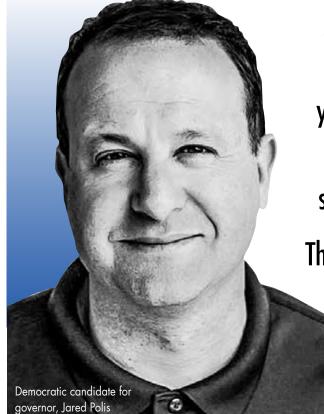
Front Porch

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

OCTOBER 2018

NORTHEAST DENVER

An Election that Cries Out for Educated Voters



COLORADO

With clear policy differences between these gubernatorial candidates, you likely know who you're voting for.

But how to vote on the 22 city and state ballot issues may not be so clear.

The Front Porch Election Guide that starts on page 13 offers a clear description of what you'll find on the ballot.



By Todd Engdahl

et aside an evening and clear the kitchen table—you've got a lot of voting to do. There are plenty of statewide, legislative, RTD, judicial and other offices on the November ballot.

Voters in Denver face a total of 22 state and local ballot measures, several of which have important implications for schools, highways and your taxes.

Coloradans have been voting directly on proposed changes to the state constitution and state law since 1912. Over more than a century, voters have faced 466 proposals, adopting 208 and rejecting 252.

Among successful measures with major impact were those that put limits on state government spending and

property taxes, created casino gambling and the state lottery and legalized marijuana, first for medical use and later for recreation.

This year, voters face 13 state proposals, the largest number since 2008, when 19 measures were on the ballot.

The most significant measures would increase taxes—and funding—for schools and for transportation projects, change key rules for oil and gas drilling and transform the way congressional and legislative district boundaries are drawn. *Election Guide starts on page 13*.

Scooters-People Love 'Em. But...



o one seems to follow the rules. Do you see helmets? No. Are scooters only on the sidewalks? No. Only one person per scooter? No.

During an afternoon outing on a scooter, our writer found people enthusiastically riding them, but not following the rules. *Story by Charles Borsos on page 8*.



On October 31, as much of our community is trick-or-treating, some among us will be thinking of their departed loved ones and preparing to celebrate All Souls' Day—the Day of the Dead. Story by Martina Will de Chaparro is on page 30.



The Beeler Park water feature is fun for all ages, but the shallow stream of water is particularly inviting for young children. The park, located on Beeler St. just north of 56th Ave. (and just east of Dick's Sporting Goods Park), is free and open to the public. It is maintained by the Stapleton Master Community Association and will have water until mid-October.

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

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 Safeway store in Lowry and Mayfair.

Events & Announcements at Stapleton



Fall Film Series — Casablanca

Friday, October 5th, 7pm, The Cube Join us at The Cube for the Fall Film Series, featuring iconic films every Friday in October. The Indie Prof, Dr. Vincent Piturro, will lead an educational discussion before each film. Tickets are \$5. Residents can bring their resident card to receive a \$4 credit at the concession stand, which sells beer, wine, soda and popcorn.

Stapleton Farmers Market

Sunday, October 7th, 8:30am-12:30pm, The Green The Stapleton Farmers Market presents Colorado's own vendors every Sunday from mid-June through mid-October on The Green at Stapleton. Vendors provide locally-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.

Wine Education Series

Wednesday, October 10th, 7-9pm, The Cube The MCA's winter wine education series features an educational aspect of wine tasting. This sit-down tasting presents different wines from various regions with a wine educator leading the discussion. Tickets are \$20 and go up to \$40 on event day.

Active Minds Seminar - 2018 Colorado Ballot Issues

Thursday, October 11th, 1pm, Sam Gary Library Join Active Minds for an objective review of the current issues on the ballot this fall. We will review each proposal, presenting the arguments on both sides. We will also review the referendum and initiative process in Colorado, including its history, pros and cons, and significant legislation that has resulted from this process in the past.

Fall Film Series — Citizen Kane

Friday, October 12th, 7pm, The Cube Join us at The Cube for the Fall Film Series, featuring iconic films every Friday in October. The Indie Prof, Dr. Vincent Piturro, will lead an educational discussion before each film. Tickets are \$5. Residents can bring their resident card to receive a \$4 credit at the concession stand, which sells beer, wine, soda and popcorn.

Stapleton Farmers Market & Pumpkin Patch

Sunday, October 14th, 8:30am-12:30pm, The Green This is our last Farmers Market of the season!

Vendors provide locally-grown produce, tasty baked goods, specialty meats, gourmet food items and more. Visit our annual Pumpkin Patch. For every \$5 spent at the vendor's booth, shoppers will receive a coupon to the pumpkin patch. Coupons can be redeemed at the pumpkin patch for a free pumpkin. There will be a variety of pumpkin sizes and quantities are very limited. Coupons are only valid while supplies last.

Fall Film Series — Bicycle Thieves

Friday, October 19th, 7pm, The Cube Join us at The Cube for the Fall Film Series, featuring iconic films every Friday in October. The Indie Prof, Dr. Vincent Piturro, will lead an educational discussion before each film. Tickets are \$5. Residents can bring their resident card to receive a \$4 credit at the concession stand, which sells beer, wine, soda and popcorn.

Active Minds Seminar – Aviation: From Kitty Hawk to Today

Thursday, October 25th, 6:30pm, Sam Gary Library

Join Active Minds for a review of aviation in the United States. We will begin the story with the Wright Brothers and end with a look at the airline industry today, including the possibility of supersonic flights again in the not-too-distant future. In between, we'll visit Charles Lindbergh, Amelia Earhart, aviation in the military, and the increased use of drone aircraft.

Fall Film Series — Singin' in the Rain

Friday, October 26th, 7pm, The Cube Join us at The Cube for the Fall Film Series, featuring iconic films every Friday in October. The Indie Prof, Dr. Vincent Piturro, will lead an educational discussion before each film. Tickets are \$5. Residents can bring their resident card to receive a \$4 credit at the concession stand, which sells beer, wine, soda and popcorn.

For more information, contact Diane Deeter | Community Director ddeeter@stapletoncommunity.com

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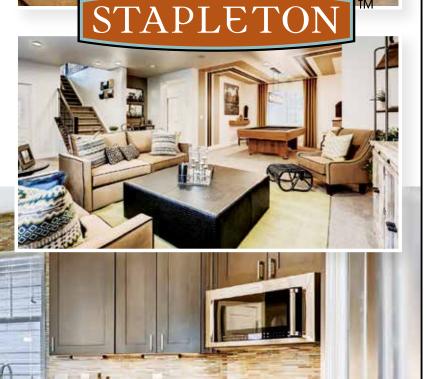




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Principal Marisol Enriquez enjoys a painting project with some of her students during the grand opening celebration for Inspire, the newest Stapleton elementary school.

An Inspirational Opening

By Melinda Pearson

he Inspire Elementary community celebrated its new building on the Park Street Campus with a grand opening ceremony last month. Families, students, staff and DPS personnel gathered to share in the joy of the occasion at Stapleton's sixth and

newest elementary school.

"It means everything to these little kids," said DPS Board member, Jennifer Bacon, "And it means a lot to this side of town....This school seems to be one full of fun. Every single person that I've talked

to that's a part of the Inspire community really likes it."

Principal Enriquez plans to use triangular spaces at the

end of hallways, which she calls "Wonder Wedges," as

a permanent living museum of student work, including

an indoor garden, art work and sculpture.

Inspire currently enrolls 182 students in kindergarten through grade 3, with more than half (94) of them in kindergarten. The school will add one grade at a time until it reaches a full K-5 enrollment. Currently, the school serves a diverse population that includes 40%

of students who receive subsidized lunch, and they hope to maintain a strong level of socioeconomic diversity, according to Principal Marisol Enriquez.

Sam Miller, the director of the DPS construction department and architects from Humphries Poli, who designed the space, led a tour of the building, pointing

out many features that make the new space uniquely suited for its occupant. Miller pointed out that there is natural light in every classroom and many areas of flexible, multipurpose space, like the large cafetorium that serves as a dining area, a meeting

area, and a place to stage productions or events.

The large gymnasium at Inspire includes a regulation-sized basketball court—something that could serve older students as well as the current population of K-3 students. The building is environmentally friendly, with features like LED lighting throughout and solar tubes in the

gym that let in natural light during the day, reducing electricity use.

Unique features of the building enhance the educational experience for its students. In the classrooms, "everything is designed for kids and to allow a lot of

flexibility and movement," said Enriquez. "We don't want kids to sit in one place all day...we really offer a lot of opportunities for them to sit on the floor or lie on the carpet or stand or use rocking chairs." The classrooms also bring the outside in, noted Enriquez, with lots of natural light from the windows and indoor plants.

"Wonder Wedges" are another favorite for Enriquez. These are triangular spaces at the end of each hallway. "In each block, the idea is that eventually...we want this building to be like a living museum, where student art becomes part of the building," explained Enriquez. "In each of the Wonder Wedges, eventually we'll have an indoor garden or sculptures or other art work."

As for expansion plans at the Park Street Campus, "I would love to be a K-8. Right now I'm focused on building the elementary program to be as strong as it can be," said Enriquez. "Having gone through the application process, I don't know that we're in

a place that we can do both."

For now, Enriquez is grateful to have a playground, since last year the fledgling school was sited at the Sandoval High School campus, which had no play facilities. And she is focused on building her program with the support of a strong school community.

"We're off to such an amazing start," said Enriquez. "The environment you create for students can be the third teacher."

Unique Touches Stimulate Curiosity and Allow Flexibility









The campus has many features that appeal to kids, including (clockwise from top left): movable music notes on the floor, colorful playground designs, flexible seating and even animal prints embedded in the sidewalks, which trace paths along the school. Principal Enriquez says the goal is to continually stimulate curiosity and engagement in their students, and promote flexibility and movement.



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Park St. Campus to House New Middle School



The newly opened Inspire Elementary building will soon have 18 classrooms added to house a middle school.

By Melinda Pearson

he Park Street Campus, located at 56th and Galena, will soon be built out to house a middle school on a shared campus with Inspire Elementary. On September 12, Sam Miller, director of construction services for DPS, confirmed that DPS will be building an additional 18 classrooms designed for middle school use on the campus, to be completed by fall 2020. DPS had already planned to temporarily site the first 6th grade class of the proposed middle school at Inspire in fall 2019, but the more permanent location had not been previously announced.

Liz Mendez, director of operations for DPS, confirmed the construction plans, but she noted that the seats at the Park Street campus could be used for the new middle school or could be occupied by DSST:

Conservatory Green middle school if High Tech's K-8 proposal is selected. According to Mendez, DSST: Conservatory Green has been contacted and was open to the prospect of relocating its 450-seat middle school to the Park Street campus if the facilities are comparable to the High Tech facility.

The news came as a surprise to the Inspire Elementary community, who have been under the impression that the beautiful new campus was to be theirs alone, with the option of later extending to a middle school under the same administration. Inspire PTO President Robyn Broghammer wrote in a post on Facebook, "The issue is DPS leadership and their lack of transparency and misinformation."

In response, DPS sent a letter to the

Inspire community noting that the intent has always been for Park Street to be a shared campus, writing, "When the Denver Board of Education voted to place Inspire at the Park Street campus in 2016, the

resolution stated that sharing a campus would be part of the plan." The referenced 2016 resolution clearly states that Inspire's siting on the Park Street Campus was contingent on the campus

being available to be shared, noting, "This condition is material to the approval of the placement and is necessary for the School's service to be in the best interest of pupils, the district, and the community."

Broghammer and other parents

are now organizing an effort to slow down or influence the middle school search process. "We need to try to halt or extend the application process that is due on October 26, 2018 to allow for sufficient time to find the right middle school in the right location," wrote Broghammer in a letter to Inspire families. "Just as important, we need to fight for our school to not become a shared campus."

According to Broghammer and other parents, Inspire was discouraged by DPS from submitting a letter of intent to the district to expand to a middle school on that campus. It appears unlikely that Inspire will attempt to submit an application at this late date, as applications are due at the end of October.

Meetings about New Middle School

DPS-Hosted Town Halls, 5:30 — 7pm

Monday, Oct. 1, Northfield High School

Tuesday, Oct. 2, Central Park Rec Center

Wednesday, Oct. 3, Park Hill Elementary

Tuesday, Oct. 16, Central Park Rec Center

SUN Monthly Meeting

(see page 28)

Currently, three applicants have submitted letters of intent to open a middle school in the Greater Park Hill/Stapleton (GPHS) zone: the Denver Green School, the Beacon School and High Tech, which proposed to open

an ECE-8. The proposed middle school is slated to serve 500-600 students, relieving enrollment pressures in the zone. DPS plans to site another large school north of 56th, but that property is not yet owned by DPS and cannot be developed into a school for perhaps four more years.

of pupils, the nunity."

DPS and cannot be developed into a school for perhaps four more years.

Solar tubes allow natural light to stream into the Park Street Campus gym during the day, conserving electricity.

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North End lot reservations OPEN NOW!



Tourists from Atlanta pass Union Station as they head up 17th Street on their scooter tour of downtown Denver.

By Charles Borsos

s the A-Line train to Union Station pulled out of Central Park Station, I overheard a bicyclist chatting with a couple who were in town

for a bachelor and bachelorette party. "You're *supposed* to ride them on the sidewalks," the bicyclist said. The couple wanted his advice on getting around the city and the new dockless electric scooters

Scooters—People Love 'Em. But they don't follow the rules.



Despite official rules requiring helmets, one person to a scooter, and riding only on sidewalks, scooter riders in Denver and other cities seem to be focusing more on the fun than on the letter of the law.

entered the discussion. "Because they're technically toys," the bicyclist said, referencing Denver's regulations that prevent the scooters from being used on roadways or bike paths. "Legally you are supposed to wear a helmet too," added another passenger, joining in on their conversation.

Coincidentally, I hopped on the train to check out the new scooters myself. They launched twice this summer—the first time, in May, without warning. The City and County of Denver told scooter companies Lime and Bird to remove their vehicles while they worked on a pilot program. They introduced certain limitations and regulations, such as limits to the number of scooters each company can operate

and guidelines on where riders can use and park the vehicles.

"Sometimes I ride on the sidewalk," admitted Victor Adetoye, adding, "I don't think you are supposed to." (Ironically, sidewalks are the *only* place the scooters are allowed to go). Since it is easier to ride in the bicycle lanes, Adetoye assumed that was where he was supposed to be. As the manager of a nightclub in Larimer Square, he says the scooters have made it easier for him to run errands throughout the day. "They're easy—people like easy."

Although I saw dozens of people riding scooters that afternoon, many of them rode in the bike lanes or in the street and none of them wore a helmet. Christian





Dilya Agzamov gives her 5-year-old daughter Osiyohon a ride near Union Station.

Jones, who works downtown in real estate, uses the scooters frequently for several short trips throughout the working day. He said he was in the bike lanes "all the time" too, the only way to get around pedestrians and take advantage of the speed electric scooters afford riders.

After finally snagging a scooter for myself (several in the Larimer Square area were either low on charge or listed

as non-operational by the time I tried in the mid-afternoon), it easily hit 16 mph-- a little bit above its supposed 14.8 mph top speed. Robert Jones, a NE Denver resident checking out the scooters for fun with his wife, said scooters are a lot faster when they are charged up more. The two sped off quickly after trying to swap one of their dying scooters for the one in front

of me on the sidewalk.

In my hunt for a scooter, I passed a neatly lined up row of Bird scooters in front of the Magnolia Hotel. Each was listed as broken or under-charged. Jahsonte Evans couldn't comment on those particular scooters, but said the hotel was a bit of a hot spot and they were good for the new technology, with some people in San hotel business, "especially for the tourists."

With my own scooter secured, I read most of the user agreements and entered my credit card information to actually rent the vehicle. Both companies' apps outline general rules and call attention to special regulations in Denver. In the main body of the text the companies recommend staying off of the sidewalks, while the addendum for Denver states they can only be ridden on the sidewalks. I have to admit, I did a little of both—and forgot a helmet too.

"There are no repercussions for breaking the rules," said Alex Reshetniak. He said he saw lots of scooter riders running lights and riding against traffic on one-way streets. They are hard to look for, he said, because of how

much faster they can move compared to what pedestrians expect on the sidewalks. "This is a public space set aside for pedestrians," Reshetniak said.

Other cities have had more violent growing pains while incorporating the Francisco and Los Angeles burning and destroying some scooters.

While the implementation in Denver was calmer, it will be interesting to see what happens as the industry grows and matures. At the moment, only Lime and Bird operate in Denver. But the city approved permits for three more companies to bring hundreds more scooters and another three companies to bring dockless electric bikes in the near future—with the Uber owned "Jumpbike" having launched mid-August. That growth will be built on a peculiar foundation: stringent regulations in place but users simply breaking those rules in practice.



Kyle Lecuyer rides through the kids' fountain at Union Station.



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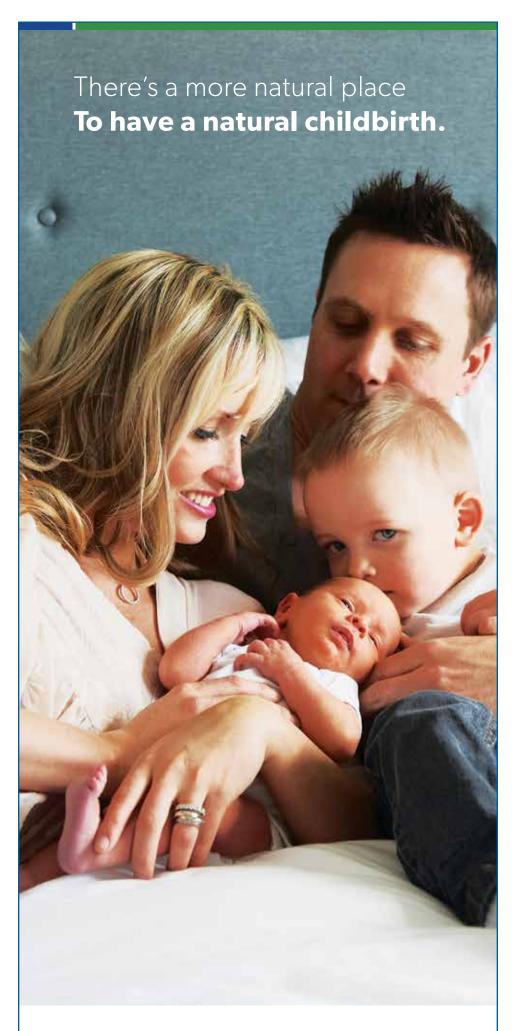
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By Melinda Pearson

fter a long wait for a written agreement, The Urban Farm is excited its official partnership with the City of Denver is about to begin. Signatures and City Council approval are expected soon. As property owner, the city will update the main building to bring it into compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), improve safety features, provide assistance with insurance and help create a long-term land management plan.

When The Urban Farm celebrates its annual FarmFest on October 14, visitors will find several new projects in the works.

Located on Smith Road just west of

The educational campus includes community gardens, livestock, a horseback riding program, aquaponics and, soon, its very own weather station.

FurmFest

Every year. The Urban Farm opens its gates

Havana, The Urban Farm has been introducing

agriculture to the urban community since 1993.

Every year, The Urban Farm opens its gates to the community for FarmFest. This year, October 14 will bring live music by Jesse Cornett, a country western singer renowned in the Greeley area. Kids will enjoy the large pumpkin patch and pumpkin-painting activities. And visitors will see the large flock of goats and sheep which now numbers 25, after recovering from a tragic

dog attack early last year that killed a dozen animals at the farm, including its entire herd of goats.

The event will also include family-friendly activities and crafts and locally-sourced food and drink. For tickets and to learn more about The Urban Farm, go to theurbanfarm. org.



At FarmFest in 2017, families, along with a goat, gather to hear an animal story told by a Sam Gary librarian.

Community Garden

The Urban Farm houses a large community garden. According to Mike Nicks, execu-



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tive director of The Urban Farm, about a third of the garden is rented to private gardeners, another third allotted to a cooperative program overseen by master gardeners, and the final third given over to educational purposes.

New this year is a wire fence that protects the garden from the local prairie dogs. "There's hardwire about a foot down and a foot out," explains Nicks, and it runs around the entire perimeter of the garden. In several places, the wild rodents' attempts to burrow under it were evident, but they have had little success in penetrating this cleverly designed barrier, much to the delight of the many Urban Farm gardeners who enjoy the space.



About a third of the garden is rented to private gardeners, another third allotted to a cooperative program overseen by master gardeners, and the final third is used for educational purposes.

Greenhouse

Construction on a new state-of-the-art greenhouse is almost complete. Boasting a fifteen-foot wet wall and a thermostat-controlled system of fans and ventilation, plus a propane heater for the winter, the greenhouse will be used year-round to grow crops. "I think basil will be one, since it seems to sell well," says Nicks. "We'll probably avoid tomatoes...and we'll test stuff to see what works."

The Farm mainly sells agricultural products to the public and takes any excess to nonprofit agencies that provide food to those in need. "The focus of this, like the rest of the farm, is we're not necessarily a production facility, but we're an educational facility," says Urban Farm Board President, Kim Downing. They expect the greenhouse to be up and running to show the public by FarmFest in mid-October.

Weather Station

The main building at The Urban Farm was once the site of a National Weather Service weather station. It served the old airport until the station was moved to City Park and then later decommissioned.

The Urban Farm has been working to bring the weather station back to its site, raising funds and dealing with bureaucratic red tape to get it back. "Weather obviously affects

how the land is managed and everything about agriculture. The first thing that everyone does when they come out to the farm is check on the weather," notes Downing.

Weather stations require unique siting—away from asphalt, large buildings and other factors that affect its measurement. It looks like efforts will finally pay off, probably later this year, when the weather station

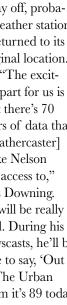
> is returned to its original location.

ing part for us is that there's 70 years of data that [weathercaster] Mike Nelson has access to," says Downing. "It will be really cool. During his newscasts, he'll be able to say, 'Out at The Urban Farm it's 89 today and 60 years ago

it was 79." The Urban Farm is also excited to start developing programming around the weather station.



goats are shown beside the new fencing that was built last year, following an attack by dogs that killed a dozen of their animals. The goats have gnawed on the sign that says, "Don't let the goats out! (No matter what they say.)"





At The Urban Farm's greenhouse, students participate in a program that teaches them about aquaponic gardening—raising fish and soiless growing of plants.



Even though the official weather station was removed from The Urban Farm, high altitude balloons to gather weather data continued to be launched there—and now the official weather station is being brought back to The Urban Farm.



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ach 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.

This month's column will be slightly different from the norm of reviewing one new film in the theater and a second film or series available on VOD or a streaming service. October marks the start of a fall film series at The Cube in Northfield (8371 Northfield Blvd), and I hope you can join us for one or all of the screenings and discussions. I also give a short review of a new network TV show that started in September.

The film series is entitled "The Greatest Movies...Why?" and that is the exact premise; I will discuss why these films are so lauded, and why they have stood the test of time. The four films in the series are Casablanca (10/5), Citizen Kane (10/12), Bicycle Thieves (10/19), and Singin' in the Rain (10/26). I have previously reviewed Bicycle Thieves (November 2013) and Singin' in the Rain (May 2016), so you can read those in the archive; I will discuss the first two films in the series.

Casablanca (1942)

In 1942, the Hollywood "Dream Factory" was turning out hundreds of films per year, and Casablanca was just another one of those films. It tells the story of several characters involved in political intrigue and romance during WWII. Morocco was one of the key stops for refugees fleeing Nazi-occupied Europe. While it is a fictional film, it is based on actual events in Europe and Africa during the late 30s and early 40s. That the brutal reality of the era could play out on a Hollywood sound stage is remarkable in its own right.

The film has remained iconic because of its classic plot, the energetic screenplay, the brilliant performances of the entire cast, and the thematic depth. That depth is the most interesting part for me; when the film was under production in 1941,

the U.S. had not yet entered the War, and most Americans had no idea about the Nazi concentration camps. The film was a brilliant allegory for pre-War America: Rick (Humphrey Bogart), the American owner of the café in the film, remains neutral. It is not only until he learns of the atrocities in Europe that he develops a conscience and intervenes. It was a wonderful, powerful, and timely story.

Join us at The Cube in Northfield at 7pm on 10/5 to learn more about the film. It's a treat!

Citizen Kane (1942)

Widely considered the greatest film ever made, Citizen Kane was Orson Welles' first film (as director and/or actor). It was based—loose

ly—on the life of newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst, and it became highly controversial. Hearst offered to buy the film for a substantial sum with the intention of burning the negatives, and he threatened a media boycott of the studio and theater owners who showed the film. The studio finally decided against the offer and it was released, although it received little publicity (Hearst newspapers refused advertisements). It was a box-office flop.

As more people saw the film, it gained in importance, relevance, and influence. The innovations in cinematography, setting, editing, and sound still stand as landmarks for all filmmakers. The story structure was also very complex and told from different perspectives, thereby making heavy



demands on the viewer—a new concept for films of that time period. It's hard to find any filmmaker that doesn't count Citizen Kane as one of their biggest influences.

Please join us at The Cube in Northfield at 7pm on 10/12 and find out why I consider this to be the greatest film ever made. You won't be disappointed.

$New\ Amsterdam\ (NBC)$

I don't normally review shows on network TV; you can find plenty of reviews about such shows in many other places. After having a chance to screen the pilot (aired on 9/25) this past summer, and meet the cast and crew, however, I was impressed. This is a very good show by a talented group of artists—both cast and crew-who believe in what they are doing and have all the right intentions. Series creator and pilot writer David Schulner said that he conceived the idea after the 2016



elections and he wanted to bring something positive into the world. Judging from the pilot of this new medical drama, he succeeded.

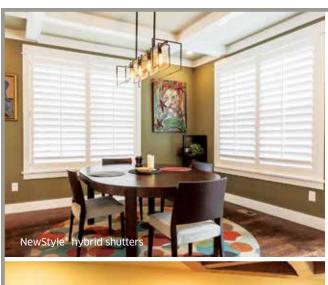
The show is based on the book Twelve Patients: Life and Death at Bellevue Hospital, by Eric Manheimer. Manheimer was the Chief Medical Officer at Bellevue Hospital in NYC for 15 years, and he even became a patient himself—fighting two bouts of cancer. The show follows the same premise: Dr. Max Goodwin (Ryan Eggold) takes the reigns of the oldest public hospital in the U.S. and immediately sets out to reform the place. The pilot has one of the most arresting sequences I've seen in a while that really makes you want more. But no more spoilers.

The show is expertly realized, and the pilot is helmed by Kate Dennis—one of the hottest directors on TV, most recently two episodes of *The Handmaid's Tale*. The cast is very good, Eggold especially, but supporting players Freeman Ageyman, Janet Montgomery, and Jocko Sims are all solid in their respective roles. This is a show with heart, intelligence, and a strong sense of place and time. Give it a go.

You will like this show if you enjoyed Grey's Anatomy, ER,

It airs Tuesday nights on NBC, 9PM MST.

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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Understanding Ballot Measures

Tor this explanation of the 22 do uns explanation | ballot measures, the *Front Porch* called on an expert, Todd Engdahl. Engdahl's company, Capitol Editorial Services, is a research firm that provides services to lobbying firms and advocacy groups at the Colorado legislature. He's a former executive city editor of The Denver Post, launched DenverPost.com and was a co-founder of the website Education News Colorado. He says he's written more ballot measure articles than he can remember.

What's the difference between an amendment and a proposition?

The ballot measures you'll read here are either amendments to the state constitution or changes in state law. Constitutional changes are called amendments; changes to state law are called propositions. Constitutional changes require approval by 55 percent of votersthanks to a successful 2016 ballot measure.

Coloradans have long debated the issue of whether the state constitution has too many amendments, given that once something is in the constitution it takes another statewide vote to change or remove a provision.

In contrast, a new law approved

by voters can later be amended by the legislature.

Some groups have long tried to make amending the constitution harder. A successful 2016 constitutional amendment both imposes geographic requirements for gathering signatures and requires a 55 percent vote to pass an amendment. The new signature requirements didn't seem to deter any amendments this year, and election day results will tell us about the impact of the 55 percent requirement.

Colorado's constitution is about 45,000 words, higher than the average of about 26,000 words for state constitutions and it far exceeds the 7,591 words in the U.S. Constitution.

How Measures Get on the Ballot: Initiatives and Referenda

There are only two ways for measures to get on the ballot. **Initiatives** are proposals made by citizens (usually advocacy and special interest groups) that have gathered the required number of petition signatures. A measure approved by two-thirds votes of both houses of the legislature is called a **referendum**.

Here are the state measures that will be on your ballot this election, along with links to full proposal texts and explanations. State proposals are grouped by their significance, not by ballot order. This ballot guide is posted at FrontPorchNE.com with links to the full text of the ballot issues and their legislative analyses, which are not included in this print version.

The Big Measures

Amendment 73 — Funding for Public Schools

What it would do – The amendment would generate an estimated additional \$1.6 billion in the first full year for school districts by raising income tax rates for individuals who earn more than \$150,000 a year and by raising corporate income tax rates. (Current total funding for the state's 178 school districts is

about \$9.8 billion in state and local funds.) The amendment also would change the constitution so as to stabilize local property tax revenues for schools - but not other units of local government.

Who's behind it – Advocacy for the amendment is being led by Great Education Colorado, a citizen group that long has pushed for increased school funding. It's also strongly supported (continued on page 14)



NE neighbors attended an information session about Amendment 73 at the Sam Gary Library in

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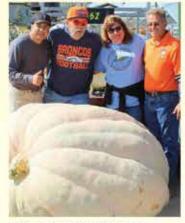


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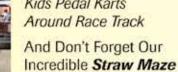
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by various "mainline" education groups – teacher unions and the school boards and school administrator associations.

Context and history – Spending on Colorado schools is governed by three constitutional amendments and a 24-year-old state law that contains the formula for allocating money to school districts.

The complicated interplay of those amendments has created problems and uncertainties. School funding has to increase annually by inflation and enrollment growth under the terms of one amendment. But the terms of another amendment have reduced districts' local property tax revenues, forcing the state to pick up a greater share of school costs. And because a third amendment controls annual growth in state spending, rising school spending has squeezed other state programs in lean budget years and forced the legislature to create a mechanism that allows it to limit K-12 increases if it needs to do so to balance the budget. That mechanism was upheld by the Colorado Supreme Court a few years ago.

So while school spending continues to grow, many other states have pulled ahead of Colorado in per-pupil support, and in recent years school districts also have been forced to pick up many of the costs of new state requirements.

School district leaders have been increasingly stressed about funding, but two previous proposed tax increases failed, one in 2011 and the other in 2013.

How it would work — On the tax side, the amendment would change the state's current 4.63 percent income tax rate only for taxpayers earning \$150,000 or more a year. Depending on their incomes, the rates would range from 5 to 8.25 percent. The changes would affect an estimated 8.2 percent of taxpayers.

The corporate tax rate, now also at 4.63 percent, would rise to 7 percent.

And the amendment would create a separate property tax system for schools. Under the constitution, residential and commercial assessment rates can fluctuate. For example, the current residential rate is 7.2 percent

but is expected to slide to 6.1 percent. The commercial rate is 29 percent.

The amendment would fix the residential rate at 7 percent and the commercial rate at 24 percent. However the impacts for taxpayers would vary widely because property valuations and tax rates are very different from school district to school district. The fluctuating system of assessment rates would remain in place for counties, cities, fire districts and other local governments.

On the spending side, the amendment would require the legislature to create a new school funding formula to increase base per pupil funding, ensure equitable funding among districts, provide additional funding for certain specialized and early childhood programs and

early childhood programs and also provide support for the recruitment and retention of teachers.

Pros and cons – Broadly, proponents believe more school funding is needed to restore cuts made after the 2008 recession and to meet the needs of a student population that's more diverse than in the past. They point to low teachers' salaries and the larger number of districts on four-day weeks as examples of the need.

While there isn't organized opposition, critics of increased school funding argue there's no guarantee that more spending will improve academic achievement, believe schools should more efficiently spend the money they receive now and that higher taxes would hurt Colorado's economy.

Energy Development — Proposition 112 & Amendment 74

Colorado's long-running debate over energy development has moved to the voters



This photo of a well pad being constructed near Erie was on the front page of the *Front Porch* in February 2018, when the neighborhood learned that an area in Stapleton was being considered for drilling.

—Photo by Evan Anderman

this year with two measures.

Proposition 112 — Setback Requirements for Oil and Gas Operations

What it would do – This proposal would require oil and natural gas extraction facilities be located at least 2,500 feet from occupied structures, water sources and other "vulnerable" areas.

Who's behind it — A group named Colorado Rising is the main organization behind the plan, which also is backed by environmental groups and neighborhood activists along the northern Front Range.

Context and history — This is the latest clash in the long-running grudge match over appropriate energy development between neighborhood groups and local governments on one side and well-funded oil and gas interests on the other. The battle has raged before state regulators and city councils, through the halls of the legislature and in state courtrooms. The energy industry has maintained that current regulations

are more than sufficient and that uniform regulation by the state is best. Their opponents have been stymied in their efforts to allow local regulation of drillers, so the setback proposal is their latest effort.

How it would work — The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission currently requires wells and production facilities be at least 500 feet from homes or other occupied buildings and 1,000 feet from schools, hospitals, other high occupancy buildings and neighborhoods with at least 22 structures. Those setbacks can be waived in certain circumstances. The initiative would increase the setback to at least 2,500 feet, include water sources and other areas state and local governments designate as vulnerable and not allow waivers.

Pros and cons — Supporters believe oil and gas operations present health and safety risks from emissions, leaks, explosions and other hazards and so should be located farther from homes, businesses, schools and other development. Opponents believe such safety





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concerns are overstated, but they primarily are stressing the argument that the initiative would effectively ban energy development on 85 percent of non-federal land in Colorado, thereby decimating the energy industry, harming the economy and reducing tax revenues.

Amendment 74 — Compensation for Government-caused Losses in Value of Property

What it would do – The amendment would broaden the kinds of government actions that require compensation of private property owners for loss of property value.

Who's behind it — The Colorado Farm Bureau and the Oil and Gas Industry.

Context and history – This proposal is an opposing idea to Proposition 112.

Amendment 74 would require a government to compensate a property owner for a decrease in the market value of property caused by any regulatory action. Specifically, if a local government puts restrictions on energy development that mean a mineral rights owner can't fully develop an oil field, the property owner would have to be compensated.

How it would work – Most of us are familiar with "eminent domain," the legal procedure that allows a government to condemn a lot you own, pay you for it and then run a new street through that parcel. Legal precedent also requires a government agency to pay you if some other action results in almost total loss of a property's value.

This amendment broadens the circumstances under which property owners would have to be compensated.

The farm bureau supports this because lots of farmers, especially in northeastern Colorado, earn money from energy companies that develop oil and gas beneath their land.

Pros and cons – The energy industry and farmers say the amendment provides basic fairness, but environmental groups and the Colorado Municipal League strongly oppose it, warning of unintended consequence-

es and hamstringing of local government. Gov. John Hickenlooper also opposes the amendment.

Transportation Funding — Proposition 110 & Proposition 109

Voters face competing measures on how to pay for improvements to Colorado's stressed highway and transportation systems, an issue that has bedeviled the legislature for several years but hasn't been resolved to the satisfaction of various interest groups.

Proposition 110 — Transportation Funding with Tax Increase

What it would do — This plan would allow the state to borrow up to \$6 billion for transportation projects by increasing the state sales tax to 3.52 percent for 20 years, up from 2.9 percent.

Who's behind it — The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce and other major business interests are the prime backers on the plan.

How it would work — The additional sales tax would allow borrowing of up to \$6 billion, with repayment costs of \$9.4 million over 20 years. The new revenue would be distributed along these lines — 45 percent for the Colorado Department of Transportation, 40 percent to local governments and 15 percent for "multi-modal" transportation projects.

Proposition 109 — Transportation Funding without Tax Increase

What it would do — This plan requires the state to borrow up to \$3.5 billion in 2019 to fund 66 already-specified state highway projects.

Who's behind it — John Caldera of the conservative Independence Institute think tank. Known for his colorful language, he's dubbed it the "fix our damn roads" plan.

How it would work – In contrast to the

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4930 Wabash St Denver, CO 80238 303-577-1500 RoseStapletonER.com chamber's plan, this measure would require the bonds be repaid without raising taxes or fees, perhaps affecting what law-makers can spend on other programs. The maximum allowed repayment amount would be \$5.2 billion over 20 years.

Comparing Propositions 110 & 109

Context and history — Colorado lawmakers and interest groups have been fighting over this issue for years. Everyone agrees the state needs to spend more money on highways and other transportation needs, but there's disagreement over how to pay for it. Business groups and Democrats believe increased tax revenue is needed for transportation to avoid squeezing current spending on education and health care for the poor. Republicans and conservative pressure groups believe bonds can be paid off from existing state revenues, and many think the state spends too much on Medicaid.

The 2017 and 2018 legislative sessions provided modest increases in transportation funding, but not enough to satisfy advocacy groups. One of those legislative initiatives allows borrowing with bonds backed by the value of some state buildings.

Pros and cons – Both measures want to do the same thing, just with different amounts and sources of money and for different projects. How one votes depends on your feelings about those different methods.

Scenarios – Having two different measures on the same subject creates complications depending on what voters decide. Here are the possibilities:

If the no-tax plan passes and the other fails, then the legislature will have to cancel most of its \$1.5 billion bond plan passed in 2017, but the no-tax plan would fund only \$2 billion in additional projects.

If the tax plan passes and the no-tax initiative fails, both the legislature's 2017 plan and the new spending go into effect.

If both pass, both spending plans would go into effect, but the whole thing

could end up in court.

Defeat of both measures would trigger a 2019 ballot measure asking support of another, \$2.3 billion legislative bonding plan. (This fallback plan is part of a plan passed by the 2018 legislature.)

Congressional and Legislative District Boundaries — Amendment Y & Amendment Z

Redrawing congressional and legislative district boundaries after each federal census long has been a bitterly partisan process and often has ended with judges making the decisions. This year the political parties and the legislature have united behind two plans to end all that. Now it's up to the voters.

Amendment Y— Congressional Redistricting

What it would do – Create an independent, politically balanced Congressional Redistricting Commission to draw new boundaries for the state's congressional districts following the U.S. Census every 10 years.

Context and history – The constitution currently gives the legislature the responsibility for drawing congressional district boundaries. If lawmakers can't agree, the courts step in, which has happened during the last four redistricting cycles. Various, and competing, plans for changing the system have been proposed in recent years. The major political parties and other groups finally agreed on the plan that became Amendment Y.

How it would work — The commission would have 12 members, four from the state's largest political party (Democratic now), four from the second largest party (Republican), and four unaffiliated.

Commissioners would be selected by a panel of retired judges from the state supreme court and court of appeals. Those judges would winnow the applicant pool twice and then randomly select commission members. (Four members would be selected from a pool chosen by legislative leaders.) The amendment sets various qualifications



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Governor Hickenlooper gives the 2016 State-of-the-State Address to the members of the State House and Senate, the Colorado Supreme Court and other government officials.

for commissioner applicants and bans recent candidates, lobbyists, current officeholders and some others from applying.

The commission would consider maps prepared by non-partisan legislative staff and the public, hold public hearings and select a final map approved by a minimum of eight commissioners, including at least two of the unaffiliated members. The amendment sets criteria the commission must consider in drawing districts. The commission's final map would have to be approved by the Colorado Supreme Court. If the commission couldn't agree, staff would submit a map to the court.

Pros and cons – Proponents of the commission idea argue that it would be less partisan, more transparent and more structured than the current system. Opponents believe the idea removes accountability, because none of the participants in the new process would be elected and accountable to voters, and the commission concept is too complex and could lead to unintended consequences.

Amendment Z — Legislative Redistricting

What it would do - Create an independent, politically balanced Legislative Redistricting Commission to draw new boundaries for the state's legislative districts following the U.S. Census every 10 years.

Context and history – The existing eleven-member Colorado Reapportionment Commission prepares maps for the 100 state Senate and House districts and submits them to the Colorado Supreme Court for approval. Commission members are appointed by the governor, legislative leaders and the chief justice. But up to six members of the commission may belong to the same political party.

How it would work – Provisions setting the size, appointment of members and operations of the new commission are the same as specified for the congressional commission.

Pros and cons – Broad arguments for and against the two measures are similar.

Other Proposals of Note

Amendment 75 — Limits on Some Campaign **Contributions**

What it would do – Under this proposal, limits on individual campaign contributions would be waived in races where one or more candidates have spent \$1 million or more on their own campaigns.

Who's behind it - Greg Brophy, a former GOP state senator and unsuccessful candidate for governor, is the public face of this proposal.

Context and history - Colorado has a complicated set of campaign contribution limits in the state constitution, but there is no limit on the amount of money a wealthy candidate can contribute or loan to his or

her own campaign. In the last eight years, four candidates in statewide races have contributed or loaned more than \$1 million to their own campaigns.

The most recent examples are Jared Polis, the current Democratic candidate for governor, and Victor Mitchell, who was defeated in the Republican gubernatorial primary.

How it would work – The current limit on individual contributions to statewide candidates is \$1,150. If a candidate contributes or loans \$1 million or more, that limit would increase to \$5,750. (In some cases, \$1 million contributions to outside campaign committees also would trigger the increase.)

Pros and cons – Supporters of the idea argue the amendment would level the playing field in races with rich candidates, but opponents warn passage actually injects more money into state races and further complicates an already cumbersome and somewhat opaque finance system.

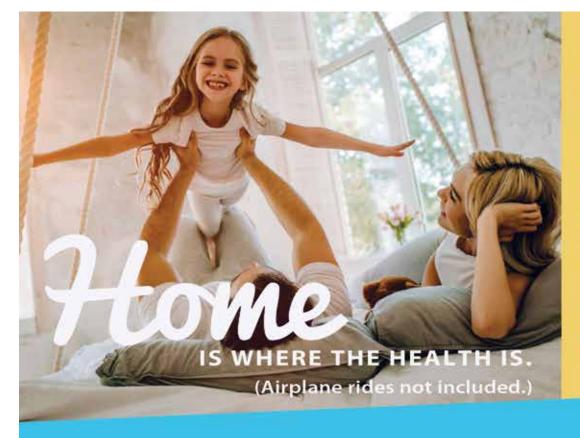
Proposition 111 — Regulation of **Payday Loans**

What it would do – Under this initiative, the annual interest rate on payday loans would be limited to 36 percent and the definition of unfair trade practices concerning such loans would be expanded.

Who's behind it - A group named Coloradans to Stop Predatory Payday Loans is promoting the measure, which also is supported by some economic justice and consumer protection agencies.

Context and history - Payday loans got their name because they're often used by people who need cash to pay bills between paychecks. The idea is you take out a shortterm loan to pay bills and then pay it back after you get paid. In the real world the high interest rates and fees charged by payday





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Front Porch - NE Denver 17 October 2018 lenders make it hard for many borrowers to pay off in full, meaning their debts mount month after month. Current interest rates can be as high as 180 percent. Several states have set the 36 percent limit, but regulation efforts have failed in the Colorado legisla-

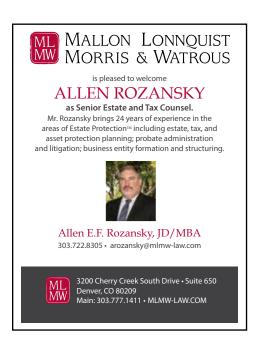
How it would work – The amendment would limit annual interest to 36 percent, eliminate fees currently charged by lenders, and impose the limits on lenders who don't have physical offices in the state but who operate online.

Pros and cons – Advocates long have argued that payday lending victimizes low-income people and needs tighter controls. The industry argues that it's providing a service for people who need loans but can't get them elsewhere because of poor credit records. (Payday loans generally don't require credit

The Rest of the (State) List

Amendment A — Prohibition of Slavery and **Involuntary Servitude**

What it would do -A yes vote would remove old language from the constitution that



would appear to allow "slavery and involuntary servitude" as punishment for crime.

Who's behind it - The primary backers are legislators, mostly Democrats, who are uncomfortable with the mention of slavery in the state constitution.

Context and history - This involves old language that goes back to the 19th century, wording that's also in the U.S. Constitution. Courts have ruled that required convict work programs are allowed under both the state and federal constitutions. A previous version of this was defeated by voters in 2016, apparently because of widespread confusion about the wording.

How it would work – This is a simple removal of language.

Pros and cons – Supporters argue the constitution shouldn't contain any references to slavery. There's no apparent opposition.

Amendment V — Age Requirement for Members of the Legislature

What it would do — Reduce the age requirement to serve in the legislature from 25 to

Who's behind it - Proposed by the legislature.

Context and history – This was proposed a decade ago but was defeated by voters. Some states set the minimum age at 18; it can be as old as 30 in other states.

How it would work - The new age requirement would be in effect for the 2020 legislative elections and for filling legislative vacancies before then.

Pros and cons – The argument made for this is that people who are full citizens otherwise should be able to serve at the Capitol. The traditional argument on the other side is that legislative service requires a bit more maturity.

Amendment W — Ballot Format for Judicial Elections

What it would do – Streamline language on the section of the ballot where judges up for retention are listed.

Who's behind it - Proposed by legislature

Context and history – In Colorado, judges don't run in competitive elections. Rather, they are appointed to the bench and serve terms. When one term ends, a judge's name goes on the ballot and voters can vote yes or no on whether the judge should be "retained" on the bench.

How it would work - Particularly in larger counties, a lot of judges are on the ballot every election. The constitution currently requires this question to be printed for each judge: "Shall Judge John Doe of the [name of court] be retained in office?"

Under the amendment there would be a single question reading "Shall the following judges of the [name of court] be retained in office?" followed by a list of names.

Pros and cons – The proposal could somewhat shorten Colorado's long ballots, but some observers worry the language change could confuse voters.

Amendment X — Definition of Industrial Hemp

What it would do – The proposal would remove the definition of industrial hemp from the state constitution.

Who's behind it – Hemp producers. The amendment was placed on the ballot by the legislature.

Context and history – Hemp is a botanical relative of marijuana that has very little THC, the "active" ingredient in marijuana. Hemp fibers have a wide variety of industrial and consumer uses and hemp farming is a growing industry. The definition, which sets a maximum level of THC, was placed in the constitution as part of the broader 2012 constitutional amendment that legalized recreational marijuana.

How it would work - The definition of industrial hemp would become part of state law so could easily be changed by the legislature to meet changes in federal law

Pros and cons – Supporters say taking the definition out of the constitution would

enable the state's hemp industry to stay competitive with other states as regulatory changes are made. There's no opposition.

Denver Ballot Measures

Denver ballot measures usually have a lower profile than state initiatives, but city proposals deserve close review because they regularly propose tax increases.

This year four measures propose sales tax increases. Purchases made in Denver currently are subject to 7.65 percent sales tax, including state taxes and non-city taxes like

RTD. If all four proposed taxes pass, the combined total in Denver would rise to 8.23

Breaking through the 8 percent level may give you pause, but it's by no means unusual. Many suburban communities and Colorado Springs already have higher sales tax rates, and the steepest in the state is Winter Park's 11.2 percent.

Total 2019 revenue from the four measures, if passed, would be about \$116 million. The city's overall budget is about \$2 billion.

Measures Proposed by City Council

Referred Question 2A — Trails and Open Space Tax

The proposal increases the sales and use tax by a rate of 0.25 percent and dedicates the revenue to fund Denver parks, trails and open space. The measure is expected to generate nearly \$46 million if adopted.

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Westerly Creek Park in Stapleton, designed both for recreational use and for flood control, successfully kept the storm water from a hundred-year flood in September 2013 out of streets and basements.

Referred Question 2B — Initiative Signature Requirements —

Currently, petitions for city ballot measures must contain a number of signatures equal to or greater than 5 percent of the total vote for mayor in the most recent election. This plan changes the petition signature requirement to 2 percent of the total number of active city registered voters as of Jan. 1 of the most recent odd- numbered year. The proposal is intended to smooth fluctuations in signature requirements that are caused by varying turnout in mayoral elections. The requirement has fluctuated between 4,000 and 6,000 signatures since 2003.

The plan would raise the requirement for the 2019 municipal election from about 5,000 signatures to more than 8,000 because of the city's population growth and the fact that the 2015 mayoral vote was relatively quiet.

Referred Question 2C — Qualifications for Lateral Police Hires

The amendment would allow applicants for the police department who already are certified as peace officers through another agency and have a minimum of two years' experience to start the Denver Police Academy at the rate of pay for police officer 2nd grade, followed by faster promotion to 1st grade after graduation. Similar provisions would apply to applicants with four years' experience.

Referred Question 2D — Authority for City Clerk to Make Appointments

The amendment makes the elections director a civil service employee rather than an appointee of the city clerk. The amendment also gives the clerk the flexibility of two additional hires to address the office's changing needs.

The measure is considered a routine reclassification of the job into a more appropriate civil service category of city employment.

Referred Question 2E — Matching Fund for Campaign Contributions

This ordinance replaces a similar ordinance that would have appeared on the November 2018 ballot as a citizen initiative. The ordinance puts new lower limits on campaign contributions and creates a public financing mechanism whereby a participating candidate would receive a 9-to-1 match on contributions.

The measure would lower per-donor contribution limits from \$3,000 to \$1,000 for mayoral candidates; from \$2,000 to \$700 for candidates for auditor, clerk and the two at-large council seats; and from \$1,000 to \$400 for the council's 11 district seats. Those new amounts would be pegged to inflation.

The city also would have to allocate about \$2 million a year to a Fair Elections Fund, with a cap set at \$8 million. The city would provide \$450 for every \$50 donation raised by participating candidates, who would have to agree to even lower contribution limits and participate in debates.

Measures Placed on Ballot by Petition

Initiated Ordinance 300 — College Affordability Fund

The proposal increases the sales and use tax by a rate of 0.08 percent and dedicates the revenue to fund college scholarships and support, including career and academic counseling, tutoring, mentoring and financial aid. The ordinance creates a nonprofit to direct the revenue. It would raise about \$14 million.

Initiated Ordinance 301 — Caring 4 Denver

The measure increases the sales and use tax by a rate of 0.25 percent and dedicates the revenue to expand funding for mental health services and treatment for children and adults; suicide prevention programs; opioid and substance abuse prevention, treatment and recovery programs; housing and case management services to reduce homelessness; improve long-term recovery and reduce the use of jails and emergency rooms for those with mental health and substance abuse needs. The ordinance creates a nonprofit to direct the revenue.

Initiated Ordinance 302 — Healthy Food for Denver's Kids

The initiative increases the sales and use tax by a rate of 0.08 percent and dedicates the revenue to provide resources for the Healthy Food for Denver's Kids Initiative. The ordinance creates a Denver Food Commission to direct the revenue.

But Wait, There's One More

Ballot Issue 7G — Urban Drainage and Flood Control District Property Tax Increase

Voters in Denver and several suburban jurisdictions will decide on a property tax increase proposed by the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, which manages and oversees drainage and flood control infrastructure in the metro area.

When it was created in 1969, the district was given the power to levy a property tax of one mill. The automatic ratchet-down provisions of the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights have shrunk that tax rate to .56 mills, reducing district revenue by \$23 million.

The district is asking voters to restore the original 1 mill rate.

The overall tax rate for Denver homeowners is about 77 mills, including city, school district and other taxes. So raising the drainage district's levy would have minimal impact on tax bills.



VOTER INFORMATION

allots must be turned in by Election Day, Nov. 6 at 7pm. You can register and vote at a Voter Service Center (VSC) right up to 7pm on Election Day.

NE Denver has three Voter Service Centers where you can register or cast your ballot. Hours are Monday - Friday from 10am to 6pm starting October 22. Saturdays from 10am – 2pm starting Oct. 27. And on Election Day they are open 7am to 7pm.

Central Park Recreation Center 9651 E Martin Luther King Jr Blvd Multipurpose Rm

Hiawatha Davis Jr Recreation Center 3334 N Holly St Multipurpose Room

Montclair Recreation Center 729 N Ulster Way Multipurpose Room

They also have drive-by ballot dropoff boxes that are open 24 hours a day.

Mailing of ballots to registered voters begins Oct. 15.

Denver Elections Contacts:

720-913-VOTE (8683)

DenverVotes.org

voterregistration@denvergov.org (for voter registration inquiries)

elections@denvergov.org (for general election information)

A pdf Blue Book is posted in the Front Porch Election Guide at FrontPorchNE.com with links to:

- The fiscal impact of each ballot measure
- · Recommendations on retention of judges
- An audio link to the Blue Book.

To learn more about the history of Colorado ballot measures, go to https://leg.colorado.gov/

2018 CANDIDATES

U.S. House District 1

Diana DeGette (D) (Incumbent) Casper Stockham (R) Raymon Doane (L)

CO Secretary of State

Jena Griswold (D) Wayne W. Williams (R) (Incumbent) Blake Huber Amanda Campbell

Governor

Jared Polis (D) Walker Stapleton (R) Bill Hammons Scott Helker (L)

Lt. Governor

Dianne Primavera (D) Lang Sias (R) Eric Bodenstab Michele Poague (L)

CO Attorney General

Phil Weiser (D) George Brauchler (R) William Robinson (L)

CO Treasurer

Dave Young (D) Brian Watson (R) Gerald Kilpatrick

Board of Regents At-Large

Lesley Smith (D) Ken Montera (R) Christopher Otwell James Treibert (L)

CO House of Representatives

District 6 (Lowry, Mayfair, Montclair) Chris Hansen (D) (Incumbent)

Representatives (con't.)

District 7 (All of Stapleton and the area of Park Hill/ East Colfax east of Magnolia and north of Montview Blvd.) James Coleman (D) (Incumbent) Jay Kucera (R)

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

Judicial Candidates

Colorado Supreme Court Colorado Court of Appeals Colorado Judicial District **Denver County Court**

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We're All Americans – Finding Common Ground

By Charles Borsos

here are debates and there are conversations. The former has a clear objective: to win. But a conversation doesn't have to be a zero-sum game. StoryCorps, a nonprofit organization aiming to capture diverse American

stories, launched its One Small Step project to start conversations between divided groups. These were conversations built on trying to understand the other side instead of falling into the same old policy-based argumentation.

Brave Coalition, a group already operating in NE Denver to raise awareness of social justice issues, linked up with StoryCorps to put Coloradans from both sides of the aisle in the same room to take part in this One Small Step initiative.

"That seemed like a really good first step to take," says Jennifer Anderson, a One Small Step participant from Stapleton. "I very much see how divided we are and I feel like everyone in

my life, whichever side of the aisle they are on, is only talking with people that agree with them."

She says the conversation was structured so that each pair of participants, despite differences, talked more about who

they were as individuals instead of digging into policy. Anderson acknowledged she might have wanted to discuss some policy but both sides were careful not to go in that direction

Alix Shaer says her experience showed the importance of having these conver-

face with somebody."

Shaer says that while the conversation might have been uncomfortable or awkward for some participants, accepting that uneasiness is an important step. She said participants "can feel proud of themselves in that... they got out of their comfort frustration with political discussion on the national scene. Andy Peters, a Park Hill resident and One Small Step participant, said he wasn't overly hopeful on a national level either, but took some lessons away from the initiative locally.

"It doesn't have to be a question about

big political ideologies, but just people you wouldn't normally associate with," says Peters. Peters doesn't believe the political gridlock and debate on the national stage will end soon. But, he says, after the One Small Step experience, he now thinks more about conversations across dividing lines locally.

"This is an opportunity to have conversations with people who are different—some people who live on the other side of Quebec, or north of I-70," says Peters "I think of Stapleton being a very different place and a very different people, as a person living in north

Park Hill. That's probably not actually the case. We are probably not actually that different, but it's funny to think about the neighborhoods at a local level dividing us. And people forget—we are all Denverites, we are all Coloradans."



Alix Shaer, Andrew Peters and Jennifer Anderson participated in the StoryCorps project to have conversations between divided groups. The facilitated two-person conversations, which took place at Smart Space (in the background), were based on trying to understand the other person's views.

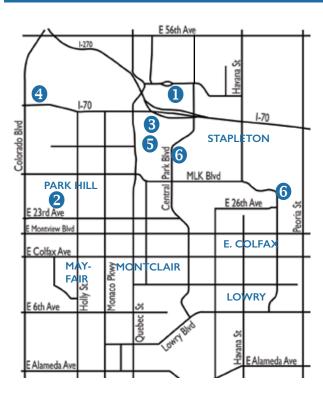
sations in person: "When people have a nameless and a faceless conversation and 'conversation'... on social media ...we all know it is really easy to fight back and to be fierce and to be mean and to be ugly. But it is not so easy when you are face to

zone to prove that they can do something that is important and can have benefits not only for him or herself but for others."

While on an individual level, One Small Step engaged pairs in civil conversation, Anderson and Shaer express



...NE News Updates



By Melinda Pearson, Mary Jo Brooks and Carol Roberts

Denver kids can now have lemonade stands.

When Stapleton mom Jennifer Knowles and her three boys set up a lemonade stand outside the Denver Art Festival in Conservatory Green back in May, they had no idea they were at the beginning of a small revolution.

A licensed vendor's complaint led to their lemondade



Jennifer Knowles and her children (left to right) Benjamin, William and Jonathan (in his mom's arms) are joined by Councilman Chris Herndon on the day City Council voted to approve children's lemonade stands.

stand being shut down by Denver police, an event that many in the community felt was a serious overreach. Denver law required that all vendors—even kids under 10-obtain a business license to sell goods in public places.

But now all that has changed, thanks to the efforts of

Knowles, whose story went so viral that the family traveled to New York to appear on Fox & Friends to tell their story, which has been picked up by news outlets across the country. The phrase "Making Lemonades out of Lemons" has become attached to the story, along with a new moniker for Knowles—"Lemonade Mom."

Thanks to the publicity and Knowles' advocacy, on September 17, the Denver City Council voted unanimously to allow kids to set up vending booths without a permit.

"The City Council vote gives the kids in our community

the ability to wake up on Saturday morning and have a lemonade stand without worrying about permits. Most of us had lemonade stands as a child, and now our children can do the same, legally," said Knowles in a response via email. "Ben, William, Jonathan and I are thrilled that we could help make a positive change in Denver. We are grateful to Denver City Council and our community for their support."

Knowles is working on a book about her experience.

Look for her family and others around town to get your next legal lemonade fix.

2 Governor Hickenlooper forms PAC to explore run for president.

Acknowledging that he has "put his toe in the water"

for a potential Presidential run, Gov. John Hickenlooper, a Park Hill neighbor, has begun campaigning on behalf of other Democratic candidates around the country. Last month he announced the formation a federal campaign committee that allows him to hire staff, study issues and stump for other candidates. It's called the Giddy Up PAC, and is led by Brad Komar, who was in charge of running his 2014 re-election campaign.

Komar told the *Front Porch* that the governor believes the current political conversation is too "anemic" and he's hoping the PAC will allow him to speak to voters more directly about the challenges in their lives. Hickenlooper's first two campaign stops were in Georgia and Florida, where he talked about the benefits of expanding Medicaid eligibility.

Independent political analyst Eric Sondermann said it's no accident the governor chose to campaign for gubernatorial candidates Stacey Abrams and Andrew Gillum. Both are African Americans from the progressive wing of the Democratic party. "He's trying to show that even though he's a centrist, business-oriented, not-all-that-confrontational Democrat, that he still has liberal bona fides. And bona fides in minority communities," said Sondermann.

In recent weeks, Gov. Hickenlooper has been the subject of several flattering national news stories, which highlighted his record as a moderate politician in a purple state. But Komar resists the notion of trying to peg Hickenlooper as either a centrist or a liberal. "It's not centrist versus progressive. It's not establishment versus anti-establishment. It's about bringing people together on common values and common goals," said Komar.

3 What's happening with the homeless camp along Sand Creek?

Concerns were raised at the September Citizens Advisory Committee about the homeless camp along Sand Creek, west of Central Park Blvd. Tom Gleason of Forest City said trail users had experienced some aggressive panhandling.

Community Resource Officer Marika Putnam said the police outreach team is working with the homeless people living there, offering assistance to get community and mental health services for those who want such services. People who are camping there have told police they regularly clean up their camps. Putnam says when the DPD cleans up, they ask that people put the items

> they no longer want in a pile to help with the clean up. When the police do a clean up, they bring in a full-sized dumpster, a haz-mat team (to deal with small propane tanks and possible human waste), numerous officers, city officials, and a few inmates from the jail who are supervised by Denver Sheriff

> Putnam said the police response has been that the area is mostly out of sight and if the residents of the camp aren't creating problems, they have allowed them to stay due to the fact that once a camp is moved, another will move in. However, if a complaint is brought to the department's attention, it is handled.

The land has been owned by DIA and was scheduled to be sold to Forest City in late September. Gleason said the land will be used to store fill dirt for future construction. The police will be regularly checking on people at the camp and reminding them of the upcoming move. Once the land transfer is complete and fencing is scheduled to go in, the camp will be removed and no trespass signs will be posted.



Governor Hickenlooper introduces Hillary Clinton at a campaign stop in Commerce City in 2016.

4 I-70 Noise variance approved with conditions.

At a Sept. 6 meeting, the Board of Public Health and Environment reviewed the request for a night time noise variance by Kiewit Meridiam Partners, the contractor for reconstruction of I-70. After consideration of possible public health effects, safety, scheduling, proximity of residences, comments from the public, and information from Kiewit, the board approved a variance with conditions to minimize the negative impact of nighttime noise, with the variance to extend no later than Sept. 6, 2019.

A 20-page document posted with this story on our website details the decision, with noise level limits and other mitigating measures that include:

- Limiting the number of consecutive nights noise levels can exceed stated levels in a specific neighborhood
- Noise monitoring must be done in response to complaints to verify if levels were exceeded
- When noise is predicted to exceed allowable levels, hotel accommodation and/or per diem food and transportation will be available for residents

5 What's happening with the request for quiet zones on the A Line?

Denver Transit Partners reinstated crossing guards at specific A line crossings where timing anomalies occurred with the crossing gates. Software changes to the Positive Train Control (PTC) system have been tested and installed on G line trains, and will continue being tested until they can complete a number of end-to-end runs without any anomalies. Once the FRA is satisfied with the results, they will allow deployment of the software update to the entire fleet and the A & B Lines, according to Lisa Trujillo, manager of project outreach for RTD.

Regarding the quiet zone waiver, Trujillo said by email that it was submitted on August 3, 2018, and the FRA put a Notice in the September 4, 2018 Federal Register. They have asked for comments by October 19, 2018. RTD will continue to ensure that all applications and petitions for waivers are complete and accurate to expedite the establishment of Quiet Zones, added Trujillo.

6 When will the Central Park Bridge open and when will MLK extension to Havana start?

The Central Park Bridge is still expected to open at the end of October, according to Nancy Kuhn, Denver Public Works communication manager.

Kuhn also says, "The current anticipated start for the construction (of the MLK extension to Peoria) is early November." The Front Porch will follow up with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) in November and provide more detail on the project start up then.



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22 October 2018 Front Porch - NE Denver

October & Early November Events

NORTHEAST DENVER/ AURORA EVENTS

These events were submitted online. Please double check dates and times using the contact info provided.

Free Flu Shots in October—Rose Stapleton ER every Monday and Friday in Oct 7:30am-12:30pm and Saturdays 10/13 and 10/27 8am-5pm. While supplies last. 4930 Wabash St 303.577.1500 www.rosestapletonER.com

10/1 to 12/7—Denver Leaf drop 2018. Weekday and weekend drop sites, prefer leaves in paper bags, Free 5 pack of 30 gallon leaf bags at Denver ACE Hardware stores. Dates times and locations at DenverGov.org or call 311.

To 10/7—Watching Night Falling. See your cityscape in a whole new way on a one-mile walk through the streets and greenways. \$18-35. Tickets at www.watching-night.brownpapertickets.com 2501 Dallas St., Aurora/patrick@controlgroupproductions.org

To 10/8—Stapleton Food Drive. Presented by New Perspective Real Estate. To volunteer/donate, www.StapletonFoodDrive.com

Fridays to 10/10—The DeLaney Mobile Farm Stand at Stanley. The Plaza at Stanley Marketplace, Wednesdays, 1:30 to 3:30PM. www. stanleymarketplace.com

10/5 Friday—Bonfils Blood Drive. | lam-3pm, Stanley Marketplace south parking lot. www. stanleymarketplace.com

10/9 Tuesday—Tapas & Tempranillo -Cooking with Chef Maggie O'Toole. Learn to make classic Spanish Tapas in a fun environment. www.stanleymarketplace.com 2501 Dallas Street Aurora, CÓ 80010, Aurora/720-841-2545

10/11 Thursday—How to Talk So Kids Will Listen. 6:30pm. An interactive parenting and educator's workshop by Joanna Faber, renowned parenting expert, author, speaker and educator. The Cube, 8371 Northfield Blvd. RSVP: JewishStapleton. com/Faber. \$5/person online; \$8/person at the door. Presented by The Jewish Life Center—Chabad Denver North.

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

10/11 Thursday—Knitting Circle. Bring your knitting or crochet project and join other crafters in conversation around the Sam Gary fireplace. Also on 10/25 at 5:30-7:30 pm www. denverlibrary.org/event/knitting-circle-20/ Sam Gary Branch Library 2961 Roslyn St., Denver/720-865-0325

10/11 Thursday—Active Minds: Colorado Ballot. Join Active Minds for an objective review of the current issues on the ballot this fall. We will review each proposal, presenting the arguments on both sides. www.denverlibrary.org Sam Gary Branch Library 2961 Roslyn St. /720-865-0325

10/12 Friday—Reading Partners Colorado fundraiser: Road to Reading. Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 7 pm. For information and tickets call Amber at 720-409-9909 or email amber.matkowski@readingpartners.org.

10/13 Saturday—The Aging Workforce: 'Seasoned' Employees, Second Careers and the Coming Job Boom. Learn about jobs and second careers for older adults, and which fields need young professionals now as our society lives longer. The Connected & Creative Aging Series is in collaboration with AARP. No registration required. www.denverlibrary.org Sam Gary Branch Library 2961 Roslyn St. Denver 720-865-0325

10/15 Monday—League of Women **Voters Denver Presents: Need Help Understanding the November Ballot** Issues? 5:30 pm Coffee/networking, 6:00 pm presentation. http://LWVDenver.org/ Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St., McCollum Room, Denver

10/18 Thursday—Science in the News: Why We Haven't Cured Cancer. www. denverlibrary.org/event/science-news-0/ Sam Gary Branch Library 2961 Roslyn St. Denver/720-865-0325

10/20 Saturday—Creative and Connected Aging: Resource Open House. Learn about an empowered vision of getting older, and connect with community organizations and programs to help you stay engaged and fulfilled www. denverlibrary.org/event/creative-and-connectedaging-resource-open-house/ Sam Gary Branch Library 2961 Roslyn St. Denver 720-865-0325

10/21 Sunday—Sam Gary Literary.

Monthly book club, October title is Language of Secrets. 2pm. www.denverlibrary.org/event/ sam-gary-literary-9/ Sam Gary Branch Library 296 I Roslyn St. 720-865-0325

10/23 to 11/29—Adult Art Classes at **Denver School of the Arts.** Beginning Drawing: 5 weeks, Tuesdays, 6 - 8:00 p.m.; Introduction to Watercolor: 4 weeks, Wednesdays, 6 - 8, Printmaking Sampler: 5 weeks, Thursdays, 6 - 8 p.m. Detailed information and registration forms debrosenbaum.com http://debrosenbaum.com/ DSA, 7111 Montview Blvd, Denver

10/24 Wednesday—Full Moon Hike. Morrison Nature Center, Star K Ranch. 6:15-7:15pm. www.auroragov.org/nature

10/26 Friday—In Stitches Quilting Meeting. A "Grands" sewing, quilting and friendship group that makes quilts for Children's Hospital, University Hospital and the community. 4th Fridays, January through October, 9:30 a.m. at 5273 N. Beeler Street. Contact: Cheryl at 720-498-3823

10/31 to 11/11—Denver International Film Festival. 200+ films, panels, workshops and more. www.denverfilmfestival.denverfilm.org

II/I Thursday—Quick Suppers: 5-Ingredient Chowders. Instant comfort food that comes together in a flash. Dinner? Done! www.denverlibrary.org/event/quick-suppers-5-ingredient-chowders/ Sam Gary Branch Library 2961 Roslyn St., Denver/720-865-0325

11/2 Friday—Vegas Night in Staple-

ton. Evening of entertainment featuring casino games with professional dealers and regulation equipment, prizes, DJ music/dancing, hors d'oeuvres and a full bar. Open to all adults 21+ in the Stapleton community and beyond. Benefits Westerly Creek Elementary. Purchase tickets online by 11/1/18 at www.StapletonNightOut. com. The Hangar at Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas St #135, Aurora. For info email: casinonight@thewcepta.com

I I/4 Sunday—Fall Fest 5k (Bolder Boulder qualifying event) presented by The Goddard School. Inaugural 5k Charity run (by The Goddard School) is a Bolder Boulder qualifying race/walk in memory of Luke Wyatt Morin. All proceeds go to Children's Hospital Colorado to support research for DIPG. Central Park, 9651 E. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Stapleton. https://runsignup.com/Race/CO/Denver/GoddardFallFest5k

SEASONAL/HOLIDAY **LOCAL EVENTS**

Additional events outside of Denver can be found at (continued on page 24)



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LOCAL EVENTS

(continued from page 23)

FrontPorchNE.com/events. Set filter for Seasonal/Holiday Events.

10/7 Sunday—Harvest Festival and Pumpkin Patch. Benefit Isabella Bird Community School, pumpkins, music, games, cider, chili, inflatables, kids climbing wall and Horse-Drawn Hayrides. Tickets \$20. www.ibcscouncil.org/harvest-festival/1701 N. Lima St., Denver

10/13 Saturday—Candy Crawl at Northfield. 3-5pm, trick or treating, hay rides, contests and more. www.NorthfieldStapleton.com

Sat. & Sun. Oct 13–14 —Park Hill Open Studio Tour. Free self-guided tour of local artists' studios featuring handmade art, refreshments and unique locations. Begin at 6100 E. 23rd St., Denver to pick up a map. 303-377-2353. www. artgaragedenver.com

10/14 Sunday—FarmFest at The Urban Farm. Pumpkin patch, pumpkin painting, animal viewing, family-friendly activities and crafts, music and food. Tickets at TheUrbanFarm. org (See story on page 10.)

10/21 Sunday—Bike Shop Girl Fall Festival & Kidical Mass Denver Bike Ride. 10 am. Family-Friendly Bike Ride. 1.5-3 miles, all welcome, helmets required. www.bikeshopgirl.com/ 10255 E 25th Ave, Unit A I, Aurora, Aurora/hello@ bikeshopgirl.com

10/27 Sunday—Boo on the Bluff-Trick or Treat Trail at Bluff Lake Nature Center.
10am-1pm. Games, activities, fall themed photo booth, for tickets and info: www.blufflake.org.

10/27 Sunday—Hauntings at the Hangar. Halloween festivities at Wings Over the Rockies Museum. 12-4pm. Free with museum admission. www.wingsmuseum.org

10/28 Sunday—Free Morrison Nature Center Trick or Treat Trail. Star K Ranch. Booths, scavenger hunt. 1-4pm. 16002 E. Smith Rd. www.auroragov.org/nature

10/28—Botanic Gardens Corn

Maze. Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield, 8500 W. Deer Creek Canyon Rd. www.botanicgardens.org

To 10/31—Nick's Fall Festival. Daily family fun activities.
Great Pumpkin weigh-off 10/6. Nick's Garden Center, 2001 S. Chambers Rd, Aurora. 303.696.6657, www.nicksgardencenter.com

To 11/10—13th Floor Haunted House. www.13thfloorhaunted-house.com

10/5 to 10/27— Enchanted Hollows. Weekends, 6-9:30pm. Tickets required, purchase in advance only. Recommended for ages 8+, costumes welcome, immersive night walk, animal demonstrations, Jack O Lantern sculptures and more. www. denverzoo.org

10/6 Saturday—12th Annual Denver Zombie Crawl. Ham-5pm. Skyline Park. www.eyeheartbrains.com

10/6 to 10/7—Pumpkin Harvest Festival. Four Mile Historic Park. Horse-drawn wagon rides, pumpkin patch, build a scarecrow. 10am-4pm. 715 S. Forest St. www. fourmilepark.org

10/12 to 10/27— Victorian Horrors at the Molly Brown House. Fri./Sat. evenings, 6-8:45pm. \$20. Reservations required.

Ages 12 and up. www.

mollybrown.org

10/17 to 10/25— Glow at the Gardens. Select Wednesdays/Thursdays. 5:30-9:30pm. Denver Botanic Gardens lights up

night with jack-o-lanterns, luminarias, storytellers, scavenger hunts. Ticket prices: www.botanicgardens.org

10/19 Friday—Scream Scram 5K. Benefits Boys and Girls Clubs of Denver. Washington Park. 6:30pm. Prizes for costumes, Trick or Treat Street, 100-meter kids dash. www. screamscram.org

10/20 to 10/28—Boo at the Zoo. Both weekends. Trick/treat

stations, animal demos, family-friendly entertainment. Free with admission. www.denverzoo.org

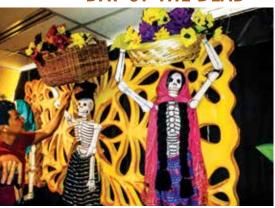
10/21 Sunday—Good Vibrations: Free Family Concert with the Lamont Percussion Ensemble. Sunday, Oct. 21, 2:00 p.m. at Denver School of the Arts. Call 303-388-9839 or email tickets@friendsofchambermusic.com. www. friendsofchambermusic

10/26 to 10/28—Trick or Treat Street at The Children's Museum. 9am-7:30pm. Trick/treat stations, Halloween activities included in admission. www.mychildsmuseum. org

10/27 to 10/28—Colorado Railroad Museum's Trick or Treat Train. Rides/activities. 10am-4pm.Ticket prices: www.coloradorailroadmuseum.org

10/28 Sunday—Neighborhood Trunk or Treat at Augustana Lutheran Church. Decorated Cars, games, costumes encouraged, pumpkin carving and snacks. FREE. Nominal charge for some activities. 5000 E Alameda Ave. 303.388.4678

DAY OF THE DEAD



10/12 -11/1 City of Longmont Family-Friendly Celebration.

Events, include sugar skull-making, storytelling and gallery talks. www. longmontcolorado.gov/departments/ departments-e-m/museum/education/ day-of-the-dead

II/I - II/23 Art Gym Gallery Exhibition of Local Latino Artists. Opening reception II/I, 5-8pm. I460 Leyden St, Denver. www.artgymdenver.com. 303.320.8347 and Mexican Cultural Center Celebration. Food, beverages, altars and workshops. 3:30-7:30pm at the City of Aurora People's Building. www. mccdenver.org/mccwp/program/dia-

de-los-muertos-in-aurora/

II/2 Friday—Mexican Cultural Center Celebration. Art, music and more. 5-7pm. 303.321.2443. 5350 Leetsdale Dr #200w, Denver. www. mccdenver.org/mccwp/

I I/2—First Friday Art Walk Parade in Santa Fe Art District.

11/2 Friday—Art Workshop at Museo de las Americas. Decorate a "nicho" from 6-8pm.Ages 16+ Tickets \$25. 861 Santa Fe Dr, Denver. museo.org/event/dia-de-los-muertos-nichos-workshop/

II/3 Saturday—Dîa de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Celebration. Mexican celebration remembers deceased loved ones. Traditional Aztec dancing, crafts, face painting. 9am-3pm. Free with admission. Denver Botanic Gardens. www. botanicgardens.org

DENVER METRO EVENTS

Wednesdays and Saturdays to 10/13—Free composting classes. Wed. and Sat. thru mid-

Oct. Denver Compost Demonstration Site, Gove Community Garden, 13th Ave. and Colo. Blvd. Sign up: 303.292.9900 or www.dug.org/compost.

10/5 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Santa Fe Arts District, Tennyson Art Walk, River North (RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Museum, Navajo Street Art District. www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

10/7 Sunday—16th Annual Balistreri Vineyards Harvest Party. Balistreri Vineyards, 1946 E. 66th Ave. 12-5pm. Tickets: www. balistrerivineyards.com

10/10 Wednesday—The Women's Foundation of Colorado Annual Luncheon. www.wfco.org/connect/annual-luncheon

10/13 to 10/14—Maker Faire Denver. All ages. Inspires, educates. 100+ exhibitors with hands-on activities in arts, technology, fabrication of all kinds. National Western Complex. www. Denver.makerfaire.com

10/20 to 10/21—Repticon 2018. Arapahoe County Fairgrounds vendors offer reptile pets, cages, merchandise, live animal seminars. www.repticon.com

10/11 to 10/13—Rocky Mountain Weavers Guild Annual Sale.
Unique handwoven, hand-dyed, knitted/crocheted, felted, cast paper home décor, ornaments. Live textile demos.
Kids welcome. Free admission/parking.
Englewood Civic Center, 1000 Engle-

10/27 to 10/28—Westernaires Annual Horsecapades Show.

wood Pkwy. www.rmweaversguild.org/

fiber-arts-sale-2

Performance of world's largest precision drill team. National Western Complex. Tickets at door or from Westernaires members. www.westernaires.org

11/2 to 11/10 Denver Arts Week. 9 day celebration of all things art in Denver, more than 300 free events. www.denver.org

KIDS AND FAMILIES

10/2 to 10/30—October Tuesdays Four Mile Historic Park Small Settlers. Ages 2-5 with parent/caregiver. 9-10am. \$5/child, adults and members free. 715 S. Forest St. Advance register: 720.865.0814 or education@fourmilepark.org. www.fourmilepark.org

10/2 to 10/30—Storytime for Preschoolers. Tuesdays at 10:30am, Free. The Bookies bookstore, 4315 E. Mississippi Avenue (303) 759-1117 info@thebookies.com, www.thebookies.com

10/3 Wednesday—Write & Talk for Teens with Lighthouse Writers. Explore creative writing through fiction, poetry, screenwriting, and graphic novels. www.denverlibrary. org/event/teen-creative-writing-lab-0/Sam Gary Branch Library 2961 Roslyn St. Denver/720-865-0325

10/12 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Hay Bales and Tall Tales. 12-1pm. Free with admission. 715 S.

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Forest St. www.fourmilepark.org

10/12 Friday—Star Wars Reads Day. Celebrate all things Star Wars at the library. www.denverlibrary.org/event/starwars/Sam Gary Branch Library 2961 Roslyn St. Denver/720-865-0325

10/15 Monday—Let's Build It - Pasta and Marshmallows. Let's get together once a month and build stuff. How tall of a structure do you think you can build with spaghetti and marshmallows? https://www. denverlibrary.org/event/let%27s-build-it-tbd/ Sam Gary Branch Library 2961 Roslyn St., Denver/720-865-0325

10/20 Tuesday—Inside the Orchestra Tiny Tots Concert. McNichols Building Civic Center, 144 W. Colfax. 9:30am and 10:45am. Repeats 10/24, Temple Sinai. Tickets. www.insidetheorchestra.com

10/22 to 10/23—STEAM: Identified Flying Objects!. Blast off with rockets and learn about meteors as we explore impact and take-off! There will be flying, crashing, and everything in-between as we learn about objects that fly through space. www.denverlibrary.org/event/steam-2/ Sam Gary Branch Library 2961 Roslyn St., Denver/720-865-0325

10/23 Wednesday and 10/24 Thursday—Disney in Concert: Tim **Burton's The Nightmare Before** Christmas. Colorado Symphony, Boettcher Concert Hall. 7:00pm. www.coloradosymphony.org

10/28 Sunday—Colorado Symphony: Halloween Spooktacular! Boettcher Concert Hall 2:30pm. Featuring the music of Harry Potter, costumes encouraged. www.coloradosymphony.org

10/26 Friday—Teen Murder Mystery Event. Registration required. www. denverlibrary.org/event/teen-murder-mystery-event/ Sam Gary Branch Library 2961 Roslyn St. 720-865-0325

10/19 Friday to 10/23 Tuesday— SPREE's Fall Break Camps. SPREE at Johnson Habitat Park for fun and educational days filled with games, crafts, adventures. http://www.thegreenwayfoundation.org/ holiday-camps.html/ 610 S Jason St, Denver/ camp@greenwayfoundation.org

LECTURES, CLASSES, INFORMATIONAL

10/3 Wednesday—"In the Image," film followed by a discussion. "In the Image" explores the daily lives of Palestinian women living in the occupied West Bank. Discussion following. Park Hill Branch Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. Den-

ver/720-933-3395 or 303-321-0765

10/6 Saturday—Aging in (the Right) Place. Sam Gary Branch, 2961 Roslyn St. Saturday, October 6, 10 a.m.-12 p.m www. denverlibrary.org/event/aging-right-place-0/

> Colorado Family Eye Centers

> > Stapleton

ColoradoFamilyEye.com

Sam Gary Branch Library 2961 Roslyn St, Denver/720-865-0325

10/18 Thursday—Active Minds presents: Hillbilly Records & Early Country Music. www.activeminds.com// Windsor Gardens, 597 S Clinton St, Denver

10/23 Tuesday—Active Minds presents 1968: Chaos, Conflict & Change. www.activeminds.com Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St, Denver

10/27 Saturday—Caregiving Choices and Challenges. Learn ways to care for older loved ones and yourself, and how and when to ask for help. www.denverlibrary.org/event/caregiving-choices-and-challenges-0/ Sam Gary Branch Library 2961 Roslyn St., Denver/720-865-0325

11/3 Saturday—Community **Conversation on Aging.** Take part in a conversation with DPL about opportunities, challenges and issues surrounding aging. https://www.denverlibrary.org/event/ community-conversation-aging/ Sam Gary Branch Library 2961 Roslyn St. Denver/720-865-0325

MUSEUMS

bers. www.dmns.org

To 1/20—"Eyes On: Shimabuku" at the Denver Art Museum. https://denverartmuseum.org/exhibitions/eyes-shima-

To I/6—"Rembrandt: Painter as Printmaker" at the Denver Art Museum. Special exhibit showcasing aprox 100 prints from Rembrandt van Rijn's career spanning from 1625 to 1665. www. denverartmuseum.org. 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy Denver/info@denverartmuseum.org

10/18 Thursday—Science Lounge. Denver Museum of Nature and Science Cocktails/entertainment 3rd Thurs. monthly. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/nonmem-

10/11 Thursday—Drop-in Drawing at the Denver Art Museum. Join artist Anna Kaye in our informal creative art sessions. Bring a drawing or start something new. All welcome! www.denverartmuseum. org. 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy

10/13 Saturday—Art and About Tour at the Denver Art Museum.

Tours designed for visitors with early-stage Alzheimer's or dementia and their care partners. Experience and discuss art together on a tour led by a specially trained guide. www.denverartmuseum.org. 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy, Denver/access@denverartmuseum.

10/26 Friday—DAM Untitled Final Friday. 6pm-10pm, Cash bar, DJ, light munchies. Members free, nonmembers

11/3 Saturday—Night at the Museums. More than 20 Denver museums open extended hours at no charge, free shuttle between select museums. www.denver.org

MUSFUM **FREE DAYS**

SCFD/Target Free Days

10/2 Tuesday—Children's **Museum Free Target Tues**day. 4-8pm. www.cmdenver.org

10/6 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day. www.denverartmuseum.org

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

10/14 Monday—Denver **Museum of Nature & Science** Free Day. www.dmns.org

10/18 Thursday—Mizel Museum Free Day. 9am-4pm. www. mizelmuseum.org

10/26 Friday—Clyfford Still Museum. Free admission last Friday monthly all day and every Friday 5-8pm. 1250 Bannock St. www. clyffordstillmuseum.org

11/3 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.denverartmuseum.org

PERFORMANCE

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

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

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

To 10/1—A Chorus Line. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada. www.arvadacenter.org

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

To 10/14—My Brilliant Divorce. Avenue Theater, 417 E. 17th Ave. www.avenuetheater.com

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

10/1 Monday—William Hagen, violin, and Orion Weiss, piano. 7:30 p.m. Gates Hall, Newman Center for the Performing Arts. www.friendsofchambermusic. com 2344 E. Iliff Ave., Denver, CO 80210, Denver/tickets@ friendsofchambermusic.com

10/5 to 10/14—Colorado Ballet - Sleeping Beauty. www.coloradoballet.org/performances/ sleeping-beauty/ Ellie Caulkins Opera House, Denver. 303-837-8888

10/6 to 10/7—Ballet **Ariel- Tale of Molly** Brown and La Vivandiere. Ballet Ariel opens its 20th anniversary season of performances with the original ballet, Tale of Molly Brown. www.balletariel.org. 119 Park Ave West, Denver/303-945-4388

10/13 to 11/10—Love Alone. Firehouse Theater Company at John Hand Theater. 7653 East Pl Lowry. www.firehousetheatercompany.com

| | | | to | 2/22—The Humans. www.curioustheatre.org

11/5 Monday—Leeann & Michelle Think They're Funny - The Denver Show. http://www. momsnightout.buzz

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Through 10/31—Diaper **Drive for Mango House.** Drop off donations of diapers, wipes, and other hygiene products to help our refugee neighbors at Mango House in Aurora. www.1532galena.com. Central Park Recreation Center lobby

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

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

Reading Volunteers Needed. For students in K-8 grade. I hour, I student, Ix 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

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



CHOOSE ONE OF THREE WAYS TO HELP:

- 1 Look for the white collection bag delivered to Stapleton homes on Saturday, September 29th. Generously fill it with non-perishable items, and place the bag on your front porch by 9:00 am on Saturday, October 6th. Volunteers will pick up your donation that day.
- ② Make a cash donation to Food Bank of The Rockies. 96¢ of every \$1 you give goes toward food. Visit fbr.convio.net/goto/StapletonDrive2018 or give to the school pantry of your choice at StapletonFoodDrive.com.
- 3 Bring your donations to one of the food drive sponsors and participating schools listed below.*

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PARKWOOD HOMES















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* These sponsors are unable to receive food donations.

To donate or volunteer, visit: www.StapletonFoodDrive.com

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25 October 2018 Front Porch - NE Denver

Transformational Impact Award Goes to DSST: Stapleton

By Melinda Pearson

SST: Stapleton High School was among three finalists for a \$15,000 award from nonprofit Colorado Succeeds for "Transformational Impact" at the high school level. Denver Center for International Studies emerged as the winner



DSST educators Yesta Ealy and Jeff Desserich are pictured at the award event. Photo by McLeod9 Creative

a runner up, DSST: Stapleton came home with \$5,000 to support its ongoing

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programs.
DSST:
Stapleton

was recognized for achieving a 100 percent four-year college acceptance rate over the last 10 years, despite systemic inequities in college access. At DSST, "Robust STEM programming and presentations from businesses highlight STEM career opportunities available to students," according to an email from Colorado Succeeds, "while eleventh grade internships and Senior Projects increase students' preparedness for the world that awaits them."

Now in its second year, The Succeeds Prize is an awards and recognition event for Colorado public schools. It is presented by 9NEWS, Colorado Succeeds and mindSpark Learning. Western Union sponsored the award category in which DSST: Stapleton competed.

Connecting Humanity Through Film:

Cinema That's Good for You

Bill Byrnes, pictured at the Sie FilmCenter,

the Alamo Drafthouse (Sloan's Lake).

founded GoodCinema to encourage meaning-

ful dialogue on pressing social issues. The next

film, Crown Heights, will be shown Oct. 16 at

By Martina Will de Chaparro

ate-night comedians poke fun at armchair activists emboldened by social media to "dislike" away their concerns, from the Syrian crisis to police

brutality. With each "like" or "share," we limply do our part with the click of a mouse from the security and anonymity of our couches. Bill Byrnes, a Five Points resident, challenges us to get off our sofas and screens and come together for meaningful face-to-face discussions about our most pressing social issues. He established GoodCinema in August

to restore human connection and meaningful dialogue around these issues.

Byrnes seeks to reclaim some of our more polarized discussions from social media. He says "It seems a lot of our conversations have shifted online and lost their authenticity. Social media has become an echo chamber of hatred and vitriol; it's created an empathy vacuum."

GoodCinema does not have a political agenda, but seeks to "bring humanity back into the conversation" by creating a monthly forum for dialogue around (primarily documentary) film. At each event, people learn through viewing films but also speak with those most impacted by current events. Area professionals, educators, activists, and others share their stories as a way of bringing the issues to a local and a human level. To foster discourse, Byrnes freely shares his cell phone number so even shy audience members can text a question

to guest speakers.

GoodCinema has hosted two film evenings, both of which sold out theaters of about 150 at the Sie FilmCenter. In September, Byrnes featured four short document

taries-national and local—on the topic of immigrant detention. A panel of experts and activists responded to audience questions and concerns after the screening. Although representing different walks of life and some diversity of viewpoints, the two lawyers, DACA recipient, faith-based activist, and City of Denver employee clearly agreed that immigrant

detention is profoundly flawed.

Byrnes says he would like to include more divergent viewpoints in the future, but having an ICE official probably would have kept some attendees from feeling they were in a safe space. Still, many in the audience appeared well-versed in the detention issue, suggesting that for GoodCinema, fomenting deep dialogue will require bringing opposing voices and viewpoints into the room while maintaining a safe and open space for all. And isn't that the very essence of a civil society?

Byrnes plans to host film screenings in different communities and theaters to promote both large and small community discussions and engage people to get involved. The next film, *Crown Heights*, is a feature based on a true story of wrongful incarceration, and will show at Alamo Drafthouse (Sloans Lake) on October 16. For more information, to buy tickets or inquire about sponsorships, go to GoodCinema.co.



Reviews by the Denver Public Library -

ADULT NONFICTION

The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative by Florence Williams

If you are intrigued by the science behind Forest Bathing, this book is for you! While focused on the research, this book excels at being engaging and upbeat. I found the language to be beautiful with exqui-

Tragedy Plus Time:
A Tragi-Comic Memoir
by Adam Cayton-Holland
Heartbreakingly eloquent and
insightfully jocular, this fami-

Heartbreakingly eloquent and insightfully jocular, this family memoir honors the life of a beloved sibling while tenderly exploring the new lens on life that exists in the vacuum of acute loss. Cayton-Holland grew up on the

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

Kill the Farm Boy

by Delilah Dawson & Kevin Hearne Quirky beyond belief, this punfilled fantasy adventure novel features Worstley, a manure shoveling farm boy, who is anointed The Chosen One by a bawdy and disheveled drunken pixie. Equally memorable characters join the band

Kids Fiction

The Wishtree

by Katherine Applegate, Charles Santoso (Illustrator)

A Red Oak tree has stood in the same community for over a century and has seen houses grow around her. Every Spring, in the Irish tradition, her branches are



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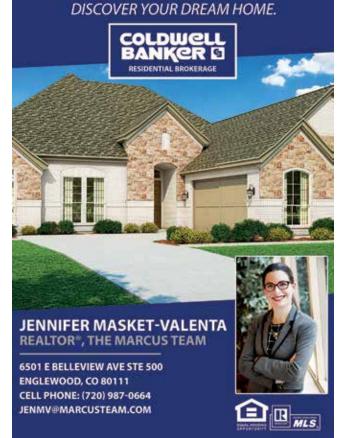
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ook Worm

Park Hill Branch



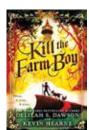
sitely crafted sentences that begged for second read to savor the words. As you read, you will find yourself longing to spend more time in nature, and now you will have the scientific evidence to convince others to join you! The narrative takes you around the world for a global perspective on how nature is experienced and yearned for. All the senses are evoked as scientific studies around nature scents, bird song, and drinking in scenic nature

views are explained without pretension. This is the perfect book to read while relaxing under your favorite tree this fall.



sun-dappled streets of Park Hill here in Denver and turned his skills in class clownery at East High School into being a pillar of the Denver Comedy scene and now a rising television star on TruTV with his show *Those Who Can't* with fellow Denver comedians Bey Roy and Andrew Overdahl. Mental illness touches all of our lives and this book provides poignant insight into a family's healing and inspirational journey navigat-

ing deep grief, self-forgiveness, and the questions that suicide leaves hauntingly unanswered.



of adventurers including a talking goat, a not-so-dark Dark Lord, a cotton-tailed bard, a pacifist warrior in a chainmail bikini, an assassin profoundly afraid of chickens, and a sand witch. The humor and empowerment spotlighted in this novel keep the pages turning and your heart soaring from start to finish. Perfect for fans of William Goldman, Terry Pratchett, Ursula K. Le Guin, and Tamora Pierce with the flair of Monty

Python. This is the first of the Tales of Pell series, so stay tuned for more pun-filled adventures.



strung with wishes, lovingly written scraps of paper tied up with ribbon. When a Muslim refugee family moves to town, an unknown child uses the tree to spread a message of hate. Combined with the tree roots clogging the plumbing, the old tree is in danger of being cut down. Told from the perspective of the aged tree, it is a unique story of friendship, hope, and a community overcoming

bias and misconceptions. A great book for a kids book club or a family to read together to discuss.

"Head lice do not discriminate."

By Courtney Drake-McDonough my Klin knows what parents are going through. She's been there, done that, freaked out about it and figured a better way to deal with it. It's lice, the word that causes waves of shame. Klin went through the disbelief, difficult treatments, and the "text of shame" with her own family's outbreak. She didn't want other families to go through what she did and started "The Lice Cure" in 2017, making housecalls to rid families of lice all over the city.

Two years ago, when she discovered lice on one of her two young daughters, the Stapleton mom frantically texted her husband at work. "Get home, we need to fix this!" she told him. "I mean, the sky was falling! We were going to have to burn the house down!" she recalls.

After weeks of treatments from over-the-counter products, which burned when they were applied, Klin felt there had to be a better way.

Looking to return to the workforce anyway, Klin went to work for a company that treats families' lice at their location, in a non-toxic way. What Klin felt was missing from the process was the ability to go to the families to treat them comfortably and discretely, in their homes. At the same time, she could treat the family's stress about the stigma of having lice, clearing up a lot of misconceptions.

"Head lice do not discriminate," says Klin. "It does not depend on your socio-economic status, what car you drive, what hair type you have, your personal hygiene or what your ethnicity is." She says lice are an opportunistic parasite, surviving



Amy Klin gives wine to mom and beer to dad when she shows up to give a lice treatment—it helps calm anxious parents about their headlice outbreak. Her business, The Lice Cure, treats and educates families about lice in their own homes.

on the scalp, feeding off blood. "They are spread by head-to-head or headto-surface contact with someone who has it," she says. Common places of transfer, according to Klin, are trampolines, trampoline parks, gymnastics mats, bouncy houses, overnight camps, and sleepovers. Other examples include people putting their heads together to take selfies and headphones and sports helmets that are shared.

When Klin goes to a family's home, she brings a beer for dad and wine for mom to help relieve the stress a little, especially when the whole family will soon be wearing showercaps as part of the treatment. Klin educates them about how the lice likely got transferred and how to prevent it going forward. "This is knowledge specific

to headlice," she explains.

"I also tell them that, 'It's okay that you have headlice. It will bring no harm or disease to your child; it's just a nuisance from a parent perspective.' And for those who have a strong sensitivity and histamine reaction to the saliva of the bug, they will itch," she says. Klin's treatment kills the lice and eggs within an hour and is 100% guaranteed.

"I do this is to save families the time, money and their sanity. I know the range of emotions they have. Who has weeks to do the combing, waiting and wondering? Everyday I feel grateful that my daughter had head lice."

For more information call Amy Klin at 303. 218.5305 or visit thelicecure.com.



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The SUN Spot

The independent voice of Stapleton

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

October SUN News

SUN October Monthly Meeting — Education Focus Tuesday, October 16 6:30-7:40pm

Attention: parents of elementary school and middle school age children, community members interested in strong public schools, and veteran advocates for this community's schools

Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) will host an education forum during its regularly scheduled outreach meeting on Tuesday, October 16 from 6:30 to 7:40 at Central Park Rec Center. The primary focus of this forum will be giving residents the opportunity to learn more about the process for establishing a new middle school in Stapleton, the candidate middle school programs, and continued assurance of full support for the build out of Northfield High School.

Leadership from Northfield High School will present an update about capacity, programming, and campus culture.

Scheduled speakers include representatives from each of the three schools that have submitted a letter of interest (Denver Green School, Beacon Middle School, and High Tech ECE-8) and representatives of Denver Public Schools. Please join SUN and other interested community members in championing for children.

The SUN board meeting will be held from 7:45-8:45pm.

Three DPS Town Halls about the New Middle School

Denver Public Schools (DPS) is hosting three town halls across the Greater Park Hill-Stapleton region on the topic of the new middle school to learn about what aspects of a school families and students find important.

Each of three DPS meetings will be from 5:30 to 7pm:

- Monday, October 1, Northfield High
- Tuesday October 2, at Central Park Recreation Center
- Wednesday October 3, at Park Hill Elementary

SUN Committee Updates

SUN's monthly board meeting was cancelled in September as the third Tuesday conflicted with the start of Yom Kippur. Committee work continues, with active groups meeting to further SUN's support for inclusivity and diversity, improving and fine-tuning community communication, education, and sustainability. Monthly outreach meetings begin focused on safety with updates from Stapleton's Denver Police Community Resource Officer (DPD-CRO), and frequently the

Lieutenant for this community.

Stapleton's participation in the City & County of Denver's Sustainable Neighborhoods Program, in just over six months, has had the goal of connecting people and building community in and out of Stapleton while promoting sustainability. Successes include: 250 reusable grocery bags distributed at the MLK/Havana King Soopers, removing 19 garbage bags of trash (and a suitcase) from the Sand Creek Regional Greenway, a pollinator basics course hosted by The Urban Farm at the Sam Gary Branch Library, a Community Day of Reflection on the topic of Benjamin Stapleton's life and legacy moderated by Colorado's State Historian Patty Limerick, and a new-renter outreach campaign at five Stapleton apartment complexes. Having earned 81 credits, such a pace will surpass the year one goal of 100 credits. Planned fall projects include tree planting in Central Park and a movie & dinner fundraiser. Successes are only possible because of engaged residents willing to give of themselves and take action. Thank you to all that have participated. The continued support of motivated residents is needed for this program to grow. With an idea for a project

or if in need of more information on how to get started, please email SUNsustainability@gmail.com and follow @ snpStapleton on Facebook.

About SUN

Stapleton United Neighbors is the Registered Neighborhood Organization for the Stapleton neighborhood in Denver. The volunteer SUN board is dedicated to promoting community engagement. SUN's mission is to work for the betterment of the Stapleton neighborhood and the City and County of Denver by providing a forum for the residents living within the boundaries of SUN to discuss and resolve issues, a network of communication, and a means of acting on matters of importance to the community as a whole.

Follow SUN on Facebook for the most current neighborhood news and event information: @stapletonunitedneighbors

Visit SUN's website to sign up for email updates and learn more about how SUN can advocate for the community: www.stapletonunitedneighbors.

In 2019, SUN's monthly meetings could change location. Please be sure to check SUN's website and facebook page for these details before the January 2019 meeting.



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Letters to the Editor

DPS Confident 500-600 Seats Are Enough for New Middle School

Denver Public Schools' current Call for New Quality Schools is part of a robust conversation about middle school choice and capacity in the Greater Park Hill-Stapleton enrollment zone.

As part of that conversation, the *September SUN News* concluded that a school twice the size of the 500 to 600 students called for is needed to best serve the community. DPS carefully considered the need for additional middle school seats in the zone – utilizing enrollment forecasts conducted by expert third-party researchers – and is confident that a 500-to-600 student middle school will best respond to projected growth and provide for an effective SchoolChoice process for students and families.

Currently, 2,304 students live in the enrollment zone. The Denver Regional Council of Governments projects 2,805 middle school students will reside in the zone by 2021-22 – an increase of approximately 500 students. By 2022, projections indicate that the middle school population will begin to stabilize. We expect some net movement of students in and out of the zone, and that the school size DPS called for will accommodate the total number of projected students.

During the 2018 SchoolChoice process, 97% of sixth graders in the GPHS zone were placed in one of their top two choices and 92% were placed in their top choice. At the start of the 2018-19 school year, 50 sixth-grade students in the zone were on the McAuliffe waitlist – substantially fewer than the 136 cited in the Sept. 1 article.

With additional capacity provided by the new school, students will continue to be matched with their desired schools at very high rates and the zone will be able to serve both new residents and a meaningful number of students from outside of the zone.

—Respectfully, Jim Carpenter, Executive Director of Choice and Planning, Denver Public Schools

A Parent's Concerns about the New Middle School

The following list of questions and concerns are in direct response to the Call for New Quality Schools and the recent discovery that the new Greater Park Hill-Stapleton (GPHS) middle school will be co-located on the Park Street Campus along with Inspire Elementary School.

There is Not Enough Space

There is a gap between the Call that requires a middle school that can accommodate 500-600 students and the Park Street Campus middle school expansion, which was designed to hold approximately 450 students.

- The original design was for a middle school expansion of 10 classrooms. The proposed design now calls for 18
- DPS is now creating an overcrowded campus.
- 1. How will DPS support adding an additional 50-150 students at a campus whose facilities are not designed to accommodate the additional growth?
- 2. Why did DPS not build out the middle school expansion while they were building Inspire Elementary last year?

Denver Public Schools' Lack of Transparency

If the intent all along was to place the new middle school on the Park Street Campus along with Inspire Elementary, then this should have been placed in writing in the Call. Based on the fact that Inspire Elementary will be a shared campus, Inspire families would like to know...

- 1. How does DPS support shared campuses? How will DPS ensure alignment with both schools? What does the escalation process look like? DPS needs to address the overall plan of how the Park Street Campus will operate and make it publicly available.
- 2. Inspire Families should have significant input in the middle school selection process considering we will be sharing a campus with the new middle school starting the 2019-20 school year.

Listening to the GPHS Community

The GPHS community has asked for a large, comprehensive middle school with a wide range of clubs, electives, and sports, similar to McAuliffe International. Three schools submitted letters of intent to apply. What community assessments have DPS conducted and what are the results? What will DPS do if it's determined that the three schools that submitted letters of intent to apply do not meet the requests of the community?

—Robyn Broghammer, Inspire Elementary PTO President













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Left: Teresa Mañago and her sons pose with costumed revelers at the Denver Botanic Gardens

here, he is pictured at his studio on East Colfax.

2017 celebration. Above: A typical Halloween scene in Stapleton. Below: Last year, Norberto Mojardin created several altars for Denver's Mexican Cultural Center (MCC);

All Souls' Day: Celebrating the Dead

By Martina Will de Chaparro

The Pixar film "Coco" shared with a broad U.S. audience both the exuberance and the quiet faith of Día de los Muertos—Day of the Dead. This holiday, celebrated in central Mexico for centuries, was transplanted to the southwestern United States in the 1960s. The holiday demonstrates the migration and mingling of cultures and traditions, touching all the senses through food, art, faith, music, family and community. Though Day of the Dead, on November 2, almost coincides with Halloween, the two holidays have little in common beyond their initial origins.

A Brief History

Like Halloween, Día de los Muertos traces its origins to pagan and Christian traditions. Believing that the veil between the here and the hereafter thins at the end of summer, the Celts each year had a festival marking the beginning of winter. They sought both to welcome and to appease the returning spirits by offering food and drink and wearing costumes to ward off

malevolent spirits.

Centuries later, the Roman Catholic Church moved the days it honored martyrs and the faithful departed to November 1 and 2, perhaps hoping to discourage some of these popular practices. Día de los Muertos originates in these holy days—All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day—and even today centers on commemorating the dead. All Hallows'



Pixar's Coco shared the lively holiday with a broad public.

Eve, the evening before All Saints' Day, in contrast, has been stripped of its religious meaning in the U.S., resulting in the decidedly secular holiday of Halloween that fills our local streets with elaborate costumes and trick-or-treaters over-indulging

All Soul's Day not only honors the dead, but offers the living a way to help them. The Catholic belief in purgatory—a transitional place of purification—means that the prayers of the living can still benefit the dead. In European Catholic tradition, it was believed that the dead could briefly return to partake in food, bonfires, and other worldly enjoyments. Spanish documents from the fourteenth century mention offerings of bread and other items on graves during this period, and sweet breads in particular came to be associated with the holiday.

In Mexico, the holiday took on new meanings and forms. Though







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October 2018 30 Front Porch - NE Denver some writers ascribe Aztec origins to the holiday, others contend that the epidemic of Old World diseases, combined with the colonial sugar industry, were critical to shaping Mexico's Day of the Dead. The enormous death toll in the colonial period heightened the importance of honoring the dead, and some communities made offerings of corn, blankets, food and chickens.

By the eighteenth century, people formed sugar paste into lambs and other shapes and gave them to children. Colorfully decorated figurines, coffins, and tombs appeared in Mexico's markets, and people would keep vigil in the cemeteries after cleaning and decorating graves. These expressions of popular piety increasingly concerned authorities, who, by the late eighteenth century, sought a more

"modern" vision of Mexico and tried unsuccessfully to limit the holiday's excesses.

By the mid-twentieth century, the Mexican government embraced the holiday as a celebration of national pride, marketing it to middle class Mexican audiences and going so far as to bus senior citizens from urban areas to small towns to observe graveside vigils. This spread the holiday beyond traditional communities in Mexico.

Migration to the U.S.

Mexican emigres began bringing these traditions to the U.S. in the mid-twentieth century. Stapleton parent Teresa Mañago says that after coming to Denver from Mexico twelve years ago, the holiday took on an even deeper meaning for her, as it became "a way of connecting with my roots and sharing my culture with my family, and encouraging them to connect with their ancestors." She recalls growing up in Coyoacán, the Mexico City neighborhood famous for the homes of artists Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo. She joined family members decorating graves, praying and singing in the cemetery each year. At school and at home they made altars, and the church plaza of Coyoacán featured gorgeous artistic displays. Now she celebrates with other Stapleton moms of Mexican origin, building

Homes that do more.



an altar for the Denver Botanic Gardens' annual festivities.

For Denver artist Norberto Mojardin, owner of Beto's Hair Studio on East Colfax, the holiday evokes memories of the grandmother who raised him. He describes growing up in Ortiz, Sonora, and after months of preparation, "I would wake up to a house full of hundreds of flowers. My grandmother made coronas of paper flowers for Día de los Muertos, and dipped them in wax so they kept their shape: wreaths, crosses, whatever people liked." He would accompany her to the cemetery to clean and decorate the graves of family members with cempasúchil—large orange marigolds—favorite foods, beverages, and candles. People would sit through the night praying and keeping company by the grave. Mojardin says the holiday represents "a celebration of hope for a reunion" with one's loved ones.

People often create home altars to honor deceased family members. These may include special foods like "pan de muerto" (literally "dead bread") and sugar skulls, a dish of *mole*, and a favorite bottle of beer or liquor along with photos and keepsakes that belonged to the dead. These worldly temptations are meant to entice the spirits to briefly return

and partake of their essence. Like the food and drink, the materials associated with the holiday are, like life itself, ephemeral: flowers, *papel picado* (thin paper cut in elaborate designs), and flimsy toys.

The Mexican Cultural Center this year will feature the work of Chihuahua-born Manuel Cordero, who says that in Cu-

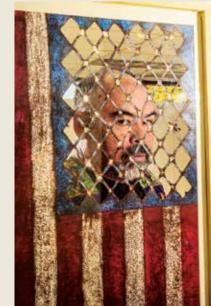
Last year, as a group of local moms of Mexican origin mourned the devastation wrought by the earthquake in Mexico City, their altar honored those who had died.

auhtémoc where he grew up, the holiday centered only on cleaning and decorating the graves. "The holiday is very different in the north of Mexico...simpler and not as big," he says. He is integrating his Day of the Dead piece with his existing exhibit at the MCC, "From South to North," that offers a timely perspective on migration from both sides of the border.

Day of the Dead Events

The Denver area offers many options to participate in this colorful and meaningful holiday, which ultimately is, as *Coco* suggests, one of joyful remembering rather than sorrow: "The day you forget your loved ones is the day you should cry... not as long as you have them alive in your heart," Mojardin says.

The Mexican Cultural Center, the Denver Botanic Gardens, and the Museo de las Americas are among the local sites where you can celebrate the Day of the Dead this year. Most events are free and open to the public unless otherwise indicated. (See Day of the Dead events on page 24)





Artist Manuel Cordero stands behind his installation at the Mexican Cultural Center (MCC).











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