refugee from Burma, is advancing through the ranks at Next Door restaurant in Eastbridge. He is pictured with Joel Walker, shift supervisor.

make sure he is using the right words. “I learn, but I guess a little too,” he says. “I want to speak respectfully but sometimes I just keep quiet. I am happy to speak with other people and learn a lot.”

Since he started working at the restaurant, Toe Ma’s English has improved dramatically, thanks to English classes three

times a week. He’s also picking up a bit of Spanish from a co-worker.

His culinary skills have improved dramatically too. Collins has introduced Toe Ma to the idea of bulk-prepping items, like cutting onions for all of the dishes in a day, or how to make four salads at once instead of one at a time.

(continued on page 22)



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Freelancers and entrepreneurs share space at Progress Now in Aurora near Stanley Marketplace. The '50s building still has its industrial style, but now has glass garage doors to let in light. —Photo courtesy of Zachary Cornwell Photography.

Shared Workspace in Aurora

By Laurie Dunklee

“We’re named ‘Progress Now’ because we’re a work in progress,” says Joe Phillips, co-owner of Progress Now Coworking in Aurora. “We don’t worry about being perfect; ours is a laid-back feel, like a coffee shop.”

Progress Now Coworking, which opened in 2015, provides shared workspace for freelancers, entrepreneurs and corporate employees who work remotely.

“Our place works well for people who work at home and need a separation from their home life. Or they’re tired of working in coffee shops because of loud teenagers or a lack of plug-ins. I have three little daughters, so I was having a hard time getting any work done at home,” Phillips said.

Phillips, a real estate broker, started the business with partner Biff Brett when they got excited about the potential for the new Westerly Creek Village area, just south of Stapleton. “We saw what happened when the Stanley Marketplace went in. We thought, ‘This area will be great,’ and we bought a building one block away from the Stanley. Initially we didn’t know what to do with the property, but we decided to work there. We invited a few friends to join us and it turned into a business.”

Phillips and Brett renovated the former 1950s industrial building, which was actually three small connected

buildings, keeping the open industrial style and adding glass garage doors to bring in light.

Progress Now Coworking has fifty members, with space for another 20. The 6,000-square-foot space has about 4,000 square feet of shared space; 20 semi-private dedicated desks; several conference rooms and some “phone booths”—sound-buffered spaces to make phone calls. The building also has two larger team offices with storefronts and dedicated entrances.

Members at Progress Now include mortgage brokers, real estate brokers, software engineers, IT people, marketing professionals and various entrepreneurs. “We have no niche in mind; we want a nice broad mix of people,” Phillips said.

He said Progress Now is cheaper than other coworking facilities, especially the big corporate ones. “We’re the mom-and-pop of the coworking world,” said Phillips.

Progress Now amenities include snacks, coffee, beer, water and several Wi-Fi networks. Once a month, members are invited to a free happy hour or catered lunch. “We set the table so they can step back from their laptop and get to know each other.”

For more information see progresscoworking.com, email Phillips at joe@progresscoworking.com, or call him at 720.299.1730.

Free and Happy

(continued from page 21) An automated kitchen has helped Toe Ma get up to speed quickly, including a “smart oven” that has been programmed with the temperature, timing and humidity levels required for various menu items and a salmon slicer.

Toe Ma’s first job at Next Door was as a dishwasher but he quickly moved up to being a prep cook—the person who gets the right amount of ingredients ready for all the dishes each day. He also helps out as a line cook preparing meals for guests.

When asked about the best advice Collins has shared with him, Toe Ma says it is “what we need to do in the kitchen so we can make more growth.” Collins clarifies that it’s teaching kitchen methods that increase productivity. “Chef is very good for us—if there’s something I think I



Toe Ma works in both prep cook and line chef capacities at Next Door restaurant in Eastbridge.

can’t do, he shows me and then I can,” says Toe Ma, and adds, “he also taught me how to change a flat tire.”

Toe Ma’s long term goal is to be a chef and maybe have his

own restaurant someday. “We’re opening more restaurants so I’d love to see him running his own,” says Collins.

Toe Ma has introduced the staff to his native Burmese food, contributing meals to company potlucks. He also utilizes the restaurant’s ingredients in new and different ways to make Burmese-influenced lunches for himself. Toe Ma learns from his co-workers too, even fundamentals. “We all had breakfast together today and Toe Ma told me it was the first time he had ever used a knife as an eating utensil because he always just used a fork and spoon,” Collins says.

Collins calls Toe Ma, “a ray of sunshine to the team.” When asked what he thinks about being in Denver and working at the restaurant, Toe Ma says simply, “I am very happy.”



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June & Early July Events

NE DENVER/NW AURORA EVENTS

To 6/3—Family Festival at Northfield Stapleton. Rides, food midway games and more. Mon-Fri 4-11pm. Sat Sun and Memorial Day 11am-12am. www.northfieldstapleton.com

6/1 to 6/3—Lowry Yard Sale. Lowry Neighborhood. 8am-2pm. www.lowrydenver.org

6/6 Wednesday—Hiawatha Davis Rec Center Art Show. 10AM to 1PM 3334 Holly Street. Free. Artists from 65 to 85 show their imaginative and original work. Classes are free and open to adult members of Denver Parks and Rec

6/6 to 6/27 Aurora Summer in the City. Wednesdays in June, 11am-2pm. 6/6 and 6/13 at Del Mar Park. 6/20 and 6/27 at Montview Park. FREE. Healthy snacks, inflatables, board and field games, try golf and gymnastics and crafts <http://www.auroragov.org/events>

6/7 Thursday—6th Annual Lowry Foundation Fundraiser at Lowry Beer Garden. Family-friendly evening. Portion of proceeds for Lowry Foundation's community programs. 5-9pm. 7577 E. Academy Blvd. No ticket sales or cover charges. Drawings for prizes. 303.344.0481, LowryFoundation@gmail.com. <http://lowryfoundation.org>

6/7 Thursday—Thursday Night Bazaar at Stanley Marketplace. Shop and sip the first Thursday of the month, 5-10pm. www.denverbazaar.com

6/7 to 6/28—Teen Graphic Novel Workshop. 4-6:00pm Sam Gary Branch 2961 Roslyn St. 80238 asksamgarylibrary@denverlibrary.org 720-865-0325. 4-part workshop series on graphic novel creation as we explore the art of sequential storytelling. Create stories that will be printed in an anthology comic book. Participants receive free copies of the book. Open to students entering grades 6 - 12. Attending all 4 sessions is recommended but not required. Registration is required. <https://www.denverlibrary.org/event/teen-graphic-novel-workshop-3>

6/8 Friday—Northfield High School Youth Football Camp. Kids K-8 Free. 9:00am to 12 pm. RSVP by 6/1 at <http://evite.me/V8kZmuqvmz> Hosted by Northfield Football coach Ahmad Lowe and staff.

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

6/9 Saturday—2018 Free Community Baby Fair. 10:30am-1pm. Aviator Park (8054 E. 28th Ave.). Children's Immunization Coalition (CCIC) offers new/expecting parents to connect over 30 exhibitors of health/safety organizations, baby-focused businesses, community groups. Attendees get swag bag. Enter to win prizes. Kids: giant lawn games, balloon animals, face painting, arts/crafts, Complimentary food truck tickets for hand-picked lunch/snack options. Emily.Clancy@childrenscolorado.org. <https://www.childrensimmunization.org/news-and-events/2018-community-baby-fair>

6/9 Saturday—Recycle Your Junk at the Great Denver Cleanup. Free drop sites for hard-to-recycle items, household junk and yard waste from 9 AM to 2 PM. 5440 Roslyn St. and 7301 E. Jewell Ave. Search for Great Denver Cleanup at DenverGov.org

6/9 Saturday—Inaugural Nighthawk Community Golf Tournament. 18 holes, lunch, awards, contests and more All proceeds benefit the Northfield High School golf programs. \$125/player, 7:30am shotgun. www.nhsnighthawk-golf.com, Wwww.northfieldgolf.net

6/9 Saturday—Summer Kick-off at Eastbridge Town Center. Special offers and activities in every store 1-5pm. Live music by JK5, magician, face painting, balloon artist and hula dancer. 10155 E 29th Dr. www.eastbridgetowncenter.com

6/9 Saturday—Grand Opening - Kicking for Life - Martial Arts & Self Defense Training Center. Meet Kellye Giles, Owner/Master Instructor. 12p-2pm 7506 E. 36th Ave, Suite 480. Demonstrations, free classes, snacks, prizes, sign-up specials and a visit from a Power Ranger! Questions? info@kicking4life.com, 720-504-7084, kicking4life.com

6/14 Thursday—Sam Gary Knitting Circle. Bring your knitting or crochet project and join other crafters in conversation around the Sam

Gary fireplace. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720-865-0325, asksamgarylibrary@denverlibrary.org Repeats 5/24. www.denverlibrary.org/event/knitting-circle-13

6/17 Sunday—Sam Gary Literary. 2:00pm - 3:00pm 2961 Roslyn St. Book club meeting at Sam Gary once a month on Sundays; rotates between fiction, nonfiction, and reader's choice selections. <https://www.denverlibrary.org/event/sam-gary-literary-2>

6/24 Sunday—Park Hill Garden Walk. 9am-3pm. Xeriscapes to formal gardens; artists show at each garden. Tickets: www.parkhillgardenwalk.org

6/27 Wednesday—Free Breakfast on Bike to Work Day 6:30-9am! Burritos and beignets at the Founders Green breakfast Station (29th Ave & Roslyn St). Other breakfast stations in the area include: The Central Park Rec Center, Übergrippen Indoor Climbing

Crag, and The Stanley Marketplace. biketoworkday.us, netransportation.org

6/30 to 7/1—Aurora Arts Festival. 12-8pm, Fletcher Plaza, 9898 E. Colfax, Aurora Arts and Cultural District. 100 artists, makers and creative businesses. www.auroraculture.org

SEASONAL/HOLIDAY EVENTS

7/2 Monday—Old Fashioned July 4th Celebration. 5-10pm. A modern take on an old-fashioned 4th of July celebration. 715 S. Forest St. 720.865.0800. www.fourmilepark.org

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

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

7/4 Wednesday—Colorado Rapids vs. Seattle. Fireworks after (continued on page 24)



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(continued from page 23) game. Family fun zone 5pm, game 7pm. www.coloradorapids.com

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

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

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

CIVIC MEETINGS AND EVENTS

6/7 Thursday—"Here's The Ticket Forum". 6/7 Thursday—Meet Democratic candidates for state-wide office 6:30-8:30 p.m. St. Thomas Episcopal Church [note change of venue], 2201 Dexter St. Questions? lorieyoung12@gmail.com; 303-388-6965.

DENVER METRO EVENTS

Through 6/24—Free Mini Golf. DEN Outdoor Plaza, between Jeppeson Terminal and the Westin at Denver International Airport. Open daily 10am-7pm, weather permitting. FlyDenver.com/Events

6/1 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Santa Fe Arts District, Tennyson Art Walk, River North (RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Museum, Navajo Street Art District. www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

6/1 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Hay Bales and Tall Tales. 12-1pm. 715 S. Forest St. 720.865.0800. Free together with Free First Friday. www.fourmilepark.org

6/1 to 6/3—Capitol Hill Peoples Fair. Civic Center Park. Sat., 10am-8pm, Sun., 10am-7pm. FREE. www.peoplesfair.com

6/2 to 6/3—Denver Chalk Art Festival. Larimer Square. Sat., 10am-10pm, Sun., 10am-7pm. FREE. www.larimerarts.org

6/3 to 8/5—City Park Jazz. Sunday evenings 6-8pm. City Park Band Shell. See website for band listings. www.cityparkjazz.org

6/9 Saturday—Women Rock Denver. 5-9pm. Music, libations and small bites. Four Mile Historic Park, 715 South Forest Street, Denver, Colorado 80246. \$50-60 early birds. Proceeds supports Four Mile Historic Park and Girls Rock Denver. Tickets: fourmilehistoricpark.org or (720) 865-0800 or info@fourmilepark.org.

6/9 Saturday—Old South Pearl Brewgrass Festival. 1-10pm, \$8 advance, \$10 day of. 1200 block Old South Pearl St. www.southpearlstreet.com

6/9 to 6/10—Denver Berkeley Park Art and Music Festival. Denver Berkeley Park. Sat. 10am-7pm; Sun. 10am-4pm. www.denver.org

6/10 Sunday—A Taste of Puerto Rico. Civic Center Park, 11am-7pm. www.atopr.com

6/15 to 6/17—Denver Greek Festival. Greek food, music, boutique, cathedral tours, etc. 4610 E. Alameda. www.thegreekfestival.com

6/15 to 6/17—Denver Comic Con 2017. Denver Convention Center, 700 14th St. www.denvercomiccon.com

6/16 to 8/5—Colorado Renaissance Festival. 8 week-ends. Larkspur. www.coloradorenaissance.com

6/16 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. Free with admission. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-2pm. www.wingsmuseum.org

6/16 Saturday—Juneteenth Music Festival. Five Points Neighborhood, Welton St. betw. Park and 28th. www.juneteenth-musicfestival.com

6/16 to 6/17—Denver PrideFest. Civic Center Park, downtown Denver. Parade 9:30am, Cheesman Park. 11am-7pm Sat.; 10am-6pm Sun. www.glbtcOLORADO.org/pridefest

6/20 to 6/23—Denver Library Summer Used Book Sale. Central library, 10 West 14th Ave. 10am-4pm each day. www.dplfriends.org

6/22 Sunday – Irish Performers at Swallow Hill Music. The Hydes, featuring special guests Tadhg Ó Meachair and Dave Curley from Ireland, 71 E Yale Ave. Doors open at 7, show at 8.

Tickets \$18 advance, \$20 day of, available online at swallowhillmusic.org. hydesmusic.com

6/23 Saturday—Westword Music Showcase. Golden Triangle. www.westword.com/musicshowcase

6/23 Saturday--South Platte RiverFest. Outdoor activities, music art, etc. Confluence Park and Little Raven St. betw. 15th St. and Elitch Circle. Sat 10-8; Sun 10-5. www.thegreenwayfoundation.org

6/23 to 6/24—Cherry Blossom Festival. Sakura Square, Lawrence St. betw. 19th and 20th. www.cherryblossomdenver.org

6/23 Saturday—Highlands Street Fair. 11am-7pm, Highlands neighborhood, 32nd Ave., Julian St. to Perry St. Music, family activities, etc. FREE. www.visitdenverhighlands.com

7/6 to 7/8—Cherry Creek Arts Festival. www.cherryarts.org

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

6/3 Sunday—Prego Expo. Pregnancy and Baby Expo. Colorado Convention Center. www.pregoexpo.com

6/9 Saturday—8th Annual Jodi's Race for Awareness. Country's largest run/walk for ovarian cancer. City Park, 8:30am. www.jodisrace.org

6/10 Sunday—Strides for Epilepsy. City Park, 9:00am-12pm. www.epilepsycolorado.org

6/16 Saturday—Coldwell Banker Denver Century Ride and Street Party. Main Street, Northfield. www.denvercenturyride.com

6/17 Sunday—Father's Day 5K, 10K, Half Marathon and Kids Run. Stapleton Central Park, 8am. www.featonthestreet.com

6/23 Saturday—Undy 5000: A Brief Run to Fight Colon Cancer. 5K in your undies to fight colon cancer. Denver City Park 8:30am. www.undy5000.org

KIDS AND FAMILIES

June—Denver Puppet Theater. Rapunzel. www.denverpuppettheater.com

6/1 Friday—City Park Alliance Ice Cream Social. City Park Alliance and City Council District 9 old-fashioned ice cream social, City Park Pavilion. 6-9pm. Free ice cream, face-painting, entertainers and Denver Municipal Band concert. <http://cityparkalliance.org/ice-creamsocial>

6/2 Saturday—International School of Denver International Bash. Games, activities, face painting, cultural village, international-themed food trucks, student performances; One of largest international festivals in Denver metro area. www.isdenver.org

6/1 to 8/11—Denver Public Libraries Summer of Reading. Free activities, suggestions for summer reading, incentives for Denver kids, 3 age groups. FREE. www.summerofreading.org

Sam Gary Library Events for Kids and Families
Sam Gary Branch Library, 2961 Roslyn St., 80238. 720.865.0325 ask-samgary@denverlibrary.org www.denverlibrary.org. Some events require registration, please check website.

6/4 Monday—4/5 Book Club – Hello Universe by Erin Entrada Kelly. 3-4pm Registrants can pick up a free copy of this title from the branch while supplies last.

6/5 Tuesday—Birds of Prey. 2-3pm Join HawkQuest—Bald or a Golden eagle, an owl, a falcon, and features a free-flying hawk.

6/12 Tuesday—Zoooper Heroes. 2-3pm. Stories of Denver Zoo animals.

6/19 Tuesday—We Are All Composers. 2-3pm. Basics of music composing while strengthening young children's self confidence.

6/22 Friday—Preschool Yoga. 2-3:00pm. Story time with yoga.

6/26 Tuesday—Murdock's Magical Delights w/ Doc Murdock. 2-3pm. Magic show for all ages.

6/5 to 6/26—Storytime for Preschoolers. Tuesdays at 10:30am, Free. The Bookies bookstore, 4315 E. Mississippi Avenue (303) 759-1117 info@thebookies.com www.thebookies.com

6/5 to 6/26—Tuesdays in June—Four Mile Historic Park Small Settlers. Ages 2-5. \$5/child, adults free. Members free. 715 S. Forest St. Advance register: 720.865.0814 or education@fourmilepark.org. www.fourmilepark.org

6/9 Saturday—National Get Outdoors Day Denver. Sloan's Lake Park, north shore. Rock climbing, live music, outdoor arts, bicycling, fishing, junior ranger activities, etc. FREE. 10am-3pm. www.getoutdoorscolorado.org/ngod

6/10 Sunday—Junior Rangers. 1:30-3:30pm. Ages 6-12. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd., Aurora. Reservations required. 303.739.9428, www.auroragov.org/nature


LECTURES AND CLASSES

6/7 Thursday—What Gardeners Need to Know: Diseases and Pests in the Garden. Learn how to manage pests and protect beneficial bugs and identifying, preventing and treating common plant diseases. \$20 per person. 6pm The Urban Farm 10200 Smith Road <http://theurbanfarm.org>

6/14 Thursday—Fall is the New Spring. Garden in cooler weather: a wide variety of garden plants that prefer maturing in the cooler weather, no bitterness – sweeter taste, and common pests to spring crops are generally not present in the fall. \$20 per person, 6pm <http://theurbanfarm.org>

6/14 Thursday—Active Minds Presents: Winston Churchill. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 6:45-7:45pm. Free. <http://www.samgarylibrary.org>



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June 2018

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activeminds.com

6/19 Tuesday—Active Minds Presents: The Mayans. Jewish Community Center, 350 S. Dahlia St. Denver 80246 10am-11am. Free. <http://activeminds.com>

6/28 Thursday—Active Minds Presents: China's Economic Evolution. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 6:45-7:45pm. Free. <http://activeminds.com>

MUSEUMS

Memorial Day thru Labor Day—Play Ball! A Celebration of America's game. Kids 15 and under wear a baseball jersey for free admission. History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway. www.historycolorado.org

To 6/10—Creatures of Light. Special exhibit, included with museum admission. www.dmns.org

To 8/5—Drawn to Glamour: Fashion Illustrations by Jim Howard at the Denver Art Museum. Special exhibit included with museum admission. www.denverartmuseum.org

To 9/3—Dead Sea Scrolls. Special exhibit, Separate ticket required. www.dmns.org

To 9/16—New Territory: Landscape Photography Today. The Art of Summer. Denver Art Museum www.denverartmuseum.org

SCFD FREE DAYS

6/2 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day. www.denverartmuseum.org

6/3 Sunday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science Free Day. www.dmns.org

6/5 Tuesday—Children's Museum Free Target Tuesday. 4-8pm. www.cmdenver.org

6/5 Tuesday—Denver Botanic Gardens Free Day. www.botanicgardens.org

6/8 Friday—Four Mile Free Day. Free Second Friday. Tour Four Mile House Museum, historic demonstrations, explore 12-acre grounds, sample summer kitchen info@fourmilepark.org or 720.865.0800. www.fourmilepark.org/

6/30 Friday—Clyfford Still Museum. Free admission last Friday of every month all day. Free admission every Friday 5-8pm. 1250 Bannock St. www.clyffordstillmuseum.org

NATURE AND OUTDOORS

6/2 Connecting the Creek: Walk2Connect Segment Walk on Sand Creek Greenway. Series of 4 walks covering the 14-mile Sand Creek Greenway from Aurora to Commerce City. Walks begin at 9am and range from 3.5-4.5 miles. Segments allow you to walk the entire length of the Greenway or just a portion. For additional info: www.walk2connect.com/connectingthecreek/

ROCKY MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE REFUGE JUNE PROGRAMMING: Reservations required for these free programs. RSVP by calling 303.289.0930 6550 Gateway Rd, Commerce City, 80022. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_area/

6/9 Saturday—Planting for Pollinators. 9:30-11:30am.

6/3 Sunday—Hike N Bird. 9:30-11:30am.

6/23 Sunday—The Buzz on Bees. 10:00-11:30am.

6/2 Saturday—Wildlife Viewing Tours. 9:30-11:00am. Naturalist-led bus tour through refuge to view bald eagles, bison, coyotes, deer, raptors, etc. Repeats 6/30. RSVP required.

6/16 Saturday—Kids Fishing Clinic. 10am-12pm. Kids ages 6-12. Poles available for loan.

6/24 Sunday—The Masked Bandit. 10am-10:45am. Learn about the Refuge's black-footed ferrets and observe feeding time. RSVP required.

THEATRE

To 6/9—Superior Donuts. Firehouse Theater at John Hand Theater: 7653 E 1st Pl. www.firehousetheatercompany.com

To 7/8—Agnes of God. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

6/19 to 7/7—Alice in Wonderland. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

6/2 Saturday—Volunteer Work Day with Sand Creek Greenway at Bluff Lake Nature Center. 10 am, Bluff Lake Nature Center parking lot. Morning treats provided, work on weed removal and trash pick-up until noon. Individuals, families (children over five, please), retirees, students, groups are welcome. Please email Courtney at cgarwood@sandcreekgreenway.org for more information.

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

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

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

Get Your Free Breakfast 6:30 – 9am
Bike to Work Day, Wed., June 27

Northeast Transportation Connections is hosting the breakfast station at Founder's Green (29th Ave & Roslyn St). They are partnering with Four Friends Kitchen to provide breakfast burritos and beignets! Cycleton will be available to help with bike adjustments and Sam Gary Library will be on hand to sign you up for a library card. Info: biketoworkday.us, netransportation.org

Or visit one of these other breakfast stations in the area: The Central Park Rec Center, Übergrippen Indoor Climbing Crag, The Stanley Marketplace, Wings Over the Rockies, Cake Crumbs, City Park Pavilion, Carla Madison Rec Center, Anschutz Medical Campus.

Primary Candidate Forum June 7

On Thursday, June 7, All Democratic candidates for state-wide office have been invited to participate in the "Here's The Ticket Forum" from 6:30-8:30pm. The moderator will be former First Lady Dottie Lamm. Location: St. Thomas Episcopal Church [note change of venue, not Johnson & Wales as originally announced], 2201 Dexter St. For info: Lorie Young; lorieyoung12@gmail.com; 303-388-6965. Primary candidates are listed on page 12

Free Paint Recycling at Dick's June 23

PaintCare, a non-profit organization is hosting a FREE paint recycling event at Dick's Sporting Goods Park on Saturday, June 23 from 8am-3pm. Paint, stains, primers, sealers, varnish and shellac are accepted. More info: www.paintcare.org/commercecity. For planning purposes, participants are encouraged to select an expected arrival time: www.eventbrite.com > search for "Paint Drop-off Commerce City."

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Madeleine Fleming plays the piano during her lesson with her teacher Lunai Ki.

By Anne Hebert

After her son “aged out” of area toddler/parent music programs, Skye Barker Maa began searching for a music school in NE Denver. She quickly realized there wasn’t anything in the area offering exactly what she was looking for, so her entrepreneurial spirit kicked in. “I really wanted my son to have a music school experience,” she says. Neighborhood Music was born out of desire and necessity in the basement of Barker Maa’s Stapleton home.

The school concept took off immediately “exploding to 60 students in just the first few months.” Kids took music lessons in rooms “all over the house”



Neighborhood Music Owner Skye Barker Maa greets Charlie Bedard and Ethan Frank in the business’ new location at Stanley.

and theater productions were held in her backyard. Soon, the school “stepped up to a new level of creative chaos” and moved to a commercial Aurora location to accommodate increasing demand.

In February 2018, the school moved into their new space at the Stanley Marketplace. Private and group music instruction for children and adult students is offered for voice, piano, strings, brass, woodwinds and percussion. “Niche instrument” instruction is taught for harmonica, accordion and dulcimer. A youth orchestra participates in partnership with the Aurora Symphony Orchestra and the school boasts eight rock bands and a fiddle group.

Theater production classes teach acting, dance, full-scale costume design, and theater set design and construction, culminating

in four productions each year. Neighborhood Music teaches children’s theater in eight Denver Public Schools (DPS) and provides public school music curriculum for kindergarten through eighth grade.

“Try It” is a program for kids who want to play an instrument but aren’t sure which one to choose. “Instruments have a personality,” Maa explains. “Kids take lessons with different instruments to narrow down what they like. Often, the first instrument they choose is the one they wind up playing.”

The school holds recitals

and theater performances to help “strip away inhibitions and develop public presentation skills.” Maa says the school environment is a social experience, encouraging students to “interact, play and stay motivated.”

Neighborhood Music is located at 2501 Dallas Street, Suite 130. The school’s hours are Mon.-Sat. from 9am-8:30pm. For information, call 720.378.3668 or see www.neighborhoodmusicstapleton.com.



Above: Henry Behrendt works on his guitar skills with his instructor Thomas Jennings.

Below: Soren Jergensen and his piano instructor Peder Sill pause for a big stretch.



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Colfax Marathon Running for a Cause

By Melinda Pearson

If you've ever considered running a marathon—or part of one—Denver's homegrown Colfax Marathon should be on your short list. The only full marathon in the city of Denver, the 13th annual Colfax Marathon, took place on May 19 and 20 with over 19,000 runners participating. The event included a full marathon, half-marathon, 10-mile course, 5K, and a relay division.

This year over 1,250 relay teams participated in the marathon on behalf of corporate or government entities, and many ran for charitable causes. Over 75 runners this year ran in support of the Ray of Hope Cancer Foundation, including a group of 40 from UCHHealth and the CU Cancer Center.

Ray of Hope provides cash grants to cancer patients experiencing financial difficulty to be used at their discretion. Jamie Bachman, the executive director of oncology services at UCHHealth, sits on the board of Ray of Hope and has

been organizing teams of runners for the last several years.

"Because so many people working at our cancer center have cared for patients who have been touched by this foundation, it's been fun for me to organize them around the cause," said Bachman. He estimates about half the runners on his teams—including himself—come from Stapleton and Park Hill, as many on the team work at the Anschutz campus.

And the need to raise money is real.

In the relay, the baton exchange between Amy Walde and Jamie Bachman, members of the Ray of Hope team, was at Mile High Stadium.



Liz Kessler and Jamie Bachman join in the festivities at City Park after the marathon. Photo by Melinda Pearson

"Roughly 26,000 people are diagnosed with cancer each year in the state of Colorado," Bachman said, "And probably at least one-third of people diagnosed with cancer have had financial difficulties directly related to that." In the first quarter of 2018, Ray of Hope provided

cash grants totaling \$78,000 to 153 individuals with cancer across Colorado.

This year, UCHHealth and the CU Cancer Center fielded eight teams of five

runners that included doctors, nurses, administrators, a dietitian and a chaplain. Runners ran a leg of the race measuring between 4.5 and 6.5 miles, and many met up at the Ray of Hope tent at the finish line to swap stories.

Each of the last two years, team members have raised over \$5,000 for Ray of Hope through soliciting donations to the foundation for their efforts. The Colfax Marathon also donates \$100,000 in 60 separate award categories, which UCHHealth Ray of Hope teams have benefited from in the past by winning their division.

To support the Ray of Hope Foundation through the UCHHealth and CU Cancer Center, you can visit their Colorado Gives fundraising page at www.coloradogives.org/UCHHealthFor-Ray. Or consider grabbing your friends or co-workers and setting up a team of your own.

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June SUN News and Events

RECOGNITIONS

DDS Teams Place Second in State in STEM Contest

By Melinda Pearson

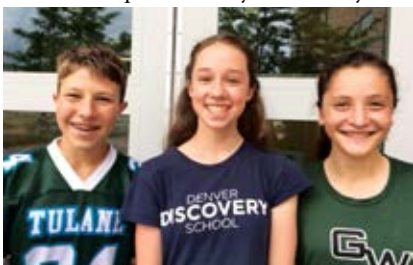
Denver Discovery School (DDS) 7th and 8th graders placed second in the state in the 16th annual eCYBERMISSION competition. The eCYBERMISSION competition is a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) initiative sponsored by the U.S. Army Educational Outreach Program. Administered by the National Science Teachers Association, it is a web-based competition where students in grades six through nine work in teams to identify a problem in their community and use scientific practices or an engineering design process to come up with a solution.

The DDS teams fielded two all-female teams for this competition, We Have Heart and The Green Maniacs, working with Ellie Foust, their team advisor. We Have Heart, the 7th grade team, worked to find an inexpensive way to identify when someone was in cardiac arrest and notify emergency providers through use of a patch that costs less than \$500. The 8th grade team, The Green Maniacs, took on the challenge of finding a cost-effective way to harness electricity through the use of common soil bacteria.

Both DDS teams placed second in the state in their respective divisions and were awarded \$500 per student in U.S. EE Savings Bonds.



The 7th grade team, We Have Heart, (l to r) Sophie S., Maddie R. and Ashley T., worked on a patch to notify emergency providers during a heart attack.



The 8th grade Green Maniacs team, (l to r) Annika P., Elsa E. and Erin M., harnessed electricity using soil bacteria.

DSST Stapleton Student Named Boettcher Scholar

By Laurie Dunklee

Isabella Horton wants to build a career in biomedical research to help people and discover new ideas. The 18-year-old senior at the Denver School of Science and Technology in Stapleton received a Boettcher Foundation scholarship to attend the University of Colorado. She plans to double major in chemical and biological engineering, and molecular, cellular and developmental biology. "I really like biology and I'm good at math," said Horton. According to CU's website, chemical and biological engineers develop technologies that diagnose conditions and fight disease. "Chemical engineering is fascinating because of its applications in the real world, that are pertinent to our future," Horton said.

Molecular biology studies how living systems operate, with heavy emphasis on genetic information. "I like the discovery aspect—the opportunity to do research," Horton said. "One example is editing the human genome—going into cells to find mutations that might have caused diseases.

"I'll pursue either an MD or a PhD. I want to give back by uncovering new ideas in labs in Colorado."

The scholarship includes virtually all expenses for eight semesters, including full tuition, fees, a book allowance and an annual stipend for living expenses.

Horton was chosen from among 1,500 applicants. "Isabella stood out, with her accomplishments both in and out of the classroom," said a Boettcher Foundation press release. Taken into consideration were her high grade point average, SAT and ACT scores, as well as her extracurricular accomplishments, including qualifying for state-level competition in track and field.



Isabella Horton

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7th Grader Chosen for National History Competition

By Melinda Pearson

Park Hill seventh-grader Helen Miller has qualified to compete in the National History Day national finals with her project entitled "Conflict and Compromise on the 38th Parallel." The competition will be held June 10-14 at the Univ. of Maryland.

Miller's performance piece on the Korean War carried her through regional and state competitions. At state, she took second place and won an award for the best project related to veterans/military. Her work began as a school project at McAuliffe International School for their History Day program. Through her research, she developed the stories of a newsboy/narrator, a Korean girl, a Korean father and an American soldier, each of whom shares a different



Helen Miller and her coach Barb Allen

perspective on the war.

"It just seemed like a fun thing to do and I really wanted to try it," said Miller, who worked largely on her own, surprising her parents with the polished piece she presented at the city competition. "We are enormously proud and mostly just amazed because she did this all on her own at school," said her mother, Michelle Miller.

Now Helen Miller is working with veteran Denver School of the Arts teacher, Barb Allen, to dig deeper into sources and

further refine her performance. Supporters are raising funds for Allen to travel to College Park to be with Miller at the national competition. Support them here at gofundme.com/ermau-national-history-day-nationals.

80238 Real Estate

By the Numbers

Source: REColorado.com 05/16/18

May 2018

Single Family Homes in Stapleton

\$713K : Avg transaction price*

24 : Stapleton avg days on market*

11 : NPRE avg days on market

44 : Homes closed by NPRE**

*Data from 99 homes sold 1/1 - 5/16/18, not all sold by NPRE.
**Buy & sell sides in Stapleton from 5/16 /17-5/16/18

Listed Melinda S. Howlett | 8422 E 29th Pl | **\$595K**
4BR | 4B | 2,749ft²

Pending Melinda S. Howlett | 3395 Willow St | **\$695,000**
3BR | 3B | 2,077 ft²

Coming Soon Laura T. Hudgins | 2548 Akron St | \$call agent
6BR | 4B | 3,648 ft²

Listed Susan Ingle | 3433 Wabash St | **\$587,000**
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Your Legislators' Thoughts on the 2018 Session

We asked the five state legislators who serve constituents in our distribution area to respond to the following questions:

- What did you consider to be the most important statewide issues that passed in the 2018 session?
- What statewide issues didn't pass that most disappointed you?
- What were the main issues you sponsored or worked on personally and what was the outcome (passed, will work on again next year, etc.)



Sen. Lois Court
Senate District 31 includes Lowry, Mayfair and Montclair

The most important thing we did during the 2018 session was pass a balanced budget. Along with \$10 billion of expected general fund dollars, we had about \$1 billion more than previously budgeted for. Highlights include:

*\$606 million for education, including \$271 million to avoid growing the "budget stabilization factor" (formerly called the "negative factor") and another \$150 million to reduce it; * Close to \$500 million for transportation * \$225 into PERA (Public Employees Retirement Association) to address the more than \$30 billion in unfunded liability

What didn't pass were two bills of mine: Hands-free driving (not holding your cell phone while moving in traffic); and the Emergency Restraining Protective Order (also known as the "red flag" gun safety bill). I fully intend to bring them back next year, and every year until they do pass.

The other bill I worked on for over 6 months, the stabilization of PERA, did pass—it was the best bill we could get with a split legislature. It created a shared responsibility for all parties—current employees, future employees, retirees, and the state.



Sen. Angela Williams
Senate District 33 Includes Stapleton and Park Hill

The Colorado General Assembly ended at 12 midnight on Wednesday, May 9, 2018. While it was a challenging session I am pleased with our accomplishments. The most important issues accomplished are the School Finance Act, Reauthorization of the Colorado Civil Rights Division, PERA, Rural Broadband and Transportation Funding. These are issues Coloradans and SD 33 constituents voiced were most important matters.

The statewide issues that did not pass that disappointed me the most were three Suicide Prevention bills for students, teenagers and behavior care related to suicide prevention; 100% Renewable Energy by 2035; and legislation to Collect Long Term Climate Change data.

The main issues I sponsored and worked on personally are: the Funding of and Reauthorization of the Colorado Civil Rights Division—the Division was funded and reauthorized. Use of Cyber Coding Cryptology for State Records—passed. Income Tax Deduction for Military Retirement Benefits—passed. Behavioral Health Care Ombudsman—passed. The Alternative Fuel Vehicles Public Utilities legislation did not pass and I look forward to reintroducing this legislation in 2019.



Rep. Chris Hansen
House District 6 includes Lowry, Mayfair and Montclair

Funding broadband for underserved rural areas was the most impressive feature of the year—showing the legislature can think imaginatively and find good solutions. The House made progress on developing new standards of conduct regarding sexual harassment. The

Senate repeatedly refused to even engage with this issue.

The red flag gun bill, sponsored by Reps. Garnett (D) and Wist (R), would have allowed families or law enforcement to bring an individual before a court, if they felt that person posed a major risk of gun violence. The court would decide whether such fears were grounded and temporarily prohibit the individual from owning or buying firearms. The House passed this common sense bill, and the Republicans in the Senate killed it. We'll be back next year.

We passed a transportation package, but it doesn't meet the roughly \$1 billion current funding deficit, and it doesn't plan for future population growth.

My energy storage bill (HB18-1270) passed, which will ensure that the Public Utilities Commission will take into account storage when evaluating the benefits of energy projects, which is critical to the renewable energy economy. Overall, 14 of my 20 bills passed, though as my son says, 70% is just a C, and isn't really that impressive, Dad.



Rep. James Coleman
House District 7 includes all of Stapleton and the area of Park Hill/ East Colfax east of Magnolia and north of Montview Blvd.

I'm happy to report that our greatest accomplishments this session have to do with issues that drew me to public service, such as improving education, safety, and the economy for all Coloradans. This year we saw successes surrounding raising per-pupil funding for Colorado's youth and created fiscal improvements for education in rural areas.

However, several pieces of legislation didn't make it into law—such as our bill HB18-1310 that would have created a pilot program to reimburse employment support organizations that help people who are working to find a job. Nonetheless, we were proud that we were able

to foster an important conversation. There are still many successes that did make it into law this session and we are proud of the many bills of ours that passed. I'm energized to continue this expansive platform next session and uphold the values that we have fostered in our work. I look forward to working to continue to keep District 7 the best house district in Colorado. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.



Rep. Leslie Herod
House District 8 includes Park Hill from Monaco to Colorado, E Colfax, and the area of Stapleton bounded by Central Park Blvd, E 28th Ave, Beeler St, and Montview Blvd.

We passed unprecedented increases in transportation and education funding, infusing \$645 million into multi-modal transportation and infrastructure projects and increasing per pupil funding by \$469 per student.


I worked on legislation that would prohibit a landlord from refusing to rent to someone based on source of income. That proposed legislation died in a senate committee.

In the Masterpiece Cakeshop case where a baker refused a wedding cake for a gay couple, the Civil Rights Commission determined that the baker violated Colorado's nondiscrimination laws—thus sparking great debate about the rights of LGBTQ people in public accommodations. Because of this case, Republicans jeopardized the future this executive agency and therefore, the civil rights of Coloradans. House Speaker Duran and I fought off attempts to weaken the powers of this agency, ultimately brokering the right deal to keep the Division and Commission alive and well.


I worked on passing legislation that increases Corrections Department communication with community corrections, increases access to educational opportunities for youth and adults in corrections, and creates a grant program focused on crime victims.

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CO Legislators Stagger Across the Finish Line after Momentous Session

By Todd Engdahl

Who tries to solve big problems like fixing Colorado's roads, shoring up the state pension system and rescuing the state's civil rights commission in just 48 hours?

Colorado's 100 legislators, of course. The 2018 session of the Colorado General Assembly may have convened on Jan. 10, but it didn't finish most of its biggest tasks until the last two days of the session, which adjourned May 9.

Legislators have an innate tendency to procrastinate, and crafting political compromises takes time, particularly when Republicans control the Senate and Democrats run the House. And legislative leaders, particularly in the House, didn't do a great job of managing workflow and the calendar, not to mention the number of bills. Some 721 bills were introduced, the highest total in at least a decade and probably longer.

Lawmakers started the 2018 legislative session with a big stack of cash and a short list of very tricky issues.

The extra tax revenue provided by a booming state economy allowed lawmakers to pass one of the most generous budgets in years. They also made a \$225 million down payment on strengthening the pension system, set aside \$500 million for transportation projects and gave schools \$180 million more than the school-funding formula requires.

But it wasn't easy. The final votes on the pension rescue were tallied with less than an hour to go on May 9, the last day. Also accomplished in the waning hours was a clutch compromise on board membership that renewed the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, which was set to expire under the state's sunset law.

Lawmakers also consumed a lot of time that day on tributes to departing members, satirical skits and general long-windedness.

Agreement eluded lawmakers on one hot-button issue that surfaced late in the session – creation of procedures for confiscating

guns from the mentally ill.

Among other top issues this session were the opioid addiction crisis and teacher shortages. Lawmakers discussed those issues all session, and some funding was provided. Some restrictions on opioid prescriptions were passed. But a proposed safe injection clinic in Denver was defeated. Most observers agree that neither set of bills will move the needle dramatically on either issue.

Paying for roads

Lawmakers have been wrestling with this issue for several sessions. Highway officials put the cost of necessary improvements at \$9 billion over the next decade.

But the two parties have disagreed on how to pay for all that. Republicans believe some existing state revenues can be diverted for transportation, including enough money to pay off long-term bonds. Democrats fear that earmarking general revenues for roads would squeeze budgets for schools and other programs during future economic downturns. They've supported asking voters for a transportation tax increase.

Republicans made the first bid with Senate Bill 18-001. Discussions went back and forth all session. Finally House Speaker

Crisanta Duran and Senate President Kevin Grantham crafted a compromise that



Democratic House Speaker Crisanta Duran and Republican Senate President Kevin Grantham crafted a compromise on the transportation bill that passed on the second to the last day of the session. File photo from the 2017 legislative session.

was accepted by the Democratic majority in the House and all 35 senators on the session's second-to-the-last day.

The final version of the bill could put almost \$3 billion in transportation over the next two decades, including \$645 million of transfers from the state General Fund over

the next two years. If voters approve a \$2.3 billion bonding plan in 2019 then \$122.6 million a year would be taken from the General Fund to help repay the bonds.

Everyone pays to shore up pension system

As with transportation, almost everybody agreed something had to be done to shore up the long-term financial health of the Public Employees Retirement Association. But the conflicting interests of state employees, teachers, retirees and employers like the state and school districts made it hard to find compromise.

Backroom negotiations consumed the session's last day, and the Senate Bill 18-200 compromise didn't jell until the session's final two hours. It passed both chambers, although Gov. John Hicken-

looper had to coax Democrats to support the plan during a hastily called caucus. The Colorado Education Association opposed the plan, and most of the no votes were Democrats.

The bill increases employee contributions by 2 percentage points. Employers like the state and school districts also will pay more. Annual cost of living increases will be pared to 1.5 percent for retirees, and the retirement age was raised to 64 from 60 for state employees and from 58 for teachers. State workers will be offered a defined-contribution option, but not teachers.

Schools get a welcome boost

Total program funding, the amount of state and local revenues allocated for basic school operating costs, is projected to be \$7.08 billion in 2018-19, a \$460.9 million increase over the current budget.

That includes a \$150 million reduction in the Budget Stabilization (BS) Factor—the term now used instead of “Negative Factor.” That would bring the BS Factor to \$672 million in 2018-19.

The funding plan translates to an average per-pupil figure of \$8,137, a \$475 increase.

Sexual harassment issue overshadows session

Sexual harassment allegations that surfaced six months ago cast a shadow over the session, led to the expulsion of one member and mild punishment for another. And over the summer legislative leaders will be discussing a late-session report by an outside consultant that found an unhealthy culture of harassment at the Capitol.

Todd Engdahl runs Capitol Editorial Services, a research company that provides services to lobbying firms and advocacy groups at the Colorado legislature. He's a former executive city editor of The Denver Post, launched DenverPost.com and was a co-founder of the website Education News Colorado.

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