

# Front Porch

COLORADO

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

NORTHEAST DENVER

NOVEMBER 2018

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Nov. 6

## United Celebrates Its Expansion



United CEO Oscar Muñoz, while at the United Flight Training Center on Quebec St. to celebrate its expansion, stops in to the mock aircraft cabin to speak to flight attendant trainees. "We are a people to people business. We're not a products company," he tells them. "If we get the human interaction part right, and YOU help me with that, no one stops us." United is currently the fastest growing airline in the world.

By Carol Roberts

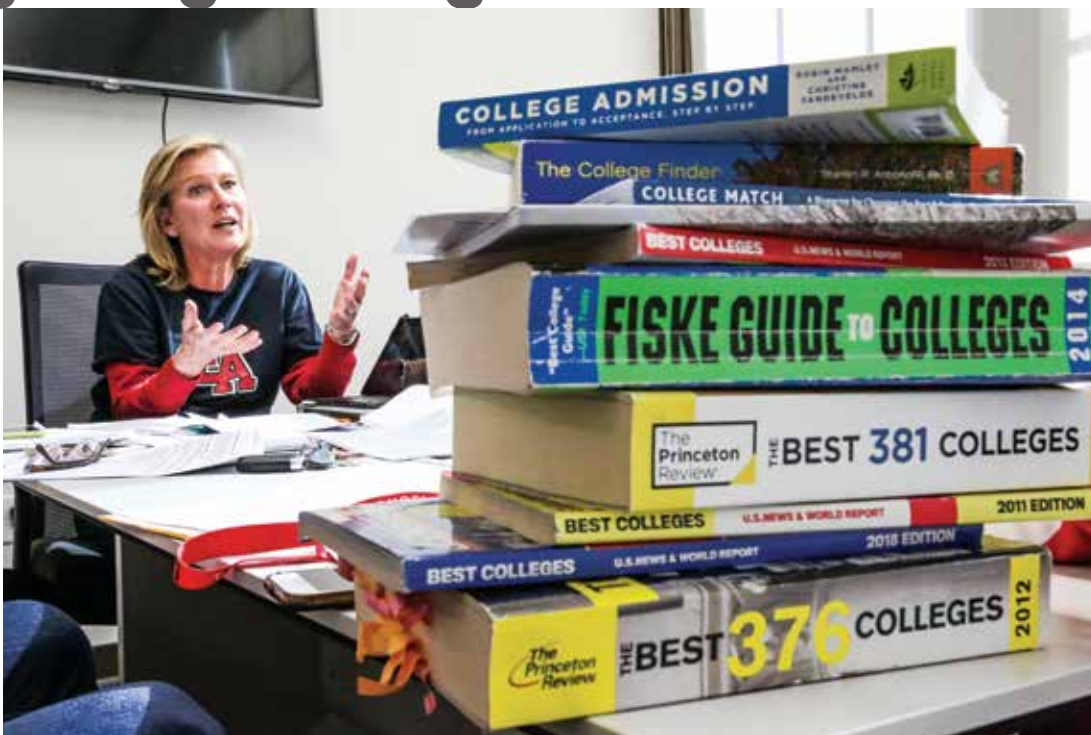
The largest flight training center in the world is our NE Denver neighbor at Quebec St. and 35th Ave. All of United's 12,500 pilots come here for their recurring two-day training every nine months. That's 60,000 training events each year. In one of 31 full

motion simulators that exactly reproduce United's cockpits, "They practice all the things we don't like to talk about. Engine failure, hydraulics failure. All the things you want to do in a simulator that you don't want to do in a real airplane," says Captain Mike McCasky, managing director of flight training. *See story on page 31.*

## Navigating College Admission

By Mary Jo Brooks

The college application process has become more complex, more stressful and more expensive than ever before. As the first class of seniors at Northfield High School embark on this journey, counselors, parents and professional coaches share some tips to successfully navigate through the confusing maze. *See story on page 18.*



Georgianna Forbes assists students and trains volunteers in the "Life After East" organization, a group that helps low-income and first generation East High School students apply for college.

## Can you ask the gun question?



Gun owner and gun safety trainer Rob Pincus says parents shouldn't hesitate to ask about safe storage of guns just as they would ask about other safety issues when children play at a new friend's home. *Story by Martina Will de Chaparro is on page 6.*





This photo of a juvenile red-tailed hawk was taken by George Ho at Bluff Lake on October 11, 2018. Ho writes, "Very curious and checking out every nook and cranny of Bluff Lake and sharpening its hunting skills. They are not fearful of people yet and thus allow close-up photos. They are more conspicuous and ubiquitous since the Swainson's hawks have left for Argentina during our winter. The bald eagles should be returning soon."

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

Visit [FrontPorchNE.com](http://FrontPorchNE.com) to comment and find articles from past issues.

### Letters to the Editor

We welcome your letters. Send to [Carol@FrontPorchNE.com](mailto:Carol@FrontPorchNE.com)

### Copies of the Front Porch are now in local grocery stores.

We now have papers in both King Soopers in Stapleton and in the Mayfair King Soopers. Papers are also available at the Safeway stores in Lowry and Mayfair.



#### Wine Education Series

Wednesday, November 7th, 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 – Say Cheese!

Thursday, November 8th, 1pm,  
*Sam Gary Library*

The history of cheese goes back as far as 6000 BCE, long before the Ancient Egyptians and Homer. There are thousands of varieties of cheese, with local flavor differences influenced by subtle factors such as the type of grass eaten by the cows. Join Active Minds as we trace this cheesy history, including an overview of how it's made and the major categories of cheese. We'll even cover a couple controversial topics debated by cheesophiles (yes, that's a word!).

#### Disney Trivia

Friday, November 9th, 7pm, *The Cube*

Come with a team or join a team and test your Disney knowledge at this master level trivia night! There will be prizes and drinks available for purchase. Geeks Who Drink will be running the trivia questions. This event is free and open to the public!

#### Annual MCA Members Meeting & Delegate Election

Wednesday, November 14th, 6:30pm,  
*The Cube*

Watch the Stapleton community website and review the ad in this issue of the Front Porch for more details.

#### Active Minds Seminar – Myanmar (Burma)

Thursday, November 15th, 6:30pm,  
*Sam Gary Library*

Formerly known as Burma, Myanmar is the second largest country in Southeast Asia. Colonized by Britain in the 19th century, the country achieved its independence in 1948 and has been involved in internal sectarian conflict ever since. The country's modern history has been a mixture of military rule and human rights abuses. Recent events, suggesting an emergence of democracy, have been marred by reports of the Buddhist majority government targeting the Rohingya, a Muslim minority population. Join Active Minds as we explore the country's history and importance in the world today.

#### Winter Welcome

Friday, November 16th, 6-8pm,  
*29th Avenue Town Center*

Kick off the winter season during our annual open house with 29th Avenue retailers and celebrate as we flip the switch on our holiday lighting display. Booths are located along the street and fountain area around the tree. They include a roasted almond vendor, fire pits complete with s'mores makings, hot chocolate, light necklaces and rings, face painting, a DJ and much more. We have two "dancing" trees, complete with music and candy canes to share. Enjoy singing by carolers strolling up and down the avenue and yummy treats from local food trucks. Many of the activities require a ticket, which are \$2 each and can be purchased at the MCA ticket booth. All proceeds from the s'mores, almonds and light necklaces go to local nonprofits.

For more information, contact Diane Deeter | Community Director  
[ddeeter@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:ddeeter@stapletoncommunity.com)

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#### PUBLISHERS:

Carol Roberts – Editor  
Steve Larson – Photography

WRITER: Martina Will de Chaparro, Ph.D.

AD SALES: Karissa McGlynn 303-333-0257,  
303-993-9963, [KarissaMcGlynn@gmail.com](mailto:KarissaMcGlynn@gmail.com)

Letters to the Editor: [Carol@FrontPorchNE.com](mailto:Carol@FrontPorchNE.com)

# Front Porch

[www.FrontPorchNE.com](http://www.FrontPorchNE.com)  
[FrontPorch@FrontPorchNE.com](mailto:FrontPorch@FrontPorchNE.com) 303-526-1969  
2558 Syracuse St., Denver, CO 80238

The Front Porch – NE Denver distributes more than 27,000 free papers during the first week of each month. Papers are delivered to doorsteps and/or racks in Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair and NW Aurora.

The Front Porch is printed with soy-based ink and the paper contains 30% post-consumer waste. We contribute monthly to replant trees equivalent to the amount of paper used in each issue.



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Can you ask the guns question?

# Perhaps Uncomfortable—but Always Appropriate

By Martina Will de Chaparro, Ph.D.

In the U.S., an estimated 4.6 million children live in homes with guns that are loaded and not secured, according to Everytown for Gun Safety. That staggering figure means that even if you do not own a firearm, your children may well play in homes that do have firearms. It also means that we as a community need to have open conversations about how guns are stored in homes.

When your child goes to a friend's house for the first time, how do you ask about guns in the house without offending that child's parents? Moms talk amongst themselves and post their concerns on social media, but, for many, a level of discomfort remains. To find a solution, the *Front Porch* asked two local experts—one a national leader who promotes gun rights and responsibility and a mom who is working to strengthen gun safety laws.

Rob Pincus, a longtime Stapleton resident and parent, and a national leader in the "gun rights" movement, has always worked with guns. He was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve, and worked for years in law enforcement. In 2007, he established I.C.E. Training Company, which provides firearms education and training for individuals as well as law enforcement and the military. He travels internationally to speak on the subject, and is an impassioned and articulate defender of the interpretation of the 2nd Amendment narrowly affirmed



Park Hill parent Abbey Winter campaigns for gun safety laws through the Moms Demand Action group.

by the U.S. Supreme Court in the District of Columbia v Heller decision in 2008.

Park Hill parent Abbey Winter is the Denver Events Lead for Moms Demand Action, the national organization founded by Boulder's Shannon Watts in the wake of the 2012 Sandy Hook massacre. Winter is careful to note that Moms Demand Action "respects the Second Amendment and is respectful of responsible gun ownership." When she canvases for gun sense candidates, she frequently encounters the misconception that her group seeks to take people's guns. In fact, "We have many gun owners in Moms Demand Action: we want common sense gun legislation and safe gun ownership."

Pincus freely expresses his frustration with gun-owners who don't properly secure their firearms. He believes that gun-owners as well as non-gun-owners should be asking questions of other adults regarding gun storage—and as long as people aren't politicizing the question, no one should be offended by these questions. "If a gun owner does take offense to a judgement-free question about gun storage, they are probably not responsible gun owners. This is a red flag."

Winter echoes this view. "We have to talk to other parents when our kids are invited into a new home. Couch it in terms that are comfortable for you. You might tell another mom 'Suzie is getting into everything these days. We don't have guns, but if you do, how are they stored?'" She observes that parents routinely have conversations about peanuts, pools, and dogs when they first allow their child to spend time in a new home. "We

need to treat guns the same way. Most parents don't take offense, and they often even thank me for asking," she says.

Moms Demand Action developed a program called *Be SMART* to promote gun safety. Pincus likewise stresses gun safety in his Family Firearms Safety Seminar, which includes instruction on firearms handling on and off the firing range as well. Whereas *Be SMART* reminds gun owners to secure weapons, Pincus distinguishes between staging and storing firearms. "Staging" refers to keeping an accessible and loaded firearm in the home, ideally in a safe with a pushbutton radiofrequency ID or biometric lock that can be opened in under a second. "Storing" a gun constitutes keeping a firearm unloaded or disassembled in a locked or keyed safe.

"Merely hiding a gun in your (continued on page 8)

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## SMART Gun Safety

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**Ask** about the presence of unsecured guns in other homes

**Recognize** the risks of teen suicide

**Tell** your peers to be SMART

Moms Demand Action  
<http://besmartforkids.org/resources/>

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Rob Pincus' life revolves around guns: gun ownership, gun sales, gun training, gun policy, gun accessories, and, of course, hunting. And people who have guns talk to him. He has learned, in these conversations, that many gun owners do not store their guns securely.

Pincus is pictured at left with his wife Sarah and daughter Cindy-Lou, 3. He has multiple quick-access safes for his guns. A picture frame and a shelf in his living room contain hidden loaded weapons that can be accessed quickly—but only by someone who knows the secret way to open them.



# Guns

(continued from page 6)

home is a version of staging a gun but that version is almost never appropriate with children in the home," Pincus states. "I have a three-year old and teenagers in the house. I've been around guns all my life. I would not keep guns staged without them being secured from unauthorized use. It's too easy and too affordable and too irresponsible not to take those steps. It would be negligent of me not to use a quick-access safe."

Pincus warns gun-owners of the dangers of complacency. They need to examine their own practices and not take for granted that one conversation about guns is adequate to the task. Especially as children grow, the challenges shift. "The biggest myth inside a crowd of gun owners is that because nothing has happened yet, nothing could happen tomorrow; there's a real complacency." Parents don't always account for the changes kids go through as they become



Rob, Sarah and Cindy Lou Pincus stand by a gun storage shelf in Cindy Lou's bedroom, the upstairs gathering place for the family in an emergency, where they have a wedge to block the door from being opened and an always-charged old phone that could be used to call 911.

teenagers. "Their boundary-pushing increases and their risk-aversion decreases," cautions Pincus, who works with mental health professionals to find ways

to mitigate the risks of gun ownership. "That's a dangerous combination." Teens are especially vulnerable to suicide, as indicated by escalating nation-

al numbers, which reflect a tripling in the teen suicide rate from 1999-2014. A bout of depression or other emotional turmoil can be especially dangerous in a household where guns are not properly secured. In Colorado, suicide was the #7 cause of death in 2017, and 50% of all suicides are by firearm, according to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. A gun that is secured and stored separately from ammunition slows down that impulsive act and allows time for reconsideration or intervention.

While approaching the issue from different angles, Winter and Pincus emphasize the profound responsibilities that come with gun ownership. Both Pincus and Winter insist on the importance of secure firearms storage and talking with other parents about gun storage to safeguard our children. Let's begin the conversation within our homes and with others.

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# MCA

## STAPLETON

### 2018 Annual Members' Meeting

Nov. 14, 6:30pm

MCA CUBE 8371 Northfield Blvd.

Find meeting and candidate information at [www.StapletonCommunity.com](http://www.StapletonCommunity.com)

# Vote for Your Delegate Nov. 14

## Do you have concerns about monthly assessments, pools, neighborhood parks or alleys?

–Cast your vote on Nov. 14 for a neighbor to represent you.

–Attend the meeting or deliver your ballot to The CUBE by Nov. 14.

–Ballots with your district information were mailed during the last week of October.

## What do delegates do?

–Delegates advise the MCA Board of Directors on decisions—including changes in monthly fees.

–They ratify the MCA's annual budget

–They elect Board members.

## How are delegates selected?

–All owners of real property within the boundaries of the Stapleton development are automatically members of the MCA.

–Members elect one member from each of the 10 districts to serve as District Delegate for the following year.

–Members in each district can nominate and collect votes for themselves or another person in their district and deliver the valid proxy votes to the annual meeting (on Nov. 14 this year).

## What does the MCA do?

–It is a non-profit 501(c) 4 that manages the community through community-oriented programming and events.

–It maintains facilities (including pools, neighborhood parks and alleys).

–Members support the MCA through monthly assessments to all property in Stapleton.

## DISTRICT 1

### JAMIE BOWER



I'd like to be a representative of my neighborhood. And to lobby for the change my neighbors would like to see. And help bring more diversity to the MCA.

### TIM HAMPTON



Growing up in Colorado and having Grandparents that lived in Park Hill I fondly remember driving past Stapleton as a child. Fast forward 25 years and I would never have imagined that I would

be living back in Denver and living in Stapleton. My wife, Kerry and I are so proud to find ourselves raising our two boys here in Stapleton and love owning a home in Bluff Lake. In the past few years we have grown close to our neighbors and love to discuss the interworking of Stapleton and the community. I love serving our community as District 1's Community Delegate.

## DISTRICT 2

### CORA GALPERN



I have lived in Stapleton for 15 years and am currently a senior at George Washington High School. I want to make a difference before I go to college and empower youth to use their

voices. I believe the best way for me to do that is to work towards making my community a better place and the first and best way to positively change the Stapleton community is changing its name. I believe the name is a bad representation of our community and perpetuates the harms of racism and white supremacy. I believe serving the community means serving all of its members and making it the most inclusive space it can be.

### JOSH NICHOLAS



I became a member of the Stapleton community in 2015 and soon realized what a special place we live, work, and play in. I especially enjoy the outdoor spaces, open markets, and bike trails that our neighborhoods have to offer.

Professionally, I've worked in telecommunications for Verizon Wireless and nonprofit management for Habitat for Humanity. I also hold two graduate degrees in adult education and management. Outside of work, I enjoy camping and hiking in the mountains, volunteering for affordable housing initiatives, and spending time in the kitchen - trying my hand at the latest Great British Bakeoff challenge.

## DISTRICT 3

### DANA ELKIND



Dana Elkind has been a Stapleton resident since June 2006. Dana has been an elected delegate to the MCA Since 2008 and has recently joined the Board of Directors for the MCA. Dana is

an experienced Network Engineer, Sales Engineer, and manager.

Dana has been married to Melinda Elkind since 1979, a teacher in Aurora Schools. They have two adult children Richard, a teacher in Denver Schools and Stephen, a Lawyer currently practicing in San Francisco.

Dana has lived in Boston MA, Cleveland OH, Denver CO, Pembroke Pines FL, Tulsa OK and Denver again. "I love Denver and don't plan to move again."

### MANDLE ROUSSEAU



I'm a Denver native. My wife and I live just across from beautiful Central Park. We moved to the neighborhood from the Park Hill area in August of 2016. I am also a small business owner, owning

and operating Control FREQ, a home automation and systems integration company. I was a founding member of the Rotary Club of Five Points Cultural District. It was there, and also as the Director of Media for Colorado Christian Fellowship, that I learned to serve the community. I currently serve on the board for SUN, the neighborhood organization for our community. One of the areas SUN has committed to is to bring more diversity to the neighborhood. I believe the MCA in board should also reflect this diversity.

## DISTRICT 4

### CRISTIN WELLE HUGHES



Hello! I've lived in District 4 for several years and have really enjoyed being a part of this community. As a mom of 2 growing boys, I want our neighborhood to continue to

grow into a friendly, inclusive and diverse community that supports all our children and families. I'll work to ensure that we welcome the broad range of cultures, races and walks of life that make Denver such a vibrant place to live. As a scientist at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Center, I will use my passion for education and social justice to strength ties with our surrounding neighborhoods and institutions. I would like to hear your ideas and concerns, and most importantly, encourage us to be invested in our neighborhood.

### CHRISTIE SPILSTED



My husband and I have lived in Stapleton since 2006 and enjoy all that Stapleton has to offer with our 2 kids, particularly the close community, public events, parks and pools. My professional

background is in telecom/high tech, primarily in strategic development, sales and international business. I've also worked as a career consultant for 6 years. I am Hispanic and fluent in Spanish and have a Master's in Business Administration from CU. There are many challenges and opportunities as Stapleton continues its rapid growth to full build-out. I consider it a privilege to represent District 4 (South End Stapleton) to help ensure a fun, safe, diverse and high quality of life here in our community.

## DISTRICT 5

### ANDREW BARTLETT



My wife, our two children and I have lived in Stapleton since 2006; first in Central Park North and now in the Eastbridge neighborhood. Our children currently attend McAuliffe and

Bill Roberts. I work in Software Product Management for media and publishing and my wife is an elementary school principal. We love Stapleton as an wonderful, safe place to raise our family that offers the amazing opportunities and diversity of the city but also the conveniences and amenities of living in a planned community like the parks, pools, Town centers, and the MCA's awesome community programming. I am grateful to serve this community.

### TOM DOWNEY



I've lived in Eastbridge since 2005 with my wife, Lori Fox and three daughters, Cate, Ella and Meg (Westerly Creek, McAuliffe and East). We founded Tent

Night and the Arc Park July 4th Parade, but we may be best known for serving hot buttered rum on Halloween night to cold parents. I've been on the Westerly Creek Metro District Board for 4 ½ years, including as Chair, and opened up the years-long secretive process. I'm a regulatory lawyer, ran the Children's Museum and chaired the Colorado Children's Campaign and the Colorado Nonprofit Association boards. As an MCA Delegate, my primary focus would be ensuring fair and open processes and true resident decision-making.

## DISTRICT 6

### MICHAEL MCMURRY



I have been a resident of District 6 for over six years and have developed a strong interest in the future of our neighborhood. I believe that we are obligated to

work toward achieving the goals for this community that were set upon its establishment, including to create an inclusive, diverse, welcoming community with a broad representation of cultures, races, ethnicities, and socio-economic backgrounds. These are lofty ambitions, but they are achievable. Resident representation in the MCA provides an opportunity to help guide the growth of our neighborhood in these areas, and I am excited about the chance to contribute!

### GARY SMY



My wife and I emigrated to Denver from Britain in 2001, have lived in Stapleton since 2003 and have seen it grow more than envisioned. We have two daughters and have all enjoyed

everything that Stapleton offers. One of my responsibilities as a delegate will be to decide on whether we should move forward with changing the name of Stapleton. It is important that you know that I have no personal agenda and would stand by the majority, however I do believe we should maintain the name. Stapleton does not represent any individual or their beliefs, rather it's a wonderful, diverse, community.

## DISTRICT 8

### AMANDA DOROTIK



Amanda Dorotik is an Associate Advisor at Pinnacle Real Estate Advisors specializing in retail and office investment sales.

Previously, she worked as a real estate attorney in the Denver metro area for almost 8 years. Amanda earned her J.D. from the University of Colorado School of Law and her B.S. from the University of Colorado Boulder Leeds School of Business and Administration. She lives in Stapleton with her husband, son and daughter. Amanda has served as a delegate for District 8 for the past 2 years. I am excited to continue representing my district in an open, unbiased, community-based manner.

### CALEY ORR



My name is Caley Orr and I'm running for MCA District 8 Delegate. We are privileged to live in a beautiful neighborhood. Unfortunately, we fall short of the "Green Book's" principles of

social equity and strong ties with surrounding neighborhoods. Nevertheless, I believe we can meet these aspirations. Among many things, changing our community name using a democratic process is a key step.

I grew up in Colorado and live in Conservatory Green with my family. Professionally, I am an anthropologist and professor of anatomy at CU Anschutz. My students and the friendships I've forged with folks from all walks of life motivate me to service. As your MCA delegate, I will use my passion for social equity and democracy as guiding principles.

## DISTRICT 9

### LAURA REYNOLDS



I have lived in Stapleton for 13 years, both of my daughters have grown up here, played here, gone to school here. I've lived in the South End, and recently moved to Willow Park. I have

watched this neighborhood blossom into the amazing community it is and look forward to all the things it can be in the future. I am a working mom, I have been a stay at home mom, I started and ran a small business. I come to this role with experience from many perspectives, and I'm proud to have the chance to represent my neighbors!

### ERIC WOOD



I wanted to get more involved in the community along with my neighborhood and thought this would be a great opportunity to help give back to District 9. As an architect, I feel like I could use my

experience and my educational background to assist in community decision making that would benefit the neighborhood and District 9. I'm looking forward to this opportunity.

## UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES

Lee Ferguson is running unopposed in District 7.

Yuri Tavbin is running unopposed in District 10.





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# Teaching Youth To Ha



Left: Denver Police Dept. Patrol Officer Derrick Keeton interacts with students after a workshop. Right: Officers made lists of what kids should do and kids made lists of what officers should do. Here they are presenting their lists.



By Martina Will de Chaparro, Ph.D.

While many DPS students and teachers had October 19 off, 160 eighth graders and their faculty at the Denver School of Science and Technology: Stapleton spent the day having “brave conversations.” The local organization Brave Coalition brought together experts that “helped foster the conversations that help us work across differences and examine our own assumptions and biases,” said Principal Dan Sullivan.

Brave Coalition selected the DSST site in large part due to Sullivan’s immediate enthusiasm for the program. Sullivan stated, “One of the things I love most about our mission and our school is that we are an inclusive community; our students are of all different backgrounds, racially, ethnically, socio-economically. And we believe in the power that’s in that diversity.” DSST’s student population is about 84% minority; 69% free and reduced lunch; and 41% English language learners. The students spent the day rotating through workshops addressing issues of race, gender and bias.

Eighth grade is an especially propitious point in youth development, according to Brave Coalition’s Chris Reed, one of five Stapleton moms who established the organiza-

tion in the wake of anti-Semitic and racist vandalism at Isabella Bird Community School in 2016. Good intentions are inadequate to the task of disentangling how racial biases surface in education. “To move from safe to brave” means schools and communities need to examine their privilege, she says. Although many people are uncomfortable talking about issues of bias and race, Reed says, “If you’re not feeling uncomfortable, you’re not fully in it.” She says it’s within those moments of discomfort that we have the greatest potential for growth.

Rosetta Lee, a Seattle-based educator, led a session on gender, gender bias, conflict, and bullying. Some of the questions she wanted kids to think about were: “What is the difference between everyday conflict and bullying? What ways are boys and girls taught to experience and express aggression differently? How do identifiers like sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, ability, and socioeconomic status affect aggression?”

Representatives from Bridging the Gap: Kids and Cops led a forum on implicit bias that

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November 2018

10

Front Porch – NE Denver



# ve Brave Conversations



The DSST students also participated in an implicit bias training session by the Kids and Cops program. Established by Denver's Office of the Independent Monitor as part of a systemic approach to violence prevention, this program partners with the Denver Police Department and the Denver Public Schools, leading forums in which youth and police officers engage in dialogue and receive training on their rights and responsibilities.

Data provided by the Police Executive Research Forum indicates that this collaborative approach to school safety is reducing the number of behavioral incidents, out-of-school and in-school suspensions, expulsions and referrals to law enforcement. The data suggests that teaching our children to be brave and address uncomfortable truths benefits not only personal growth and development, but fosters a healthier community for us all.

Volunteer attorneys from LYRIC—Learn Your Rights in Colorado—instructed students on their Constitutional rights, and taught them proper wording, should they be approached by police. “I choose to remain silent and I want a lawyer.” “Am I free to leave?” were two key phrases. Students demonstrated the training's relevance by raising a host of questions based on possible scenarios they as young people might face. The questions were at times poignant and revealed the range of fears and concerns our youth grapple with. “What if a teacher gives me marijuana and I don't know it?” inquired one eighth grader, referencing the availability of edibles masquerading as sweets in Colorado.

Brave Coalition received a 2018 Race and Justice Mini-Grant from Mayor Michael Hancock's Office of Community Affairs-Denver Human Rights and Community Partnerships in support of their efforts to bring brave conversations to the community. For more information on the Brave Coalition visit their website at [bravecoalition.com](http://bravecoalition.com).

challenged youth to discuss their expectations and assumptions about people based on their appearance. Small groups of students each received different color photos of individuals with no further identifying characteristics. They then tried to assess the individual's job and other personal details based on the image alone. Lively conversations ensued, and students walked away with a deeper awareness of the assumptions we all make based on external factors like dress and skin color.

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Front Porch – NE Denver

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Cuban ingenuity and tourism have kept vehicles like this 1957 BelAir on the road despite the U.S. trade embargo that makes getting parts extremely challenging. Soviet-era Lada and Moskvitch cars also endure.

By Martina Will de Chaparro, Ph.D.

If you have been curious about exploring Cuba but unsure where to start, take a direct flight to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (DMNS). The new exhibit—¡CUBA!—opened on October 26 and is as close as you can get to Cuba without booking air travel. Organized by the American Museum of Natural History, the exhibit places special emphasis on Cuba’s natural resources, but also touches on Cuban history and culture. The lively and interactive exhibit will surely have you looking for the next opportunity to visit this fascinating Caribbean nation. Though we tend to think of Cuba



Though much of Cuba is Catholic, many people practice an Afro-Cuban religion known as Santería. In Santería, orishas or deities offer guidance to the living.

as the largest island in the Caribbean, in reality our neighbor—only 94 miles from Florida—is actually comprised of over 4,000 islands. The nation is the site of tremendous biodiversity, including

and cave systems are within Cuba, and make for unique travel experiences. DMNS Early Childhood Education Specialist Cybil Holmes says DMNS wanted to go beyond the exhibit curat-

some animal and plant species not found anywhere else. Geopolitical shifts in the wake of the 1959 Cuban Revolution inadvertently served to protect some of these natural resources, as tourism and other activities were restricted by the socialist regime. Today, the hemisphere’s richest coral reefs, wetlands, and cave systems are within Cuba, and make for unique travel experiences.

ed by the American Museum of Natural History and add some Colorado touches. To that end, DMNS interviewed several Denver residents of Cuban descent. These Denverites shared memories as well as objects that speak to them of their country of origin, lending an intimate and local perspective on the Cuban diaspora. DMNS also met with representatives from Denver’s Cuban population



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¡CUBA! runs Oct. 26–Jan. 20, and is included with your regular DMNS admission.

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Colorado's Cuban-American community shared their stories and prized possessions for the exhibit.

to better stage the exhibit, which includes Cuban percussion instruments and a small

stage. The experience is complemented by Cuban fare in the T-Rex Café.

Though uncertainty about U.S. policy has left many U.S. travelers reticent to go to Cuba, prior to the 1959 Revolution that brought Fidel Castro to power, the two peoples enjoyed an exceptionally close relationship. Wealthy Cubans owned homes in Florida and sent their sons to be educated in the U.S. Cuban

patriot José Martí lived in New York City and raised money and sympathy for the island's independence movement, and baseball became the national pastime in both countries. The DMNS exhibit shares some of this love for baseball among its many interactive and kid-friendly displays. The Cuban Revolution profoundly transformed Cuban society, greatly limiting civil discourse and economic freedoms while also improving healthcare and education, especially in rural areas. Displeasure with the new regime's nationalization of U.S.-owned properties in Cuba led to President John F. Kennedy's 1962 ban of all Cuban imports to the U.S. This expansion of the 1960 embargo took effect just a few hours after JFK

had placed his order for 1000 Cuban Petit Upmann cigars with the White House Press Secretary. The ongoing U.S. trade embargo led to some of the features we associate with Cuba today, including local ingenuity maintaining 1950s-era U.S. cars. You can see a 1957 Chevrolet BelAir and a bicitaxi—a Havana version of the pedicab—at the DMNS along with other elements of popular culture. ¡CUBA! runs through Jan. 20, 2019 and is included with your regular

DMNS admission. Speakers, performances, and special events to satisfy any armchair traveler, including an adults-only "Night in Havana" on Nov. 9, can be found at <http://www.dmns.org/cuba/>.



Cuba's biodiversity and near-pristine coral reefs make for exceptional snorkeling and scuba diving in places like the Gardens of the Queen Marine Reserve.



originate in Cuba, and ensembles often perform in Havana's many plazas.



Cuba's late Pleistocene-era owl, Ornimegalonyx, was the largest that ever lived.

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# Cultivating

By Martina Will de Chaparro, Ph.D.

How often during the holiday season have you said, “We should give back this year. Let’s go feed the homeless.” So often, however, by the time inspiration hits and the call is placed and an answer is received...all the slots have been filled. You write a check and resolve to do better next year.

Shary Zampert, who co-founded the Kids Compassion Project with fellow Stapleton mom Erin Oltersdorf in 2015 stresses the importance of giving and teaching kids to give at an early age, but also notes, “You don’t have to have money in your pockets to give. You can give your time and skills; regardless of what your resources are, it’s important to instill compassion in our kids.”

Karissa Dahlquist, who serves as the Volunteer Coordinator at the Little Sisters of the Poor Mullen Home for the Elderly, emphasizes the importance of “taking on the heart of service” year-round by “recognizing *their* need rather than your own” in giving. She suggests that people call the organizations they would like to work with and ask, “Is there something I can help you with?”

The *Front Porch* has identified some worthy organizations around Metro Denver that will welcome your generosity, elbow grease and know-how. Each of these volunteer opportunities is family-friendly, so children can get involved. Who knows? Maybe this will light the spark of altruism or connect your child with a lifelong calling to build houses or cook family feasts.

School clubs, scout troops, athletic teams, businesses, and others can also pitch in! Be sure to check the links and call to confirm that needs have not shifted since publication.

**Casa de Paz** in Green Valley Ranch reunites families from around the globe who have been separated by the immigrant detention center in Aurora. Though some of their volunteer opportunities require training, other options include bringing groceries or a prepared meal, cleaning the Casa, or playing volleyball. Yes. That’s not a typo. *Volleyball Internacional* fees support this entirely volunteer-run organization: <https://www.casadepazcolorado.org/volunteer/>. Join Casa de Paz on Dec. 7 from 7-10pm to write holiday cards to people in detention.

**Denver Dumb Friends League** offers Pawstive Service Day programs for kids ages 8-11 and Volunteer Day and Volunteer Club for youth ages 12-15. Details can be found at [www.ddfl.org/youth-volunteering](http://www.ddfl.org/youth-volunteering).

**Family Promise of Greater Denver** partners with families at risk of or experiencing homelessness. If you’d like to sponsor a family for the holidays by purchasing gifts from their wish list, please contact Mel at 303-



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# Kids Who Care



Mango House volunteer Cindy Naylor shows clothes to Raja Magar, who is from Nepal.

675-0713 x104 or [mdavis@familypromiseofgreaterdenver.org](mailto:mdavis@familypromiseofgreaterdenver.org)

**Habitat for Humanity** builds houses with low-income families. No nailgun required.

**ReStore:** Younger teens (ages 14-15) can work at ReStore with an adult, and older teens can volunteer independently in the shop.

**Construction:** If you and your crew would rather wear tool belts, youth 14-15 can help in the production shop on Tuesdays and Saturdays and ages 16-17 can help

with home repair and new construction Wednesday-Saturday.

**Snacks, Tools & Planters:** Kids under 14 may bring lunch or snacks to volunteers, conduct a tool drive or a Habitat ReStore drive, or build planters to welcome new homeowners.

<https://www.habitatmetrodenver.org/volunteer/individual/youth-opportunities/>

**Impact Locally** serves over 5,000 people who are homeless each month. Kids can help make and distribute sack lunch-

es; sign up here: <https://www.impactlocally.org/sacklunches>

**Kids Compassion Project:** Oltersdorf and Zampert organize a project that is engaging and kid-friendly (especially for the 8 and under set) every month. On December 1, you can join them to wrap presents for a local charity from 10-noon at the Hangar at Stanley Market-place. For more details contact: [Shary@kidscompassionproject.org](mailto:Shary@kidscompassionproject.org).

**Little Sisters of the Poor Mullen Home for the Aged** has a variety of current needs including event help, photographers, meal servers, drivers, companions and translators. See: <http://www.littlesistersofthehooddenver.org/volunteer/>

**Mango House** serves our refugee neighbors and is always in need of diapers and personal hygiene items for its Basic Needs Pantry. Consider organizing a drive or taking up a collection. They are moving to a new location on E. Colfax in November or December, so be sure to call before dropping off goodies: 303.900.8639. <http://1532gale-na.com/>

**Project Helping** is your one-stop website, with kid-friendly volunteer opportunities around the Metro area and organized by date, so you can easily plug into an existing need based on your calendar and interests. Their website also includes signup sheets so you will actually be baking bread, packing medical supplies, or serving dinner, not sitting idly because of an overabundance of volunteers. Go to: [www.projecthelping.org](http://www.projecthelping.org) and click on "Colorado" for a list of opportunities.

**Sacred Heart House of Denver** shelters women and children who are home-

less. They appreciate volunteers who can bring a meal or organize a project and drop it off.

**Making-and Sharing-Family Dinner:** Families or small groups (of 5-6) can prepare at home and serve at the House a meal for 20 residents. They ask that folks sit and break bread and engage with residents, and help with some after-dinner childcare as the moms in residence are completing their chores.

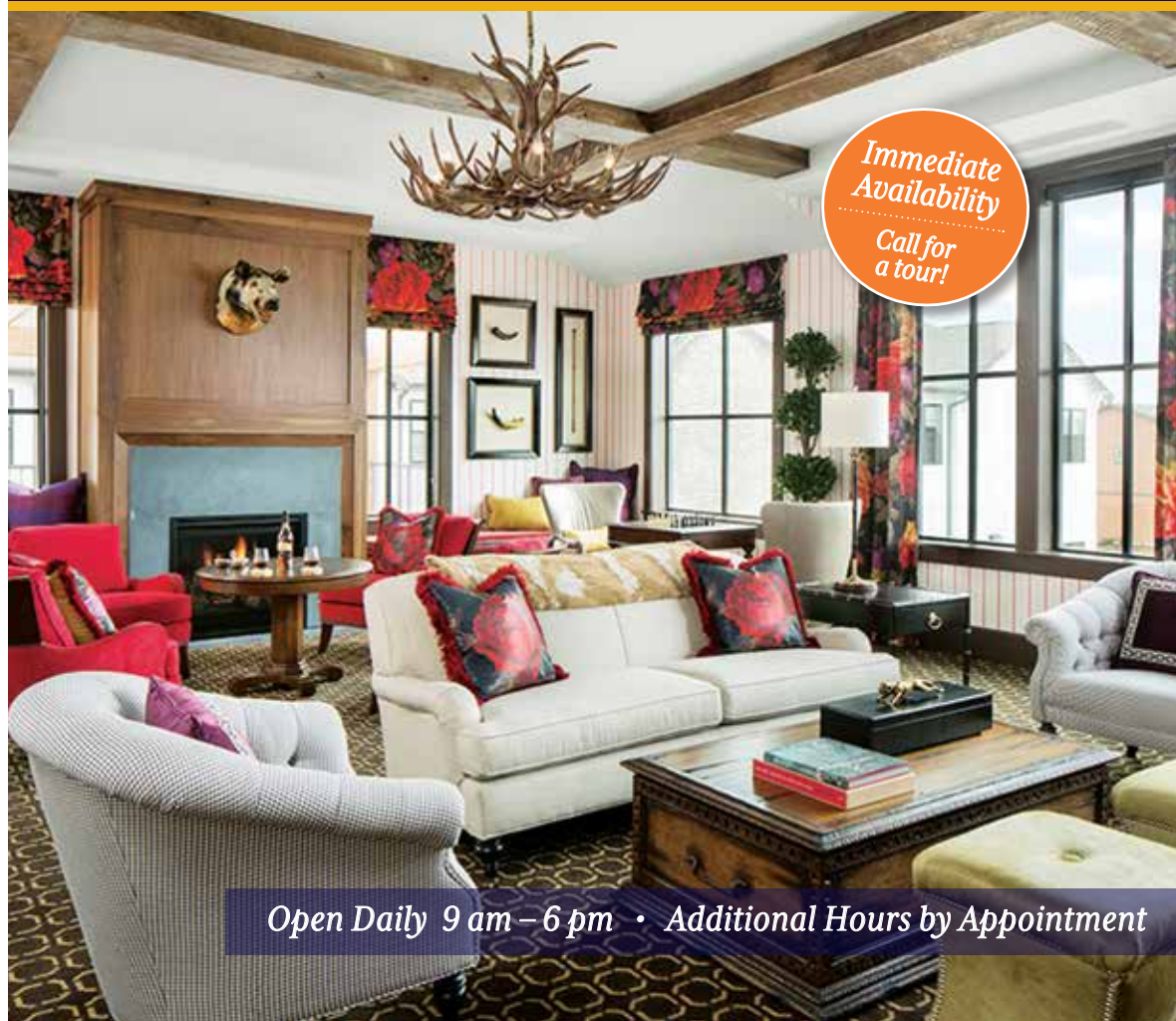
**Special Projects:** Let your creativity soar! Sacred Heart House gives new residents welcome boxes with basic hygiene items and birthday boxes for birthdays. If you feel inspired, your scout troop, small business, block, or book club can collect items, put them together and deliver them: <https://sacredhearthouse.com/volunteer-homeless-shelter-denver/>

**Senior Hub, Inc.,** offers support and referral services for senior citizens in the Metro area. Volunteers help deliver meals to homebound seniors, walk and brush seniors' pet companions, visit seniors living on their own, organize a holiday drive, or donate to the giving tree. Contact Joanne Glaviano, Volunteer Coordinator, at [jglaviano@seniorhub.org](mailto:jglaviano@seniorhub.org) or see: <https://seniorhub.org/our-agency-our-agency/volunteer-opportunities/>

If you still haven't found just the right cause, Stapleton mom Rachna Boci maintains a Facebook group that compiles kid-friendly volunteer activities year-round; you can find it via the Facebook search option: "Volunteering with Kids in the Denver Metro Area."

Whatever your cause, cultivating this spirit of generosity and engagement can be transformative. Sarah Jackson, who established the Casa de Paz in 2012 out of her one-bedroom apartment, began with a simple vision to help. This vision has sustained the Casa and allowed her all-volunteer organization to help over 1,438 individuals. As Sarah says, "one simple act of love at a time" is all that is needed to change the world.

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# 2018 SPF-NE Denver Schools

By Carol Roberts

The high interest in the annual unveiling of School Performance Framework (SPF) scores and the bright colors that draw attention to the rankings may tempt parents to draw conclusions about their child's school beyond what the data is designed for.

The district's decision to use the SPF to call out academic gaps does a good job of highlighting a problem and creating a system to help solve the problem, says Board Representative Jennifer Bacon. But, she adds, the SPF doesn't measure programs to find the best fit for your child.

"Families should use multiple data points to understand their school or future schools, and the SPF is only one of those data points," says Nicole Veltzé, DPS Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education. "Parents should take a walk through their school to assess the climate and culture of the building that may not be captured in an SPF. Talking to other families about their students' experiences in the school is another important aspect of understanding a school."

Each DPS school has survey data that offers additional information about six Whole Child components: Challenged, Engaged, Healthy, Safe, Socially-Emotionally Intelligent and Supported. Students are asked whether they eat breakfast or get bullied, and the data shows chronic absences and out-of-school suspensions.\* Finding the right school for

a specific child involves all these factors

For DPS, the academic gap indicator and its impact on the overall SPF rating are keeping their focus on what has been a stubborn problem to solve. Maya Lagana, Senior Director of Portfolio Management, says, "We do believe one of the purposes of our SPF is to drive attention to the students who need the most help. That is a reality of the tool and what we are trying to accomplish through it.

...we knew we wanted to raise the bar...to more accurately reflect our aspirations that all students are mastering grade level content...When we say to the community that a school is green, that should reflect that they are a high performing school for all students. The academic gaps are a part of our framework to show not just how the schools are doing for some students, but for all students—which we believe is important for a community to know and be aware of."

For students at or above grade level, Lagana points out that the Denver Public Schools' SPF (though not the state SPF) does include a measure to make sure students are staying there.

DPS has directed district-run and innovation schools to host community meetings about the SPF results by Thanksgiving—and has encouraged charter schools to do the same.

\* View 2016-17 DPS' Whole Child Student Survey results at <http://whole-child.dpsk12.org/whole-child-survey-results/>



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2018 SPF SCORES								
SPF School Name	% Earned Points	SPF Rating	Academic Gaps	Growth	Status	Family & Student Engagement/ Satisfaction	Postsecondary Readiness - Growth	Postsecondary Readiness - Status
HIGH SCHOOLS								
Denver Online High School	70.00%	Meets Expectations		62.75%	100.0%	66.67%		
Denver School of the Arts	78.73%	Meets Expectations	73.97%	67.78%	98.59%	68.75%	100.0%	98.21%
DSST: Conservatory Green HS	80.93%	Distinguished	74.36%	72.41%	100.0%	91.67%		100.0%
DSST: Stapleton HS	74.29%	Meets Expectations	65.52%	54.4%	100.0%	78.57%	90.48%	92.11%
East High School	51.96%	Accredited on Watch	37.64%	33.42%	67.31%	75.0%	66.67%	73.75%
George Washington High School	46.88%	Accredited on Watch	32.02%	30.16%	56.41%	43.75%	73.81%	62.5%
Manual High School	34.38%	Accredited on Priority Watch	41.13%	36.64%	15.91%	57.14%	52.38%	18.06%
Northfield High School	55.71%	Accredited on Watch	49.71%	47.55%	56.41%	46.43%	100.0%	61.11%
MIDDLE SCHOOLS								
Denver Discovery School	37.20%	Accredited on Priority Watch	33.33%	37.71%	39.02%	22.22%		
DSST: Conservatory Green MS	67.86%	Meets Expectations	66.11%	64.83%	78.05%	50.0%		
DSST: Stapleton MS	76.49%	Meets Expectations	74.44%	72.03%	92.68%	50.0%		
Grant Beacon Middle School	71.73%	Meets Expectations	70.56%	79.24%	47.56%	61.11%		
Hill Campus of Arts and Sciences	64.29%	Meets Expectations	51.11%	71.61%	42.68%	55.56%		
McAuliffe International School	86.31%	Distinguished	78.89%	85.59%	85.37%	77.78%		
McAuliffe Manual MS	63.09%	Meets Expectations	57.69%	74.06%	35.29%	37.78%		
K-8 SCHOOLS								
Denver Language School	68.93%	Meets Expectations	67.95%	71.29%	63.66%	60.0%		
Odyssey School of Denver	55.47%	Meets Expectations	63.69%	53.85%	57.89%	60.0%		
William (Bill) Roberts ECE-8	76.82%	Meets Expectations	72.96%	74.19%	83.04%	73.33%		
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS								
Ashley Elementary School	47.09%	Accredited on Watch	57.99%	53.7%	36.63%	25.0%		
Denver Green School	85.01%	Distinguished	83.68%	88.32%	77.34%	54.17%		
Hallett Academy	38.07%	Accredited on Priority Watch	88.89%	47.1%	7.14%	33.33%		
High Tech Elementary School	65.54%	Meets Expectations	66.45%	64.29%	66.82%	50.0%		
Inspire Elementary **	32.00%	Accredited on Probation	0.0%	66.67%	20.0%	22.22%		
Isabella Bird Community School	60.98%	Meets Expectations	51.39%	65.22%	52.73%	50.0%		
Lowry Elementary School	50.11%	Accredited on Watch	38.27%	50.63%	50.45%	41.67%		
Monarch Montessori	34.03%	Accredited on Priority Watch	39.04%	39.91%	22.69%	29.17%		
Montclair Academics/Enrichment	53.97%	Accredited on Watch	48.42%	58.1%	43.98%	50.0%		
Park Hill Elementary School	78.41%	Meets Expectations	68.99%	77.54%	79.35%	66.67%		
Polaris Elementary School	94.23%	Distinguished	100.0%	95.83%	100.0%	70.83%		
Roots Elementary	39.80%	Accredited on Watch	34.62%	61.9%	15.63%	33.33%		
Smith Elementary School	39.93%	Accredited on Watch	46.55%	43.5%	35.14%	16.67%		
Stedman Elementary School	28.74%	Accredited on Probation	30.92%	33.77%	9.76%	45.83%		
Swigert International School	71.19%	Meets Expectations	67.5%	61.62%	91.25%	83.33%		
Westerly Creek Elementary	79.38%	Meets Expectations	71.65%	75.19%	87.76%	75.0%		

**SPF Chart includes NE Denver schools, nearby schools and other DPS schools of interest, including the programs applying to be the new middle school in north Stapleton.**

**SPF Rating:** The color-coded system shows as a glance how a school is performing from Distinguished (blue) to Accredited on Probation (red).

**Academic Gaps:** How at-risk students' growth and status compare with other students in that school and in the district. Schools need to have at least a green rating in this category to have an overall rating of green or higher.

**Status:** Proficiency: How a school is doing at a fixed point in time

**Growth:** How a school is doing over a period of time.

**Parent/Student Engagement:** How effectively a school connects with parents and families.

**Post Secondary Readiness:** How well a high school is preparing students for college and career.

\*\*Inspire Principal Marisol Enriquez informed the Front Porch that since the school was just getting started in 2017-18, they were scored on only 25 out of a possible 166 points.



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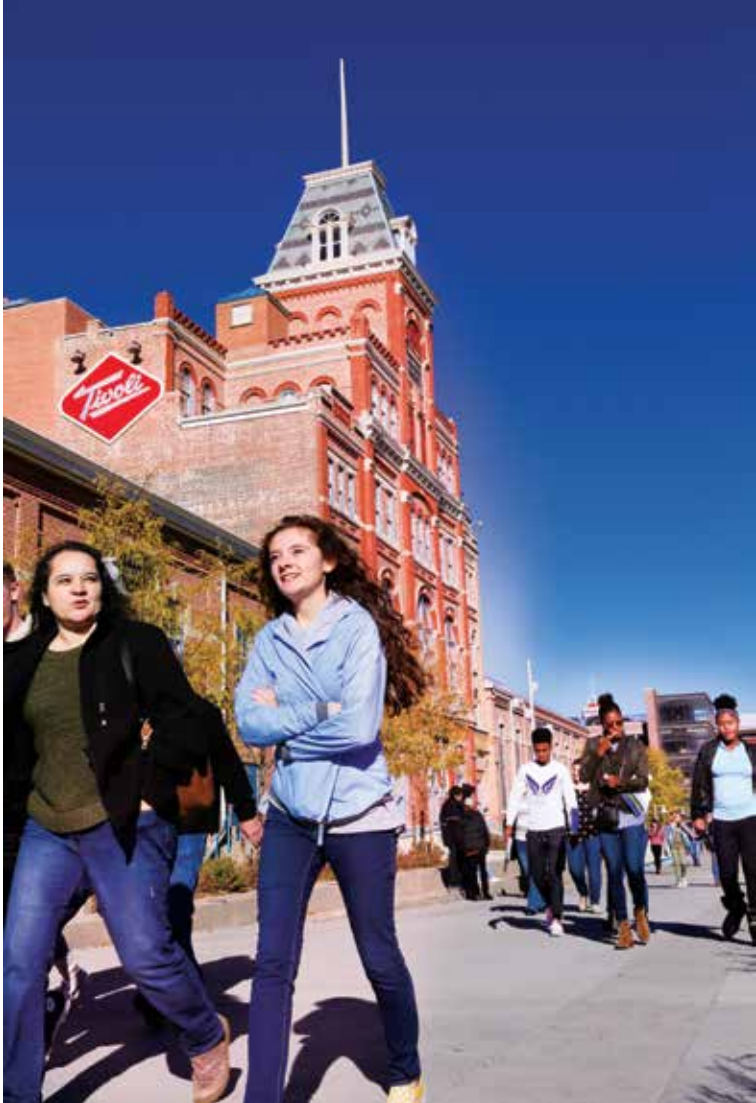
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# Complexities Abound: Navigating College Admission

By Mary Jo Brooks

Seventeen-year-old Shay Mannik has a large year-at-a-glance calendar hanging on a wall at his house with deadlines clearly marked. He’s also created a spreadsheet with more than a dozen colleges he’s researching. A member of the first class at Northfield High School, which will graduate next May, Mannik is determined to stay calm during the frenzied college application process.

“It’s hard. I’ve had to prioritize the hell out of everything: homework, volunteering and then applying for colleges. I don’t always get enough sleep,” he admits.

Mannik says he’s done much of his research online, but he’s also used the newly opened Futures Center at his school. The Denver Scholarship Foundation (DSF) has funded 14 of these resource centers



Gritton-Adkins points out Metro’s spectacular view of city and the amenities of the downtown location.

Above left: Trevor Gritton-Adkins leads a Metropolitan State University tour of the campus following a half-hour orientation for the potential new students.

Above: The student union is located in the old Tivoli Brewery building.

that serve 21 Denver public high schools. Zack Montez, the DSF college advisor at Northfield, says his mission is to support all students with their secondary aspirations, whether that’s a technical school, a community college or a traditional 4-year institution.

“You want to go to the school that is the best fit for you, the school that is most supportive of you so that you can do well. And hopefully one that will give you some financial assistance.”

Montez says there are three broad categories that should be given equal weight

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November 2018

18

Front Porch – NE Denver





College advisor Zack Montez helps Northfield High School seniors Shay Mannik (foreground) and Rachel Acosta-Medina work on their college applications at the NHS Futures Center.

when considering schools: the academic fit, the social fit and the financial fit. A graduate of Notre Dame University, Montez said unfortunately he didn't choose a college that was a good match and that's why he's so passionate about the work he's doing.

"The social aspect is very important. I sometimes didn't feel like I fit in at Notre Dame. I want students to really think about that aspect. Feeling like you belong is very important," says Montez.

Denver author and college consultant Steven Antonoff has written what some counselors consider a "must have" guide to helping students find that fit. *College Match* provides worksheets and practical tips to winnow down the choices. Antonoff says it's also important to get rid of the myths.

"The notion that if it costs more, it's better. If it's out of state, it's better. If it has a well-known football team, it's better. Students and parents need to eliminate those kinds of barriers when they start their research."

But Antonoff says it is important for parents to have frank discussions about cost. "Too often parents feel that if they can't financially support Buffy's desire to go to Stanford, that they have failed. And that's just total nonsense."

Antonoff tells parents to consider three

things when exploring costs. One is the availability of need-based aid. Private colleges tend to be more generous than public universities. The second is looking at merit aid. "It's never been more likely that colleges will provide merit aid," says Antonoff. "Many give merit aid even to B students if they are from an under-represented population." Finally, he says, students should consider what he calls good value colleges. "These are schools that have a great faculty but not the big name and they don't charge as much. Often they are in the midwest or south."

Parent Judith Gault said the financial cost was what drove her daughter's decision to attend the University of Colorado Denver. Erin Leidtke graduated from the International Baccalaureate program at George Washington High School in 2017. But during her senior year, she felt tremendous pressure to consider private schools out of state because that's where most of her peers were applying.

"Many of the kids in that program are more affluent and that's what they do, they go out of state. Erin was the exception and that was hard," said Gault.

But since Leidtke is paying for college entirely on her own, Gault says that the choice was quite clear. Going to a state school and living at home means that her daughter will (continued on page 20)



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(continued from page 19) graduate with no college debt, a big plus since she then intends to go to medical school.

“For your undergraduate degree—especially for the first two years of college—a state university can fulfill all your academic needs. You’re not compromising on your education and you get substantial savings,” says Gault.

East High School Counselor Anne Koshio knows that peer pressure and the stress of meeting deadlines can be overwhelming this time of year for seniors. “I think it’s much more stressful for students now than it used to be. Kids feel like they have to pick the perfect place or all is lost. And the competitiveness is out of control,” says Koshio. It’s one reason why East has decided to hold weekly drop-in sessions so students can talk about their anxieties and get help with applications.

East also has a program called “Life After East,” staffed by volunteers who work with low income and first generation college students. Georgianna Forbes, a mother of two East graduates, helped

form the organization six years ago. She says she tries to get students to start focusing on the college application process during their junior year, but the reality is that most wait until they are seniors.

“I would say the number one stumbling block for most kids is writing the essays. They wait until the last minute and panic. And then too often they’re writing stuff that isn’t great.”

Forbes says it’s important to write a personal essay that helps admissions counselors learn more about who the student is. “Colleges hate ‘I learned about teamwork playing on my soccer team.’ That’s just not very interesting. They also don’t want to read about privileged kids going to Costa Rica to build latrines.” Forbes says it’s much better to write a story about a moment when the student learned an important lesson, using lots of interesting details to engage the reader.

Amy Macy, a professional college consultant, who has worked with many students in the Denver metro area, says her main advice about essays is to write

about a personal passion.

“Start with something compelling, something that grabs the reader’s attention and then connect it to how that’s impacted you and how it will likely impact your future.”

Macy, who charges between \$4,000-\$6,000 to work with a student, began her consulting business 5 years ago after working as a teacher, an admissions counselor and finally a director of college counseling at Denver Academy. She’s seen her business grow exponentially and she thinks that’s because the application process has become so complex.

“I tell my students that I’m your mentor, coach, cheerleader and chief nudger. I want to support you to break this down in manageable chunks so you can get it done. Students very rarely want to do it on their own. I think most adults would struggle to do

this on their own,” says Macy.

Even though the Common Application was designed to simplify the admission process, Macy believes it encouraged kids to apply to many more schools, so colleges have responded by adding supplemental essays. She has one student who has written

20 essays for both college and scholarship applications.

Macy says she worries about how the application process seems to grow more burdensome every year. And yet she says she’s grateful that the American system is more inclusive of students who may not test well or who aren’t in the top ten of their class. She says it’s far different from the way European schools operate.

“The American system is nice because it’s more holistic. Students have ways of showing—outside of testing—what they have to offer. On the other hand, it’s just creating more work. The European system is all numbers-based and there’s very little that is holistic,” says Macy.

## College Application Resources for Students and Parents

College counselors suggest these websites and books as helpful resources during the college application process.

Niche.com

CollegeData.com

*College Match* by Steven R. Antonoff

*Fiske Guide to Colleges* by Edward B. Fiske

*Colleges that Change Lives: 40 Schools that will Change the Way You Think About Colleges* by Loren Pope

*Where You Go Is Not Who You’ll Be: An Antidote to the College Admissions Mania* by Frank Bruni

*College Essay Essentials* by Ethan Sawyer

*The Insiders Guide to the Colleges: Students on Campus tell You what you Really Want to Know* by Yale Daily News Staff

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

### *First Man* (2018)

This wonderful film is the latest effort from Damien Chazelle, whose last film was the widely acclaimed *La La Land* (2016). Here, he teams with the same cinematographer (Linus Sandgren), the same editor (Tom Cross), and the same star (Ryan Gosling) to tell the story of Neil Armstrong and the moon landing of the Apollo 11 mission. After the highly stylized theatrics of *La La Land*, everyone was expecting similar treatment of this material; what we got was quite different, extremely personal, and intensely real. After *La La Land* and his film previous to that, *Whiplash* (2014), Chazelle has established himself as one of the finest directors of a generation.

The shot of choice in the film is the close-up: we get close to the characters early on and stay there, probing Gosling’s face and trying to find the emotion that we are all projecting onto him. Does he think about his daughter’s death at all? Too much? Is he ebullient at being named to lead the mission and the first person to walk on the moon? While the film gives us clues to his emotions through flashbacks and one moving scene on the moon (he releases his



*First Man*

daughter’s bracelet into a crater) we never know for sure. We do know for sure about Janet Armstrong, as Claire Foy gives an Oscar-worthy performance. Fiery and energetic, she is the emotion to Gosling’s earnestness. It is a brilliant and inspired pairing.

The film is not without controversy, however. President Trump has criticized it for not showing the American flag actually being planted on the moon (it is clearly visible in a shot, however), and some have criticized the scene on the moon where Armstrong tears up as he thinks about his daughter. Most biographers and others

who knew Armstrong at the time said he did not bring his daughter’s bracelet with him. To both I say: who cares?

Chazelle took pains to make the film as scientifically accurate as possible—it has been praised for showing exactly how the flights took place, right down to the placement of the knobs. The film is not meant to be a flag-waving, overly patriotic tome: it is the story about a quiet man thrust into heroic acts (a very universal story). As far as his daughter’s bracelet, I took it as

symbolic and expressionistic. It spoke to how he *may* have felt at the time. And oh yeah, it is not a documentary. It is a film with heart, decency, and honesty. That is good enough for me.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *Moonlight*, *12 Years a Slave*, and/or *Manchester by the Sea*.

Now playing at theaters all over.

### *The Man in the High Castle*

Season 3 (Amazon)

I have previously reviewed season 1 (December 2015), and season 2 followed in December 2016. In my review of season 1, I stated “It is an ambitious project, and it works.” I also said it was a slow-moving plot with a plethora of characters, and therefore it could be hard to follow.

Season 2 was not much different, but season 3 triples down.

The first two seasons followed the crux of Dick’s book: an alternative ending to WWII leaves the Nazis in charge of the U.S. east coast while the Japanese rule the west coast. The man in the high castle, however, a mythical figure in the middle of the country’s free zone, holds a warehouse full of films that tell a different story—the actual ending of the war where the Allies defeated the Axis powers. The central question of the first two seasons



*The Man in the High Castle*

is simple: where do the films come from? Season 3 goes beyond.

We get the same characters in season 3, we add in a few more, and we lose a few along the way. The main characters remain the resistance fighter Juliana Crane (a dour Alexa Davalos), Nazi commander John Smith (an excellent Rufus Sewell), and Japanese Trade Minister Tagomi (Cary Hiroyuki-Tagawa in an understated performance). Much of the show’s creative team remains intact, and the atmosphere they realize is the actual star of the show: the bright lights of the Nazi machine in NYC, the gray and shadowy tones of Japanese San Francisco, and the sepia-infused uneasiness of the free zone. Each location hits just the right notes and captures the essence of the milieu and emotions of the characters.

Yes, the show can be hard to follow. Yes, it gets heady at times. Yes, it is tightly wound. And yes, it moves deep into sci-fi in season 3. But it is also spot-on in its execution, extremely tight in its character studies, and exacting in every minute detail of the aesthetic. If you haven’t seen the first two seasons, you should certainly do so before moving on to season 3. Find out what’s on the other side.

You will like this show if you enjoyed *The Handmaid’s Tale*, *Blade Runner 2049*, and/or *Black Mirror*.

Now available on Amazon Prime.

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



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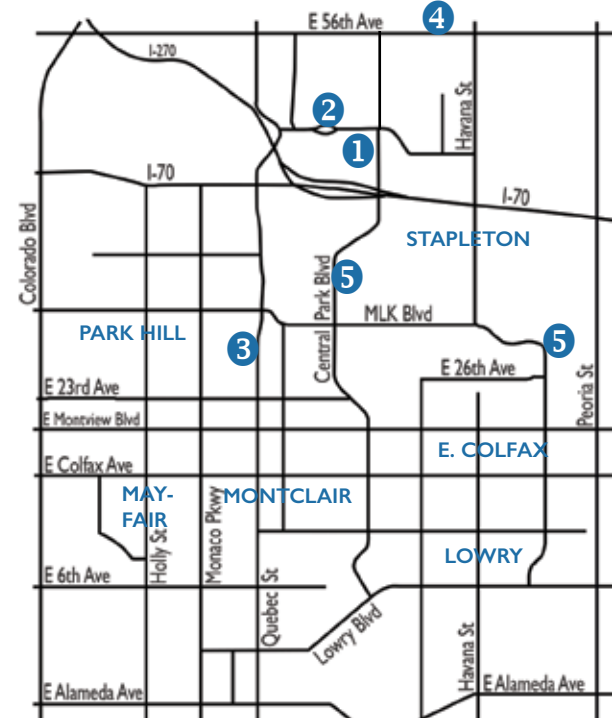
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# ...NE News Updates



By Carol Roberts

## 1 Affordable Senior Housing

Kappa Housing, Inc. has received the tax credits needed to finance construction of a 70-unit senior housing project at Northfield and Central Park boulevards. Units will have 1- and 2-bedrooms. The apartments are being built for seniors 62 and older and persons with disabilities and incomes ranging from 30% to 60% of area median income. Construction is estimated to begin in summer of 2019, with completion by 2021.

## 2 Diversity and Name Change Issues Raised in Stapleton's Annual MCA Delegate Election

After many years when it was difficult to fill all the community delegate positions, this year, Stapleton Master Community Association (MCA) Executive Director Keven Burnett says there is actually competition for 8 of the 10 delegate seats.

This year the community group Rename St\*pleton for All went to people they felt “would represent the community and be passionate about diversity and inclusivity and getting back to the Green Book’s initial ideals—and [address] some of the places we haven’t been successful like diversity and seamless boundaries,” says Genevieve Swift, Rename president. “And,

frankly, the name is not in the spirit of the Green Book. We found eight passionate people who want to make a difference and get involved.” She says those delegates and the Rename group believe it’s not their place to choose a name—the community needs to choose it. But, she adds, they feel the name is “a huge barrier” to getting back to the Green Book (Stapleton Development Plan) ideals. Swift says the delegates and Rename St\*pleton would be open and communicative with the community about how to participate in the process leading to a name change.

Burnett says there are two ways to change the name. The “express” way would be for a majority of delegates to agree on a new name and propose the change. If the Board accepts the recommendation, they would send it to Forest City, which has first right of refusal on a name change through 2022. If Forest City approved, the name “Stapleton” would then be legally removed and the community would be rebranded under a new name. Burnett says that while the process is available to the community, it would be lengthy and have a cost. He adds, however, that it most likely could be accomplished with discretionary funds, without a dues increase. The funds used for a name change and rebranding without a dues increase would be redirected from normal operations of the MCA in parks, pools and programs.

The other alternative for changing the name, and the only option after 2022, is for two-thirds of all property owners to vote in the affirmative for the change.

Ballots to vote for each district’s delegates were sent to all Stapleton addresses in late October. The ballots must be submitted in person or by proxy on or before the annual members’ meeting on Nov. 14. (See meeting info and delegate bios on page 9.)

## 3 Forest City News: Final Land Purchases, Sale of Company

Forest City has almost completed the purchase of all Stapleton Airport land from DIA. They purchased 59.4 acres in late September, most of it between I-70 and Smith Road, with a 2-acre parcel at Havana and 51st Ave. Purchase of the final parcel, 5.98 acres just south of the RTD station in the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) was expected in October but has not occurred. Forest City has until May 2019 to purchase the final acreage.

Forest City shareholders will be voting Nov. 15 on whether to approve the acquisition of Forest City by the Canadian company Brookfield Asset Management. Brian Fennelly, Forest City Vice President and Chief Financial Officer said at the October Citizens Advisory Board meeting that details about how the Stapleton office will be managed if the sale goes through are not known.

## 4 New Middle School in North Stapleton

Meetings were held in October and will continue in early November so the community can learn about the three schools (Denver Green School, High Tech Elementary, and Beacon Network) that have applied to be the new middle school in north Stapleton. DPS has taken applications for community members to serve on the Placement Review Committee which, according to Maya Lagana, DPS Senior Director Portfolio Management, will have a 3:1 ratio of community members to DPS members. (And the committee appointing community members will itself have a majority of community members.)

On November 15 the Board will consider community feedback and DPS’ quality criteria in a vote to confirm the applicant programs to be considered by the Placement Committee. The committee members will be named by Oct. 31; the committee will then meet and make a recommendation by December 14. Community members can give feedback to the committee at [cnqs@dpsk12.org](mailto:cnqs@dpsk12.org) or directly to DPS Board members (at [board@dpsk12.org](mailto:board@dpsk12.org)) through December 20, when the Board will vote on the final selection. Lagana says the Board has followed the Placement Committee recommendations in the prior two decisions on new programs. Board Member Jennifer Bacon says she believes the Board now has a practice of accepting the Placement Committee’s recommendations.

The new program will open in the 2019-20 school year at a temporary location in North Stapleton. The permanent location is expected to be at the Park Street Campus after construction of an addition to the Inspire Elementary building, but if Hi Tech Elementary is chosen, consideration may be given to expanding their existing facility.

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

Brian Fennelly, Forest City Vice President and Chief Financial Officer reported at the October Citizens Advisory Board meeting that there had been some delays on the Central Park Bridge and it is now expected to open mid-November.

Construction on the extension of MLK Blvd from Havana to Peoria is expected to start in November, said Fennelly.

## 6 Fiscal Impact of Ballot Measures 109, 110, 73

A special election version of Colorado Balancing Act lets taxpayers look at the impact of Propositions 109 and 110 and Amendment 73. Voters in favor of Proposition 109 can look at the options for where they would cut \$260 million. The simulation was produced by Engaged Public and CU’s School of Public Affairs. An announcement of the new simulation can be found at <https://www.cudenvertoday.org/test-november-ballot-choices-with-colorado-budget-simulator/>.

The simulation is at [www.ColoradoBalancingAct.com](http://www.ColoradoBalancingAct.com).

## 7 Superintendent Search Survey Results

Results of community meetings about the new DPS superintendent search were posted at [supersearch.dpsk12.org](http://supersearch.dpsk12.org). At the Sept. 11 meeting in northeast Denver (held at Denver School of the Arts), participants were asked, among other questions, to rank the most

important quality a new superintendent must have. 65% said the new superintendent must address closing the academic achievement gap. 17% said it’s most important that the new superintendent must have a transparent and open budgeting process that prioritizes teacher salaries and direct service to students. 14% said ensuring graduates are ready for college or career was the most important quality.

## 8 iPhone with iOS 12 Shows 911 Location

Ninety-five percent of calls to 911 are from cell phone users, but until the iOS update, call takers had to rely on a location description from the caller. With iOS 12, the 911 call center will now receive precise location information from iPhones, enabling resources to be dispatched more quickly, according to Athena Butler, director of the 9-1-1 Communications Center.

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<https://brs.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/FunRun2018/FunRun2018/tabid/984117/Default.aspx>





# November & Early December Events

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

## NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS

**11/1 Thursday—Quick Suppers: 5-Ingredient Chowders.** Comfort food that comes together in a flash. Sam Gary Branch Library 2961 Roslyn St. 720-865-0325. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**11/2 Friday—Vegas Night in Stapleton.** Evening of entertainment with professional casino games, prizes, music/dancing, food/drinks. Adults 21+. Benefits Westerly Creek Elementary. Buy tickets at [www.StapletonNightOut.com](http://www.StapletonNightOut.com) The Hangar at Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas St, Aurora.

**11/2 Friday—Food Truck Rodeo.** [www.auroragov.org/events](http://www.auroragov.org/events)

**11/2 to 11/4—Park Hill Art Club.** Show and Sale. 11/2, 4:30pm-8pm; 11/3, 10am-5pm; 11/4, 9:30am-4pm. Park Hill United Methodist Church, 5209 Montview. [www.parkhillartclub.org](http://www.parkhillartclub.org)

**11/6 Tuesday—Community Meeting with Applicants for New Greater Park Hill-Stapleton Middle School.** 5:30-7:30pm. DPS invites the community to learn more about Beacon Network Middle School, Denver Green School and High Tech ECE-8. Community feedback will be shared with the DPS Board. Bill Roberts Cafetorium, 2100 N. Akron Way. Light snacks, childcare (ages 3-12) and Spanish interpretation will be provided at no cost.

**11/7 Wednesday—Wine Education Series at The Cube.** 7-9pm. Sit-down tasting features different wines from different regions. The Cube, 8371 Northfield Blvd. Tickets \$20 and go up to \$40 the day of the event. [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com)

**11/8 Thursday—Knitting Circle.** Bring your knitting/crochet project and join us in conversation around the Sam Gary fireplace. Sam Gary Library 2961 Roslyn St. 720-865-0325. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**11/9 Friday—Disney Trivia.** 7pm. Test your Disney knowledge at this master level trivia night! Prizes and drinks available The Cube, 8371 Northfield Blvd. Free event. [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com)

**11/9 Friday—Stanley Reading Club.** Join

Visit our online calendar to view more events.  
Events submitted by the 17th of the month are considered for printing as space allows.  
**FrontPorchNE.com > Events**

us for a short story reading and discussion, 11am-12pm. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas St., Aurora. [www.stanleymarketplace.com/events](http://www.stanleymarketplace.com/events)

**11/13 Tuesday—White Supremacy & the History of This Land.** Artist and Indigenous Activist Gregg Deal will speak at DSST Stapleton 6:30-8pm. 2000 Valencia St. 720-583-6803, [www.renameforall.com](http://www.renameforall.com)

**11/14 Wednesday—Annual MCA Meeting & Delegate Election.** 6:30pm, The Cube, 8371 Northfield Blvd. [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com)

**11/14 Wednesday—Pizza Anytime.** Learn what you can have on hand to quickly make a pizza. Ages 13-adult. Sam Gary Branch Library 2961 Roslyn St. 720-865-0325. [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org)

**11/16 Friday—Winter Welcome.** 6-8pm. Fire pits, s'mores, food trucks and much more! Many events require tickets for sale at the MCA ticket booth. 29th Ave Town Center. [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com)

**11/17 Saturday—Voice of the Wood Chamber Players.** Four cellos, two violins, and two accordions! All ages. Park Hill Branch Library, 2:30-3:30pm. 4705 Montview Blvd. [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org)

**12/1 to 12/2—Sweet William Market.** Northfield Event Center, 8371 Northfield Blvd. #C. 9am-2pm. [www.sweetwilliammarket.com](http://www.sweetwilliammarket.com)

## SEASONAL/HOLIDAY EVENTS

Additional events outside of Denver can be found at [FrontPorchNE.com/events](http://FrontPorchNE.com/events). Set filter for Seasonal/Holiday Events.

**11/3 Saturday—Dia 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](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**11/3-11/4—Urban Holiday Market.** 11am-6pm. Skyline Park, Downtown Denver. [www.coloradoevents.net](http://www.coloradoevents.net)

**11/10—Santa's Arrival Parade.** Parade starts at 4:30pm and will run along 46th Avenue, in front of Harkins Theatres 18 at The Shops at Northfield Stapleton, 8340 Northfield Blvd. Character meet and greet following the parade. [www.northfieldstapleton.com](http://www.northfieldstapleton.com)

**11/15 to 11/17—Denver Botanic Garden's Winter Gift Market.** Thursday, 4-8pm, Friday & Saturday, 9am-6pm. Free gardens admission during the market. 1007 York St. 720-865-3500, [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**11/16—Mercado de Navidad.** Handmade art, craft-workshops, food vendors, and more. Enjoy free admission to our current exhibit, El Infinito while browsing. Museo de las Americas 861 Santa Fe Drive. [www.museo.org](http://www.museo.org)

**11/16 to 11/18—32nd Annual Holiday Food and Gift Festival.** National Western Complex. Admission discount coupon on website. [www.hfgf.com](http://www.hfgf.com)

**11/16 to 11/17—L'Esprit de Noel Home Tour.** Belcaro/Bonnie Brae neighborhoods. 10am-4pm. Tickets: [www.lesprithometour.com](http://www.lesprithometour.com)

**11/17 to 11/18—World Gift Market.** Unique fair-trade and eco-friendly gifts that let you give twice. Sat. 9am-4pm, Sun. 9am-2pm. First Universalist Church of Denver, 4101 E Hampden Ave. [www.firstplymouthchurch.org](http://www.firstplymouthchurch.org)

**11/17 to 12/23—Denver Christkindl Market.** Vendors from Germany and elsewhere, local artisans, carolers, traditional German food/drink. 1515 Arapahoe St, on the 16th St. Mall.

Hours vary. [www.christkindlmarketdenver.com](http://www.christkindlmarketdenver.com)

**11/21 Wednesday—Thanksgiving Eve Community Worship.** Food drive and 39th annual pie fest. 7pm at Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E. Alameda Ave. 303.388.4678, [www.augustanadenver.org](http://www.augustanadenver.org)

**11/23 to 11/24—Sugar Plum Bazaar.** A makers market featuring over 120 vendors from multiple states. Fri. 1-9pm, Sat. 10am-5pm. [www.sugarplumbazaar.com](http://www.sugarplumbazaar.com)

**11/23 to 12/1—Denver Botanic Garden's Blossoms of Light.** 5-9pm. A dazzling and ever-changing display of light and color. 1007 York St. 720-865-3500, [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**11/24 to 11/25—Horseshoe Holiday Market.** All things handmade, vintage, art, and design. 10am-5pm. Highlands Masonic Temple 3550 Federal Blvd. [www.horseshoemarket.com](http://www.horseshoemarket.com)

**11/30 & 12/1—9News Parade of Lights.** Marching bands, ornate floats, and a special appearance by Major Waddles the Penguin and Santa! Friday, 8pm; Saturday, 6pm. Civic Center Park, 101 W. 14th Ave. [www.downtowndenver.com](http://www.downtowndenver.com)

(continued on page 24)

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SEASONAL/HOLIDAY EVENTS  
(continued from page 23)

**11/30 & 12/1—Christmas with the Colorado Choir.** Holiday favorites by Colorado Choir. Augustana Lutheran Church. Tickets: [www.augustanaarts.org](http://www.augustanaarts.org)

**12/1 Saturday—1940's White Christmas Ball.** It's a Wonderful Life theme. Hyatt Regency Downtown Convention Center. Discount tickets \$67 till 11/23. [1940sball.org](http://1940sball.org)

**12/1 to 12/2—59th Annual Georgetown Christmas Market.** Outdoor European Christmas Market. First 2 Dec. weekends. [www.georgetown-colorado.org](http://www.georgetown-colorado.org)

**11/30 to 1/6—Zoo Lights.** 5:30-9pm. Denver Zoo, 2300 Steele St. 720-337-1400. [www.denverzoo.org](http://www.denverzoo.org)

**12/4 Tuesday—City of Aurora Holiday Tree Lighting.** 5-7pm. [www.auroragov.org](http://www.auroragov.org)

METRO EVENTS

**11/1—Hazel Miller Jazz Concert.** Advanced ticket purchase required, \$15. 7pm. Soiled Dove Underground, 7401 E 1st Ave. [www.ticketfly.com](http://www.ticketfly.com)

**11/1 to 11/3—Denver International Wine Festival.** Denver Marriott Westminster. Tickets: [www.denverwinefest.com](http://www.denverwinefest.com)

**11/2 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](http://www.denver.org)

**11/2 to 11/10—Denver Arts Week.** Celebrate Denver-area cultural scene and vibrant arts with over 200 events. [www.denver.org](http://www.denver.org)

**11/3 Saturday—Breakin Convention 303 Jam.** Free concert, performances, workshops, and more. 1-5pm at the Buell Theatre. [denvercenter.org/breakin](http://denvercenter.org/breakin)

**11/3 Saturday—Pioneering on the Platte.** Free celebration of Denver history. 11am-2pm. Pan for gold, listen to Native American stories, make crafts, and take photos at our Western photo-booth! Grant Frontier Park, 2300 South Platte River Drive. [www.thegreenwayfoundation.org](http://www.thegreenwayfoundation.org)

**11/3 Saturday—Rock A Belly Festival.** 5-9pm. Tickets are \$50. Tastings from restaurants, breweries and distilleries. Live music. Turnhalle at Tivoli Student Union, 900 Auraria Pkwy. [foodforthoughtdenver.org](http://foodforthoughtdenver.org)

**11/4 Sunday—Ballet Ariel Open House.** Tour Ballet Ariel's facility, meet the dancers and enjoy refreshments. 2-4pm. 7808 E. Cherry Creek South Dr., Suite 209. [www.balletariel.org](http://www.balletariel.org)

**11/9 to 11/11—International Gem & Jewelry Show Denver.** A variety of gems, beads, and jewels from all across the globe. Denver Mart. For hours, rules and discounted tickets: [www.intergem.com](http://www.intergem.com)

**11/10 Saturday—Denver Veterans Day Parade.** 10am-12pm, starting at Colfax & Bannock and ending at Civic Center Park. Festival at the Park follows, 12-3pm. [www.denerveteransday.com](http://www.denerveteransday.com)

**To 11/11—Denver International Film Festival.** 200+ films, panels, workshops and more. [www.denverfilmfestival.denverfilm.org](http://www.denverfilmfestival.denverfilm.org)

**11/11—National Recycle Day at the Zoo.**

Learn how WE can help save wildlife through reducing, reusing and recycling. 10am-4pm. Denver Zoo, 2300 Steele St. 720-337-1400. [www.denverzoo.org](http://www.denverzoo.org)

**11/15 to 11/17—Castle Clay Show.** Thur & Fri 10am-6pm, Sat. 9am-3pm. Wood, clay, ceramics, glass jewelry, more. Jefferson Unitarian Church, 14350 W. 32nd Ave., Golden. [www.castleclayartists.net](http://www.castleclayartists.net)

**11/16 to 11/18—27th Annual Colorado Ski & Snowboard Expo.** Coupon on website. Live acts, interactive exhibits and ongoing giveaways. Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th St, downtown. Tickets: [www.bewisports.com](http://www.bewisports.com)

**11/24 Saturday—Okuda San Miguel – Solo Exhibition.** Mirus Gallery Denver is pleased to present the solo exhibition of Okuda San Miguel. 1144 Broadway, 303-910-4005. [www.mirusgallery.com](http://www.mirusgallery.com)

**11/24 to 11/25—Rocky Mountain Toy Train Show.** Ranch Events Complex, Loveland. [www.rockymountaintrainshow.com](http://www.rockymountaintrainshow.com)

**11/29 to 12/2—Denver Potters Association Winter Show and Sale.** Over 40 top local artists. Ceramics, glass, jewelry wood and more. Thur 3-7pm; Fri 10am-7pm; Sat 9am-6pm; Sun 11am-3pm. Sixth Avenue United Church, 3250 E. 6th Ave. [www.denverpotters.com](http://www.denverpotters.com)

**12/1 Saturday—TEDxMileHigh: Reset.** Featuring two live sessions of speakers, an interactive exhibits lounge, and a surrounding week of experiences. Tickets at [www.tedxmilehigh.com](http://www.tedxmilehigh.com)

**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, locations at [DenverGov.org](http://DenverGov.org)

**To 1/13—Above and Beyond.** The ultimate interactive flight exhibition - Presented by Boeing at the Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum. Exhibit included in the price of admission. 7711 E. Academy Blvd. [WingsMuseum.org/Beyond](http://WingsMuseum.org/Beyond)

HEALTH, WELLNESS, FITNESS

**11/4 Sunday—Fall Fest 5k (Bolder Boulder qualifying event).** Inaugural 5k Charity run presented by The Goddard School. All proceeds go to Children's Hospital Colorado to support research for DIPG. 9651 E. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Central Park. [www.runsignup.com](http://www.runsignup.com)

**11/11 Sunday—Denver Veterans Day 5K/10K Run.** 8am. Denver's City Park. [www.denerveteransday.com](http://www.denerveteransday.com)

**11/17 Saturday—Pumpkin Pie 5K/10K.** Denver's City Park. 8:45am. [www.pumpkinpie5K.com](http://www.pumpkinpie5K.com)

**11/22 Thursday—4th Annual Stanley Harvesting Hope 5K.** 5K Fun Run/Walk and a kid's fun run. Free for kids under 10. Central Park in Stapleton. [harvestinghope5K.com](http://harvestinghope5K.com)

KIDS AND FAMILIES

**11/5 Monday—Let's Build It – Arctic diorama.** What does your arctic landscape look like? Sam Gary Branch Library, 4-5pm. 2961 Roslyn St. 720-865-0325. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**To 11/6—Flight of Fancy.** Cartoon-like full masks and puppets to bring to life two delightful and eccentric characters who meet in a biodome. 2-4pm, 12pm free workshop before the show. 9995 E Colfax Ave, Aurora. [www.auroraculture.org/acad-events/](http://www.auroraculture.org/acad-events/)

**11/7 Wednesday—Write & Talk for Teens with Lighthouse Writers.** Explore the world of creative writing with local author Whitney Gaines. Sam Gary Branch Library, 4-6pm. 2961 Roslyn St. 720-865-0325. Registration required. [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**11/10—Storytime for Preschoolers!** [thebookies.com](http://thebookies.com)

**11/17 Saturday—Hot Air Balloon Craft.** Create a hot air balloon for your bedroom. Ages 3-8, with an adult. Schlessman Library, 2-3pm. 100 Poplar St. 720-865-0000. [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org)

**11/19 Monday—Book Stars Program presented by DCPA – “The Very Quiet Cricket” by Eric Carle.** Imaginatively explore the story “The Very Quiet

Cricket” by Eric Carle through reading and theatre-based activities that incorporate tactile and visual props. Park Hill Branch Library, 10:30-11am. 4705 Montview Blvd. 720-933-3395. [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org)

**11/19 to 11/21—Denver Museum of Nature & Science School Break Camp.** Experience IMAX films, planetarium shows and our exhibitions. Camps available for grades K & 1, 2 & 3 and 4-6. 9am-3:30pm. \$160 member, \$175 nonmember. Early or late care, \$30/week for each

**11/19 to 11/20—Cats & Canines SPREE Holiday Camp.** Join SPREE at Johnson Habitat Park for fun and educational days filled with games, crafts, adventures. 610 S Jason St. [www.thegreenwayfoundation.org](http://www.thegreenwayfoundation.org)

**11/20 & 11/21—Kids' Thanksgiving Break Class: Healthy Snacks & Appetizers.** Recipes will emphasize health and nutrition. Ages 5-10. Schlessman Library, 2-3pm. 100 Poplar St, 720-865-0000. [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org)

**12/1 Saturday—Beaded Intention Bracelets.** Make a special gift for someone using stone beads, crystals and good intentions! Ages 6 and up. Schlessman Library, 1-2:30pm. 100 Poplar St, 720-865-0000. [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org)

**12/1 Saturday—Oops!** A fantastical story about learning from failure and finding joy in imperfection. Ideal for ages 4-11. 2pm, 9995 E Colfax Ave, Aurora. [www.auroraculture.org/acad-events](http://www.auroraculture.org/acad-events)

**To 12/2—Denver Puppet Theater.** Little Red Riding Hood. 3156 W. 38th Ave. [www.denverpuppettheater.com](http://www.denverpuppettheater.com)

**12/3 Monday—Preschool Yoga.** 4-4:30pm. Combines story time with yoga! Get ready to move and groove to songs and stories. Sam Gary Branch Library 2961 Roslyn St.. [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org)

LECTURES, CLASSES, INFORMATIONAL EVENTS

**11/3 Saturday—Community Conversation on Aging.** Opportunities, challenges and issues surrounding aging. Sam Gary Branch, 2961 Roslyn St. 10am-12pm 720-865-0325 [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org)

**11/5 & 11/19 Monday—Be Present: Learn How to Meditate.** Learn this simple technique that teaches you mindfulness of body, breath, and mind. Park Hill Branch Library, 4-5pm. 4705 Montview Blvd. 720-933-3395 [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org)

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**11/6 Tuesday—The Tao of Healthy Aging and the Science of Gerontology.** Learn how to ensure a healthy longevity while exploring the psychology of optimal experience. Park Hill Branch Library, 4–5pm. 4705 Montview Blvd. 720-933-3395 [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org)

**11/6 Tuesday—Active Minds presents: The Future of Bees.** Join Active Minds as we dive into the world of bees and examine the factors that are affecting these important species. Jewish Community Center, 10–11am. 350 S Dahlia St. [www.activeminds.com](http://www.activeminds.com)

**11/8 Thursday—Active Minds: Say Cheese!** Join Active Minds as we trace the history of cheese, including an overview of how it is made and the major categories of cheese. Sam Gary Branch, 1:30–2:30pm. 2961 Roslyn St. [www.activeminds.com](http://www.activeminds.com)

**11/9 Friday—Figure Drawing-Model: Karine McCulloch.** 2nd Friday each month. Open to the public. Cost: Averages \$8 per person. 6–8pm. Art Gym Denver, 1460 Leyden St. [artgymdenver.com](http://artgymdenver.com)

**11/10 Saturday—Harvesting Your Own Rain Water.** Learn about rain barrels and how to harvest your own rain. Park Hill Branch Library, 11am–12pm. 4705 Montview Blvd. 720-933-3395 [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org)

**11/10 Saturday—boys2MEN Social/Emotional Workshop.** For young men in grades 8–12. CU Anschutz Medical Campus, 13070 E 19th Ave. Registration link at [crowleycollegeprep.com](http://crowleycollegeprep.com)

**11/10 Saturday —Becoming a Successful Artist: Learn What it Takes.** Explore the habits and traits of successful artists. 10am–12pm. Art Gym Denver, 1460 Leyden St. [www.artgymdenver.com](http://www.artgymdenver.com)

**11/14 Wednesday—Equity in Schools: We PHNEEd to Talk.** Park Hill Neighbors for Equity in Education (PHNEE) invites you to a discussion of how to use stakeholder power to improve equity in schools. Park Hill Branch Library, 6:30–7:45pm. 4705 Montview Blvd. 720-933-3395 [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org)

**11/14 Wednesday—League of Women Voters Denver Presents: Use-of-Force in Denver Law Enforcement: The Issues and the Reforms.** Talk about the use-of-force issues in Denver, effective use-of-force policy, development of new Denver Police Use-of-Force Policy, and reforms in Denver Sheriff Dept. Montview Presbyterian, 1980 Dahlia St.

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

**11/15 Thursday—Active Minds: Myanmar (Burma).** Join Active Minds as we explore the country’s history and importance in the world today. Sam Gary Branch, 6:30–7:30pm. 2961 Roslyn St. [www.activeminds.com](http://www.activeminds.com)

**11/17 Saturday—Ending Ageism.** Learn how a statewide initiative is addressing ageism. Sam Gary Branch, 2961 Roslyn St. 10am–12pm 720-865-0325. [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org)

**11/18 & 11/19—Montview Distinguished Lecture Series.** Sunday: Dr. Elaine Pagels presents Art, Music, and Politics in the Book of Revelation, 7pm. Monday: Dr. Elaine Pagels presents Why Religion? A Personal Story. 7pm. Free and open to the public. Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St. 303-355-1651. [www.montview.org](http://www.montview.org)

**11/20 Tuesday—Theo Wilson: Undercover Online as a White Supremacist.** Park Hill Branch Library, 6:30–7:30pm. 4705 Montview Blvd. 720-933-3395. [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org)

**11/27 Tuesday—Sleep: Why is it Important, and How do I get More of it?** Why sleep is so important, what can keep us from getting a good night’s rest, and ways to help improve our sleep. Park Hill Branch Library, 3:30–5:30pm. 4705 Montview Blvd. 720-933-3395. [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org)

**To 11/29—Adult Art Classes at Denver School of the Arts.** Beginning Drawing: 5 weeks, Tuesdays, 6–8pm; Introduction to Watercolor: 4 weeks, Wednesdays, 6–8pm, Printmaking Sampler: 5 weeks, Thursdays, 6–8pm Info and registration forms: [debrosenbaum.com](mailto:debrosenbaum.com). DSA, 7111 Montview Blvd.

**12/1 Saturday—Objects in Mirror Are Closer Than They Appear: The Objectification of Women.** Tomi-Ann Roberts, a professor of psychology at Colorado College, came out recently as part of the #metoo movement with her experience of being sexually harassed by Harvey Weinstein. She shares her research on the consequences of the sexualization

and objectification of girls and women. Park Hill Branch Library, 2:30–4:30pm. 4705 Montview Blvd. 720-933-3395. [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org)

**12/4 Tuesday—Active Minds: Marshall Plan.** Join Active Minds 70+ years later as we review this historic initiative and discuss its relevance in the world today. Jewish Community Center, 10–11am. 350 S Dahlia St. [www.activeminds.com](http://www.activeminds.com)

## MUSEUMS

**11/3 Saturday—Night at the Museums.** 5–10pm. More than 20 Denver museums open extended hours at no charge, free shuttle between select museums. [denver.org](http://denver.org)

**11/4 Sunday—Junior Surgeons: Medical Edition.** Observe and perform dissections to find out how the human body functions. Grades 2–3. Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd. 9am–3pm. \$60 member, \$70 nonmember. [dmns.org](http://dmns.org)

**11/8 Thursday—A Gateway to the Infinite Archaeoastronomy of the Aztec Empire.** Explore the cosmos through the Aztec empire during this unique journey in Gates Planetarium, Nature and Science Museum at 7pm. [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)

**11/11 Sunday —Cockpit Demo Day.** Free with admission. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 12–4pm. [wingsmuseum.org](http://wingsmuseum.org)

**11/11 Sunday—Opening of Golden’s 1968 Time Capsule.** Witness the exciting and long-anticipated opening of Golden’s 1968 time capsule. Free museum admission! 10am–4:30pm. Golden History Museum & Park, 923 10th St. Golden. [www.visitgolden.com](http://www.visitgolden.com)

**11/11 Sunday—Music in the Galleries: Sharon Park, violin and Zachary Reaves, cello.** 1 & 2 pm, Clyfford Still Museum, 1250 Bannock St. Concert is free with

museum admission. [Tickets@friendsofchambermusic.com](mailto:Tickets@friendsofchambermusic.com)

**11/12 Monday—Meditation at the Denver Art Museum.** Unwind from your week with a meditation session in the galleries of the Denver Art Museum. All are welcome. 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy. [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

**11/13 Tuesday—Drop-in Drawing at the Denver Art Museum.** Join artist Anna Kaye in our fun and informal creative art sessions at the Denver Art Museum. All ranges of drawing experience welcome. 4–7:30pm. 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy. [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

**11/15 Thursday—Science Lounge.** Denver Museum of Nature and Science Cocktails/entertainment 3rd Thurs. monthly. 6:30–9:30pm. \$8/ members; \$10/nonmembers. [dmns.org](http://dmns.org)

**11/17 Saturday—Four Mile Friendsgiving.** Traditional dinner served family-style with cocktails and games of chance. 4pm. FMHP Members \$60, Non-Members \$70. Reserve your seats at [www.fourmilehistoricpark.eventbrite.com](http://www.fourmilehistoricpark.eventbrite.com)

**11/17 to 1/6—Pop-up Exhibit: The Art of the Board.** A look at the artistic side of snowboard design. History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway. [www.historycoloradocenter.org](http://www.historycoloradocenter.org)

**11/20 Tuesday—Mindful Looking.** Explore two of Rembrandt’s masterful prints in Nov. with a museum educator. 1–1:45pm. 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy. [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

**11/27 Tuesday— Drop-in Drawing at the Denver Art Museum.** Explore your creativity through the written word led by Michael Henry, executive director of Lighthouse Writers Workshop. 1–3pm. 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy. [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

**11/30 Friday—MCA Denver Teen**

**Art Show.** Selected teen artwork will be displayed in the museum as part of a free exhibition opening event from 6–9pm. Museum of Contemporary Art, 1485 Delgany St. [mcadenver.org](http://mcadenver.org)

**To 1/6—“Claes Oldenburg with Coosje van Bruggen: Drawings” at the Denver Art Museum.** 39 drawings and one sculpture spanning the artists’ careers from 1961 through 2001. Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy. [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

**To 1/6—“Rembrandt: Painter as Printmaker” at the Denver Art Museum. Special exhibit.** Showcasing approx 100 prints from Rembrandt van Rijn’s career spanning from 1625 to 1665. 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy. [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

**To 1/20—“Eyes On: Shimabuku” at the Denver Art Museum.** 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy. 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy. [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

**To 1/20—Cuba!** Be immersed in the extraordinary biodiversity, cultural traditions, and daily life of this intriguing country. Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd. Free with admission. [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)

## MUSEUMS—FREE DAYS

**SCFD/Target Free Days**

**11/3 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day.** [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

**11/3 Saturday—Denver Botanic Gardens Free Day.** [botanicgardens.org](http://botanicgardens.org)

(continued on page 26)

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**MUSEUMS—FREE DAYS**  
(continued from page 25)

**11/6 Tuesday—Children’s Museum Free Target Tuesday.** 4-8pm. [www.cmdenver.org](http://www.cmdenver.org)

**11/9 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Free Day.** 2nd Friday, 12-4pm. [www.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)

**11/9 Friday—Denver Zoo Free Day.** [denverzoo.org](http://denverzoo.org)

**11/30 Friday—Clyfford Still Museum.** Free admission last Friday monthly all day and every Friday 5-8pm. [www.clyffordstillmuseum.org](http://www.clyffordstillmuseum.org)

**PERFORMANCE AND THEATRE**

**11/1 to 11/17—And Toto too Theatre Company presents “The Pink Unicorn”** A Christian widow, living in a conservative Texas town, finds her life thrown into turmoil when her teenaged daughter announces she is “gender queer.” Champa Street 3rd Floor, /720-583-3975. [www.andtototoo.org](http://www.andtototoo.org)

**11/3 to 12/22—The Humans.** [www.curious theatre.org](http://www.curious theatre.org)

**11/5 Monday—Leeann & Michelle Think They’re Funny.** [www.momsnightout.buzz](http://www.momsnightout.buzz)

**11/7 Wednesday—Calidore String Quartet.** Friends of Chamber Music presents the Calidore String Quartet. 7:30pm at Gates Hall, Newman Center for the Performing Arts, 2344 E. Iliff Ave. Tickets \$40 each/\$10 ages 30 and under. [www.friends of chamber music.com](http://www.friends of chamber music.com)

**11/9 & 11/10—Aurora Fox Cabaret Series: Anna High.** 7:30–9:30pm. Aurora Fox Studio Theatre, 9900 E Colfax Ave, Aurora. Tickets \$22. [www.aurorafoxartscenter.org/afac](http://www.aurorafoxartscenter.org/afac)

**To 11/10—Love Alone.** Firehouse Theater Company at John Hand Theater. 7653 East Pl Lowry. [www.firehousetheatercompany.com](http://www.firehousetheatercompany.com)

**11/11— “War of Words” – A Performance of World War I Poetry.** Vintage Theatre., 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. 7pm, tickets \$5. [www.onenightstandtheater.org](http://www.onenightstandtheater.org)

**To 11/11—The Boston Marriage.** Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. [www.vintagetheatre.org](http://www.vintagetheatre.org)

**To 11/11—My Name is Asher Lev.** Torn between his Hasidic upbringing and the need to fulfill his artistic promise, Asher Lev is caught between two worlds. Pluss Theatre, 350 S. Dahlia St. [www.cherrycreektheatre.org](http://www.cherrycreektheatre.org)

**11/13 to 11/25—Come From Away.** The true story of the small town that welcomed the world. Buell Theater, Denver Center for the

Performing Arts. [denvercenter.org](http://denvercenter.org)

**11/15, 17 & 18—Wonderbound Dance Company Presents: Wonderlab.** Thur. & Sat. 7:30-9pm, Sun. 2–3:30pm. JCC Denver, Elaine Wolf Theatre, 350 S. Dahlia St. [www.jccdenver.org/wonderlab](http://www.jccdenver.org/wonderlab)

**11/18 Sunday—The Denver Concert Band Presents: Heroes & Holidays.** 2pm at the Lone Tree Arts Center, 10075 Commons St., Lone Tree. Tickets: [denverconcertband.org](http://denverconcertband.org)

**11/20 To 12/23—Elf.** Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada. [www.arvadacenter.org](http://www.arvadacenter.org)

**11/21 to 12/24—A Christmas Carol.** Stage Theater, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. [www.denvercenter.org](http://www.denvercenter.org)

**11/23 Friday—Movie at the Symphony: Home Alone in Concert.** Colorado Symphony, Boettcher Concert Hall. 7:30pm. [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org)

**11/23 To 12/23—The Second City’s: Twist Your Dickens.** Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. [aurorafoxartscenter.org](http://aurorafoxartscenter.org)

**11/23 to 12/24—The Santaland Diaries.** The Jones Theater, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. [denvercenter.org](http://denvercenter.org)

**11/23 To 1/6/19—Mary Poppins.** Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. [www.vintagetheatre.org](http://www.vintagetheatre.org)

**11/24 to 12/24—Colorado**

**Ballet – The Nutcracker.**

Colorado Ballet’s acclaimed Nutcracker returns for its 58th year. Ellie Caulkins Opera House, 14th Curtis St. 303-837-8888. [www.coloradoballet.org](http://www.coloradoballet.org)

**11/24 To 12/22—The Christmas Spirit.** John Hand Theater, 7653 East 1st Pl., Lowry. [www.firehousetheatercompany.com](http://www.firehousetheatercompany.com)

**11/30 To 12/24—Santa’s Big Red Sack - Final Season.** Avenue Theater, 417 E. 17th Ave. [www.avenuetheater.com](http://www.avenuetheater.com)

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**11/10 Saturday—Volunteers of America Rake Up Colorado.** Volunteers needed to assist limited income seniors by raking leaves. Please call 303-297-0408 or use Sign Up Genius link to sign up. [www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4caaa2eabfe3-rake](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4caaa2eabfe3-rake)

**11/17 Saturday—Denver Feed a Family Foundation.** Distribute Thanksgiving baskets to Denver area families from 9am–2pm. Deadline to sign up is Nov. 5 at [www.DenverFeedAFamily.org](http://www.DenverFeedAFamily.org)

**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.ronalddhouse.org](http://www.ronalddhouse.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](http://www.svgd.org)

**Reading Volunteers Needed.** For students in K-8 grade. 1 hour, 1 student, 1x week. During school hours. [julie@partnersinliteracy.org](mailto: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

**New Comm**



New District 5 Commander Marcus Fountain, a 27-year veteran of DPD, says he’ll be attending local events as part of an effort to communicate effectively with the community.

By Melinda Pearson

In Denver Police Department’s second recent round of musical chairs, Commander Marcus Fountain has landed in a seat at the head of District 5, which covers Stapleton, Montbello and Green Valley Ranch. Fountain (pronounced like Joan “Fontaine,” not like “mountain”), was assigned to District 5 by newly installed Denver Police Chief Paul Pazen in mid-July.

A Detroit native but longtime Denver resident, Fountain is a 27-year veteran of the DPD. He brings extensive command experience in operations support and investigations to the local patrol division, and is looking forward to connecting with community residents as he learns the ins and outs of the region.

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# der in NE Denver



To support crime prevention efforts, Fountain is focused on using effective communication. “In line with Chief Pazen’s goals,” said Fountain, “I really want to address the fear of crime through good communication.” To that end, Fountain is making himself and his lieutenants, including newly appointed Stapleton Lt. Kevin Hines, available at community meetings, farmers markets and regularly scheduled police update meetings across the district.

Fountain is already well aware of the night-time drag racing that goes on in parts of his district and conscious of the property crime that continues to plague the area, especially in Stapleton. But stats are looking up.

“We’re finally trending in the right direction with the Stapleton burglary problem that we previously discussed,” said Lt. Hines. “In prior months this problem was most pronounced in precinct 512, which is the portion of Stapleton located south of I-70. For the year to date in 2018 we’ve had 97 residential burglaries reported in that area, of which 77% of the incidents involved burglaries to open garages.”

Hines reports, however, that those crimes “peaked in June, when we reported 16 burglaries, and June followed two consecutive months in which we had 11 burglaries per month. By contrast, we only received five burglary reports (per month) in this area for both July and August.” There were 11 burglaries in September.

Fountain and Hines continue to urge residents to proactively protect their property by closing garage doors, keeping homes secure and continuing to report crimes in progress. Look for Fountain at upcoming community meetings, where he will help spread the word about crime prevention.



Swigert Principal Shelby Dennis celebrates Blue Ribbon Award with her students.

## Swigert a “Blue Ribbon” School

By Martina Will de Chaparro, Ph.D.

Swigert International School received a prestigious Blue Ribbon School Award from the U.S. Department of Education in October, one of only 300 public schools nationwide to garner the award. According to the Department of Education, “The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.” Five Colorado schools received the award this year, each for overall academic excellence.

Swigert Principal Shelby Dennis expresses pride in her staff’s achievements, observing that they are “inspired to work together towards a common goal and are united on core instructional practices.” Swigert is an Innovation School using the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. Dennis notes that being a part of the IB program requires a great deal of staff time in writing and designing curriculum, as well as ongoing professional development to succeed.

Swigert has had very low turnover of teachers, suggesting that the model also

works in part due to effective leadership and a school culture that honors teachers. First grade teacher Anne Draper has been with Swigert from the beginning, when it was known only as “Stapleton 3,” and also credits the vision of founding principal Chuck Raisch and his successor, Liz Tencate. “Chuck trusted the teachers and guided us with a gentle hand. And now Shelby Dennis puts students first in all her



decisions.”

When asked what makes the school successful, Draper says “I don’t think there’s one secret ingredient.” “All Stapleton schools are great, but what makes Swigert stand out is our IB program. we have a common language for our themes, concepts,

and learner profile traits that are taught throughout each grade.” She says that consistency combined with teachers’ professionalism and commitment to professional development make for a remarkable school culture.

As Dennis acknowledges, with a less diverse student population, Swigert demographics also differ from most DPS schools. Swigert’s student population is 75% white and includes only 6% Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) recipients; most Stapleton schools have an FRL population at least double that (e.g. Westerly 11%; Bill Roberts 15%; IBCS 28%; and DDS 39%), and DPS as a whole is 24% white and 67% FRL.

These lopsided demographics are a result of the lottery process that favors children living within the neighborhood boundaries and those with siblings already enrolled. Dennis says that the school is engaging in conversations with DPS to increase the floor on FRL students as a way of increasing the school’s socio-economic and ethnic diversity in conjunction with the new Innovation Zone. Swigert, Northfield High School, McAuliffe International, and McAuliffe Manual established the district’s newest Innovation Zone this fall to improve educational opportunities for all children.



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# The SUN Spot

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

## November SUN News

By Jennifer E. Arzberger, Ph.D., SUN Board Member

One of the pillars of an extraordinary community is providing citizens with high quality educational experiences. On Tuesday, October 16, SUN held its annual Communities Championing for Children Education Forum to unite community members, schools, and district leadership. This year the forum focused on the three new middle school proposals, Denver Green School, High Tech Elementary, and Beacon Network, submitted to Denver Public Schools, as well as an update on the achievements being made at Northfield High School.

### Applicants and Process for New Middle School in North Stapleton

Denver Green School, the highest performing middle school in Denver Public Schools, celebrated achieving the highest growth in math and literacy of the 58 middle schools. How do they do it? Community and joy. DGS prioritizes community, intentional leadership, educating students to live a more sustainable life, and making learning relevant through a wide array of excursions and arts. Prioritizing the Stapleton community, DGS is determined to meet the community's desire to have foreign language offerings, a robust sports program, and dynamic range of the arts. Learn about the Denver Green School's model, farm and garden, and excursions at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ksce2JuFtzY>. Hear students' perspectives at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ksce2JuFtzY>. Additional information is available at: <https://www.dgsnorthfield.org/>.

High Tech Elementary, inspired by the successful High Tech schools developed by a coalition of San Diego civic leaders and educators, shared their desire to Reach Up, Reach Out, and Reach In. Reach Up: High Tech desires to be the first ECE-8 school with more seats at middle school than elementary, creating available seats for students entering High Tech from other elementary schools. Utilizing a 21st Century learning environment, complete with maker space, High Tech students are immersed in the learning process through Project-Based Learning (PBL), technology, enhanced exploration, discussion and reflection. Reach Out: High Tech students participate in "learning families," groups of 12-15 students working with an advisor to provide authentic opportunities to grow socially in a safe environment. Reach In: Students have authentic opportunities to practice leadership, utilize PBL, and engage with global pen pals. Additional information is available at: <http://hightechelementary.dpsk12.org/middle-school/>.

Beacon Middle School presented four focus points for the proposed middle school: 1) blended learning, including the utilization of 1:1 technology, 2) extended school day providing opportunities for enrichment for all students; including sports, leadership, arts, culture, and STEM taught by teachers and community providers, 3) positive character traits including behavioral incentives encouraging students to earn points to be spent at the school store, and 4) challenging students at the appropriate level to prepare for high school and the workforce. Additional information is available at: <https://beaconnetworkschools.org/NextStepsinSelectingtheSchool>

The DPS Board of Education will vote on the quality of new school applications on November 15, 2018. This vote is only for schools seeking to be the Greater Park Hill-Stapleton middle school who have not yet been approved on a quality basis.

The DPS Board of Education will vote on the placement of one of these applicants at the Park Street Campus at their meeting on December 20, 2018. Only those applications approved on a quality basis may be considered for placement.

### Northfield High School

Northfield High School joined the Forum to celebrate their successes. Now serving 820 students in grades 9-12, NHS will celebrate its first graduating class on May 28 at 2pm. Leaders proclaimed, "It's a great time to be a Nighthawk," and celebrated their International Baccalaureate program,

seniors earning college credit, and the 18 athletic programs offered, including varsity sports. In anticipation of serving over 900 students next year and 1600 at build out, NHS is expanding their campus and is in need of an auditorium. Their current cafetorium, available 3 of 8 hours each day, is insufficient in meeting the needs of students. Northfield High School expressed the need for an auditorium to serve both students and the community at-large. Every other comprehensive high school in Denver has a traditional auditorium, and Northfield wants to provide its students with an equitable opportunity, as the arts are a critical academic component of a robust high school education.

### Make Your Voice Heard

Our community needs YOU to be a champion for our children! Communicate your voice to district leadership. You can email the Denver Public School Board at [board@dpsk12.org](mailto:board@dpsk12.org) and Jennifer Bacon, our District 4 Board Representative, at [Jennifer\\_Bacon@dpsk12.org](mailto:Jennifer_Bacon@dpsk12.org), as well as our At-Large Board Members: Happy Haynes, [Happy\\_Haynes@dpsk12.org](mailto:Happy_Haynes@dpsk12.org), and Barbara O'Brien, [Barbara\\_Obrien@dpsk12.org](mailto:Barbara_Obrien@dpsk12.org). Examine the school models and communicate why you believe our community needs a particular program. Also, be sure to advocate for an auditorium to support performances in our NE Denver community!



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# Foundation for Sustainable Urban Communities: Grants Awarded to NE Schools

By Brian Weber

Over the past year, more than \$135,000 was given to Stapleton area schools by the Foundation for Sustainable Urban Communities (formerly the Stapleton Foundation). The funds are from the Foundation’s School Grant Program that began in the fall of 2017. Eighteen NE Denver schools may apply to the Foundation in both spring and fall for grants of up to \$5,000 for projects that advance academic achievement, parent engagement or provide enrichment activities.

“We are committed to do as much as possible to further the great work of our schools,” said Landri Taylor, the Foundation’s CEO. “Northeast Denver is a leader in education innovation. We want to be sure that is sustained for our young people.”

The Foundation receives a portion of its revenue from the Stapleton Community Investment Fund (CIF). Established as part of the Stapleton Development Plan (The Green Book) that was approved by City Council in 1995, the fund assesses a fee of 1/4 of 1% on all residential and commercial building sales after the first \$100,000 in value. The fee and the fund will continue in perpetuity. In 2017 the fee generated just over \$1 million for the foundation.

The fall 2018 awards are in process and will be due Nov. 5. Spring applications will be due in late March/early April. For a full description of grants for fall 2017 and spring 2018, visit [www.stapletonfoundation.org](http://www.stapletonfoundation.org). Most were for \$5,000. In each cycle there were four schools that did not apply. Grants in the fall (1) and spring (2) were for the following:

Bill Roberts (Early Childhood Education [ECE]-8)—Training teachers in the Orton-Gillingham approach to reading instruction and ensuring that classes on all grade levels are teaching the same method.

Denver Discovery School (6-8)—A 3-day training with a team developer for a renewed school culture following principal turnover.

Denver Language School (K-8)—(1) Training and materials to institute Kagan Cooperative Learning Strategies. (2) Support specifically for middle schoolers more than a year below grade level.

DSST Conservatory Green High School (9-12)—(1)Start the school’s music program with electric guitars/digital keyboards. (2) Percussion instruments and iMac computers to bridge technology and music knowledge in 2018-2019.

DSST Stapleton Middle School (6-8)—Google Read & Write program online guide to reading and writing practices, translation and voice to help pronunciation for special education (SPED) and English language learners.

DSST Stapleton HS (9-12)—Started Drop-In Homework Club after school every day, staffed by teachers to help students who are struggling.

High Tech Elementary (ECE-5)—(1) Started Robotics Club where students learn coding; teacher training in Project Based Learning. (2) Developed curriculum/practices to educate students about being global citizens; professional development.

Inspire Elementary (K-5)—(1) Started class using Legos to design/construct working machine models, learn from mistakes, and work as part of a team. (2) Initial garden on new campus.

Isabella Bird Community School (K-5)—(1) Events on cultures of immigrant students associated with their refugee newcomer center; subs so teachers could spend time with families and training on trauma/crisis. (2) Orton-Gillingham phonics training and materials.

McAuliffe International School (6-8)—(1) Mini grants for 8th graders’ community service projects; after school math tutoring. (2) Robotics club for 6th graders; robotics for all 480 6th graders.

Northfield High School (9-12)—(1) SAT preparation classes. (2) Preparation for the PSAT National Merit Score Qualifying Test (NMSQT) in October.

Odyssey School (K-8)—(1&2) Making expeditions in this Expeditionary Learning school more relevant and aligned with state standards; developing a concise curriculum map.

Rocky Mountain Prep (RMP)/Fletcher Elementary (ECE-5)—(1) Training, collaboration with current autism teachers to prepare for transition of the center to RMP, which is taking over from regular Aurora Public Schools teachers. (2) Launch an orchestra.

Roots Elementary (K-5)—Piloting Project Wonder, an initiative patterned after curriculum for gifted and talented children for students to do projects they are passionate about.

Swigert International School (ECE-5) (1&2) Before- and after-school tutoring in reading, writing and math for K-2 students; tutors for grades 3-5 to address achievement gap between white students and low income students/students of color; after-school arts enrichment classes for low income students.

Westerly Creek (ECE-5)—(1&2) Wolf Enrichment Program (wolf is school mascot) to provide tutoring in core subjects for at-risk students, enrichment STEM classes (science, technology, engineering, math) classes, rock climbing, service learning, health and wellness, and girls and boys support groups.

DSST Conservatory Green Middle School and Ashley are eligible but did not apply for grants during the fall 2017/spring 2018/cycle.

Brian Weber is Vice President of Education/Development Initiatives for the Foundation for Sustainable Urban Communities.

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Captain Mike McCasky, managing director of flight training, explains that the 30-day training for new United pilots starts in this room where they learn systems, take an exam, then move on to fixed training devices, and take another exam. Finally they move to the full flight simulators, where they complete their training. The cockpit so precisely matches a real cockpit that after 30 days, a newly hired pilot is ready to fly with passengers.



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# United Celebrates

By Carol Roberts

Thousands of drivers pass the United Airlines Flight Training Center each day without a clue as to the buzz of activity that takes place inside 24 hours a day—other than seeing pilots crossing the street, sometimes at odd hours, to get to their hotels.

The range of activities includes regularly recurring training for every United pilot and for southwest area flight attendants, a 30-day training program for all new pilots, training for new flight attendants, and technical operations training for mechanics.

Captain Mike McCasky, managing director of flight training, says the training is scheduled in shifts and the simulators are in use 90+ % of the time. A crew comes to their briefing room at 8am, leaves the room at 9:30am, and goes in the simulator at 10am. They finish at 2pm. At noon the next crew shows up and goes through the briefing, so the facilities are always being used. McCaskey adds that the 10pm to 2am shift is not the most popular, but they do the “lower motor skills training then and things that



United CEO Oscar Muñoz (right), at the United renovation celebratory event, said, “We have many airport authorities we interact with. There’s a reason why this facility is in Denver. It is the pro business environment...and the way the mayor and the governor work together... This is one of the great partnerships that we’ve seen. The lease we signed in 2014 extends to 2035. We’ve sunk a quarter of a billion dollars in

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**MOMENTUM**

NOTE: This bar graph combines the “sold” listings of all office locations and independent offices of each multi-office or franchise organization identified, which listings were sold by such organization itself, or with the aid of a cooperating broker, according to data maintained by the Local Board or Multiple Listing Service for the geographic area indicated. The bar graph compares all those listings that were “sold” by each organization during the period 1/1/17-12/31/17. This representation is based in whole or in part on data supplied by RECOLORADO. Neither the Associations nor their MLS guarantee or are in any way responsible for its accuracy. Data maintained by the Associations may not reflect all real estate activity in a market. ©2016, RE/MAX, LLC. Each RE/MAX® office is independently owned and operated.

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# its Expansion



this place. We love being here.” Mayor Hancock said, “Thank you United for what you’ve done to lift this region up.” He told the crowd he respects Muñoz as a person and as a CEO—and that Denver’s relationship with United has helped identify global opportunities and attract companies to Denver. City Councilman Chris Herndon is pictured in the background.

require more acuity at better times.”

McCaskey says their goal is to have pilots respond to any emergency or situation exactly the way they train. “We spend a lot of time on procedures and communication. I can get off a flight from Denver to Chicago and get on a different flight with a different crew—and never see the first pilot again. That’s how procedurized and regimented our training is. Those same expectations exist for our flight attendants. Dialogue between pilots and flight attendants is standardized so there’s no confusion along the way.”

In talking to the flight attendants, CEO Muñoz addressed a difficult aspect of their job—complying with the standardization and rigidity necessary for safety, while at the same time being in a “people business” where graciousness and hospitality are critical.

The original campus was constructed in 1968 and has had multiple additions. It currently has 462,000 square feet of space.



Top Center: The full flight simulators (FFS) are dispersed in the “wings” of the H-shaped building so if an electrical fire or other emergency event should occur, simulators in other wings wouldn’t be affected. FFS’s are precisely arranged so that at their maximum movement, they won’t come in contact with one another or the building.

Above and below left: A replica of the exit door for every model of plane flown by United is used in training flight attendants. Pilots fly only one model of aircraft, but flight attendants work on numerous aircraft and need to be trained on all of them. Below right: A trip down this 757 exit slide replica gives pilots and flight attendants a first-person experience during their emergency training. This room also has different models of fire extinguishers, life vests, oxygen masks, and other emergency equipment on board the different models of aircraft.



Construction on another 100,000 square foot wing of the H-shaped building is visible on the southwest corner of the campus and will be completed in about a year.

The new wing will add 8 full flight simulators to the 31 they already have—and 4 fixed training devices will be added to the 10 they already have. McCaskey describes the full flight



simulators as “finicky.” They don’t like electrical spikes and need to be in a room where the proper constant temperature is maintained.

United’s Denver Flight Training Center had 500 employees before the Houston consolidation in January 2017. It now has 800 employees—and is growing.

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