

Front Porch

COLORADO

Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair, NW Aurora

AUGUST 2018

NORTHEAST DENVER

Scouting Includes Girls



Lila Remster, Carys O'Hara, Helina, and Cubmaster Walt Dobbs open a meeting of Stapleton's Cub Scout Pack 34 with the Scout Oath and Scout Law, raising the two finger Cub Scout sign.

By Charles Borsos

The Boy Scouts are going away, although only in name. The scouting program for boys aged 11-17 will begin allowing communities to organize new troops for girls starting next year. While the over-

seeing organization, the Boy Scouts of America will remain named the same, the program for older boys becomes Scouts BSA when it opens up to girls. Cub Scouts let in girls this year, with Denver's Pack 34 signing up as an early adopter. *Story on page 30.*

Gun Control Road Tour Stops in Denver

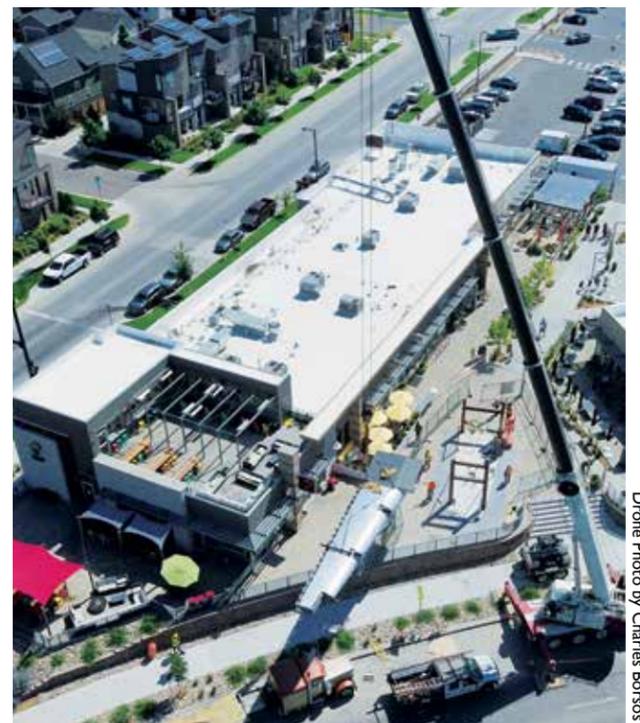


Alex King embraces an audience member after speaking as part of the Road to Change town hall meeting in Denver. King was part of a panel of speakers affected by gun violence. King's nephew was shot and killed in Chicago.

After the February 2018 Stoneman Douglass High School shooting in Florida, activists took their grievances to Washington, organizing March for Our Lives. The original protest and march spread to other

cities and is now being followed by a tour of Town Hall meetings and events across the United States as a push to continue momentum and get people to vote. *Story on page 10 by Charles Borsos.*

The Big Constellation Installation



Drone Photo by Charles Borsos

After a series of long delays, the Constellation ice cream shop is beginning to resemble the plane it's named after. *Story by Charles Borsos on page 26.*



Stapleton Farmers Market

Sunday, August 5, 12, 19, and 26, 8am-12:30pm, The Green
The Stapleton Farmers Market is held every Sunday from mid-June through mid-October on The Green at Stapleton. Local vendors provide Colorado-grown produce, tasty baked goods, specialty meats, gourmet food items and more. Support your local growers and meet your neighbors. Become a vendor or learn more at coloradofreshmarkets.com.

Summer Wine Series

Friday, August 17, 6-8pm, West Crescent
The MCA hosts a series of outdoor wine tastings in Stapleton. Each month boasts 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. Registration includes wine tastings and cheese samples. Tickets can be purchased on event day (provided space is available) for \$30 per person. No refunds or exchanges, please. Must be 21 to attend.

MoJaBlu Concert Series – Ron Ivory Motown Review

Thursday, August 2, 6:30-8:30pm, Conservatory Green
Join the Stapleton MCA and Live@Jack's Thursdays for an evening of Motown, Jazz and Blues. Our MoJaBlu Concert features the Ron Ivory Motown Review. This is a free concert open to the public. Food trucks will be available.

Concert on The Green – The Hazel Miller Band

Saturday, August 18, 6-8pm, The Green
Join us for the stunning, moving and powerful Hazel Miller Band. All concerts are free and open to the public. Food trucks will be available.

Active Minds Seminar – The River Nile

Thursday, August 23, 6:45pm, Sam Gary Library
Flowing through eleven countries and for over 4,000 miles, many regard the Nile as the most important river in the world because of its role in the development of ancient civilizations. Join Active Minds as we explore this great river, visiting its winding path through history and its current relevance in the world.

Movie on The Green – “Honey I Shrunk the Kids”

Friday, August 3, At Dark, The Green
The classic comedy, “Honey I Shrunk the Kids,” is just what summertime calls for. There will be a concession stand selling candy, popcorn and drinks. Concession proceeds benefit a local nonprofit. We will also have food trucks available.

Movie on The Green – “Coco”

Friday, August 24, At Dark, The Green
Enjoy an evening under the stars when we show the new Pixar favorite, “Coco.” There will be a concession stand selling candy, popcorn and drinks. Concession proceeds benefit a local nonprofit. Food trucks will also be available.

Active Minds Seminar – The Great Depression

Thursday, August 9, 6:45pm, Sam Gary Library
Let Active Minds take you back to The Great Depression. We will examine the origins of the Depression and its legacy as well as take a look at it through the lens of our current economic environment.

Theater on The Green – The Aristocats

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, August 9, 10 and 11, 6:30-8:30pm, The Green
Enjoy a production of The Aristocats performed by the provocative and always innovative Three Leaches Theatre Group.

Stapleton Kids Triathlon

Sunday, August 26, 8am, Jet Stream Pool
Encourage your kids to try their first triathlon in a fun and supportive environment. The route begins at the Jet Stream Pool and continues on a path through the neighborhood. Registration is open!

Denver Municipal Jazz Band

Thursday, August 16, 6-7:30pm, Conservatory Green
Join us for a “century plus” tradition, featuring the Denver Municipal Jazz Band. All concerts are free and open to the public.

Diane Deeter | Community Director
ddeeter@stapletoncommunity.com

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The Palmares Racing Stapleton Criterium took place on July 22 in the Conservatory Green neighborhood. The final men’s and women’s races of the day-long event were a “Miss and Out” criterium on a short and challenging course. This is a novel race where the trailing rider is eliminated every two laps until only one is left. The Texas Road House team prevailed in the men’s event. Photo by Duane Pearson

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

CORRECTIONS:

In the July story “Remembering July 4, 2000 in Kiribati,” Minnie Simonet’s last name was spelled incorrectly. We apologize for the error.

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 stores in Lowry and Mayfair.

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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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NE PROPERTY CRIMES

Neighborhood Populations

Stapleton	25,000
East Colfax	10,954
North Park Hill	10,339
South Park Hill	9,284
Northeast Park Hill	9,207
Lowry	8,252
Montclair	5,885

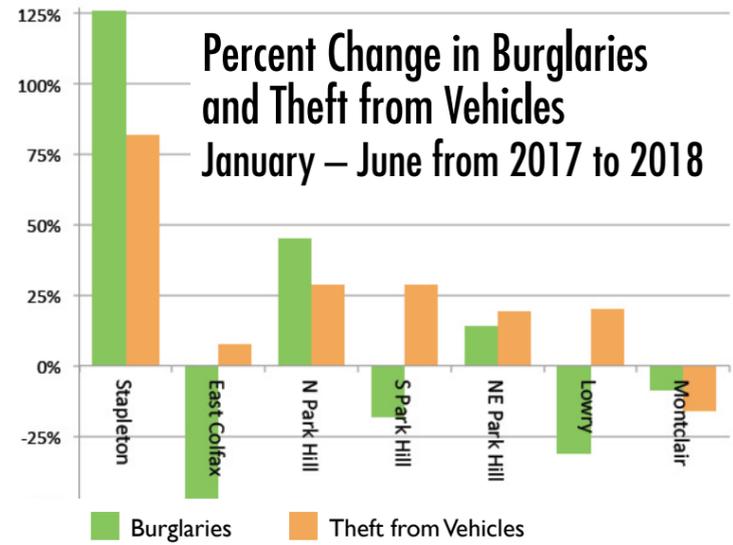
than neighboring communities, the police crime data also show the *rate* of property crime per capita is higher and rising since the same period last year.

Of note, however, is that the property crime category includes thefts from commercial stores—and the Quebec

Square Wal-Mart and The Shops at Northfield Stapleton account for significant shares of the Stapleton figures. According to recent news reports, Wal-Mart pays the City of Denver \$285,000 annually under a contract to provide enhanced police presence at that location, which has led to a reduction in crime there.

But burglaries and thefts from motor vehicles in Stapleton are up sharply from the same six-month period a year before, as seen in the above right chart, which does not include shoplifting crimes. Those are categorized as larceny. While burglaries can include crimes to businesses and commercial properties, in the Stapleton area most of the burglaries are residential crimes, according to Lt. Hines.

Burglaries are also up in North Park Hill, although significantly down in East Colfax, Lowry and South Park Hill over the same period.



Source: Denver Police Department

Auto thefts are on the rise across all neighborhoods. Many burglaries in the community occur when residents leave their garage doors or back gates open, presenting criminals with opportunities. “Our analysis of these burglaries indicates that they are overwhelmingly occurring to homes that have been left unsecured (most often due to open garage doors). A similar trend has also been noted when examining the occurrences of thefts from vehicles (which are also up for the year),” wrote Lt. Hines. “The good news is that these crimes are among the easiest to prevent.” A recent police patrol of the Stapleton neighborhood found 53 garage doors open in a four-hour period of time, according to Hines.

Preventive Measures To Reduce Property Crime

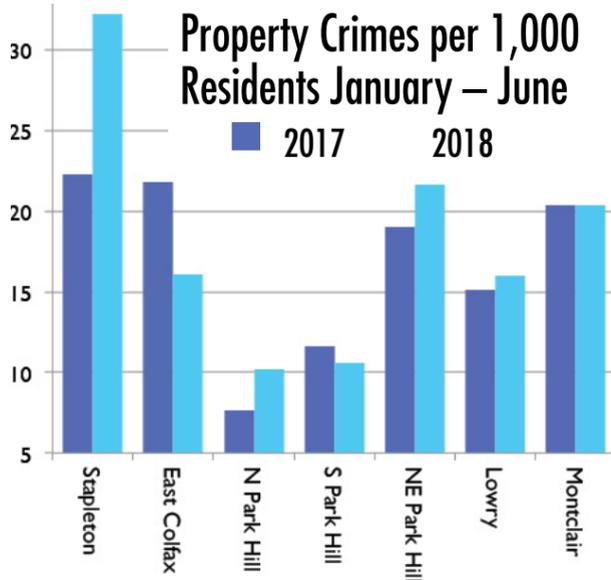
- Always close your garage door.
- Always lock doors to your home/garage.
- Always lock your car.
- Remove items of value from your car when it is unattended.
- Remove garage door opener from your car—they are being used to gain entry.
- Notify neighbors if their homes/vehicles have been left unlocked.
- Call police immediately if you witness suspicious behavior.

By Melinda Pearson

District 5’s new Lieutenant, Kevin Hines, sent out a communication last month with some stunning figures about property crime in Stapleton. “In the 28 days (prior to July 5), we’ve experienced a 286% increase in burglaries within the Stapleton neighborhood . . . and a 133% year-to-date increase in these crimes.” Since that time, there has been some improvement with increased patrols and awareness. But, compared to prior years, these property crimes are up.

The chart at right shows property crimes per 1,000 population in six Northeast Denver neighborhoods from January to June in 2017 and how it changed in 2018.

So, although the estimated population of Stapleton is much higher



Sources: Denver Police Department and 2016 population data from the Pilon/Shift Foundation

although significantly down in East Colfax, Lowry and South Park Hill over the same period.

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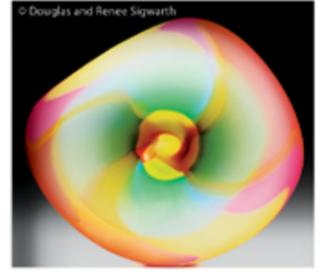
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Jason Crow Calls For “Servant Leadership”



Above and right, Crow talks with voters at a campaign event prior to the June primary.

By Charles Borsos

In July, the *New York Times* asked why democrats couldn't win Colorado's Sixth Congressional District. To outside observers, the Sixth represents an increasingly diverse population—demographics that the Democrats could do well with.

But since its creation in 1983, the district has elected Republicans. In recent years, Mike Coffman, now seeking his sixth term, found enough support to knock down several high-profile Democratic contenders over the years. Jason Crow, a lawyer, former Army Ranger, and Stapleton-Aurora resident hopes to change things.

Crow says he is the first combat veteran, the first parent and the first person without a political background to run in this race. To that end, he hopes to

represent a new generation of candidates that he hopes will get elected to positions across the U.S.

“Fundamentally, you just need to get new people in there. We're not going to change that culture and we certainly are not going to change our current trajectory with the same people,” Crow says. New candidates, along with campaign finance reform and removing politics from the creation of voter district boundaries are among Crow's prescriptions for moving through the gridlock and partisanship in today's politics.

“You don't have to look at the news too long to see how different the environment is,” Crow says, referring to the divisiveness of the current administration. “We have a president who wants to try and divide us at every turn and pit people against each other—and that's just not who we are.

“You know, I think there is certainly hope for cooperation,” Crow says, again pointing to the importance of a new generation and new types of leadership, specifically people who follow a concept of “servant leadership.” He adds, “I think it's less to do with whether you're a veteran or not. It has more to do with your view of politics and service.

There are certainly Republicans and unaffiliated who have that kind of servant leadership, and if they want to do the right thing... I am going to work with

them.” But with institutionalized non-cooperation in place in current politics, Crow says he is “calling for new leadership on both sides.”

Crow says elements like lopsided districting don't provide “a lot of incentive” to compromise. And money is “really ruining our politics and out democracy.” However, he thinks the impetus for change on both sides is getting a new generation into office. “We just have to get people into elected office who have servant leadership in their hearts and who want to do the right thing and serve their country and community. Until we do that, people can't expect anything to change.”



An October 2012 *Front Porch* article about Jason Crow included this image of him holding a photo of himself in Afghanistan. Crow now lives in a new home in the Aurora section of Stapleton.

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Turning Life Stories into a One-Woman Show

By Laurie Dunklee

“People fascinate me,” says psychologist-turned-storyteller Kari Knutson. “Why do we do what we do? People appear in my life and we start connecting. There are endless opportunities for ridiculous, funny and touching stories in everyday situations.”

Knutson, a Mayfair resident, turned her collection of stories about her life into a one-woman show, *Ain't Never Met a Stranger: Stories from the Passenger Seat*, which she performed at The Clocktower Cabaret downtown in June.

Ain't Never Met a Stranger follows Kari through a romance complicated by 9/11; her experiences as the only hearing student at a deaf school; growing up as the daughter of a gay father and an ex-nun mother; and her on-again-off-again, eight-year relationship with Joe, the man who became her husband.

Knutson, a part-time school counselor and profession-



Mayfair resident Kari Knutson finds ridiculous, funny and touching stories in everyday situations and tells them on stage. She has a performance coming up in September at the Clocktower Cabaret. She's proficient in sign language and has an interpreter at her shows.

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al speaker, wrote the show after years of telling stories from her own life. “I became the lunchtime storyteller at school. I never had called myself a storyteller before, but people enjoyed it. I told the stories at a friend’s house in front of a small audience and we taped it. The feedback I got said that this should be a one-woman show.”

Many of the loosely connected stories revolve around her relationship with her husband Joe, a high school history teacher. “After the show, people want to talk to him because they relate to him,” Knutson said.

She says she’s not a comedienne. “I didn’t set out to be funny. As a storyteller, I tell true stories. There are no punchline endings. It’s up to the audience to take from it what they need. People relate to different stories. They tell me, ‘I’ve had pain or joy like that.’ It touches me that our experiences are unique but we share the same human condition. I love smaller venues because I can see people’s faces and hear their responses.”

The show’s title came from a conversation in the passenger seat of an airplane. “A man in his late 60s named Jim sat next to me and the conversation turned to his search for love. Suddenly he looked at me and said, ‘Who are you? I’ve never told this to anyone. You ain’t never met a stranger, have you?’”

Knutson holds master’s degrees in higher education administration and counseling. She is a part-time school counselor at Crown Pointe Academy in Westminster, as well as a public speaker and emotional intelligence trainer with her own business, Knutson Speaks. “I decided to take psychology off the couch and bring it to people,” she says.

She earned her counseling degree at Gallaudet University in Washington DC, a university for deaf and hard of hearing students, and became proficient in American Sign Language. She employs an ASL interpreter at her shows.

Knutson is completing a book of her stories, which she hopes to publish this fall. She also plans to put the training and entertaining parts of her life together. “I’ll offer an employee training and show package,” she says.

Knutson will perform *Ain't Never Met a Stranger 2.0* on September 19 at 8pm at The Clocktower. She calls the new show 2.0 because “I have something like 38 stories in all, so the new show will incorporate new stories.”

The Clocktower Cabaret is at 1601 Arapahoe St. For more information see clocktowercabaret.com or call 303.293.0075. For more about Kari Knutson, see Knutsonconsulting.com.

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An overflow crowd attended an event at Shorter AME Church to end senseless gun violence. The event was peaceful, but security was tight. Attendees were not allowed to carry anything, including purses or backpacks.

By Charles Borsos

March for Our Lives stated its plan for the Road to Change Tour was to pass through NRA strongholds and communities affected by gun violence. Therefore, Denver and Aurora, Colorado were going to be part of that list for practical and tragic reasons.

On the practical side, Colorado is one of the few municipalities to get firearm restrictions passed in this decade. Universal background checks and a ban on high-capacity magazines got onto the books in 2013.

However, a proposed red-flag law (which allows authorities to restrict individuals iden-



Message from these neighbors:

To End Sense

tified as extreme risks from accessing firearms) was struck down, and powerful groups like the NRA and the Rocky Mountain Gun Owners continue to work against new legislation and roll back the 2013 laws.

And, of course, the shootings in Columbine



Former Columbine principal Frank DeAngelis speaks on the importance of the tour coming to Denver. Even 20 years later, Columbine is still discussed and valued "having everyone here together."

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Less Gun Violence — Vote

and Aurora keep Colorado permanently affixed in the discussion of gun control and mass shootings in the United States.

On July 23, Road to Change held a town hall meeting at Shorter Community AME Church in Park Hill.

Speakers discussed the money and power wielded by the NRA in the United States. As an interest group for gun owners, the NRA is often held responsible for limiting gun control regulation in the US. Tom Mauser, whose son was killed at Columbine and is now a major voice for gun control in Colorado, argued people shouldn't just spend their time, "preaching to the choir and complaining about the NRA."

"The fact is they are very good at what they do. They intimidate. They organize, they make calls, they do a good job of what they do," said Mauser of the NRA, "and we are not doing as



Littleton resident Jane Dougherty, sister of Mary Sherlach, the school psychologist killed at Sandy Hook said she wished at times her sister had not been so brave that day.

good a job as we need to be doing."

Speakers pointed to statistics on the popular support of "common sense" regulations—but the inability to create change. Speaking to a sea of #NeverAgain orange T-shirts in the audience, the goal seemed to be mobilizing them to take the conversation outside of this already committed group.

In the audience was David White, a Little-

ton educator, who came out of the town hall meeting intent on speaking with his parents to get them on the "right side" of the issue. He said it was heartbreaking to hear from those so close to school tragedies. "We do drills we prepare for it. The thought is always there."

But school shootings make up only a fraction of gun violence in the United States. Alex King, a Chicago native, said everyday shootings are often forgotten or mislabeled, like the death of his nephew, shot on a porch in Chicago. "If you are African-American and you shoot somebody, its gang violence. If you are Middle Eastern, it's a terrorist attack and if you're white, it's mental health problems" King said.

Speaking locally, Charlie Jones of east Denver said, "In a community of color, we don't get the marches or the rallies for the day to day violence."

When an audience member asked about guns moving from unregulated areas into stricter municipalities, Alex King responded simply, "Vote."

Time and again, speakers identified voting as one of the most powerful tools for those who support gun control legislation to do something—not just on the issue the audience member asked about, but across the board.

Outside, volunteers at the Road to Change Tour registered people like 16-year-old Lauren Fox to vote. Colorado allows for same day registration, but Fox favored getting on the books at Colorado's minimum age, "so then when you do turn 18, you're ready."

The speakers stressed voting as the way to get new legislators into office and new legislation on the books to support the movement to end gun violence in the United States.



Columbine parent Tom Mauser raises his foot to show the audience the shoes his son wore when he was killed. On his chest he wears a button with a picture of his son.



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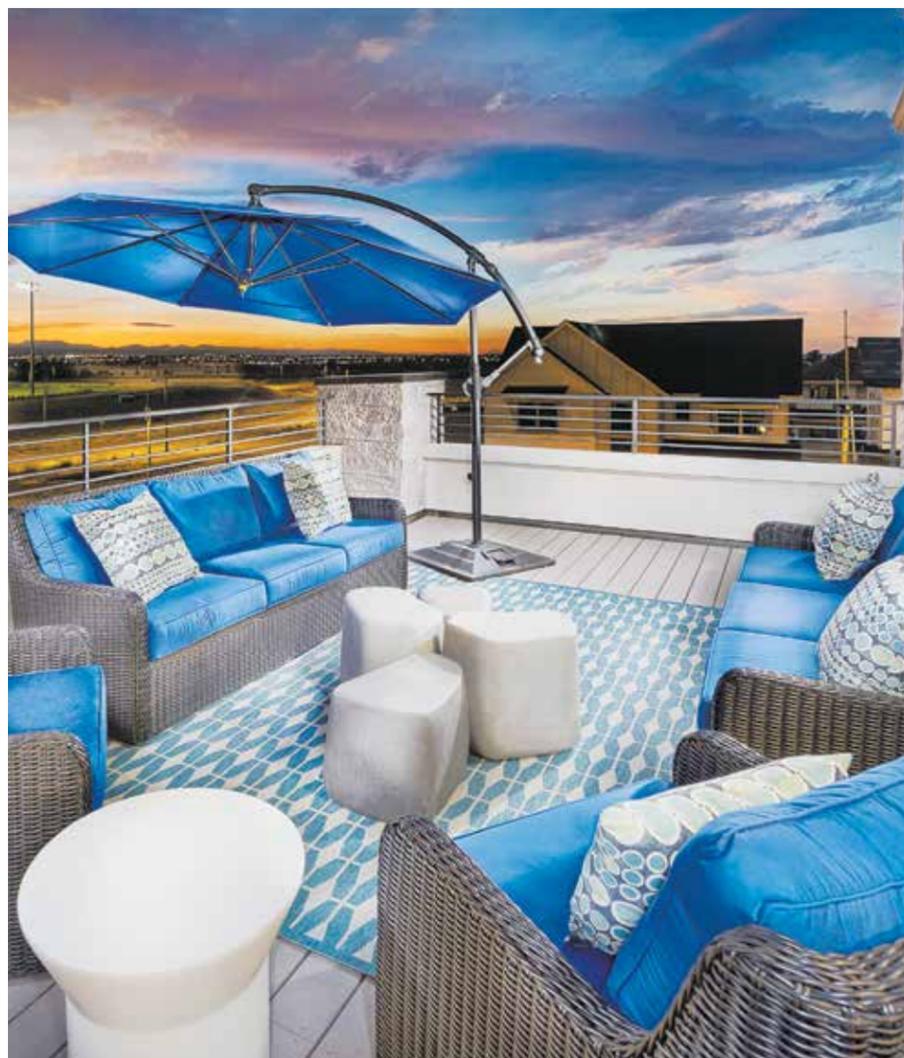
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Each month, the Indie Prof reviews a current film in the theater and second film or series available on DVD or instant-streaming service. Follow “Indie Prof” on Facebook for updates about film events and more reviews.

Dark Money (2018)

I have written elsewhere about the decline of investigative journalism and how documentary filmmakers are filling that void and frequently acting as investigative journalists. In their absence, I argued, documentary filmmakers must do more to investigate, inform, and issue calls to action. *Dark Money*, a recent documentary that found favor at Sundance this year, is one such film.

“Dark Money” is the political term for advertising/campaign finance money that can’t

be traced. The film chronicles a case study in such dirty politics, and the unlikely setting is Montana. In 1912, Montana passed the Corrupt Practices Act to outlaw

corporate money in politics after two copper mining interests attempted to the “buy” the legislature in their 1894 state elections. Jumping ahead in time, the Citizens United Supreme Court decision in 2012 opened the floodgates for corporate money in elections, but Montana fought back—winning in the Montana State Supreme Court. That case eventually wound up back in the U.S. Supreme Court, with Montana losing their right to enforce their own state laws. Corporate money won.

The film then follows one reporter (who eventually loses his job when the paper folds) and his crusade to expose the corrupt practices of corporations. His story about the case of a state lawmaker who received illegal dark money forms the bones of the film, and we see that case through to judgment. Along the way, we make stops at Sen. John Tester’s farm, the Helena State House, the Federal Elections Committee, and various diners around Montana. Everyone agrees that the issue is not a matter of Right or Left, but one of fairness.

This is a straightforward, informative documentary that doesn’t try to be anything

else. It is not highly stylized nor are there any particularly compelling figures. The most striking images come from old footage: In one scene, miners from the Anaconda Mining Company (circa 1930s) are locked into their elevator and sent down to the mines; the scene mirrors the great Sci-Fi epic *Metropolis*, where exploited workers were similarly turned into caged drones. Moments like this break the stream of information and provide needed visual relief.

If you are looking for a compelling, fast-moving, stylized documentary, this may not be for you. If you want to be informed and educated, and you want investigative journalism to thrive, then you found your film. I highly recommend it.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *An Inconvenient Truth*, *Gasland*, and/or *Food Inc.*

Starts August 3rd at the Mayan. Sara Arnold, a Denver native

featured in the film, will be in attendance during opening weekend.

Mindhunter (Netflix)

At first glance, it would seem a bit macabre to enjoy a series about serial killers. And that is exactly the subject of this biting Netflix series: serial killers. The specific take on the genre is where this series finds its uniqueness, however. We follow the beginnings of the FBI unit that focused more on psychology and less on the simple motives of individual crimes, which eventually led to an FBI focus on such

murders; in fact, the term “serial killer” was invented during this period in the 70s. The show itself follows two agents—Holden Ford (Jonathan Goff) and Bill Tench (Holt McCallany)—who are loosely based on real-life agents John Douglas and Robert Ressler. Those two agents fought the system to bring criminal psychology and criminal profiling into the FBI. It was not without controversy.

This show is tailor-made for long-form TV: a feature-length film could not have given us the character development, the background, and the

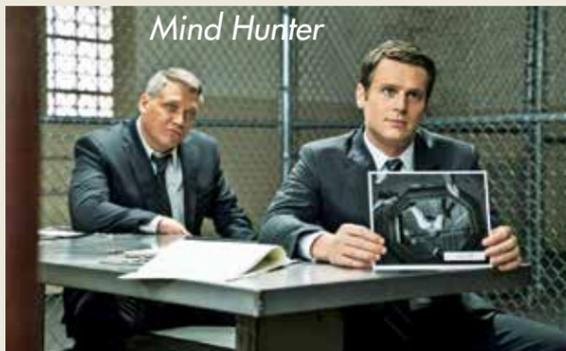
level of detail that makes this such a compelling show. Goff and McCallany are excellent in their respective roles; Goff in particular injects a boyish *naïveté* into the character that works marvelously as the season moves along. The characters play well off each other—often in tight spaces and almost always under difficult circumstances. The settings are particularly expressive: their offices are located in the basement of the FBI building, pointing to their low status among other agents.

The stars of the show are the material and the subject—how the agents met with real serial killers and based their profiling on those interviews. The specific matrix and scientific method was helped along by Boston College Professor Ann Wolbert Burgess (played by a serious and conflicted Anna Torv), and the interactions between the agents and the serial killers really form the crux of the series and provide many of the dramatic moments. Sitting inches away from the violent killers—who are sometimes irascible and sometimes mellifluous, yet always intriguing—provides the tension that balances the more intellectual aspects of the show. All of these elements add up to fascinating and beguiling viewing. Spend some time with this one.

You will like this if you enjoyed *Zodiac*, *Silence of the Lambs*, and/or *Nightcrawler*.

Season One is on Netflix

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



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Photos Courtesy of Voices Rock!



By Laurie Dunklee

“Singing is as good for me as yoga; it’s great for my brain and my soul,” says Betsy Leighton, founder of Voices Rock! Denver, a 170-voice choir that welcomes singers of all skill levels to perform popular songs in a no-pressure environment. “People are nervous when they come in, but they walk out accepted. It’s so much fun. People get connected and they find an outlet.” Jill Teas, music director of Voices Rock! Denver and Leighton’s business partner says, “We want people to love music and have fun singing.”

Voices Rock! Denver, a non-audition, come-as-you-are choir, offers adults and teenagers over 16 the chance to sing pop, rock, Motown, gospel and chart songs without the need to read music or have any previous singing experience. The choir rehearses weekly in 10-week sessions at Montview Presbyterian Church in Park Hill. Each session culminates with a performance. Singers/members pay \$150 per 10-week session to cover expenses, including the costs of published music and hiring a rock band accompaniment for concerts. Contributions from members help to cover dues for those who can’t pay, Leighton said.



Top: Voices Rock performed at Red Rocks in June. Above: Mayfair resident and Music Director Jill Teas.

“Jill and I have been surprised by how much the opportunity to sing moves people,” said Leighton, a mother of three who works in film production. “The singers are so grateful. For me, music is a huge part of my life, with songs that take me back and songs that move me forward. I have read that music is what feelings sound like. I think it’s a wonderful way to get past our façade.”

Singer Theresa Garcia, 27, said: “My roommate and I joined Voices Rock! and it gave us something fun and community-oriented to do every week. Now the choir has become a Denver family for me. It has expanded my life; the impact it’s had on my experience during the last two years has been profound.”

Leighton was inspired to start Voices Rock! while living in London and singing with Rock Choir, about 20,000 voices strong across the UK. “The adults in their 40s and 50s around me were active and playful, singing at outdoor village fairs. I wanted something that fun when I moved back home to Denver.”

She found Teas, who shared her vision, and Voices Rock!

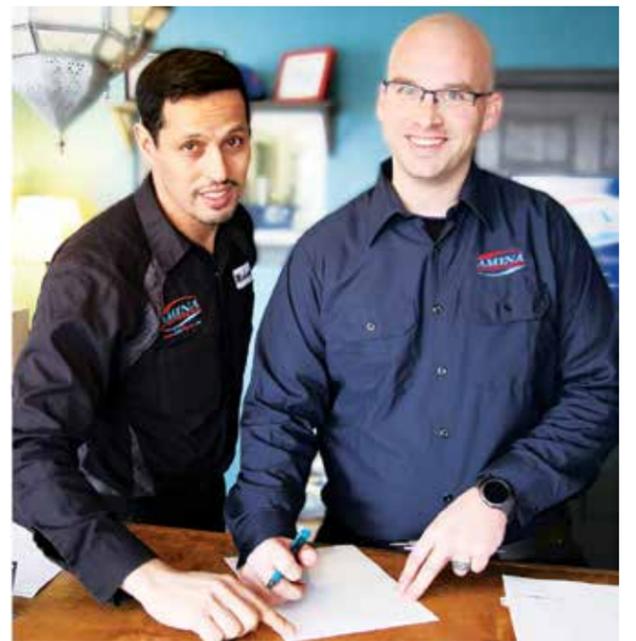
Denver began in 2014. Teas, a Mayfair resident and mother of two, has taught music in schools for 26 years; she currently teaches at Stanley British Primary School in Lowry. “Betsy came to me with her concept and I thought it was brilliant,” said Teas. “We started with 45 singers the first year and it has taken off. It’s an inspiration for me to bring something to people that they wouldn’t have otherwise. It’s hugely rewarding.”

Both Leighton and Teas attribute the choir’s success to the fun atmosphere and the contemporary repertoire. “We sing the songs people want to sing,” says Teas.

Choir member Jim Dissett says: “I sing in the car and around the house a lot; but singing in front of people—out loud—can be kind of intimidating. The atmosphere of the choir is so laid back and comfortable, it really becomes easy and so much fun.”

Voices Rock! Denver doubled its membership leading up to their performance at Red Rocks. Leighton says she’d like to see it keep growing with chapters in areas like Boulder and Fort Collins. Future plans also include a VR2 children’s choir.

The choir welcomes new members for the next session beginning in September. The next concert will be Dec. 4 at a location to be announced. For more information see VoicesRockDenver.com.



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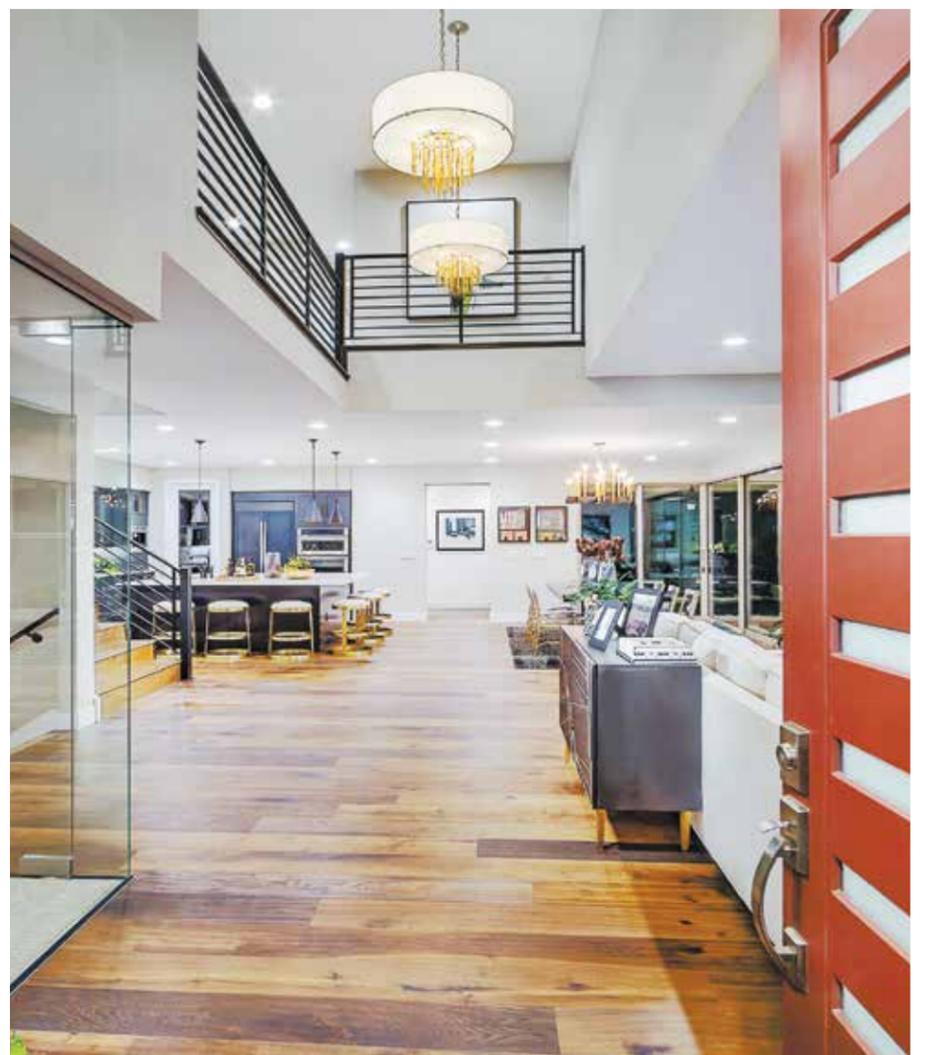
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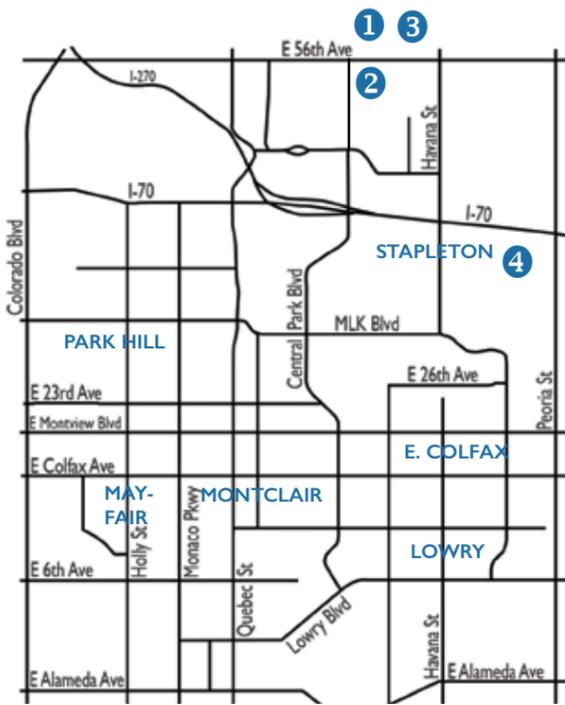
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...NE News Updates



By Front Porch staff, or as otherwise noted

1 DPS solicits applicants for new middle school in north Stapleton to open fall 2019

“The new school is intended to help DPS ensure there is enough capacity for students who live in the boundary area, while also promoting integration and inclusive excellence in all schools in the enrollment zone. . . With the increase in middle-school aged students in the 2019-20 school year, there will be enough students to ensure strong enrollment at all schools in the zone.

“Community members will be invited to provide input on new school applicants this fall, and the Denver Board of

Education will select a new school in December 2018. The selected school will open in fall 2019 in a temporary location in North Stapleton with sixth grade students. It will then move into a permanent (unspecified) location (also in North Stapleton) for the 2020-2021 school year and add a grade each year. DPS plans to take out financing this fall to be able to add the additional middle school capacity in North Stapleton.”

For more information on how DPS selects and starts new schools, visit greatschools.dpsk12.org/en/new/. For more information contact the Family and Community Helpline at 720-423-3054 or FACE@dpsk12.org.

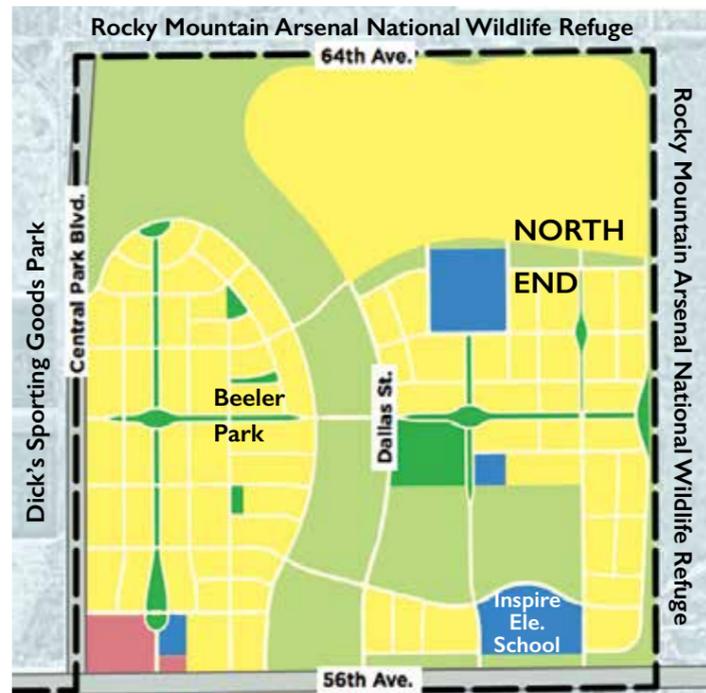
The announcement was made on July 24 via DPS’ Campus Messenger.

2 DPS announces expansion of Northfield High School for 1,000 more students in 2020

The decision was made based on projections that middle and high school enrollment will continue to grow into the foreseeable future. Current capacity will see the school through the 2018 and 2019 school years. More information will be shared at Back to School night, at 5:45pm August 23. DPS plans to obtain financing for the expansion that could be repaid with a potential future bond initiative. The announcement was made by DPS on July 24.

3 1,300 homes to be built in “North End,” Stapleton’s last neighborhood

Stapleton master developer Forest City has announced the last neighborhood to be built in Stapleton, called “North End,” will have 1,300 for-sale market rate homes. The first lots were conveyed to the builders this month and the first homes are projected to be completed in November of this year. Prices range from the mid \$300s for row homes to over \$1 million for large single family homes.



Residential areas are shown in yellow. Blue is land designated for “civic” use. Light green is “trunk” (regional) open space. Dark green denotes “in-tract” (local) neighborhood parks. The large centrally located local park will have the largest swimming pool in Stapleton (which will have a water slide).

At this time, it is projected that an additional 78 homes in the North End neighborhood will be built as income-qualified residences, which is 5.6% of the total number in that neighborhood. Forest City has a contractual commitment to the City of Denver to build 10% of all for-sale homes in Stapleton as income qualified. As of first quarter 2018, Forest City reported that 7% overall were income qualified. In response to the *Front Porch’s* inquiry about the North End not having at least 10% affordable homes, Tom Gleason replied, “We will meet our 10% commitment project wide and release details about future lots when appropriate.”

The number and location of affordable rentals in the North End neighborhood has not been announced.

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4 Stapleton name controversy cited in the New York Times

A recent article in the New York Times ran a photo of the Stapleton neighborhood and said, “In the streets of Denver, activists have launched an effort to strip the Stapleton neighborhood of its current name...” and that students at DSST Stapleton Middle School have

asked to have the school’s name changed due to Mayor Ben Stapleton’s association with the Ku Klux Klan.

The main subject of the July 24 online article by Julie Turkwitz, entitled, “A Familiar Name in Colorado Gets a Second Look,” was that gubernatorial candidate Walker Stapleton’s great-grandfather’s association with the Klan has had increased public exposure, partially due to efforts to change the name of the Stapleton neighborhood.

(This fall, the Front Porch will follow the DSST Stapleton Middle School administration’s response to a vote in which 58% of students requested that the school’s name be changed.)

5 Denver Superintendent Tom Boasberg is stepping down after nearly 10 years

By Melanie Asmar, Chalkbeat Colorado, chalkbeat.org

Tom Boasberg, who has earned a national profile as Denver schools superintendent, is stepping down.

Boasberg announced on July 17 he’s leaving

his post after an unusually long tenure – nearly 10 years at the helm of Denver Public Schools, a 92,600-student urban district nationally known for its innovative approaches to school improvement.

Boasberg will continue to serve for 90 days, as his contract with the district requires. The Denver school board will be tasked with choosing his successor. Boasberg, who is earning \$242,125

as superintendent this year, said he does not have another job lined up.

“It’s been an extraordinarily difficult decision because I love this place, I am extraordinarily committed to our work and our mission, and I believe in it with all of my heart and soul,” Boasberg said in an interview Monday, a day before the public announcement. “I am going to miss it terribly, and I also know this is the right time for me and my family.”

Boasberg, 52, and his wife have three children, ages 17, 15, and 14. He said his decision



DPS Superintendent Tom Boasberg

was personal and not driven by the politics of the district. His oldest daughter, Nola, graduated from high school this year – a milestone he said made him stop and think about his commitments to his family, as well as his commitments to the district and to Denver students.

“I think we have lots of momentum and we’re in a strong place,” Boasberg said. Ultimately, he said his choice was born of a “deep desire to spend more family time with my kids before they’re all gone, and a very strong confidence in our board of education, our leaders in the Denver Public Schools, and our ability to have a successful transition.”

Read the entire Chalkbeat article at <https://chalkbeat.org/posts/co/2018/07/17/tom-boasberg-leaving-denver-public-schools/>

6 New Police Staffing Changes

Under the leadership of newly installed Denver Chief of Police Paul M. Pazen, fresh promotions and assignments of commanders have been made, superseding, in many cases, changes made just about a month ago by former Chief Robert White. Reassignments are expected when top leadership changes, according to police sources.

Command of District 5, which includes Stapleton, has been assigned to Commander Marcus Fountain, who was previously the Commander of the Operations Support Division. In District 2, former Lieutenant Kathy Bancroft was promoted to Commander and assigned to the command of District 2, which covers Park Hill, Montclair, Mayfair, East Colfax and other north central communities. District 3, which covers Lowry

and other southeast neighborhoods, welcomes Commander Rick Kyle, who previously served as Commander of the Training Division.

7 Electric scooters pilot program starting in Denver

In May, Lime and Bird launched dockless scooter services in Denver—without asking permission to do so.

In the aftermath, the city issued fines and citations and asked companies to apply for permits to a pilot program to bring the scooters back in a controlled manner. In the meantime, companies were required to remove their scooters.

On July 25th, Denver Public Works (DPW) announced that it selected six companies from the eight applications they received. Lime and Bird, who already established a presence, are expected to deploy their scooters within days of this permit approval. The other four, including the ride-sharing company Lyft, have timelines extending further out.

As part of the DPW program, companies are allowed to operate 350 scooters in total, if 100 of those are parked in “limited opportunity areas.” By September, up to 2,100 electric scooters could be on Denver streets.

The program also establishes guidelines for dockless electric bicycles. Three companies gained permits to launch bikes, with Jump expected to launch with 250 bikes immediately. Zagster is expected to launch its bike in August with Lyft planning for bikes to join its scooters within the next six months.

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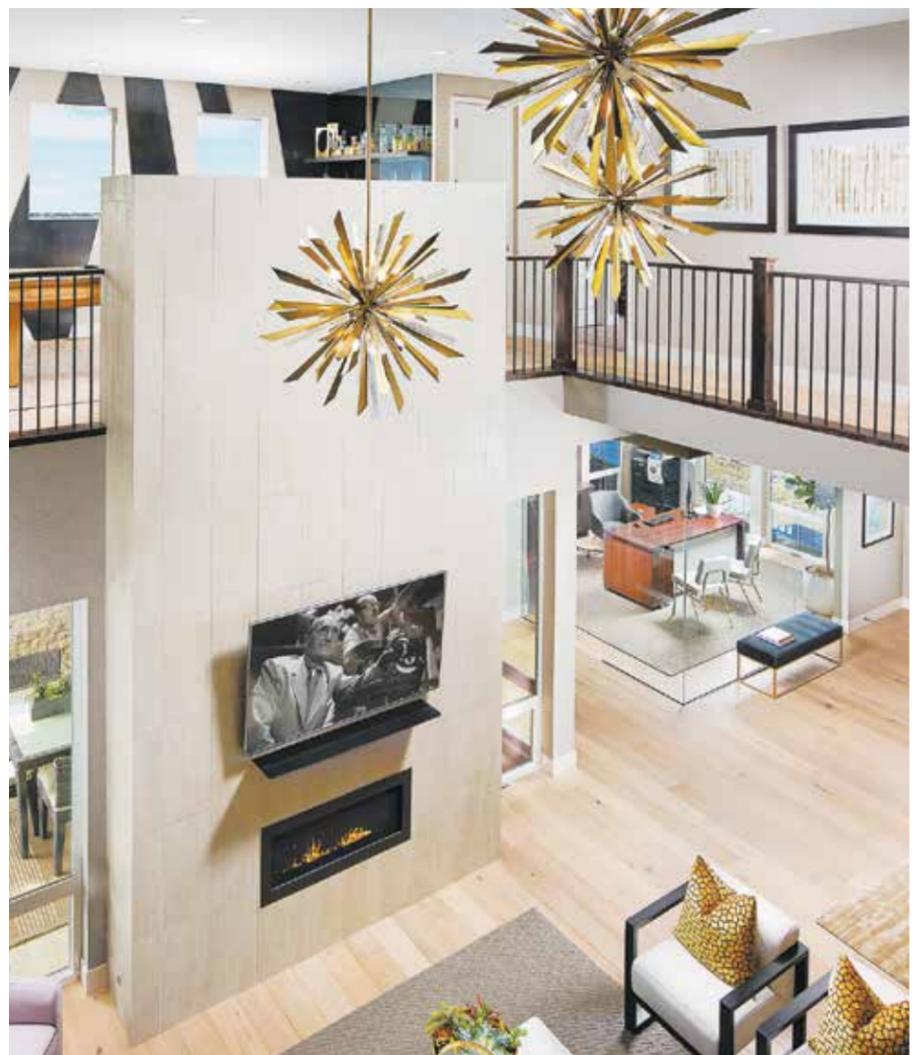
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New NE Denver Innovation Zone Executive Director Tomi Amos will be a resident of Stapleton's Beeler Park neighborhood and is excited to serve the community where she lives.

What is an iZone?

By Melinda Pearson

Four northeast schools with a shared commitment to the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme have been approved by the Denver Board of Education to form an Innovation Zone (iZone). The four schools, Swigert International School, McAuliffe International School, McAuliffe at Manual and Northfield High School will enroll over 3,000 students.

Only the second iZone approved by DPS, the Northeast Denver Innovation Zone (NDIZ) will become operational in August 2018 for a three-year term if approved by the State Board of Education.

- **Innovation zones are organized around common interests or geography** “as a means to strengthen

programming and deepen program continuity, in order to accelerate outcomes for students,” according to DPS. The new iZone formed in Northeast Denver is organized around the IB programme, which is already in place at the four schools.

- **Innovation zones offer greater autonomy and flexibility in their governance.** According to McAuliffe International School Principal Kurt Dennis, “Forming an innovation zone basically creates a new governance model for our schools.” Schools in an iZone collaborate together but have more flexibilities regarding many district policies.

The iZone forms a 501(c)3 nonprofit that is governed by a board of direc-

tors and guided by an executive director hired by the board. Principals at the four schools will report to the executive director, rather than to a DPS instructional superintendent, as they do now.

The board has recently hired Tomi Amos from the Colorado Department of Education to serve as executive director. The iZone board is accountable to the DPS Superintendent and to the Denver Board of Education, but decisions about curriculum, budgeting, scheduling and other issues are made by the Innovation Zone organization, its board and its principals, independently of the district.

- **Innovation zones are more community driven than traditional schools** because of their governance structure. “Innovation zones are fundamentally about educator-designed learning communities,” according to a DPS memo in support of the NDIZ plan. “They afford leaders and teachers across a set of schools the opportunity to design and sustain a shared learning community specifically tailored to the needs of their students and communities, and the adults who serve them.”

Why is it a good idea to create this Innovation Zone?

DPS put out a request for proposals in January, offering innovation schools the opportunity to apply for iZone status. According to a statement from DPS Superintendent Tom Boasberg, “We want...talented educators who have great ideas to have the opportunity to try those ideas, learn what works and what doesn't, accelerate our rate of improvement and allow the district to learn from best practices.”

Dennis says there were multiple reasons he and the other principals responded to the RFP. “DPS already does such a great job of empowering school leaders, especially at innovation schools... but this is taking things to another level.” He says

the iZone will have much better vertical integration among elementary, middle and high schools locally, so “kids have an opportunity to learn on a continuum that builds on itself.”

Approximately 70% of teachers at the four schools voted to approve the iZone model, and the Denver Board of Education vote was unanimous, suggesting strong support for the plan.

Will the Innovation Zone affect enrollment patterns for the included schools?

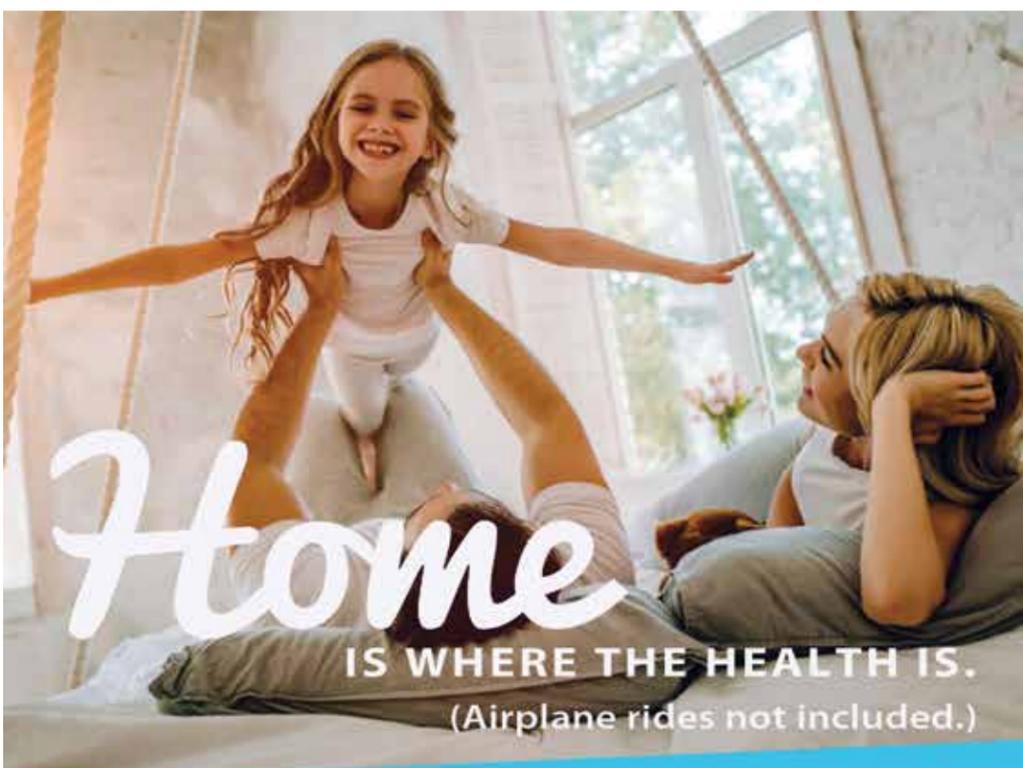
No. The iZone and the enrollment zone are two entirely different organizing principles. Families will continue to use DPS SchoolChoice system and there will be no priority for continuing in iZone schools. The iZone, “doesn't necessitate or mandate a feeder pattern... there are opportunities for students to choice in to schools at any point in their career,” says Amos, “And if they continue from (iZone) school to (iZone) school then there's at least consistency...”

It sounds like a charter network. What makes it different?

In some ways, an Innovation Zone is like a hybrid between a charter school network and district run schools. “What's different about this [from charter schools] is they're all still DPS schools, and so we're talking about neighborhood schools,” says Amos. “The difference is that they have a little more autonomy and flexibility than a traditional public school would, and that's just based on their innovation status.”

Adds Dennis, “It's different from a charter school in that we are still fully a part of Denver Public Schools. The board that oversees our 501(c)3 is beholden to the superintendent and the elected Denver Board of Education.”

For charter schools, DPS authorizes



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charters and holds them accountable to district and state standards but doesn't operate them or directly oversee them.

What kinds of budget flexibilities will the iZone have?

Colorado spends an average of \$9,575 per student (putting it in 39th place nationally, according to recent data). Schools in DPS operate on this "Student Based Budget" (SBB), and principals at the school level have some flexibility in how they spend parts of that money. But many services provided by DPS central administration have traditionally been mandatory, with fees to pay for them coming from the school's SBB, regardless of whether the schools need those services.

In the iZone, principals are given added discretion to opt out of certain central administration services, according to Dennis, more than innovation schools alone can do. For example, "We're an innovation school and we don't use the district math curriculum. We have our own math curriculum," says Dennis. DPS charges schools about \$24 per student for its math curriculum. "As a typical innovation school, you would be paying that \$24 per kid, even if you're not using that service," says Dennis. "So what we're saying is, 'We're not using the service. Please allow us to keep the money, and we're going to apply it toward something else.'"

Each principal can make the decisions for its own school. Dennis anticipates that McAuliffe will opt out of about \$200/student of district services, just a little over 2% of the budget. "It is a small piece of the pie but, to us, \$300,000 is five teachers," he said. With its new budgetary discretions, for exam-

ple, Northfield High plans to purchase the services of a math intervention teacher and additional social and emotional support services, he added.

Who will serve on the board for the Innovation Zone?

The non-profit board that oversees the iZone currently includes seven members. All board members live locally and have been active in education as parents, educators, or school leaders, said Dennis. "Teachers are going to have representation to say, 'This is how we need to operate to maximize the outcomes that our students can achieve,'" says Amos.

The board will meet regularly, with the community invited to participate.

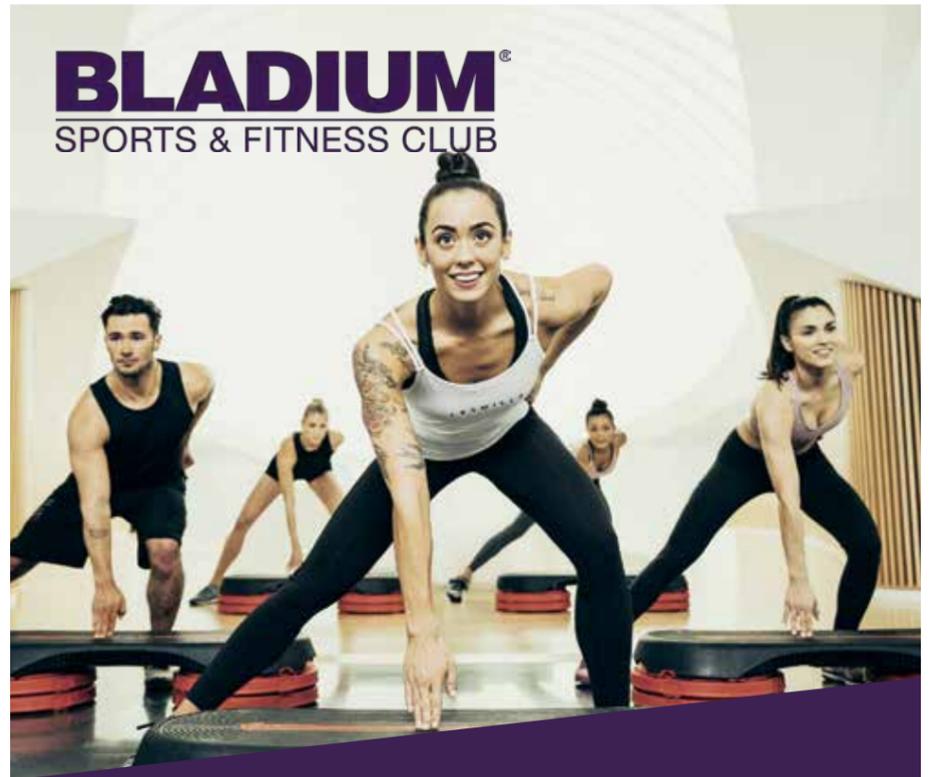
Will any other schools be added?

Down the road, additional schools can be added to the zone. "Scale obviously provides greater and increased opportunity for flexibility and financial freedom," says Amos. "But I think first steps first—really just understanding the community and making sure they really understand the opportunity before diving in to expansion."

The first iZone in Denver, the Luminary Learning Network, was approved in 2015 and added Valdez Elementary as the fifth school in its network beginning in 2018. Dennis said that they might consider adding on additional IB schools if there is interest and it makes sense for the iZone.



McAuliffe International School Principal Kurt Dennis was instrumental in crafting the Northeast Denver Innovation Zone proposal in response to the district's request for proposals.



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Feel the Learn!

A Fun Place to Become Tech Savvy

By Laurie Dunklee

“We’re helping kids to be creative problem solvers who can navigate fast-evolving technology,” says Brenda Lane, co-owner of Mind-Craft Makerspace in the Stanley Marketplace. MindCraft, opened in 2017, is a do-it-yourself digital fabrication lab that provides education and “play time” on high-tech tools like 3-D printers, laser cutters, vinyl cutters and sewing machines that weave LED lights into fabrics.

Digital manufacturing is changing how people work, Lane says. “3-D printers are game-changers for manufacturing; they are being used to build homes, cars, even human organs. But the skills to operate them are complicated; you need

Brenda Lane, co-owner of Mindcraft in Stanley Marketplace, stands at the entrance to her do-it-yourself digital fabrication lab that offers high tech tools including 3-D printers, laser cutters, vinyl cutters and sewing machines that weave LED lights into fabrics.



Brody McBride programmed the above image into a laser engraving machine to create a plaque on a piece of wood. He and other classmates, including instructor Louma Levin-Harris, (right) watch as the image (top right) is carved into the wood.



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to know how to run a CAD (computer-aided design) program. We start kids as young as four on coding and programming because these are the skills they will need in the future.”

She said robots and drones will comprise much of the future workforce. “They are taking a lot of jobs. So we need to know how to develop, program and maintain the robots that will run our industries. Schools don’t have the time or resources to provide that training. We’re developing a tech-savvy pipeline to fill future jobs.”

MindCraft’s instructors are computer programmers, electrical and mechanical engineers and fabricators. “We also use talented interns from the local high schools, who teach to build their work experience,” Lane said.

Lane, an East Colfax neighborhood resident, is a fourth-generation educator who spent 20 years as a teacher and administrator in schools. She earned her bachelor’s degree in fine art, majoring in sculpture. “Being a sculptor got me into this,” she says about opening MindCraft with partner Adriana Santacoloma. “I’ve always been into making stuff. I kind of opened this for me and then invited others in. When I can, I play too.”

MindCraft’s 2,300-square-foot classroom and lab also welcomes adults for classes and events, including learning how to engrave your name on a wine glass with a laser engraver. “Adults let loose with their creative selves and say, ‘This is awesome!’” said Lane.

Traditional crafts are also offered, including wood-working and sewing. “This summer, adults will bring



Instructor Morgan Bennett (center) is available to help Ben and Catherine Farnsworth (at sewing machine) as they work on their sewing projects.

their old clothes and remake them for their kids. Re-purposing is a big part of what we do.”

MindCraft is in the Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas St. in Aurora. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 10am to

8pm, Friday 10am to 9pm, Saturday 9am to 9pm and Sunday 10am to 5pm. For more information see mindcraftmakerspace.com. Reach them at info@mindcraftmakerspace.com or 303.364.9581.



80238 Real Estate

By the Numbers

Source: REColorado.com 07/12/18

August 2018

Single Family Homes in Stapleton

- \$692K : Avg transaction price*
- 20 : Stapleton avg days on market*
- 8 : NPRE avg days on market
- 500+ : Homes sold by NPRE**

*Data from 152 homes sold 1/1 - 7/12/18, not all sold by NPRE.
**Buy & sell sides in Stapleton since 2005

Listed Jody E. Donley 8009 Stoll St \$Call agent
3BR 3B 2,207 ft²



SOLD Laura T. Hudgins 2548 Akron St \$689,000
6BR 4B 3,648 ft²



SOLD Melinda S. Howlett 8422 E 29th Pl \$600,000
4BR 4B 2,152 ft²



SOLD Susan Ingle 3433 Wabash St \$587,000
4BR 4B 2,749 ft²

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Kellye Giles Sharing H

Giles accepts their help with the business side of things. But the name of the studio comes from her readiness to take over the karate side of things: “Kicking for life? Well I’ve been doing karate for my whole life and I love kicking. That’s what I’ve grown up doing.”

While Giles says she always wanted to start her own karate school, that doesn’t mean she didn’t try some other things, just in case:

“For the longest time I was doing karate, tennis, basketball, ballet, piano. And I was just trying out new things so maybe if I didn’t like karate I could just go and do that. But I think it was more me showing people that I could do other things besides karate..” She says she

Kellye Giles teaches a karate class at her new business, Kicking for Life, in the same Quebec Square location her father previously used for his karate business.

By Charles Borsos

“I don’t know where it comes from,” Kellye Giles says, “when I am on the deck I’m a whole new person.” In regular conversation, Giles is polite and a little soft-spoken. But when she is out teaching karate, she switches into another gear.

Kellye Giles is fresh out of graduate school with a master’s in exercise science—and at 22 years old has just started a business. Her new martial arts studio, “Kicking

for Life,” in Stapleton might feel familiar to some. It occupies the same space in Quebec Square where Mike Giles, her father, ran a karate studio—and some of his clientele has now transferred to Kellye

Kellye, however, is using her schooling to take the studio in new directions. She plans to incorporate personal training and personal fitness classes at “Kicking for Life,” which she enjoyed teaching while she was in college.

Her parents help where they can—

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er Lifelong Passion for Karate

may have gotten her black belt to prove herself to her dad, but she came back to karate because she loves it.

Her father, Mike, started karate in Oakland, CA. "That was during the 60s when there was a lot of turmoil. Basically it was a vehicle to keep us off the street." After a career in the Navy, Mike started his own karate studio. He said his experience in the Navy gave him the skills to lead classes.

Kellye helped her father teach from a young age—something she plans to pass on to her students. "She lets the kids partake in the teaching," said karate student parent Aria Boucharel—adding that the experience helped her daughter in class, building her confidence to speak publicly and give presentations.

Providing a personal and unique touch was something that Mike says he strove for when other karate schools had a more cookie-cutter approach. Looking back on her father's career and what he did for his

students, Kellye says, "Seeing the impact he made on their lives really made me want to do that same thing."

After achieving her dream and opening Kicking for Life, Kellye's advice to others is, "Don't quit. Continue doing what you love, find your passion, and do whatever makes you happy."

Kicking for Life is located at 7506 E. 36th Ave., Suite 480 (Across from Sam's Club) in Quebec Square. Call 720-504-7084 for information.

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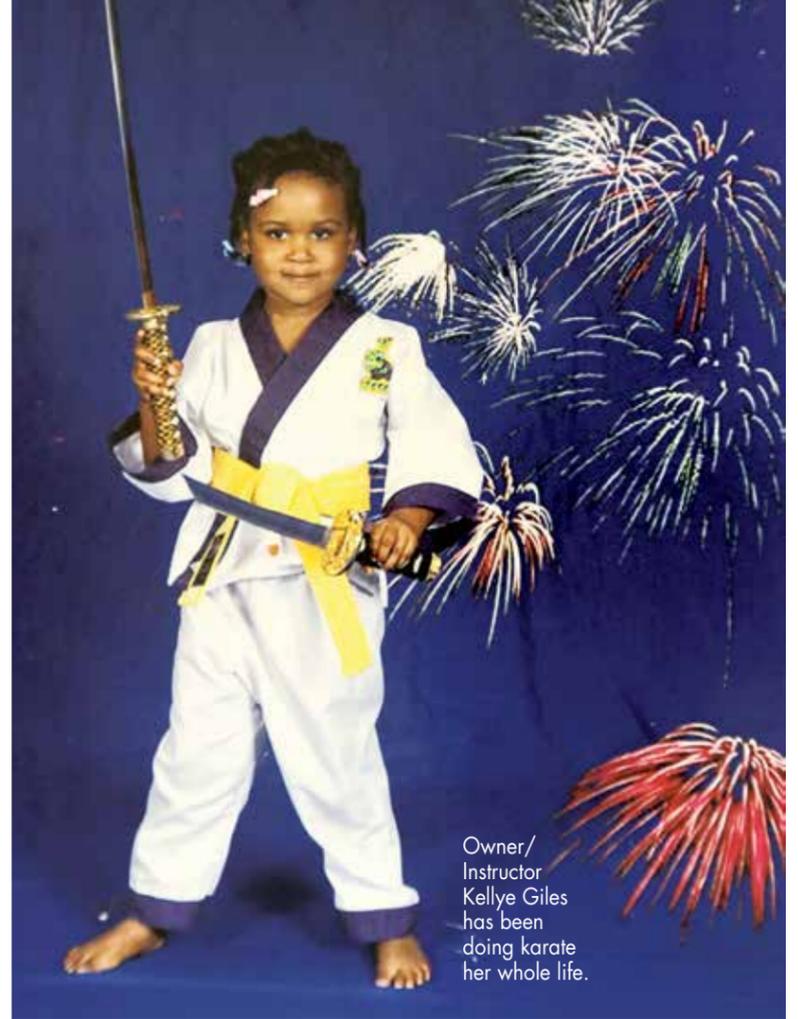


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RECOGNITIONS

Jets Lacrosse Nets 6 State Championship Teams



The Stapleton Jets Lacrosse Club's oldest team, U15 White, won the state championship for their age group in the tournament at Dick's Sporting Goods Park in June. The coaches are Scott Peterson (back left) and Chris Hudock (back right). This team was one of six Jets teams to win the state championship in their division.

By Carol Roberts

The Jets Lacrosse Club, which started in 2009 with "a handful" of players, now has 14 teams with a total of about 250 players, mostly from Stapleton, Park Hill and Lowry, says U13 coach Stephen Flannery. Six of those 14 teams won the state championship in their division in the Colorado Youth Lacrosse Association (CYLA) championship tournament at Dick's Sporting Goods Park in June.

Interest in the sport has grown in recent years, says Flannery, partly due to concerns about head injuries

in football and partly because players and parents find the game exciting, both to play and to watch. Typically numerous goals are scored and lots of players participate in the action that moves the ball around the field, making it more interesting for parent spectators than some other sports.

The affliction across the entire sports industry of spectators berating referees has affected lacrosse, just as it has affected other sports. Though no Jets games have been cancelled, Flannery is aware of other games that have been cancelled for lack of referees. Despite being a

well-paying job for youth, he says few players are willing to come out and get berated by players' parents.

Sports program administrators have to deal with parent sportsmanship, says Flannery. The Jets have a mandatory meeting for parents at the beginning of the season to "set out expectations for the parents, the players and the coaches. Their motto is: parents parent, players play and coaches coach. "We hold them accountable," adds Flannery.

If all 14 Jets teams are holding to those commitments, they are all winners and they are all to be congratulated for raising the level of the sport.



Ten-year-old Sylvie Morgan was accustomed to playing lacrosse with boys for fun. When she joined a girls team, she found herself longing for the rough and tumble aspects of the boys version of the sport rather than the girls finesse game. Donned in her goalie gear with a helmet and protective body padding, the boys didn't even know she was a girl at first. And once they saw her play, they didn't care. She says being the only girl on a team of boys hasn't been a problem. One teammate is a friend from Odyssey and another shares her interest in climbing—so she always has something to talk about with them. She is doing just what she wants to do, which is playing at the most competitive level for her age—and contributing to her teams' victories. She was recently named player of the game on a traveling team after a tournament in Canada and her Jets team won the state championship in their division.



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August & Early September Events

NE DENVER/NW AURORA EVENTS

Saturdays to 8/25—Farmers' Market at Northfield. Saturdays 8am-1pm. 47th Avenue and Main St.. www.northfieldstapleton.com

Fridays to 8/24—Stanley Farmers Market. Fridays 9am-2pm. The Stanley Farmers Market takes place in The Field at Stanley every Friday this summer from 9am to 2pm. <http://stanleymarketplace.com/events/>

Thursdays to 9/13—Career Program at Hope Communities, Inc. 7-week career program series on Thursday evenings beginning 7/12, culminating in a hiring event. 4919 E. Thrill Place in Park Hill.

Wednesdays to 10/10—The DeLaney Mobile Farm Stand at Stanley. The Plaza at Stanley Marketplace, Wednesdays, 1:30 to 3:30pm. <http://stanleymarketplace.com/events/>

8/2 Thursday—Thursday Night Bazaar at Stanley Marketplace. Shop and sip the first Thursday of the month, 5-10pm. www.denverbazaar.com

8/2 and 8/9—Two-Part Teen Digital Art Workshop. Sam Gary Library, 4-6pm. Use Wacom drawing tablets to create your own digital art pieces with option to include work in a printed anthology book. Open to students entering grades 6-12. Register at <https://www.denverlibrary.org/event/teen-digital-art-workshop>. 2961 Roslyn St., 720-865-0325

8/4 Saturday—Your Soul's Movement Block Party to Celebrate Denver Days. 9am-8pm. Free. Music, demo classes, food trucks and family fun. 3825 Newport St. www.yoursoulsmovement.com

8/4 Saturday—Councilman Herndon's Family Bike Parade. At 9am the Route begins at The Green at 29th & Roslyn in Stapleton and ends at Smiley Campus, 2540 Holly St. where celebration continues until 11:30am. Food, music, free games and family fun.

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

8/5 Sunday—Ice Cream Social & Community Resource Fair. Sam Gary Library. Come meet your neighbors and learn about ways to get involved in your community. Ice cream, a photo booth, and games. 2961 Roslyn St., 720-865-0325 1:30pm - 3:00pm www.denverlibrary.org

8/7 Tuesday—I Get Around: North of 50 Transportation Fair. Maintaining your independence and staying connected requires reliable, accessible and safe modes of travel. Explore, experience and engage in dialogue on getting around with Reaching Older Adult Drivers (ROAD), BikesTogether, Walk2Connect and Northeast Transportation Connections. Denver Public Library, Park Hill Branch, 4705 Montview Blvd., Denver. 4pm. FREE! Tara Bannon, 720.865.0250. tbannon@denverlibrary.org <https://www.denverlibrary.org/event/i-get-around-north-50-transportation-fair>

8/8 Wednesday—Concert: Odessa Rose West. 6:30pm. Outdoor concert at the Park Hill Branch Library. Odessa Rose West is a Denver-based Americana Swing band specializing in classic Tin Pan Alley era jazz favorites and original compositions. Bring a camp chair or a blanket. 4705 Montview Blvd. Denver, 720-865-0250 <https://www.denverlibrary.org/event/odessa-rose-west>

only due to adult content. Park Hill Branch Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. Denver, CO, 720-865-0250 <https://www.denverlibrary.org/event/underground-comedy-club-deacon-gray>

8/9-8/15 —Neighborhood Schools Incoming/New Moms Movie Night Out. Join fellow moms for a summer night out! We will be viewing the action comedy, "The Spy Who Dumped Me" starring Mila Kunis and Kate McKinnon. 8/9 Bill Roberts, 8/13 Swigert 8/14 High Tech, 8/15 Isabella Bird, 8/15 Westerly Creek. Tickets are \$25. Location: Harkins 18 Northfield. All attendees receive a swag bag with offers from local businesses and for this event, \$8 from every

ticket will be donated back to the school of your choice. Please see website for times and to purchase tickets. www.momsnightout.buzz

8/9 Thursday—Sam Gary Knitting Circle. Bring your knitting or crochet project and join other crafters in conversation around the Sam Gary fireplace. Repeats 8/23. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720-865-0325, asksamgarylibrary@denverlibrary.org www.denverlibrary.org/event/knitting-circle-13

8/11 Saturday—Denver Police Department Safety Expo. Saturday, August 11 from 10 am - 2 pm in the parking lot near GameWorks. Bring the kiddos and join us for a fun and informative day with the Denver Police. learn more about the bomb robots, canines, horse patrol, safety vehicles to include: bomb unit, crash car, fire engines and more! There will be some food vendors and other sponsors! <https://www.northfieldstapleton.com/event/Denver-Police-Department-Safety-Expo/2145504698>

8/19 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>

8/24 Friday—In Stitches Quilting Meeting. Monthly meeting of In Stitches, a "Grands" sewing, quilting and friendship group. This volunteer group makes quilts for Children's Hospital, University Hospital and the community. Meetings are the 4th Friday of the months January through October at 9:30 a.m. at 5273 N. Beeler Street, Denver, CO 80238. Contact: Cheryl at 720-498-3823

8/27 Monday—Pack 34 Join Night for the Cub Scouts. Swigert International School 3480 Syracuse St. More info: Bridget Weaks 520.444.1716 or bweaks@gmail.com

9/1 Givetoberfest. Oktoberfest meets charity event at Stanley Marketplace. 4-9pm. German bands, beer, stein hoisting contests, face painting and balloon artists for kids and more. Commemorative mug \$25. Benefits Impact360. www.givetoberfest.com

9/8 to 9/9 Stanley Arts Festival. Produced by CherryArts. Opening night kickoff party Sept 7. 100 national juried artists, family activities, live performances, interactive art. Free admission Sat and Sun. StanleyArtsFestival.org

DENVER METRO EVENTS

To 8/6—Monday Movie Madness at Infinity Park. Free movies, Infinity Park, Glendale. 8/6 Black Panther Gates open 7pm, movies 8pm. www.infinityparkatglendale.com

To 8/14—Governor's Mansion Tours. Tuesdays. Free tours of Governor's Residence at Boettcher Mansion. 1-3pm, 400 E. 8th Ave. No reservations required. Tours every quarter hour for 45 minutes. www.colorado.gov

To 8/26—Shady Grove Concert Series. Wednesdays through 8/26. Four Mile Historic Park. 6:30pm. www.swallowhillmusic.org, www.four-milepark.org

To 8/5—Colorado Renaissance Festival. 8 weekends. Larkspur. www.coloradorennaissance.com/vv

To 8/7—Film on the Rocks. 7pm, Red Rocks Amphitheater. Live music and movie select evenings. Tickets and schedule: www.redrocksonline.com

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

8/1 Wednesday—Colorado Day at American Museum of Western Art. All tours free, 10am-4:30pm. 1770 Tremont. www.anschutzcollection.org

8/3 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Santa Fe Arts District, Tennyson Art Walk, River North
(continued on page 24)



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(continued from page 23) (RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Museum, Navajo Street Art District. www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

8/4 to 8/12—Denver Days. Weeklong celebration of Denver neighborhoods with block parties, festivals, etc. www.denver.org

8/4 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. Free with admission. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-2pm. www.wingsmuseum.org

8/5 Sunday—City Park Jazz. 6-8pm. City Park Pavilion. FREE. www.cityparkjazz.org

8/9 to 8/26—Parade of Homes. Neighborhoods in metro Denver Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays 11am-6pm.

Free tour newly designed model homes, custom homes, and luxury "Dream Homes." www.paradeofhomesdenver.com

8/10 to 8/12—Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival. Anderson Park. Fireworks Fri., Parade Sat. 9:30am. 38th Ave. Aames to Upham. Zoppe Italian Circus, petting zoo, chili cookoff, midway rides. www.thecarnationfestival.org

8/11 Saturday—Hops in the Hangar. Dozens of Denver metro area's best breweries at WWII-era hangar for evening of friends, food and great local beer. Tickets include unlimited beer tastings, a meal, access to games, activities, aircraft cockpits, music, etc. Wings over the Rockies, Lowry. <http://wingsmuseum.org/event/hops/>

8/18 Saturday—Global Fest. International festival of food, cultural experiences and art. 1-7 pm. Aurora Municipal Center, Great Lawn, 15151 E. Alameda Pkwy. www.auroragov.org

8/18 to 8/19—Golden Fine Arts Festival. 11th St. and Arapahoe St., 10am-5pm. www.goldenfineartsfestival.org

9/1 to 9/3—A Taste of Colorado. Food, music, arts/crafts. Fireworks and carnival rides. Civic Center Park. www.atasteofcolorado.com

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

8/4 Saturday—Run for the Ring 5K & Kids Fun Run. Barbara Davis Center for Diabetes, 1775 Aurora Ct Denver 80045 www.runsignup.com/runforthering

8/13 Monday—10th Annual High Hopes Golf Tournament. Benefits the programs of The Guild of the Children's Diabetes Foundation, Columbine Country Club. www.childrensdiabetesfoundation.org

8/19 Sunday—Cancer League's Race for Research. Race-day registration in Washington Park opens 8 am, race starts at 9 am. Race-day registration fees slightly higher. For more information contact Holli Hartman holliR4R@gmail.com 303 912-7837 or Lin McHaley at linnardo4@aol.com or 303-840-9966. <http://race4research.com>

8/5 Sunday—Tri for the Cure. Women's sprint triathlon race benefits Susan G. Komen Foundation. Cherry Creek State Park. www.triforthecure-denver.com

8/18 Saturday—29th Annual AIDS Walk Colorado. Cheesman Park. www.aidswalkcolorado.org

KIDS AND FAMILIES

8/7 to 8/28—Storytime for Preschoolers. Tuesdays at 10:30am, Free. The Bookies bookstore, 4315 E. Mississippi Avenue (303) 759-1117 info@thebookies.com www.thebookies.com

Through Labor Day—History Colorado Kids Free Admission. Free admission for youth 15 and under when wearing a

baseball jersey. www.historycolorado.org

August—Denver Puppet Theater. Anansi, African Animal Tales. www.denverpuppettheater.com

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

8/4 Saturday—Home Depot Kids Workshop. 9am-12pm. FREE how-to clinics first Sat. monthly, ages 5-12. Get Home Depot apron, wooden project and project pin. Metro-area Home Depot stores. www.homedepot.com

To 8/28—Tuesdays in August—Four Mile Historic Park Small Settlers. Ages 2-5 accompanied by parent/caregiver. 9-10am. \$5/child, adults free. Members free. 715 S. Forest St. Advance register: 720.865.0814 or education@fourmilepark.org. www.fourmilepark.org

8/5 Sunday—Junior Rangers. 1:30-3pm. Ages 6-12. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. Reservations required. 303.739.9428, www.auroragov.org/nature

8/10 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Hay Bales and Tall Tales. 12-1pm. 715 S. Forest St. 720.865.0800. Free with park admission. www.fourmilepark.org

8/24 to 9/3—Colorado State Fair. Pueblo Fairgrounds, Pueblo, CO. www.coloradostatefair.com

LECTURES AND CLASSES

8/4 Saturday—Denver's Historic Mountain Parks System. W. Bart Berger, President and founder of the Denver Mountain Parks Foundation will give a historic overview of the creation of this unique park system along with its predicament's and potential. Park Hill Branch Library, 4705 Montview. www.denverlibrary.org

8/7 Tuesday—Lowry Speaker Series Presents: An Evening with Bird Conservancy of the Rockies to promote a love and understanding of birds. A talk about the importance and wonders of birds including: typical birds in our backyards and how to identify them; bird banding and its importance in conservation; extracting felt birds from a mist net and collecting data from the birds (weight, wing and tail measurements, etc.). No live birds. 7-8:30pm, Eisenhower Chapel, 293 Roslyn Street, (in Lowry). Free, no RSVP needed. Info: Karen House 720-955-8833.

8/7 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free) - Puerto Rico. 10:00-11:00 am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St www.activeminds.com

8/10 to 8/31—Different Perspectives, Civil Dialogue. Challenged by talking with others whose opinions differ significantly from your own? Want to reap the benefits of learning from those differences? Explore a foundational key to dialogue success and revisit two key power tools you already have in your toolkit. Denver Public Library, Park Hill Branch, 4705 Montview Blvd., Denver, CO 80207. August 10, 17, 24, 31 at 4:00 PM. FREE. Tara Bannon, 720.865.0250. tbannon@denverlibrary.org <https://www.denverlibrary.org/event/different-perspectives-civil-dialogue-2>

8/23 Thursday—Active Minds (Free) - The River Nile. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. www.activeminds.com

8/23 Thursday—Active Minds (Free) - The Great Depression. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. www.activeminds.com

8/29 Wednesday—Stories in Stone: The Enchanted Russian Gem Carvings of Vasily Konovalenko. 6pm. The Denver Museum of Nature & Science is home to 20 remarkable gem-carving sculptures by Vasily Konovalenko. Join Park Hill resident and author Steve Nash for an exuberant trip through time to learn more about this remarkably artistic resource. Konovalenko's story

includes Cold War intrigue and stunning twists and turns. Park Hill Branch Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. denverlibrary.org

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 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. Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Separate ticket required. www.dmns.org

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

To 1/20/19—"Eyes On: Shimabuku" at the Denver Art Museum. "Eyes On: Shimabuku" will showcase a video by Japan-based artist Shimabuku titled "Do snow monkeys remember snow mountains?" This video illustrates the adaptation of a group of Japanese snow monkeys living in a Texas desert sanctuary since they were brought to the U.S. in 1972. Initially featured at the 57th Venice Biennale in 2017, this film analyzes the displacement of the monkeys from their natural habitat in the snow-capped mountains of Japan. The film also symbolically explores human migration and reconnection with environment through genetic memory and ancestral history. Ticket required, www.denverartmuseum.org

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

8/9 Tuesday—Drop-In Drawing at the Denver Art Museum. 2nd Tuesday of the month, 1-3pm. Free with museum admission. All levels of experience welcome. Drawing materials provided or bring your own, restrictions apply see website. www.denverartmuseum.org

8/16 Thursday—Science Lounge. Cocktails/entertainment 3rd Thurs. monthly. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/nonmembers.

8/31 Friday—DAM Untitled Final Friday. 6pm-10pm, Cash bar, DJ, light munchies. Members free, nonmembers \$8-\$13.

MUSEUMS—FREE DAYS

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

8/4 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.denverartmuseum.org

8/13 Monday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.dmns.org

8/10 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Free Day. SCFD Free 2nd Friday, 12pm-4pm. www.fourmilepark.org

8/31 Friday—Clyfford Still Museum. SCFD Free day. Free admission last Friday every month all day. Free admission Fridays 5-8pm. 1250 Bannock St. www.clyffordstillmuseum.org

8/4 Saturday—Denver Firefighters Museum Free Day. SCFD Free day. 1326 Tremont Pl. www.denverfirefightermuseum.org

8/29 Wednesday—Denver Botanic Gardens Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.botanicgardens.org

9/1 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.denverartmuseum.org

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

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

8/4 Saturday—Kids Photography Workshop. 9:30-11am. Kids ages 6+, must be accompanied by an adult. Bring camera.

8/5 Sunday—The Masked Bandit. 10-10:45am. Learn about refuge's black-footed ferrets. Free, reservations required, 303.289.0930

8/11 Saturday—Amazing Antlers—The Velvet Tour. 8:30-noon. Learn about antler growth then spend time in field photographing. Repeats 8/31. Free, reservations required, 303.289.0930

8/11 Sunday—Kids Fishing Clinic. 10am-noon. Bring a pole or borrow one. Kids 6-12. Free, reservations required, 303.289.0930

THEATRE

To 8/5—The Bridges of Madison County. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

To 8/12—Colorado Shakespeare Festival. University of

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Neighbors are encouraged to host a National Night Out block party to get to know each other and create partnerships between the police and the community. These partnerships help send a message to criminals that the neighborhoods are organized to counter crime. District 5 neighborhoods can register their events with Officer Mari-ka Putnam at 720-913-1405 or Officer Jeannette Dominguez at 720-913-1417.

Colorado Boulder. www.coloradoshakes.org

To 8/5—Sex Tips for Straight Women from a Gay Man. Garner Galleria Theater, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, 14th and Curtis. www.denvercenter.org

To 8/18—War of the Worlds: The Panic Broadcast. John Hand Theatre 7653 E. 1st Place www.lostandfoundproductions.net

To 8/5—Les Miserables. Buell Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, 14th and Curtis. www.denvercenter.org

8/3 to 9/9—The Sunshine Boys. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

8/30 to 10/13—The Cake. Curious Theatre Company, 1080 Acoma St, www.curious theatre.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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 non-profit 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

Dog Survives 44 Days in the Wild at Yellowstone

By Charles Borsos

Jade used to be a picky eater. But after spending 44 days alone in Yellowstone National Park and losing a third of her body weight, the Australian Shepherd hunts, kills and eats whatever small game and rodents she can get her paws on. Even though she is back in Denver, sleeping on soft couches and eating commercial dog chow, her owner, David Sowers, says this "ratting" is the most noticeable way Jade changed after Yellowstone.

Sowers' scars from the head on-collision in Yellowstone, that separated them for all that time, are a little more visible. "Maybe I should have worn shorts," he joked as he hiked up a pair of well-worn blue jeans to show me the long surgery incision that bisects his right knee. A shattered kneecap was just one of his injuries. "How did you survive Yellowstone for 44 days and not even get a scratch?" Sowers asked Jade.

It was on a vacation to Yellowstone in 2015 when a truck driver fell asleep and wandered over the centerline—and smashed head-on into the SUV that carried Sowers, his girlfriend at the time, Laura Gillice and their two dogs.

Sowers took the biggest beating in the crash. With a shattered kneecap, a fractured wrist, broken ribs and a concussion, he was airlifted to a hospital. An ambulance took away Laura. The dogs were left behind with the emergency responders.



Photo by Charles Borsos

Front Porch distributor David Sowers and his dog Jade were the victims of a head-on collision in Yellowstone when another driver fell asleep at the wheel. Jade was uninjured, but fled when David was airlifted to the hospital.

Gillice's dog, Laila, and Sower's Jade were in cages in the back rather than unrestrained on the rear seats. "If we had had her loose in the car the day we had that wreck, she probably wouldn't be here today," Sowers said. When the emergency responders opened up the

rear of the car, they found both dogs safe and sound in their cages.

But while Laila's wire cage held together, Jade's hard plastic container shattered in the hands of the personnel trying to retrieve her. In an instant, she disappeared into the woods.

Bring Jade Home: The True Story of a Dog Lost in Yellowstone, written by friend Michelle Caffrey, chronicles those 44 days Jade was lost and the difficulty getting her back.

How they were reunited.

The rescue effort made Jade a something of a local celebrity around the park and the two have traveled back to the park in association with the book. "She didn't seem to really mind," Sowers said, even after everything that happened to her there.

When Sowers woke in the hospital and learned Jade was missing, he quickly opted to leave the care of medical professionals and get out to look for his dog. Park rangers and other tourists saw Jade in the park. Some tried to get the dog, but she was suspicious and stayed out in the wilderness. But as time passed more people learned about Jade and Sowers. They would look out for the dog, unable to get her to come in, but word kept getting back to Sowers his dog was out there.

He never gave up hope, until he actually found Jade. In the meadow near the crash that became a center for their searching, Sowers finally ran into his dog, over 40 days after the crash. But she bolted. "We're never going to catch this dog,"

Sowers said. If she ran from him, he was unsure what more could be done.

The next day, Sowers debated whether or not to stay much longer looking for Jade. In the meantime, Gillice took her dog Laila out for a walk just to check out the meadow again. Gillice saw something rustling in the brush. Laila, spotting the same, began to bark.

The barking finally drew Jade out of the brush. Jade finally ran up to Gillice, around the same time Sowers arrived back. But the two were unprepared for Jade to actually come back. With no spare leash, Sowers led Jade out of the wild with a pair of shoelaces.

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Front Porch – NE Denver

“Connie” Wing Touches



Drone Photo by Charles Borsos

Above: This drone photo shows the crane positioning the first element of the Lockheed Constellation—the large and heavy replica wing—into position in the Eastbridge Town Center in Stapleton. Below: Workmen guide the wing section with ropes before installation. The wing was made by a sculptor in Ensenada, Mexico.

By Charles Borsos

They really don't make things like they used to—just look at the Lockheed Constellation. With its elegant curves, the “Connie,” as it was affectionately known, flew faster, farther and higher than most of its contemporaries. The Constellation became a symbol of 1940s and 50s air travel, popularizing long distance and international routes, and made frequent stops at Denver's Stapleton airport.

But its distinctive shape was also complex and expensive to manufacture. The Boeing 707, the Douglas DC-8 and the rest of the jet airliners that replaced the propeller-driven Constellation instead used bodies like simple tubes. Designers optimized their new airplanes for ease of assembly, and slowly more unique silhouettes like the Constellation's disappeared from the sky.

In July, however, the Constellation was back in the air above Stapleton—at least in part. A reproduction wing and fuselage section was hoisted into the air to

become part of a new ice cream shop in Eastbridge.

Paul Tamburello, the owner of Little Man Ice Cream said, “Aeronautics have always been a fascination for us.” Little Man's new location, simply called “The Constellation” was a way to expand the company and honor Stapleton's history in aviation.

“Having grown up in Denver, Stapleton, as a child, was a magical place,” Tamburello said over the crackling of a welder working on the steel frame that the airplane sections would sit on. He said he remembered coming to Stapleton as a child and watching the planes take off and land—seeming just “100 feet above my head.”

The Lockheed Constellation, with its recognizable shape and rich history was the natural choice, but just like the original plane, construction of the ice cream shop has been complicated.

Tamburello said they, “searched for real Connies in airplane graveyards,” but ultimately a new construction made the most sense. For one, chopping up one of the



few 60- to 70-year-old surviving airframes was unpalatable. Secondly, a reproduction was simply more practical and allowed designers to accommodate for things like hail.

Still, the Constellation ice cream shop was not really designed for easy assembly. A lengthy design process and delays in the wing construction, carried out by a sculptor in Ensenada, Mexico, pushed the opening back by about a year.

Finally, on July 9, Tamburello, along with dozens of onlookers, watched as the construction crew hoisted the gleaming aluminum wing into position.

As the crane lifted the first piece, some members of the construction crew paused with their audience to take pictures of the unusual piece they were working on. Wade Warden, a project manager with Spectrum, the general contractor for the project said, “This really was a very oddly-shaped piece.”

Warden said the wing required significantly more preparation than a simple metal beam. They made a few practice lifts before the final installation and hoisted the wing from three adjustable points so they could fine tune the move. But once the balance was worked out, it was “just a heavy piece of metal at that point.”

Constellation is slated to open at the end of summer, requiring a couple more months to finish the aircraft section along with outfitting the actual ice cream shop below. The Eastbridge Town Center is located at 10155 East 29th Drive in Stapleton (just west of MLK and Havana).

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Down in Stapleton



While the shape of the wing (above) is true to the original vintage, several design choices were made to make it more than just a simple roof covering. These include strengthening efforts and points to mount the wing securely in place. The final product (below) will include engine and propellor pieces as well as a wing tip extending to the edge of the sidewalk, a design choice that required acquiring difficult permissions.



Rendering courtesy of Little Man Ice Cream.

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The SUN Spot

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August SUN Outreach and Board of Directors Meetings

The August SUN Outreach Meeting will be on Tuesday, August 21 from 6:30-7:25pm at the Central Park Recreation Center. The August SUN Board Meeting will follow from 7:30-8:45pm. Both meetings are open to the public. A tentative outreach meeting agenda includes updates from Denver Police about ongoing safety in the region, resident concerns about events at Dicks Sporting Goods Park, and updates from other community partners. During the SUN board meeting, committees will present updates on discussions held during July (Education, Sustainability, Outreach, Diversity and Inclusion), a preview of each follows below, if interested in engaging with work on one of these areas, please attend the August meeting.

SUN Outreach Committee and Block Captain Network

The SUN outreach committee is dedicated to promoting community engagement and connectivity, and facilitating the block captain network. Any resident of a block that does not currently have a block captain, or any resident interested in learning who is the SUN block captain on their block should contact Stapleton-UnitedNeighbors@gmail.com to inquire.

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

August SUN News and Events

A block captain is a volunteer who helps with communication between neighbors by organizing a block directory, works with Denver police to set up or renew Neighborhood Watch training for the block, and encourages neighbors to get to know each other (block party, service work, or other informal gatherings). SUN contacts block captains when regional issues arise for which local input would help.

SUN Sustainability Committee

In the coming year, SUN's Sustainability Committee is working to organize a tree planting for fall, a sustainability-themed movie night in early November, and a Sustainability Fair in June of 2019. The SUN Sustainability Committee leads the neighborhood's efforts as a participant in the Sustainable Neighborhoods Program within the City and County of Denver. Intended to encourage direct citizen action, the Sustainable Neighborhood Program provides support to neighborhoods in order to assist citizens in enhancing neighborhood sustainability and reducing the environmental footprint of residents.

Residents can join the Committee's email list to learn about upcoming meetings and events at <http://eepurl.com/dx5Z-X> and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/snpstapleton/>

Sand Creek Regional Greenway Volunteer Day

Saturday, August 11, 10am-12pm, Smith Road Trailhead Sand Creek

Join the SUN Sustainability Committee in a Denver Sustainable Neighborhoods Program and our friends at Sand Creek Regional Greenway, Runners Roost, and Cheluna Brewing for a volunteer day at the Smith Road Trailhead followed by a benefit for Sand Creek Regional Greenway at Cheluna Brewing. Volunteers will meet at the Smith Road Trailhead of Sand Creek Greenway at 10 am. Projects for the day may include trail repair, invasive species removal, planting native species, cleaning out flood refuse and trash, painting over graffiti. Volunteer work is scheduled to end at noon, to be followed by fellowship at Cheluna Brewing in Stanley Marketplace. All volunteers (over age 5 years) are welcome and encouraged to participate in the clean up. Please come wearing closed toe shoes and bring a water bottle. Water, snacks, tools and work gloves will be provided on-site.

SUN Education Committee

The SUN education committee met in July and outlined priorities for the next year and will present these priorities to the SUN board at the August SUN board meeting. The committee will be planning an education forum dedicated to updates from Denver Public Schools on plans for an additional middle school in the Stapleton area, adequate space at Northfield High School, monitoring

the Northfield Resolution, and the choice process for the Stapleton-Area Elementary School Enrollment Zone. SUN's education committee is exploring opportunities to engage families and children in order to strengthen the community, and embrace diversity and inclusion.

SUN Diversity & Inclusion Committee

The reactivated Diversity & Inclusion committee met in July, consisting of community and SUN board members. Discussion and planning focused on how we can better understand and act on the challenges and opportunities present in our community. Committee efforts will aim to promote and foster a welcoming environment where all people feel safe, valued, appreciated for their uniqueness and thus empowered to contribute to the rich tapestry of potential present in the community.

About SUN

Stapleton United Neighbors is a volunteer board serving as the Registered Neighborhood Organization for the Stapleton community in Denver. SUN's mission is to provide a forum for resident voices; to facilitate communication between Stapleton residents, neighboring Denver residents, and the city of Denver; and to act on issues of importance to the community as a whole.

Stay in Touch with SUN

Follow SUN on Facebook for the most current neighborhood news and event information: [@stapletonunitedneighbors](https://www.facebook.com/stapletonunitedneighbors)
Visit SUN's website to sign up for email updates and learn more about how SUN can advocate for the community: www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com.

Attend SUN's monthly Community Outreach Meetings to hear from community leaders and organizations and engage in-person. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month from 6:30 -7:25pm at the Central Park Rec Center. In August SUN meetings will be held on the 21st. In September there will not be a meeting on the third Tuesday in order to allow for the observance of Yom Kippur beginning at sundown.

Pack 34 Join Night - August 27, 6:15pm
Swigert International School, 3480 Syracuse Street, Denver
For more info, contact Bridget Weeks: 520.444.1716 or bbweeks@gmail.com

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Letters to the Editor

Denver Parks Policies Pro and Con

Editors Note: Upon receipt of the "Clearcutting" letter below, Front Porch invited Denver Parks to send a response so readers would be able to see both positions on the subject.

Clearcutting of Denver Parks

In 2010 City Council zoning changes granted complete control over Denver parks to the mayor, eliminating a vote of the people. Michael Hancock is the first mayor to remove or re-purpose city park lands, even as the Trust for Public Land ranks Denver low, with park land/open space comprising 6 percent of land area, compared to 20 percent in New York City and other cities.

Among park lands affected: the city has traded a planned Park Hill pocket park at 28th Ave. and Fairfax St. to developer HM Capital; 11 acres of Hentzell Park was traded to DPS for construction of a school; a 5-year contract with Anschutz Entertainment Group closes Overland Park Golf Course for over a month every summer to stage a 3-day concert. As part of the proposed Platte to Park Hill Stormwater project, Globeville Landing Park was leveled and City Park Golf Course bulldozed, uprooting over 260 trees with extensive root networks in rich soil microbiome capable of mitigating enormous amounts of rainwater, in favor of an artificial system of pipes and ditches traversing the unremediated Vasquez/I-70 Superfund site, and designed to swiftly shunt quadruple the volume of toxin-carrying rainwater northwest to the South Platte River.

The 2-1/2 mile Platte to Park Hill Stormwater project was conceived as 100-year flood protection for a lowered I-70 viaduct, earlier rejected, then revived by the mayor and governor in conjunction with the 2011 Olympic Exploratory Committee and related plans for Olympic facilities and development projects along I-70 surrounding the National Western Center. Just as plans surrounding the I-70 trench and the accompanying drainage ditch took place largely below the radar, the Colorado Freedom of Information Coalition reports that Olympic Exploratory Committee meetings largely maintained secrecy, in violation of the Colorado Open Meetings Law, even as the committee recommends pursuit of a bid for the 2030 Winter Olympic games.

Michele Swenson

Better Parks and Flood Protection for Denver

As we recall the devastation of Hurricane Harvey in Houston one year ago and the storms that struck Colorado in 2013 - both of which caused billions in damage to homes and property - the residents of Denver can be proud of the proactive work City leaders and stormwater management experts are doing to mitigate the flood risks that exist in Denver. The Platte to Park Hill: Stormwater Solutions Program is working to provide critical flood protection in neighborhoods east of Downtown most at risk for flooding. Retrofitting established neighborhoods with flood control measures is challenging, but our City is finding creative ways to address widespread drainage challenges on the east side with new recreational spaces and a backbone system to support future improvements.

In utilizing City Park Golf Course, the city leveraged an existing city asset, reducing the need for private property acquisitions. Golf courses have been proven to provide effective flood control to communities through beautiful course designs; it's a common and environmentally sustainable practice. In the end, we'll see a net gain of 500 trees. In addition, the 39th Avenue Greenway will add 12 acres of new recreational space. The park at Globeville Landing Outfall is also being improved and expanded.

Meanwhile, Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR) is continuing to add park space. Of the 5,470 acres eligible for designation, approximately 4,530 acres of parks, parkways, open spaces, and natural areas are designated, representing 83 percent of all Denver-owned open space within the city limits. The Trust for Public Land defines Denver's park land as percentage of city area at 8.3%.

Currently, DPR is working with Park Hill neighbors in an area known as a "park desert," securing ownership of land on the east side of Fairfax between 28th and 29th Avenues to save taxpayer dollars and expedite creation of a place for people to recreate.

*Nancy Kuhn
Director of Public Information
Denver Public Works*



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Above and left: Den Leader David Weaver and the girls of Den 7 Peyton Dick, Helina, Carys O'Hara and Lila Remster (right to left) lead the "Little Bird" song for the rest of Pack 34.

Boy Scouts "Scouting" No Longer Just for Boys

By Charles Borsos

Come 2019, the "Boy Scouts" become Scouts BSA. This more gender-inclusive label is just part of the reorganization process following the Boy Scouts of America's (BSA's) decision to incorporate girls into their Cub Scout and Boy Scout programs.

Scouts BSA, the program for youth ages 11–17, will open up to girls in February. The Cub Scouts, a program for children ages 5–10, opened up to girls this year.

While the BSA is opening these programs to girls, interested communities still need to establish new Cub Scout dens and Scouts BSA troops if they wish to sign up girls. Those new troops would

be single-gender but provide identical programming. Northeast Denver's Pack 34 entered the program as an early adopter and chartered an all-girl den amongst its established all-boy dens early this year.



Peter Kaufmann with Den 7 girls taking a photo at a pack meeting

"By its nature, it was always a family program," said Stephanie O'Hara, the mother of one of the first girl Cub Scouts who also has a son in the Boy Scouts and an older daughter planning to join Scouts BSA when that opens up.

O'Hara said for girls like hers, they were always around scouting and they appreciate the well-defined programming and focus on

survival skills. "We really like the camping aspect. It's actually written down. You can't earn rank unless you camp," said O'Hara.

But girls couldn't earn rank at all until this BSA policy change, which legitimizes the achievements girls might have been making previously on an ad hoc basis.

Many of the other parents in Pack 34 say they value the ability to earn rank for their girls, especially when girls will be able to work towards Eagle Scout—the highest rank obtainable for current Boy Scouts.

Wayne Hall said other programs don't have quite the same emphasis on earning ranks and badges. He saw a lot of added value for his daughter Addie in the Stapleton Cub Scout organization. While Addie participated in Girl Scouts and the Pippin Guiding program in New Zealand, a focus on things like safely using a match or pocket knife were appealing.

She had just won her heat in the Cub Scout Raingutter Regatta in July. There, Cub Scouts raced sailboats they built by blowing through straws. "We did lung exercises," Addie joked when asked about her strategy. She also men-

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tioned that an insect, “Captain Bug,” helped lead her vessel to victory.

The Girl Scouts initially criticized the BSA for the move to include girls in its ranks, citing the benefits of girls and boys learning separately within certain age groups. While several events

like the Raingutter Regatta, especially during the summer, involve both girls and boys, the Cub Scout dens themselves are either all-boy or all-girl and organized under regional packs, which may be mixed or single-gender.

The same will be true for Scouts BSA in 2019. Scouting “troops,” as they are known, will be separate and can either operate with their own charter and com-



Helina (left) and Addie Hall (right) show off their Webelos activity badges and Cub Scout uniforms.

mittee or have linked leadership.

Stephanie O’Hara’s husband, Sean, is the scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 34. As a leader for the older Boy Scouts, he saw the future inclusion of girls in Scouts BSA as a real boon, especially in

Stapleton. As a new neighborhood, Sean said Stapleton lacked the deep roots in scouting other areas might have.

The area doesn’t, “have a church of every denomination and there are not a lot of service clubs.” Churches and clubs often charter dens or troops and provide critical facilities. Sean hopes the more inclusive family scouting will help build momentum in the area.



Peyton Dick (left) and Jakob Weaks (right) compete at the Raingutter Regatta. Peyton took home first place and Jakob second.



Photo from the Aultman Collection, History Colorado

Boy Scouts pose in front of the US flag at the Sopris School in Sopris, Colorado. Taken in 1915, five years after the formation of the Boy Scouts. Today Trinidad Lake stands where Sopris once was.

History of Boy Scouts

When it comes to scouting, Robert Baden-Powell wrote the book. As a British general serving during the Second Boer War, he returned to Britain and established the Boy Scouts Association—writing down its values in *Scouting for Boys* in 1908.

Baden-Powell prefaced the book: “The aim of scouting is to replace Self with Service, to make the lads individually efficient, morally and physically, with the object of using that efficiency for the service of the community.”

Coming out of an era of rapid industrialization and urbanization around the turn of the century, these values along with a focus on the wilderness resonated with families and young boys in Britain and later the United States, among other nations.

Only two years after the establishment of the original scouts under Baden-Powell, the Boy Scouts of America was founded and garnered considerable support from the likes of Theodore Roosevelt. “The prime lesson that the boy scout movement is teaching is the lesson that manliness in its most vigorous form can be and ought to be accompanied by unselfish consideration for the rights and interests of others.”

His support, along with enthusiasm from various spiritual and service organizations, including a 105-year-old partnership with the Mormon church, helped the Boy Scouts build momentum—reaching membership numbers in the millions.

In recent years, membership has been in decline. The Mormon church, whose boys make up a fifth of BSA membership, announced their departure from the program.

This year, BSA began accepting girl Cub Scouts and in the past few years reversed its controversial restrictions on gay and transgendered scouts and volunteers.

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