

# Front Porch

COLORADO

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

NORTHEAST DENVER

JANUARY 2019



“Welcome to Our Land”

The new History Colorado exhibit about Ute tribes was a joint effort of tribal members and museum staff, which included: (from left) Betsy Chapoose, Ute Indian Tribe, Cultural Rights and Protection Director; Cassandra Atencio, Southern Ute Tribe, NAGPRA Coordinator; Ernest House, Jr., Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, former executive director Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs (CCIA); Shannon Voirol, History Colorado, Director of Exhibit Planning; Sheila Goff, History Colorado, Curator of Archaeology and Ethnography, NAGPRA Liaison; Liz Cook, History Colorado, Lead Exhibit Developer.

**W**ritten on the Land: Ute Voices, Ute History at the History Colorado Center brings the story of Colorado's longest continuous residents into present-day Colorado. Where the homeland of the three Ute tribes' ancestors extended beyond current Colorado borders, today

the three reservations are limited to the land areas shown above in orange (Utah), green and blue (southern Colorado). With a nod to their ancestral lands, the Ute speakers at an opening event greeted visitors with the words, “Welcome to our land.” See story by Laurie Dunklee on page 6.

## UCHealth Trauma Docs Rebuild Bodies & Lives



**A**lina Miller jumped from a four-story building to escape a fire. Luckily she lived near the University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) Emergency Department, where experienced trauma doctors treated her injuries. With its years-long track record treating trauma patients, UCH in October 2018 earned a Level 1 trauma center designation for its combination of resources, research, and education.

See story by Martina Will, Ph.D. on page 8.

Left: Alina Miller stands next to her life-sized image on a UCH hospital elevator door.



Gaylord Opens

This impressive view greets visitors as they check in to the new Gaylord Rockies. Story by Martina Will, Ph.D. on page 30.

## Summer Camp Guide

Upload camps online by Jan. 15 for the guide in the Feb. issue. See page 2 for instructions on how to upload.





The full display of Stapleton's 29th Ave Town Center holiday lights will remain lit up until Jan. 1, when the Menorah and Christmas tree will be removed. Street trees and decor will remain up through the Stock Show, and overhead lights will stay til Valentine's Day.

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

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

## Summer Camp Guide Submissions

- Starting this year, submissions for the Summer Camp Guide must be made online.
1. Go to frontporchne.com/submit-event.
  2. Choose multi-day event and enter first camp session to last camp session.
  3. Create your camp description—they need to be concise due to the limited character count. (Additional detail can be provided in the online only text box.)
  4. Select categories. IMPORTANT: Be sure to choose “SUMMER CAMP GUIDE.” A second category is optional. It is used for online searches.
  5. Complete all other fields for event submission.

## Are you a freelance writer?

Let us know your areas of interest and expertise. We'd like to expand our list of writers to include NE neighbors knowledgeable about subjects of interest to the community.

## Letters to the Editor

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

## Pick up the Front Porch 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.

# Events & Announcements at Stapleton

**Active Minds Seminar – Puerto Rico**  
*Thursday, January 10th, 1pm, Sam Gary Library*  
Devastated by Hurricane Maria in Sept. 2017, Puerto Rico is still far from fully recovered. Total losses are expected to exceed \$100 billion. Hundreds have died and the rebuilding of infrastructure has been delayed. Join Active Minds as we review the history of this important U.S. Territory, including how U.S. policies have impacted its economy and its people over the past century. We will end with a look forward to the future of the island as it continues to rebuild.

**Community Night at DU Hockey**  
*Saturday, January 12th, 7pm, Magness Arena*  
Join us for family night with the University of Denver's Pioneers as they face off against the Omaha Mavericks. Support our local collegiate hockey players while enjoying nonstop action. Visit denverpioneers.com and use promo code 'stapletonmca' for access to \$10 tickets!

**Family Classics Film Series – The Wizard of Oz**  
*Friday, January 18th, 7pm, The Cube*  
Our three-part Family Classics Film Series begins with *The Wizard of Oz*, the pioneering classic that seamlessly combined traditional storytelling with cutting-edge visuals. As *Entertainment Weekly's* Keith Staskiewicz put it, “In truth, any opportunity to see this film on the big screen is welcome.” The MCA is thrilled to welcome back Dr. Vincent Piturro, who will provide viewers with a new perspective and exclusive industry insights into some of the most beloved family-friendly films in movie history. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit stapletoncommunity.com.

**Active Minds Seminar – South Africa: From Apartheid to Global Citizen**  
*Thursday, January 24th, 6:30pm, Sam Gary Library*  
Join Active Minds as we explore the history of South Africa, its struggle with Apartheid, Nelson Mandela's legacy, and the country's journey to rejoin the international community since Apartheid's end in 1994. We will end with a look at the current challenges and opportunities for South Africa, including the resignation of President Jacob Zuma.

**Family Game Night**  
*Friday, January 25th, 5–9pm, The Cube*  
It's time to get a *Clue*, fill your *Cranium* with gaming wisdom, and join us for our open-house styled Family Game Night!

You won't need a *Ticket to Ride* to partake in this evening's entertainment and proclaim your *Monopoly* as the reigning board game *Mastermind*. *Connect 4* of your family members for a domestic *Scrabble* or take a *Risk* by competing against new opponents. No matter who you challenge, the fun to be had compares *Apples to Apples*. Attendees are welcome to bring dinner and snacks with them. It's no *Candy Land*, but we will also have snacks and drinks available for purchase. Come out for a fun-filled night of friendly competition, you won't be *Sorry!* you did!

**Harry Potter Lock-In**  
*February 1st–2nd, 2:30pm–10am, The Cube*  
\* Last day for online registration: Jan 29, 12pm  
Witches and Wizards, grades 2nd–5th, are invited to attend a magical overnight stay at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry! We will be showing all eight films in the Harry Potter series. Students will be sorted into one of the four Hogwarts houses and will experience some of Hogwarts' most celebrated curriculum, including the Care of Magical Creatures and Defense Against the Dark Arts. Register today at stapletoncommunity.com.

**Happy New Year...**  
Whether or not you're ready to bid adieu to 2018, the new year is upon us, and with it we welcome new opportunities for growth, change, and personal transformation. The MCA has endured a lot of new developments leading into 2019, including a move to our new administrative office, devising plans for more innovative programs and events, and anticipating the commencement of our seventh outdoor pool. Whether you like it or not, change will come to you. It may bust into your life unexpectedly or gradually develop over time, but how you react to it is up to you. New beginnings grant you a valuable opportunity to learn from your past and better yourself in the future. In 2019 there will be countless opportunities to try new things, meet new people, and explore unknown environments. Every chapter in your life will eventually come to an end and when it does, I hope you accept that it's time to turn the page.

If you have any questions or comments about the information above, contact luhling@stapletoncommunity.com or call the MCA office at 303.388.0724.

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# Front Porch

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The Front Porch – NE Denver distributes 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.



# You received this free community paper courtesy of these local businesses!

Learn more about them at [www.FrontPorchNE.com](http://www.FrontPorchNE.com) > Business Directory.

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By Laurie Dunklee

Millennia before it became the Centennial State, Colorado was the home of indigenous people including the Ute tribes. *Written on the Land: Ute Voices, Ute History* at History Colorado aims to bridge the Utes' history with modern-day Colorado.

"It's cool to imagine what the Utes were doing in our familiar places, thousands of years before us," said Shannon Voirol, director of exhibit planning at History Colorado and lead developer of the exhibit. "In metro Denver there are hundreds of sites that indicate the Utes' presence, including near Bluff Lake."

*Written on the Land*, a new long-term exhibit, was developed in collaboration with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. History Colorado staff met with tribal representatives, including elders, historians, and culture and education experts, over four years to develop the content, Voirol said.

*Written on the Land* displays more than 175 artifacts, including Ute beadwork,



Left: Courtship flute: Flutes are an important part of the music of courtship. Above: Bag by Sophia Box, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, 2003. Cut glass seed beads, leather, thread.



Above: Southern Ute Chief Buckskin Charley (1840-1936) passed this drum down to his son, Antonio Buck, Sr. (1870-1961). Below: Shavano Rock Art, near Montrose. The site, named for late-1800s Chief Shavano, preserves centuries of Ute carvings.

clothing, basketry and contemporary crafts. On view is the colorful beadwork that adorns

girdles, moccasins, bags and jewelry, along with willow baskets, stone tools, and wooden saddles. Photos and videos show Ute traditions preserved to the present day, including the

Bear Dance with its elaborate beaded gloves, fringed shawls and carved instruments. "The tribes support this exhibit because it helps their kids and grandkids to know their stories. Also, they want Denver people to know about their lives," Voirol said.



The exhibit explores iconic Colorado places where the Ute people resided for generations. "Pikes Peak is important to the Southern Utes, called 'people of the shining mountains,'" said Sheila Goff, curator of archaeology at History Colorado.

"The mountain is named tava-kahv in their language because it is one of the first peaks to get the sun in the morning." The Utes' original territory covered most of Colorado. They moved with the seasons, from the mountains in summer to lower ele-

ments in winter. "Their movements were purposeful and practical, not aimless," said Voirol. "They prefer not to be called nomadic."

"Our history is written on the land. These places in the Rocky Mountains are where we connect to our history," said Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, a tribal representative who participated in the planning of the exhibit.

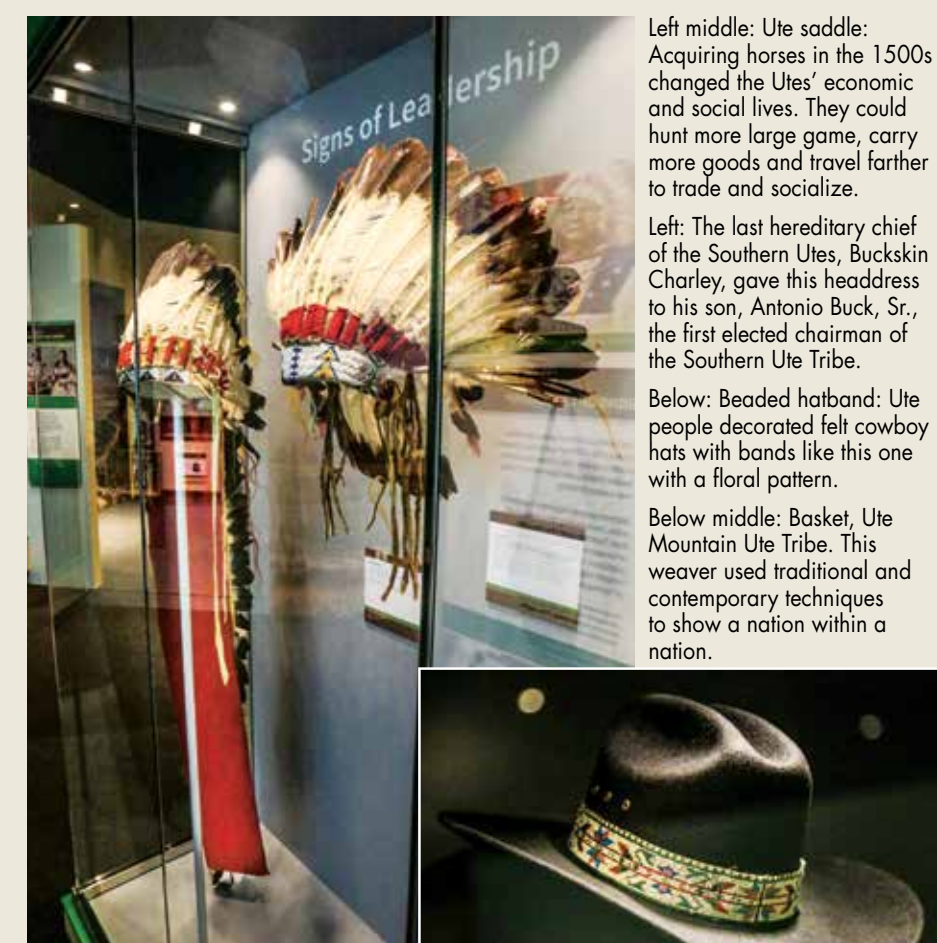


Ute children were required to go to boarding schools where they were

taught farming. Their moccasins were taken from them and they had to wear shoes like those shown below.



## "Written On the Land"



Left middle: Ute saddle: Acquiring horses in the 1500s changed the Utes' economic and social lives. They could hunt more large game, carry more goods and travel farther to trade and socialize.

Left: The last hereditary chief of the Southern Utes, Buckskin Charley, gave this headdress to his son, Antonio Buck, Sr., the first elected chairman of the Southern Ute Tribe.

Below: Beaded hatband: Ute people decorated felt cowboy hats with bands like this one with a floral pattern.

Below middle: Basket, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. This weaver used traditional and contemporary techniques to show a nation within a nation.



where."

*Written on the Land* brings history to the present and talks about the contemporary lives of Ute tribal members. Many Utes still live on three reservations: the Ute Mountain and Southern Ute reservations in southwest Colorado; and the Uintah and Ouray Reservation in eastern Utah. Others live in Denver as part of a larger community of American Indians from many tribes. "They'd like us to know they're still here, so don't think of them in sepia," said Voirol. "We didn't get wiped out, we didn't move away, we're still here

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and we will still be here," said Terry Knight Sr. of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, who participated in the planning of the exhibit.

Modern-day Utes are preserving their language and culture, as well as sharing their knowledge. Statewide, a National Science Foundation grant is connecting traditional Ute knowledge with science in an education program for schools and Ute tribes. Anthropologists, botanists, scientists and researchers are bridging their scientific knowledge with the traditional ecological practices of indigenous peoples.

Archaeological fieldwork surveys with Ute elders and youth are featured as interactive spaces in the exhibit, allowing museum visitors to learn more about the Utes' use of plants.

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# UHealth Gains Level 1 Trauma Designation

By Martina Will, Ph.D.

The first thing you notice about Alina Miller isn't her colorful prosthesis, but her positivity. Even when she talks about the fire that impelled her to jump from her fourth-floor apartment, making her an amputee, she radiates joy as she says "It all happened perfectly." She is not being ironic. Part of her good fortune in the face of adversity had to do with her apartment's proximity to UCH Health University of Colorado Hospital (UCH), which in October 2018 received a Level 1 trauma center designation.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and American College of Surgeons announced the designation that makes UCH one of five such hospitals in the state, but as Miller attests, the designation largely recognizes the work that UCH had already been doing.

In 2012, when Miller was 22, an arsonist set fire to her apartment building at 17th and Peoria. She recalls being on the phone around 10:30pm when she noticed flames lighting her apartment orange from the burning apartment below hers. She

tried to exit through the hallways but immediately recognized that the only way to survive the fire would be to go through a window. She couldn't climb her way down the brick building as she had hoped, and plummeted to the ground. Landing on the concrete broke her back and shattered her feet. Overwhelmed with pain, her screams woke a second floor neighbor. When this resident escaped the building, she cradled Miller, comforting her as they helplessly watched the flames and smoke engulf the building.

She remembers being in the emergency room, and could feel the sense of urgency emanating from the doctors, nurses, and other staff. "But no one panicked," she says. "Everybody was so clear with me and so wonderful. I felt they were like 'We've got this. It's going to be fine.'"

According to UCH, "Hospital trauma designations are determined according to established state and national criteria. Key elements required to be a Level I trauma center include around-the-clock coverage by trauma surgeons and prompt availability of the most comprehensive group of specialists in orthopedics, neurosurgery, and anesthesiology, among



Above: Fully recovered Alina Miller returned to the emergency room for a photo with Dr. Robert McIntyre, the hospital's trauma medical director. Below: UCH emergency room resident physicians Tyler Downing (left) and Samuel Michel meet with attending physician Lisa Ferrigno during a pause in their work with patients.



hensive group of specialists in orthopedics, neurosurgery, and anesthesiology, among

others. Such facilities also must be leaders in trauma prevention and education,



The UCH emergency room averages 275-300 patients a day. According to Dr. McIntyre, the trauma volume has increased 10% each year for the past four years.

conduct research, and meet volume requirements for treating severely injured patients."

Dr. Robert McIntyre, the hospital's trauma medical director and CU School of Medicine professor, adds that UCH's volume of patient care has also increased by about 10% each year in the past four years. UCH sees between 275-300 patients a day coming through its emergency room. Many cases are the result of motor vehicle crashes, pedestrians or bicyclists hit by vehicles, falls, and penetrating trauma injuries such as gunshot wounds and stabbings. UCH also works with patients referred from hospitals in surrounding states, to ensure the highest level of care.

Miller underwent ten surgeries at UCH over the years. She worked closely with the medical team, and marveled at her doctors' determination to save her foot despite the fact that it was smashed "like a potato chip" after the fall. Keeping her foot, however, proved to be more limiting to her mobility and her comfort.

She eventually decided to have her left leg amputated below the knee, and after returning from her honeymoon in Cancun,

had the operation in January 2016. "It was the best decision I ever made." Since the amputation, she has rock climbed, run a 5k, gone scuba diving, and embraced all the opportunities before her. Miller welcomes the questions that inevitably arise when strangers see her in her prosthetic, and views each encounter as an opportunity to reduce people's fears and taboos around amputation and amputees. She encourages people not to avoid eye contact, but to engage with her and others who choose not to conceal their prosthetics. "I can do everything an able-bodied person can do," she says. "I have a wonderful time being an amputee."

The amputation resulted in a career shift for Miller, who now works for Creative Technology Orthotic and Prosthetic Solutions in Denver. She counsels patients in the months after amputation, to help them adjust to their new prosthetics. Occasionally, Dr. Robert Leland, her UCH orthopedic surgeon, asks her to meet with patients considering amputation.

It's clear in speaking with Miller that the bonds she established at UCH are deep. The many doctors, surgeons, nurses, and others who cared for her—and continue to care for her—go "above and beyond," she says.



## NEIR TEAM STAPLETON STATS

Neir Team Days on Market for listings:  
Neir Team Average Sold Price: \$763,789  
Neir Team List to Sale %: 101%

## 2018 SOLDS

 6028 Beeler Ct* \$702,955	 8125 MLK* \$395,000	 5851 N Beeler St* \$376,540	 9003 E 50th Dr \$725,000
 5057 Yosemite Ct \$885,000	 2095 Tamarac St \$708,945	 8696 E 50th Dr \$1,075,000	 5068 Yosemite Ct \$585,000
 8565 E 50th Dr \$915,000	 10550 E 26th Ave* \$558,192	 6064 Alton St \$550,000	 9022 E 50th Dr* \$417,500
 8864 MLK Blvd* \$869,000	 9711 E 26th Ave* \$630,000	 9722 E 35th Ave* \$782,500	

## CURRENT LISTINGS

7905 E Prairie Meadow Dr 3 — + Loft + Study 2.5 4,135 ■ ■ ■ \$839,500	 9322 E 58th Ave 2 — / 2.5 1 Car Garage 1,152 ■ ■ ■ \$430,000
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## COMING SOON

2971 Fulton St 3 — + Office + Loft 2,974 ■ ■ ■	 4905 Valencia 3 — / 2.5 2 Car Garage 1,633 ■ ■ ■
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## UNDER CONTRACT

 9608 E. 57th Ave*	 5718 N Beeler Ct*	 4971 Central Park Blvd*
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\*Indicates The Neir Team represented the buyer

9

th Annual

be well Awards & Community Celebration

The Power in You

The **be well** Health and Wellness Initiative of The Foundation for Sustainable Urban Communities cordially invites you to join us.

Thursday, January 31, 2019, 6-8:30pm

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Denver 3202 Quebec St. 80207

Please join us as we recognize and celebrate those who impact health and well-being in our communities by advancing health equity. Our host for the evening will be Shed G.

For more information and to register to attend, please visit: <http://bit.ly/bewellawards> or contact Sam Valeriano at: [SValeriano@stapletonfoundation.org](mailto:SValeriano@stapletonfoundation.org) | 303-468-3226 Please RSVP by January 28.

Sponsored by the be well Health and Wellness Initiative of the Foundation for Sustainable Urban Communities. Learn more at [www.bewellconnect.org](http://www.bewellconnect.org)

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Above left: Havana's Hotel Nacional, which overlooks the sea, opened in 1930 and has hosted international luminaries and leaders including Winston Churchill, Jean-Paul Sartre, Marlene Dietrich, Ernest Hemingway, Mickey Mantle, and Frank Sinatra. Above right: Havana's "coco-taxis" were my kids' preferred means of transportation in the city. Below: Looking out at the Plaza Vieja and surrounding neighborhood, with the Cuban capitol building in the background.



Have you taken a trip with the goal to understand and experience another culture? Contact us if you'd like to share your information for our "Cultural Travel" page.

By Martina Will, Ph.D.

Seeking to escape the cold and open our children's worlds in a way that no all-inclusive resort can, we traveled to Cuba. Though the Trump administration in 2017 repealed one of the categories allowing U.S. citizens to visit Cuba, twelve remain, and "support for the Cuban people" dovetailed with our goals.

With our Spanish fluency, we knew we could experience Cuba without the filter of a tour guide. We also sought a slower pace than most organized excursions allow, so we planned our travel independent of any tour companies. Seeking a blend of cultural experiences and beach time, we limited ourselves to two destinations: Havana and Playa Larga.

Cuba Travel Services sold us our visas right at the United gate in Houston before boarding our Havana flight. The ongoing U.S. trade embargo means that only a few U.S. bank cards function in Cuba, so we

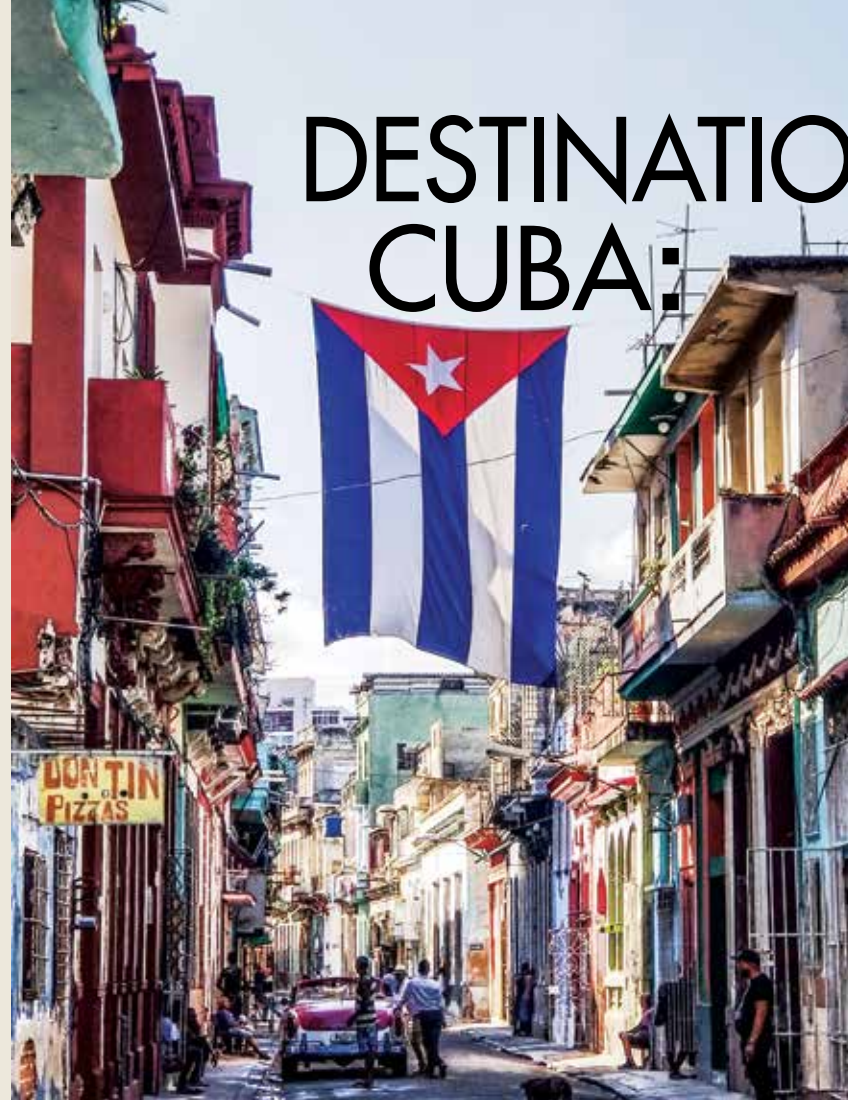
bought Euros to avoid the 10% surcharge on exchanging dollars and at the Havana airport converted these to "CUCs" (the Cuban convertible peso reserved for tourists). We breezed through immigration, only cursorily scrutinized by women officials who complement their government uniforms with black heels and lace stockings.

Buses and taxis are reliable and abundant, with the bonus that taking taxis gave us many opportunities to ride in 1950s Chevys and Soviet-era LADAs. These rides constituted some of our "support for the Cuban people," and allowed us to interact

with locals more than renting a car would have permitted. We rented a few apartments in historic buildings, to get a feel for different neighborhoods and lifestyles.

Our first day in Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, coincided with the 499th anniversary of the city's founding. Lines of locals waited their turn to walk three times around the ceiba tree in the Plaza de Armas, a square dating to the 1520s. The tree is strongly associated with Afro-Cuban *orishas* or spirits, but many of these same devotees later that day appeared in Havana's Cathedral to petition St. Chris-

## DESTINATION CUBA:



Above: A street in "Habana Vieja," or "Old Havana." In the foreground, a family-owned restaurant or "paladar" sells pizzas. Though officially still socialist, since the collapse of the USSR, Cuba has permitted such entrepreneurship. Dining at any of these family-owned businesses constitutes part of your "support for the Cuban people" when traveling to Cuba, and many offer outstanding cuisine. Parked in the street, one of the many pink convertibles used to ferry tourists through the city on sightseeing excursions.



Photos by Andras Chapparo



Above left: Interior of one of our renovated historic apartments. To support the locals and give our children a more accurate view of daily life, we booked homes through Airbnb, allowing us to pay in advance with dollars.

Above: Havana will celebrate its 500-year anniversary in 2019, and historic buildings like this one are slated for renovations.

Left: People wait in the Plaza de Armas to take a turn walking around the ceiba tree to make wishes.



## WITH KIDS

topher at his altar there.

The Museum of Colonial Art in the Cathedral's plaza featured some remarkable everyday objects from the country's long colonial history—and the sounds of Cuban *son* from musicians in a nearby restaurant drifted through its open windows. Though we arrived just after its official closing, a guard permitted us to take the elevator to the Camera Obscura, an optical device that offers 360-degree views. From the roof, we could see the Plaza Vieja's colorful buildings from the seventeenth through twentieth centuries. At *Salsabor*, the kids and I took a lesson in Cuban salsa dancing. As my 9-year old drummer followed this with a class on the *timbales*, widely used in Cuban music, we relaxed on a balcony and indulged in drinks with and without Havana Club, Cuba's ubiquitous rum.

Snorkeling in the calm waters among the pristine coral reefs of Punta Perdiz in the Bay of Pigs offered the perfect antidote to Havana's nonstop bustle. A beach-front house in sleepy Playa Larga served as our base for exploring the Caribbean side of the island, home to the Ciénega de Zapata Biosphere Reserve with its mangrove and evergreen forests.

These rich urban and coastal landscapes only hint at Cuba's story. It was the people we encountered—of all walks of life, educational backgrounds, ethnic and racial groups—who are without question its richest resource. Our taxi drivers and hosts had worked as teachers, agricultural engineers and in other professional capacities. Despite the hardships they



Above: A view of the 2018 Havana Marathon from our apartment overlooking the Malecón, Havana's historic seawall and boardwalk.

Below: A view from our beach house in Playa Larga, on the Bay of Pigs.



have and continue to endure, they expressed pride in their nation's heritage, resilience, and independence. They freely shared their views on the country's sites and history, and its complex relationship with the U.S. Many were bilingual, and all made us feel welcome. Though all too short, our eight days in Cuba allowed us all to see beyond the occasional headlines and connect with the locals to gain a more nuanced view of Cuba today.



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Susana Cordova fielding questions from the community at GW High School on Dec. 11

By Carol Roberts

The unanimous DPS Board vote was a testament to Susana Cordova's presentation of herself and her values to the community. The two board representatives from northeast Denver, Jennifer Bacon and Carrie Olson, who had expressed serious concerns that constituents wouldn't meet multiple candidates, ended up voting yes.

Olson, in announcing her yes vote, said, "I will hold you accountable for your promise to work 'with' the community instead of doing 'to' and 'for.' I would like to pledge to you my support and willingness to work with you in this hard work."

Bacon said, "I'm excited to know you've heard what these demands for a different DPS are. I hope to walk with you as you demonstrate you are a listener, a collaborator and a bridge builder. You hold yourself out to be. I will approach my vote with some reservations, but that's OK. The true value of diversity is that difference makes us better... And the truth of the matter is, only a woman can do it anyway."

## Cordova Gets Unanimous Vote

to be selected on my merits. I'm sorry that's not how it played out."

When asked about racism and equity she speaks of her own life as a Latina woman growing up in a poor family, and now her daughter talks to her about what it's like to be a student of color in school. "Right now the work we're doing on equity is more on an opt-in basis. To be a teacher in DPS, we all need training in understanding bias and what culturally responsive teaching looks like. I don't think that should be optional. That might not be popular with all teachers who want some flexibility around what their training programs look like."

Cordova speaks of her strong commitment to increasing teachers' salaries—and she will be tested by the union negotiations that need to be wrapped up by mid-January. She was a teacher for years and says half the names in her speed dial list are teachers. Where will she find the money? The new governor has designated some additional money for schools, which she would put toward teacher salaries. She also says, "We need to slim down and make the central office much more efficient. I've been here a long time and I think we try to do too much. In working with the board, I would want to be able to prioritize the work to align with the goals. Intensely focus in those areas and stop doing other things so we can slim down and put that funding in teachers' pockets."

She already started a new budgeting process where she brought together the teams she supervises, telling them, "We're going to collectively name what we should be putting our resources toward. Where are the places we need to save funds...and how can we do this across our teams as opposed to inside our teams. It has to be a district-wide approach."

Cordova acknowledges that frequently DPS has acted like engagement is telling people something. "That's not engagement...We have trust to build. We have relationships to rebuild. I shop at stores in Denver. If you're a parent in Denver I'm going to see you. It really matters that I can walk with integrity when it comes to authentic communication, dialogue and relationships."

*Cordova's quotes in this article come from the community meetings at North and GW high schools.*

# Preventing Suicide: Don't Be Afraid to Ask the Difficult Questions

By Martina Will, Ph.D.

As he begins a suicide prevention training on a chilly Saturday morning, James Gallanos emphasizes "If you don't remember anything else, remember that if you feel something in your gut, or something doesn't feel right, and you feel someone may be thinking about suicide, it's ok to ask. It's not comfortable. It doesn't feel good to ask; you may be scared to ask the question and you may be worried about how the words are coming out and how that may be perceived by the other person, but the most important thing is that you ask."

Approximately every 8 hours, someone dies of suicide in the state of Colorado. Suicide is the leading cause of death for children ages 10-14 and the second leading cause of death for those ages 15-44 within our state. "These are preventable deaths," says Gallanos, Colorado National Collaborative Coordinator for Violence and Injury Prevention with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

A host of factors may lead someone to believe that suicide will end the pain they are experiencing. Though a concerned friend or relative cannot take away that person's pain, they can

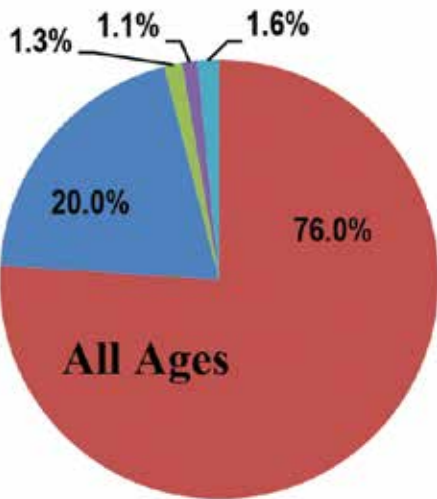
be present, offer them hope, and by reaching out, break the chain that leads to a suicide attempt. Many people fear asking the question will impel someone to take that step, but Gallanos says it does not.

Intervention and treatment are overwhelmingly successful in preventing suicide and helping those who have hurt themselves to recover. "Most people recover from suicidal thoughts or behaviors," Gallanos says. "It doesn't mean they won't attempt again or that they won't face mental health challenges," but with the right resources and supports in place, about 90% of individuals move past suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

Gallanos recommends finding a private and unrushed setting to ask the person you're concerned about, "Are you thinking of hurting yourself?" You may warm up to this by asking first, "Have you been unhappy lately?" This is not ever an easy conversation, but in many instances, listening and offering hope can help shift the person's belief that suicide is a solution. "Most people don't want to die; they want an end to their pain," Gallanos says. Wording is important when asking someone about their feelings. Do NOT say "You're not suicidal, are you?" or "Promise me you won't try to kill yourself."

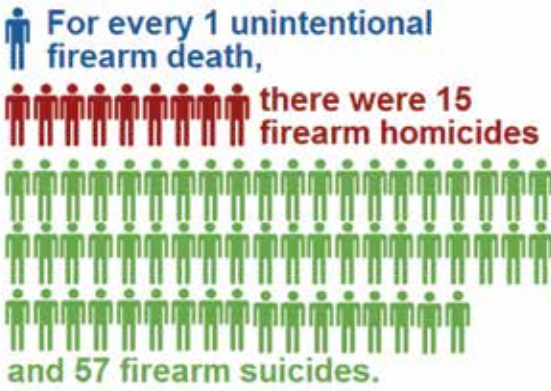
Your willingness to listen may rekindle hope. When you have that difficult conversation with someone you're concerned about, it's essential

## Colorado 2005-2012 Causes of Firearms Deaths



Graphic by CoVDRS

## Suicide vs. Unintentional Firearm Deaths



There are fewer than 10 unintentional firearm deaths annually in Colorado—58 occurred from 2005 through 2012.

Colorado Violent Death Reporting System (CoVDRS), Health Statistics Section, CO Dept. of Public Health and Environment, 03/JAN/2014.

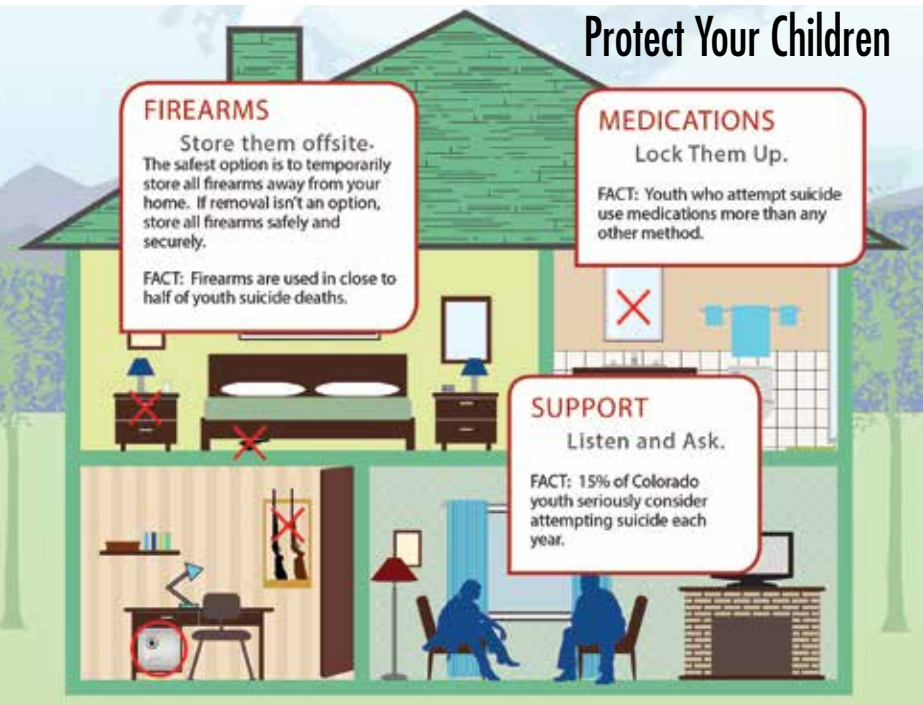


Illustration by Harvard Injury Control Research Center

anonymous reporting of safety concerns. In the past four years, suicide intervention tips have been the number one tip received by Safe2Tell, allowing for intervention and prevention. "We want to focus on addressing the problem upstream and also reach children as early as elementary school," she says.

Reducing the suicide rate, however, may ultimately require not only additional mental health resources and prevention training, but reducing access to firearms. The CDC affirms that firearms are the most common method of suicide nationally. In Colorado, almost half of suicides are the result of firearms, and many national studies demonstrate a link between firearm access and suicide. Harvard University's School of Public Health explains the connection: "Guns are more lethal than other suicide means. They're quick. And they're irreversible. About 85% of attempts with a firearm are fatal: that's a much higher case fatality rate than for nearly every other method." Many of the other suicide attempt methods have case fatality rates below 5%.

Will Coloradans ask their legislators to tackle the problem by passing safe storage laws?

## Resources:

Safe2Tell: To make an anonymous report, call 1-877-542-7233 from anywhere, 24/7.

Suicide Prevention Lifeline: If you need help, call 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or 1-844-493-TALK (8255) Colorado Crisis & Support Line and you'll be connected to a skilled, trained counselor at a crisis center in your area, anytime 24/7.

For a complete list of warning signs, see <https://afsp.org/about-suicide/risk-factors-and-warning-signs/>



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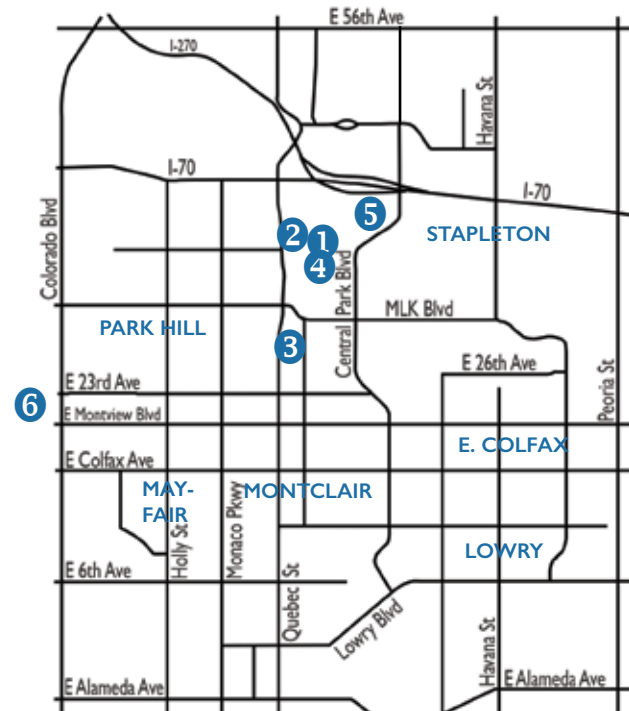
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Front Porch – NE Denver



# ...NE News Updates



By Carol Roberts

## 1 Still No News When the Horns Will End,

*But we understand more about what's causing the delay*  
In a world where driverless cars are said to be just around the corner and artificial intelligence is about to replace many of our jobs, why haven't the engineers been able to make the crossing gates consistently go up and down with the proper timing? After more than two and a half years of train horns, the bottom line still is this—there will be no quiet zones until the gates operate “as designed” with constant warning times.  
With a system that’s the first of its kind, the timing window (when gates go down before the train arrives and how long they stay down after the train leaves) was initially based on algorithms. In Sept. 2017, with a year and a half of real data, RTD asked for and received approval to add 20 seconds to that window, saying that longer window was more appropriate for this system.

### FRA's Bombshell Letter to RTD

But in mid-November 2018, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) sent a letter saying, “Despite FRA approving RTD’s request for additional warning time... recent FRA inspections have found that neither the WCAS (wireless system) nor the CTWS (conventional system) consistently provide warning times within the acceptable ranges allowed... For instance, during the week of August 13, 2018, FRA inspectors identified 63 instances of warning times outside the acceptable ranges...”  
The letter went on to say that federal regulations require that warning devices at crossings within quiet zones must provide constant warning times and any waiver to allow a quiet zone “would need to be predicated on the existence and use of a... warning system that reliably activates as designed...FRA cannot justify granting this waiver request until RTD demonstrates compliance...”  
The letter concluded with this bombshell, “If RTD fails to submit an acceptable action plan within 30 days... FRA will have no choice but to consider other actions as appropriate, potentially including enhanced enforcement, modification of the existing waiver...or revoking the waiver.”

RTD Spokesperson Laurie Huff says, “Revocation of the FRA waiver is not the same as shutting down the line. RTD will do everything possible to ensure that the plan is accepted and implemented such that our service is not impacted.”

### RTD Replies

On Dec. 18, RTD Commuter Rail posted their 73-page reply to satisfy the FRA’s requirements and keep the trains operating (available as a PDF with this story on our website). Near the beginning is a statement that gets at why there’s such a big focus on precise warning gate times: “Some safety experts believe that crossings are safer where warning times are as short as reasonably possible and relatively consistent so that the public does not distrust active warning devices and does not attempt to cross the tracks with a mistaken belief that the train is not really coming.” (With four gates at each intersection blocking all lanes, do motorists really crash through the gates if the time at one gate is longer than that at another?)

The data for the commuter rail shows that approximately 90% of all warning times are within the design-warning times for all crossings (with an exclusion noted). The A Line has eleven crossings, ten of them shared with Union Pacific Railroad. RTD Commuter Rail is the only railroad using the crossings that has Positive Train Control (PTC), where braking happens automatically if the train is approaching the crossing too quickly.



Passengers wait at Central Park Station.

### Predicting when a train will arrive? It's complicated

RTD’s letter states, “The accuracy of the prediction is affected by known factors, such as the actual speed of the train at the point... [the signal to close the gate is activated]. Accuracy is also affected by factors not known or controllable by the system, for example an unanticipated decision by the train operator to slow down after the crossing has already been activated based on his/her judgment approaching the crossing. Human operators have the freedom and responsibility to adjust train speeds for conditions...a passenger train operator may allow more time at a station stop for passengers to board than is typically needed.”

**Wireless signal interruptions**—The software for the commuter rail system uses a wireless signal that adjusts gate timing based on actual train speed. If there’s an interruption in wireless connectivity, the system reverts to a simpler conventional system that will close the gates, but that system cannot adjust gate timing based on actual train speed. The report noted that new construction around Union Station has resulted in more interruptions in wireless



An RTD commuter rail driver looks out from the cab (shown above) before closing train doors.

### Finding Solutions

The FRA identified concerns about the Holly and Monaco crossings. When timing issues there were studied, analysts discovered that the acceleration and deceleration times of trains approaching these crossings had evolved significantly with increased operator experience. As data has become available, “Approach Condition Adjustment Factors” (ACAF) have been introduced in the algorithms that predict train arrivals and gate closure and opening. The FRA approved new ACAF values that were implemented recently for the Monaco crossing. Data shows warning times for both Monaco and Holly have improved since that was implemented.

In the 73-page document, RTD wrote detailed explanations of these types of issues and reiterated their commitment to collect and analyze data and continually make adjustments to limit the impact they have on warning times.

This early 2016 photo of the Operations Control Center for the RTD Commuter Rail trains was taken during testing before opening to passengers.

connectivity, which has created gate-timing issues up the line. RTD Commuter Rail is working on a fix for that problem.

**Longer than expected station stops**—Variation in the length of time that trains stop in passenger stations (dwell time) causes variability of warning times. RTD Commuter Rail will seek a method of reducing or eliminating the impact of dwell time variation on warning times. Dwell times at the Central Park station are typically longer than the assumed 35 second dwell time and may be a factor in lengthening the warning times at Holly and Monaco. The report notes that further improvement may be possible with additional study of actual operations at Central Park Station.

### Additional causes of longer warning times

- Orders for train operators to stop or slow at a crossing due to a report of a possible warning system malfunction.
- If the positive train control system applies the brakes because a train will arrive too early, the train has to stop and re-initialize in Positive Train Control (PTC) before being able to move again.
- As a result of a PTC issue (due to loss of GPS signal, for example) the train operates in the conventional rather than the wireless system.
- Weather, poor visibility and other factors may cause operators to move more slowly than predicted.



## 2 RTD Increases Seats on A Line

Laurie Huff of RTD provided this statement: “Starting in January, we are doubling capacity on the University of Colorado A Line. This means we are adding cars to each train, so what previously had been two-car trains will become four-car trains. We are making this change because of growing ridership, which is 24,000 boardings on an average weekday to date this year. The University of Colorado A Line has carried well above 16 million riders since it opened in April 2016.”

## 3 Forest City Has Been Sold to Brookfield Asset Management

Brookfield, the new master developer of Stapleton, will take over all of Forest City’s contractual obligations. Jim Chrisman, who was senior vice president of Forest City, points out that Brookfield acquired multiple other large projects and Forest City staff have not yet been informed of future staffing or office changes. We may learn more in late January.



Scooter enthusiasts have embraced the new mode of transportation in downtown Denver.

## 4 Sprouts

David Friedman purchased the land near the Central Park Station in late May/early June 2018 to build a Sprouts, other retail and residential properties, but we have not received a response when we’ve asked about the construction schedule.

## 5 Construction by I-70?

What looks like a large construction project on the west side of Central Park Blvd. at I-70 is actually “prep work for bringing fill to the site,” says Jim Chrisman.

## 6 Denver Preschool Showcase

The seventh annual Preschool Showcase will be held at the Denver Zoo’s Norgren Hall on Saturday, Jan. 12, 2019, from 9am to 12pm. This free event enables Denver parents to meet with staff from more than 50 local preschools to help them make an informed decision about preschool next fall. Parents can also learn how to sign up for tuition support through the program. Participating families receive free admission to the zoo. For more information visit [www.dpp.org/news/showcase-2019](http://www.dpp.org/news/showcase-2019).

## 7 Scooter Rules Change

City Council representatives Mary Beth Susman and Paul Kashman have introduced a new ordinance about scooters that puts scooters in bike lanes, when available. According to Susman, “It primarily gets scooters off the sidewalks unless a road speed limit is higher than 30 and there is no bike lane, but then the speed limit on a sidewalk is 6 mph.” It goes to full council Jan. 7. The proposed ordinance is linked to this article on our website at FrontPorchNE.com.

## 8 Rename Stapleton Contests MCA Vote

Two candidates from the recent MCA delegate election, Cora Galpern and Mandie Rousseau, who were endorsed by Rename Stapleton for All, contested the outcome of their elections. The

candidates, upon review of the ballots, found that Forest City had cast their votes on a single ballot rather than filing individual ballots, and the signature on the ballot did not match the name of the owner. The lawyer from the MCA determined that the votes were, in fact, valid, and the election results stand.

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## A Blue Wave Hits Colorado as...

# Lots of New Lawmakers Face Lots of Old Issues

By Todd Engdahl

It's a good thing Colorado legislators wear little black plastic nametags—those will come in handy when lawmakers try to identify their colleagues this year.

Last November's elections brought 28 brand-new people to the 100-member Colorado General Assembly. By the time the dust settles in January there could be as many as 32 newbies because four senatorial resignations may be filled by current House members, whose seats in turn will be filled by newcomers.

In addition to the freshmen, five House members were elected to the Senate.

The two chambers' top leaders are new in their jobs, although not brand-new to leadership. Democratic Senate President Leroy Garcia was minority leader last year, and Democratic House Speaker was majority leader.

The wave of new members brings more women and more Hispanics to the statehouse, plus a cadre of self-described Democratic "progressives."

Legislature turnover is nothing new;

the bigger news out of the November election was the Democratic takeover of the Senate. Combined with the election of Jared Polis as governor, Democrats now control both houses of the legislature and the executive branch.

That sets up a new dynamic, given that control of the legislature has been split since the 2015 legislative session. That meant major bills needed bipartisan support to pass. And more ideological bills on both sides tended to fare poorly.

So, in theory, Democrats now can do whatever they want. In practice that won't happen in all cases because:

There will be occasional splits in the Democratic caucuses, and between lawmakers and Polis.

Bipartisan relationships forged over the last four years won't disappear, and veteran Republicans will still have a voice with veteran Democrats.

Some Democratic policy dreams are expensive and may run up against Colorado's unique constitutional provisions, which require voter approval of new taxes and set limits on how much state

spending can grow every year.

While a lot of faces at the Capitol are new, most of 2019's issues are all too familiar. Here's a quick overview of what lawmakers will be wrestling with:

### Finance and Budget

Legislators are expected to once again take up the issue of the Gallagher Amendment, the constitutional provisions that governs how much owners and businesses each pay in local property taxes. Interaction between Gallagher and the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights means property tax revenues are falling for many local governments and special districts, especially fire districts. Lawmakers may have to craft a proposal that ultimately requires voter approval. One less complicated option would be to reimburse local governments for lost revenues, but that might squeeze funding for other programs.

Speaking of TABOR, Democrats are talking about ways to increase that amendment's limit on how much additional revenue can be spent each year. Some think that can be done with a popu-

lar vote; others aren't so sure.

Lawmakers also need to sort out how to impose sales taxes on e-commerce, something recently allowed by the U.S. Supreme Court. Trying to implement that ruling has exposed the flaws in Colorado's complicated and fragmented sales tax system.

Strong state revenues make it look like clear sailing for existing programs in the state budget.

### Transportation

Voters in November rejected two plans for financing bonds to pay for highway and transportation improvements. Lawmakers have taken some modest steps in recent sessions, including a 2019 ballot measure that would raise funding. That plan may get cancelled, and lawmakers face tough decisions on this issue. The question ultimately may have to go to the voters again.

### Energy Development and the Environment

Voters also rejected a 2018 ballot measure to regulate energy development. Legislative Democrats have pushed in the past for tighter controls, including greater setbacks

between wells and homes, and they no longer have to worry about a Republican Senate. But the energy industry remains a strong lobbying force.

### Health care and Insurance

Gov. Polis has repeatedly expressed his support for universal health coverage, and legislature Democrats have pushed for various ideas in past sessions. Cost may be the biggest barrier to Democratic plans. Also look for bills on opioid addiction treatment and prevention, transparency of hospital and drug costs and regulation of free-standing emergency rooms.

### Housing and Economic Security

Democrats also have been interested in

Left: Colorado Senate floor.

Right: The legislators who represent constituents in the Front Porch distribution area gathered in the House Gallery at the end of the 2018 session. Back row, Reps. James Coleman and Leslie Herod. Front row, from left, Sens. Lois Court and Angela Williams. Not pictured is Rep. Chris Hansen.

Illustration by Steve Larson and Carol Roberts with wave from iStockphoto.

"economic security" bills such as mandatory paid family leave and ideas to make housing more affordable. Again, cost will be a barrier.

### Education

Polis has expressed strong interest in state funding for full-day kindergarten. But some lawmakers wonder if additional money would be better spent on expanding preschool access. In either case, the trick will be finding the money.

### Hot-button issues

Lawmakers will see a "red flag" bill allowing authorities to confiscate guns from people with mental health issues. Bills banning gay conversion therapy and addressing gender identification issues on birth certificates and driving licenses also are expected.

### Northeast Denver in the Legislature

Northeast Denver is an island of stability amidst all the statehouse turnover. All five of the area's Democratic lawmakers are back at the Capitol.

Sens. Lois Court (District 31) and Angela Williams (33) are in the middle of their terms so weren't on the ballot last November. Reps. Chris Hansen (District 6), James Coleman (7) and Leslie Herod (8) all were re-elected. Hansen and Herod without opposition.

All five hold leadership positions in



the new legislature. Court has been elected president pro-tempore (the chamber's second-highest but largely ceremonial position) and is chair of the Senate Finance Committee while Williams leads the Business, Labor and Technology Committee.

Hansen has joined the Joint Budget Committee and chairs the House Appropriations Committee. Coleman is co-whip (a party floor manager) and vice chair of the Business Affairs and Labor Commit-

tee. Herod chairs the Finance Committee and is vice chair of the Judiciary Committee.

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



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Neighbors reflect on...Being a Thoughtful Consumer of SchoolChoice

By Carol Roberts  
Does SchoolChoice mean anxiety about whether you'll get your first choice? In an already-too-busy household, is there a part of you that wants to say, "I did right by my kids. I picked green or blue schools. I'm happy. No problem."

Why not just rely on the School Performance Framework (SPF) to choose a school? Four neighbors representing Park Hill and Stapleton education committees sat down together to talk about that question and reflect on the upcoming SchoolChoice process. From that discussion came the thoughts in this article and the decision to plan a community-wide meeting on January 15 for all northeast Denver families to talk about SchoolChoice.



Geoff Horsfall, who has 20 years of experience in education, founded a school for expeditionary learning, and has a 3rd grader in a Stapleton school. "Only by getting in there can you really understand what separates the different schools," adds Geoff Horsfall, a newcomer to SchoolChoice, with a daughter entering kindergarten at a Stapleton school in the fall. All four people agreed that visiting more than one school is really important. Further, they believe there are schools you haven't even considered that would be a perfectly

Please come to  
A Community Discussion of  
SchoolChoice  
Tues., Jan. 15, 6-7:30pm  
Central Park Rec (more info p. 28)

fine fit for your child—and you should visit one you hadn't previously thought about. Laura Lefkowitz, a Lowry resident and former school board member whose children and grandchildren attend(ed) local schools points out that the SPF scores are an average of the prior two school years. For a new school or a school

with changes in leadership and/or programming, those impacts won't show up in SPF scores for a few years. And, says Jea, "All of this data ignores relationships, which are the most important thing when we're nurturing the development of children." Laura adds, "In all of the data that is easily accessible, there's no story provided. We can give you data, but telling the story is really left up to the parents and the principals at a school."

To make tour-scheduling and broadening your list easier, check the next three pages and/or our website to read a statement from each principal and find the schedule of tours for all the elementary and middle schools in the Front Porch distribution area (and some beyond).

What should you think about before you visit? What are your values? What do you want your child's experience to look and feel like? More structured? More creative and free-form? Laura reminds parents, "You may also want to consider that at kindergarten, you have no idea—an elementary student's growth and development is going to be all over the map, at least until third grade." Andrew Lefkowitz (Laura's son), opted out of his assigned boundary school in Park

Hill and sent his 2nd grade and ECE 4 children to a school he found welcoming and that offered the diversity he values. He says, "Think beyond just the hard-test-scores part of the education. What sort of social environment do you want your kid to grow up in? What sort of understanding of differences do you want them to have?"

What to ask and look for as you visit  
What does your school celebrate? What are your recent successes? What have been the scores and trends in the formative assessments from this fall and last spring? If you want structured or if you want creative, what do you see in student work that reflects that? Do you see evidence of friendships at school?

Questions to ask after you visit  
Did I feel welcome? Can I picture my student succeeding here? Am I projecting my own issues on my child? "A parent walking into a school may think, 'I'm not sure that I feel comfortable here, so I'm assuming my kid won't feel comfortable there,'" says Andrew. "I'm like, 'You put your kid there and your kid is going to be totally fine.'"

Did I have realistic expectations? "A caveat," says Laura. "All schools have behavior problems. You'll see not all kids will be on task. That's school. You're not always going to walk into a classroom at a particular moment on your tour and see everything that you're wishing for." Attend events at schools you'll be considering—field days, festivals, speakers, etc.

"Get the best."  
"The train moves very quickly toward 'Get the best. Figure out a way to get the best, and if you don't, everything is lost,'" says Andrew. Jea has seen that too, "It's like life's over for them and their kid forever." "I feel it in myself already as I start going through this process," says Geoff. "You want it to go a certain way. Then people are inevitably disappointed when it doesn't, right? Having a little bit of a step back early in the process could be important for parents."

Those thoughts moved the discussion into a new direction. "The piece that's missing here is the bigger picture," says Andrew. "The choices you make about where to send your kid don't just affect your kid. People who have the ability to choose whichever school they want and drive their kid there ends up creating pockets of privilege and lack of privilege. I think asking people to go on tours thinking about social good is maybe a big ask but..."

Jea picks up on his thoughts, pointing out that people consider the broader social good in their consumer patterns, like buying organic versus nonorganic... "A Prius versus a Hummer," adds Andrew. "Social consciousness is in your consuming habits. Do you recycle? Why do you that?" asks Laura. "That is for more than you—and public education is about more than you. In order for a system to thrive, we need more parents who consider the system as a whole, and make a socially conscious decision. It's a big ask." Geoff adds, "I think a lot of parents haven't thought about that because we all went to our local neighborhood school. The idea of introducing these other variables is perhaps a first exposure to the issue for a lot of people." (cont' on p. 28)



Jea Arzberger

NE Denver Schools...with Tour Dates and Notes from the Principals

NE DENVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Find elementary school tours and principal statements on our website at: FrontPorchNE.com/article/elementary-schools2019

STAPLETON ZONE  
High Tech  
Inspire  
Isabella Bird  
Swigert  
Westerly Creek  
William (Bill) Roberts

PARK HILL  
Hallett  
Park Hill  
Smith  
Stedman

MORE NORTHEAST SCHOOLS  
Ashley  
Denver Language School  
Howell  
Lowry  
Maxwell  
Monarch Montessori  
Odyssey  
Montclair Sch. Academics & Enrichment

NE DENVER MIDDLE SCHOOLS IN PARK HILL–STAPLETON SHARED ZONE



Editors Note: With the very recent announcement that Denver Green School will be the newest middle school in the Stapleton-Park Hill shared zone, we offered additional space for them to introduce themselves.

Denver Green School Northfield  
150 6th graders in 2019-20  
540 students at full build-out  
Principal: Kartal Jaquette and Erin Miller  
kartal\_jaquette@denvergreen-school.org

Tour/event info:  
Sat., Jan. 12 at Punch Bowl Social, Time TBD  
Tues., January 8 at Park Hill Ele., 5:30-6:30pm  
Wed., Jan. 9 at Isabella Bird, 6:15-7:15pm  
More events to be scheduled.

Denver Green School Northfield, which is opening in 2019-20 with 6th grade, is the newest middle school to join DPS. The school, to be co-located at the Park Street Campus with Inspire Elementary, plans to open with approximately 150 6th graders. The original Denver Green School, located near George Washington High School, is a distinguished or 'blue' school. This past year, it had the 2nd highest report card out of 58 middle schools (after Slavens), the 2nd highest literacy growth (after Bill Roberts), and the 2nd highest math growth (after Slavens). Kartal Jaquette, the current school leader of the original DGS, will be leaving that post, alongside fellow leader Erin Miller, to be solely focused on the incoming 6th graders of DGS Northfield. This team has demonstrated themselves to be prepared, organized and passionate, three traits that we expect to shine through in the new school.

While a proven track record of academic success and a high level of organization are defining features of DGS, the true magic of the school is the focus on creating an engaging and relevant learning environment. It is called the 'Green'

School because students engage in thematic units that focus on aspects of sustainability. Whether 6th graders are criss-crossing the city examining the impacts of gentrification or preparing to cook their own meals for our camping trip to Moab, students always have a relevant project that is guiding their work. For students, the most exciting part of this focus is the excursion program, which gets students off campus to learn at least a dozen times a year.

In many ways, this focus on sustainability, and making learning relevant helps us focus on what education should look like. School should be fun. Students should get their hands dirty in the garden and stained in art class. Sure, we use computers to get our work done, but a dynamic school is so much more than staring at a computer. Our commitment to this dynamic school manifests itself in more than excursions. Friday celebrations have contests ranging from karaoke and 3-pointers to bake-offs. All students will be offered Spanish and we expect our instrumental program, choral music and visual arts to truly engage all learners. After school choices, including a range of competitive sports and clubs, keep students engaged beyond our 8:00-3:30 school day.



Denver Discovery School  
260 students  
Principal: Pam Kirk  
http://denverdiscoveryschool.dpsk12.org/  
Tours at 8:45am:  
Jan 11, 25 and Feb 1, 8  
Open House Jan 29 at 6pm

At DDS, our motto is "small enough to know you, large enough to serve you." We are a good fit for students who are looking for a smaller middle school where relationships are valued. We take pride in fostering deep relationships between teachers and families, and our small class sizes allow for a tight-fit culture and personalized approach to education. While we are proud to be a smaller school, we also offer

extracurriculars after school, clubs, athletics and other opportunities that you would find at a larger school. The clubs and activities offered are inspired by student input and interest. Some clubs and activities include culinary arts, drama, gaming, lacrosse, dodgeball, yoga and more. DDS participates in the Denver Prep League, and offers year-round girls and boys competitive sports.

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**Purpose of the Research Study:** The purpose of this research is to determine if choice of antihypertensive medication influences changes in functional status and cardiovascular risk factors in people with high blood pressure.

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<b>Inclusion:</b>	<b>Exclusion:</b>
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• Sedentary	• Severe cardiac disease (congestive heart failure, history of cardiac arrest, uncontrolled angina)
	• Significant cognitive impairment

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If you are interested in participating, please contact **Toby Wellington** at **720-848-6376** or **toby.wellington@ucdenver.edu**

COMIRB# 17-1758 PI: Wendy Kohrt, PhD

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**Tree Collection Day**  
Your tree must be placed at your trash set-out location by 7 a.m. on your scheduled trash collection day.

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**Howard Harris**  
dimensional photography

**Nicole Korbe**  
acrylic painting

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## NE DENVER MIDDLE SCHOOLS IN PARK HILL–STAPLETON SHARED ZONE



### DSST: Conservatory Green

468 Students  
School Director: John Clark  
<https://www.dsstpublicschools.org/conservatory-green-middle-school>  
Open House: Jan. 17  
Tours: Jan. 17, Feb. 5

DSST: Conservatory Green opened its doors in 2014 and has rated as a Top 10 middle school in Denver for each of those years. While strong academics are a hallmark of our school, it is the tight community that is built in our school that is most important. We do this through a robust advisory program where every student is paired with a teacher who serves as a support to them academically and emotionally at school. We also build a tight-knit community through the many extracurricular opportunities we offer. This includes an athletic program that both seeks to be competitive while building sportsmanship. Our sports include soccer,

volleyball, soccer, cross country, basketball, and flag football. Additionally, we have nearly 15 clubs that provide students with opportunities outside of our traditional academics. We are currently working to hire an Extra-curricular Coordinator and our clubs are ever changing in order to reflect the needs of our community. Some of our clubs include our teams in Robotics and Speech and Debate, Student Council, Art Club, Anime Club, and much more.

We're one of the most diverse and integrated schools in all of Denver—students build relationships with students from many different backgrounds and learn what it means to be part of a global community.



### DSST: Stapleton

480 Students  
School Director: Dan Sullivan  
<https://www.dsstpublicschools.org/stapleton-middle-school>  
Visiting: <https://info.dsstpublicschools.org/visit-schools>  
Open Houses: January 16, 24; February 6, 13  
Tours: Jan. 14, 16, 23, 28, 30; Feb. 6, 11

DSST: Stapleton Middle School has a track record of success as a small, inclusive, and integrated school that blends a world class education with a commitment to civics and character. We are a STEM-focused liberal arts school that also include arts programming and developing a love of literature and reading into our school. In 6th and 7th grade, students take both studio art and drama in addition to their core classes. Our school community is thriving with a wide variety of clubs including Student Government, Drama, Drumline, Art, Nutri-

tion/Cooking, Science, Math Olympiad, Weight Lifting, Running and more. With high staff retention and veteran teachers with more than a decade of experience, we are poised to continue improving our students' achievement. Our students come from a wide variety of backgrounds to form a community rich in ideas and perspectives - a community where students get to work with, learn from, and develop lasting friendships with other students and their incredible variety of experiences and ideas.



### McAuliffe International

1,600 Students  
Principal: Kurt Dennis  
<http://mcauliffe.dpsk12.org>  
Tours are on Fridays through January. Book at: <http://mcauliffe.dpsk12.org> Book

We believe that McAuliffe's Distinguished "Blue" rating on the SPF is an accurate reflection of our school's performance.



### William (Bill) Roberts

203 students (adding a third 6th grade section in 2019)  
Principal: Patricia Lea  
<http://billroberts.dpsk12.org/top-middleschoolinstapletonandparkhill>  
Tours: Tours: <http://billroberts.dpsk12.org/parents/take-a-tour/>

Opened in 2009, Bill Roberts is the most established Park Hill-Stapleton Middle School. We are ranked in the top 6% in the State; one of few middle schools in the entire district to be considered distinguished. Our program allows students to thrive by focusing on strong relationships in an inclusive community. With both strong GT support and intervention, we pride ourselves on meeting a student where they are on the educational continuum. Our Campos SMARTLab and MyTech 1:1 laptop program allow students to utilize technology and develop 21st century skills.

Beyond our academics, we identify and add programming each year to meet students' desires and

interests. Recent examples include our girls engineering club, student-run tutoring club, and Übergrippen climbing. Our students grow through playing sports and engaging in enrichments, as well as learning through outdoor education at such places as Chatfield Reservoir (Avid for Adventure), Snow Mountain Ranch and a culminating 8th grade trip to the Florida Keys. We are a family and we value every one of our members.

As an E-8 school, our 6th-8th students are leaders. Through their experiences as Buddies, Teacher's Aides/ Assistants and friends, they learn the value of character traits such as role modeling, integrity and leadership while practicing respect, compassion, and generosity.

## NE DENVER AREA MIDDLE SCHOOLS NOT IN PARK HILL–STAPLETON SHARED ZONE



### Aurora Science and Tech

School Director: Peter Sherman  
<https://www.dsstpublicschools.org/aurora-science-and-tech>  
Tours/information: Peter Sherman, [peter.sherman@scienceandtech.org](mailto:peter.sherman@scienceandtech.org) or Yunuen Cisneros, 303.802.4117  
Open houses: Jan. 10 & 23, 6:00pm at Moorhead Recreation Center

Aurora Science & Tech is a new STEM 6-12 school opening in fall 2019 to be located on the Anschutz Medical Campus. Aurora students will have priority. Applicants from other districts are welcome to apply and will be accepted as space allows for the first class of 150 6th graders. AST will be the first DSST Public School in Aurora Public Schools. This unique location will allow us the opportunity to provide in-depth learning experiences with and alongside scientific and medical professionals. AST will offer a world-class and innovative STEM program partnering with the medical campus. AST students

will enjoy hands-on experiential learning opportunities in STEM and the liberal arts. Students will engage in progressively complex and rigorous courses leading to internships and science pathways. AST seeks to enroll a diverse array of families interested in joining and creating a new school community. AST will open with 6th graders in fall 2019 and will grow out one grade level per year until the school is a full 6th-12th grade program. It is fully expected that AST will earn the highest ratings on the state SPF. Applications available January 15 - February 28.



### Hill Campus of Arts & Sciences

850 students  
Principal Sean Kavanaugh  
<http://hill.dpsk12.org/>  
Open House: Jan. 14  
Tours: Feb. 1, sign up at <http://hill.dpsk12.org/come-soar-as-a-skyhawk-shadow-hcas/>

Hill Campus of Arts and Sciences is a traditional 6-8 school, home to 850 students. Hill will kick-off the choice process, by hosting an Open House on January 14 from 5:30-7:00. Principal Kavanaugh will be speaking to prospective parents and students. Families will then have an

opportunity to meet with teachers, current Hill students, and walk the campus. Parent tours & student shadows will be held on February 1. To sign up go to <http://hill.dpsk12.org/come-soar-as-a-skyhawk-shadow-hcas/>.



### McAuliffe Manual

330 students  
Principal: Jessica Long  
<http://mcauliffemanual.dpsk12.org>  
Tours are on Wednesdays. sign up via our website's homepage.

We believe that McAuliffe Manual's rating of Meeting Expectations or Green is an accurate reflection of our school's academic performance.



### Odyssey School

78 students  
Principal: Marnie Cooke  
[www.odysseydenver.org](http://www.odysseydenver.org)  
<http://odysseydenver.org/enrollment/open-house-schedule/>  
Open houses: Thurs Jan 17, 6pm  
Thurs, Jan 24, 9:30am  
Wed, Feb 27 at 6pm

Odyssey School of Denver is a diverse public DPS, K-8 Expeditionary Learning school. We teach students how to learn through a focus on academic achievement, critical thinking and social responsibility, preparing them for high school and beyond. Odyssey opened its doors in 1998 as a shared vision of a dedicated group of parents, teachers, and community members from the Park Hill area. Their specific goal was to design an innovative school based on the principals of Expeditionary Learning to serve a richly diverse community. Our vision for students is they will: take risks and innovate; lead with integrity and

compassion; be civically and socially engaged; push themselves to exceed expectations; and embrace learning as a life-long adventure. Our school is small, allowing for deep relationships between student and teacher, staff and families. Adventure is a critical component of our Expeditionary Learning program for every student. Each "crew," or class, camps twice each school year, with trips ranging from two to eight days. Through adventure, our students reach personal goals, build confidence, learn how to work as a team, and become more supple learners and leaders.

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[RoseStapletonER.com](http://RoseStapletonER.com)

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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.

Also note the upcoming film series to screen and discuss classic family films, reminding us of our youth while introducing them up to our children’s generation.

### Charm City (2018)

Filmmaker Marilyn Ness spent three years on the streets of Baltimore, chronicling life on those streets but also the police who work them and the city council who make policy for them. We see the harsh reality of one of the most violent cities in the country, and we see the people on both sides of that equation. If this sounds like the plot of HBO’s *The Wire*, you are exactly right. But this is a documentary, almost *cinema verité*, and the stakes are real while the images are biting. Certainly *The Wire* was based on true stories, but this is not based on anything. It is real, and this poignant and professionally-made documentary focuses on that real: the streets, the people, and the difficulties they face.

The film opens with a shooting—just another shooting on the streets of Baltimore. A gunman shot four people and was cornered in a building. We see the reaction of Clayton “Mr.C.” Guyton, a community activist and founder of the Rose Street

Community Center, as well as a seasoned police officer on the beat, Major Monique Brown. We also meet Councilman Brandon Scott, the youngest Baltimore councilman ever elected. All will figure prominently in the film and on the streets. The same streets where, as Mr. C., puts it “There’s always something crazy going on.”

The film is not all darkness, however; the strong people who work in the community and their dedication to helping people is encouraging and uplifting. Mr. C., Major Brown, and many of her colleagues work hard on the streets every day. Scott is particularly inspiring—holding institutions and individuals accountable while repeating the mantra that violence is not just a policing function; it is a community function that includes jobs, education, and healthcare.

Still, the final, staggering statistic of the film is sobering: it is dedicated to the memory of the 1,000 people who died while the film was shot.



ory of the 1,000 people who died while the film was shot.

You will like this if you enjoyed *The Wire*, *Hoop Dreams*, and/or *The Central Park Five*. Opens at the Sie Film Center on January 11.

### BlackKklansman (2018)

This latest film from Spike Lee is his best in years, perhaps decades. Since making his first film over 30

years ago in 1986, the polemical director has had varying degrees of successes and failures. This reviewer sees his best film as the 1989 incendiary *Do the Right Thing*, yet *BlackKklansman* may be up to the task. It is controversial, challenging, important, and like the best of Lee’s films, a cinefile’s dream: the cinematography, editing, sound, and design are all top-notch, the acting is superb, the writing is sharp, and everything points in the same direction. As Coloradans watching this film, we have the added benefit of learning about a slice of our recent past that is more than slightly stained.

Co-written by Lee based on a memoir by Ron Stallworth, it tells the story of a black Colorado Springs policeman (John David Washington as Ron) in the 70s who infiltrates the KKK with the help of a Jewish colleague (Adam Driver as Flip). Flip eventually becomes the group leader, and the duo (with varying degrees of help and resistance from other po-

lice) eventually break up the local chapter. Yet the ending still acknowledges that the



head will grow back quickly, and in fact, the film ends with footage from the Charlottesville rally, David Duke speaking to the rally (Duke figures into the action of the film as well), and President Trump’s reaction to the rally. This is not just the story of an isolated incident from the 70s.

The story is not completely factual, and several events/characters have been changed for dramatic purposes; these things have been publicly criticized by many. I say “so what?” The film is a piece of art, an interpretation of events by its director, and not outside the scope of viability for the time and place. Beyond the polemics, however, is a film that is wonderfully vibrant and full of timely, saturated, colors; music from the era; fantastic costumes; detailed period settings; dynamic editing; and biting dialogue that may be lifted directly from today’s headlines. This is a film with energy, substance, and vigor. It is a film that tells both how far we’ve come and how little we have changed in many ways. This is not only interesting and satisfying viewing, but important viewing.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *Get Out*, *Do the Right Thing*, and/or *12 Years a Slave*. Now available on VOD outlets.

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).

# January & Early February Events

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

## NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS

**1/3 Thursday—Escape From Narnia: A Family Escape Room Event.** The adventure begins when you enter the wardrobe. It ends when you escape. Work together as a family to discover clues, break codes, and solve puzzles to help you. Sam Gary Branch, 2961 Roslyn St. 720-865-0325, [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**1/10 Thursday—Vitalant (formerly Bonfils) Blood Drive at Stanley.** 11am–3pm. Please bring a photo ID, eat a substantial breakfast and lunch on this day, and be well-hydrated. Complete your health questionnaire before you come to the drive: [bloodsystems.org/health.aspx](http://bloodsystems.org/health.aspx). Stanley Market-place, 2501 Dallas St, Aurora.

**1/10 & 1/24 Thursday—Knitting Circle.** 5:30–7:30pm Bring your knitting or crochet project and join other crafters in conversation around the Sam Gary fireplace. Sam Gary Library 2961 Roslyn St. 720-865-0325, [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**1/18 Friday—Family Classics Film Series – The Wizard of Oz.** 7pm, The Cube, 8371 E. Northfield Blvd. [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com)

**1/19 Saturday—4th Annual Speakeasy Soiree.** Live music, vintage vendors, cash bar, Charleston dance lessons, etc. Tickets from \$25. The Hangar at Stanley, 2501 Dallas St., Aurora. [speakeasysoiree.com](http://speakeasysoiree.com)

**1/20 Sunday—Sam Gary Literary Book Club.** Meets once a month on Sundays and rotates between fiction, nonfiction, and reader’s choice selections. 2pm. January Title: Beartown, by Fredrick. Sam Gary Library 2961 Roslyn St. 720-865-0325, [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**1/23 Wednesday—Write & Talk for Teens with Lighthouse Writers.** 4–6pm Are you interested in exploring the world of creative writing? Join local author Whitney Gaines to try a new genre or topic each month. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720-865-0325, [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**1/25 Friday—Fancy Nancy Tea Party.** 4–5pm. Join us for an afternoon of games, crafts, and fanciness. Ideal for ages 3 to 6 - accompanied by an adult. Sam Gary Library 2961 Roslyn St. 720-865-0325, [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

**1/25 Friday—Family Game Night at The Cube.** 6–9pm. Come to the Cube for family game night! The MCA will be hosting an open house game night featuring a variety of different board games for the community to play. Bring your family and friends for this free event. The Cube, 8371 E. Northfield Blvd. [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com)

**2/1 to 2/2—Harry Potter Lock-In.** 2:30pm Friday–10am Saturday. For Witches and Wizards, grades 2–5. The Cube, 8371 E. Northfield Blvd. Last day for online registration: Jan 29, 12pm at [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.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.

**To 1/1—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, [botanicgardens.org](http://botanicgardens.org)

**To 1/6—Denver International Airport’s Ice Skating Rink.** 9am–9pm. Free; complimentary skates available. [denevents.flydenver.com](http://denevents.flydenver.com)

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

**To 2/3—Downtown Denver Rink at Skyline Park.** FREE ice skating; bring skates or rent: \$6/kids 12 and under, \$8/13 and older. [downtowndenver.com](http://downtowndenver.com)

**Through February—Winter Skate at Northfield.** Admission includes complimentary skate rental. 8368 Northfield Blvd. Info, prices, hours at 303-449-3137 or [bceproductions.com](http://bceproductions.com)

## METRO EVENTS

**1/2 to 2/28—Robert Anderson Gallery Native American Artist Exhibits.** Opening reception, Friday, Jan 18, 5–8pm. 3321 East Colfax. [robertandersongallery.com](http://robertandersongallery.com)

**1/4 Friday—First Friday Art Walks.** Santa Fe Arts District, Tenny-

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](http://FrontPorchNE.com) > Events

son Art Walk, River North (RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Museum District. [www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts](http://www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts)

**1/8 to 1/27—National Western Stock Show and Rodeo.** The premier livestock, rodeo, and horse show in the nation. National Western Complex. Tickets for all events at [nationalwestern.com](http://nationalwestern.com)

**1/9 to 1/12—Colorado RV Adventure Travel Show.** Tickets: \$12. 12 and under free. Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th St. [gsevents.com](http://gsevents.com)

**1/10 Thursday—National Western Parade.** The parade starts at Union Station at noon and continues on 17th St, ending at 17th & Tremont. [nationalwestern.com](http://nationalwestern.com)

**1/10 to 1/13—Denver International Sportsman’s Expo.** Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th St. Tickets \$16, active military and youth 15 & under are Free. Thurs/Fri 11am–8pm, Sat 10am–7pm, Sun 10am–5pm. [sportsexpos.com](http://sportsexpos.com)

**To 1/11/19—Denver Treecycle 2019.** Your tree must be placed at your trash pick-up location by 7am on your scheduled trash collection day, no pick-up on 1/11/19. More info at [DenverGov.org/treecycle](http://DenverGov.org/treecycle) or call 311 (720-913-1311)

**To 1/11/19—Youth at DAVA Holiday Show and Sale.** Downtown Aurora Visual Arts youth exhibit. Handmade holiday gifts for sale. 1405 Florence St. [davarts.org](http://davarts.org)

**1/18 to 1/20—Denver Boat Show.** Colorado Convention

Center, 700 14th St. Tickets: \$13.50; 16 and under free. 1/18 12–9pm, 1/19 10am–9pm, 1/20 10am–5pm. Non-perishable food item discount is available at the box office. [denverboatshow.com](http://denverboatshow.com)

**1/18 to 1/20—38th Annual Indian Market and SW Showcase.** Fri 1–7 pm; Sat 10am–7pm; Sun 10am–5pm. Denver Merchandise Mart, 451 E. 58th Ave. [indianmarket.net](http://indianmarket.net)

**1/18 Friday—Hats and Boots Extravaganza.** Dust off your cowboy boots and eat, drink and dance to country songs with BBQ for purchase and a cash bar. 4303 Brighton Blvd, Bldg 1. [info@youth-connect.org](mailto:info@youth-connect.org) or [cbryouthconnect.org/hats-boots-extravaganza](http://cbryouthconnect.org/hats-boots-extravaganza)

**1/19 Saturday—The 2019 Womxn’s March Denver.** Listen to those who have been silenced. Unite under the banner of anti-oppression. Act with intention. Rally first followed by the March. Denver’s Civic Center Park, Colfax and Bannock. Info at [womxns-marchdenver.org](http://womxns-marchdenver.org)

**1/20 Sunday—Rocky Mountain Bridal Show.** Colorado Convention Center, Mile High Ballroom. 11am–4pm. Tickets \$10–15, kids 12 and under are free. [rockymtnbridalshow.com](http://rockymtnbridalshow.com)

**1/21 Monday—Martin Luther King Jr. Parade and Program.** Largest in U.S. Gathers in City Park at Colfax and Columbine, and march to Civic Center Park. Program starts at 9:30am, Parade starts at 10:45am sharp from the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I Have A Dream Memorial in City Park. [drmartinlutherkingjr.org](http://drmartinlutherkingjr.org)

**1/25 to 1/26—Denver Winter Brewfest.** 7pm. Mile High Station, 2027 West Lower Colfax Ave. General admission \$40–50. Benefits Swallow Hill Music. [denverbrewfest.com/winter](http://denverbrewfest.com/winter)

**1/28 Monday—Moms Demand Action For Gun Sense In America meeting.** Join Moms Demand Action For Gun Sense In America at 6:30pm to be a part of planning our 2019 legislative goals. Eloise May Library, 1471 S Parker Rd. [chuckles.whit@gmail.com](mailto:chuckles.whit@gmail.com), [Momsdemandaction.org](http://Momsdemandaction.org)

## HEALTH/ WELLNESS

**Starting 1/2—Fitness Classes at Augustana.** 5000 E. Alameda. Class info: 303.388.4678 or [augustanadenver.org](http://augustanadenver.org) (continued on page 24)

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Front Porch – NE Denver

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(continued from page 23)

**1/5/19 Saturday—The Resolve IM, 5K, 10K.** Denver City Park. featonthestreet.com

**1/15 Tuesday—Milk Donation and Outreach Center opening.** Hygge Birth Center to open as Donation and Outreach Center for Mothers' Milk Bank. Eligible moms, who have more milk than their baby needs, can donate their milk to help fragile babies across CO. 8111 East Lowry Blvd, Ste 230. 720-464-7599, hyggebirth-handbabydenver.com

**1/31 Thursday—9th Annual be well Awards and Community Celebration.** 6-8:30pm, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 3203 Quebec St. RSVP by 1/28: SValeriano@stapletonfoundation.org, 303.468.3226 or bewellconnect.org

## KIDS AND FAMILIES


**Every Tuesday—Tattered Tales Storytime.** Every Tuesday for a half hour of stories, activities and snacks. 10:30am, 2526 East Colfax Ave. tatteredcover.com

**1/3 to 3/3—Denver Puppet Theater.** Two folktales, the Fisherman and His Wife and The Three Wishes. 3156 W. 38th Ave. denverpuppettheater.com

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

**1/12 Saturday—2019 Denver Preschool Showcase.** The 7th annual Preschool Showcase is a free, one-stop opportunity for Denver families to connect with quality-rated programs and learn about early childhood resources, including tuition support through the Denver Preschool Program. Denver Zoo, 2300 Steele St. 720-287-5055 ext. 180, dpp.org/news/showcase-2019

**1/12 Saturday—Hands on History Family Fun Day.** 11am–3pm. Explore and create your own history, art, and culture through hands-on, immersive activities like adobe brick making, building log cabins, live performances, and role playing in our exhibits. History Colorado Museum. historycolorado.org.



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**1/15 & 1/16—STEAM: Time.** Learn about the weird science of time! Make a sun dial and memorialize the New Year by building a time capsule. Registration required. 4–5pm. Sam Gary Library 2961 Roslyn St. 720-865-0325, denverlibrary.org

**1/19 Saturday—LEGO Building Workshop.** 9–10am. Build the LEGO City Arctic Ice Glider Kit, best for ages 5–12. Then tour part of our Colorado Stories exhibit before it opens to the public. Cost is \$35 (members \$30). Includes one adult/one child admission and the LEGOs. History Colorado Museum. historycolorado.org

**1/21 Monday—Environment Investigators: SPREE Holiday Camp.** The best way to get up close with nature is by going undetected. Learn sneaky nature skills with SPREE to go undetected while observing animals in nature! SPREE= South Platte River Environmental Education. 610 S Jason St. camp@greenwayfoundation.org, thegreenwayfoundation.org

**1/29 Tuesday—Let's Build It – Invisible Crayon Paintings.** 4–5pm. Create a beautiful painting using watercolors and special crayons. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720-865-0325, denverlibrary.org

**2/1 Friday—Neat Nesters: SPREE Holiday Camp.** Birds aren't the only nest architects of the South Platte River. Join SPREE to learn about different animals that build nests in our city! SPREE= South Platte River Environmental Education. 610 S Jason St. camp@greenwayfoundation.org, thegreenwayfoundation.org

## LECTURES, CLASSES, INFORMATIONAL EVENTS

**1/8 Tuesday—Active Minds presents: Italy.** Join Active Minds as we review the rich history of Italy and its current turmoil, after a contentious election, including the possibility of leaving the European Union. 10–11 am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. 303-316-6359, activeminds.com

**1/10 Thursday—Active Minds: Puerto Rico.** 1–2pm. Join Active Minds as we review the history of this important U.S. Territory, including how U.S. policies have impacted its economy and its people. Sam Gary Library 2961 Roslyn St. 720-865-0325, denverlibrary.org

**1/12 Saturday—Conversation for the Ages: Justice.** What do we owe to each other? Monthly discussions using classic and contemporary texts for talking about pressing issues. Park Hill Branch Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. 720-865-0250, activeminds.com

**1/15—New Adult Art Classes begin at Denver School of the Arts.** Fun, no-stress classes with a variety of materials and techniques. Class size is limited for personal attention and all levels are welcome. Ages 16+. Design and Color: 4 weeks, Tues 6–8pm, Jan 15, 22, 29, and Feb 5. Printmaking Sampler: 5 weeks, Wed 6–8pm, Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6 and 13. DSA is located at 7111 Montview, at Quebec St. More info at debrosenbaum.com/current-classes.

**1/22 Tuesday—League of Women Voters Denver Presents: Dreamers: View the Movie and Meet the Dreamers.** This 30-minute documentary tells the story of five Dreamers who are no different from our own young relatives except they have no stable status in our country. Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St., McCollum Room. info@wvdenver.org

**1/23 Wednesday—"Eighth Grade" Film Viewing + Open Forum Discussion.** To understand what middle-school kids are facing, join fellow parents for a film viewing of "Eighth Grade" + open forum discussion with specialists. The Infinite Monkey Theorem (Stanley Marketplace), 2501 Dallas St. Aurora. campbell@momsnightoutproductions.com, tickettailor.com/events/mnop/211218

**1/24 Thursday—Active Minds: South Africa: From Apartheid to Global Citizen.** 6:30–7:30pm We will discuss the pivotal role played by Mandela, the impact of immigration/colonialism, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and other important aspects of this story. Sam Gary Library 2961 Roslyn St. 720-865-0325, denverlibrary.org

**1/26 Saturday—Good Music: What It Is and Who Gets to Decide, with Author Jack Sheinbaum.** Jack Sheinbaum proposes that good music can be playful rather than serious, diverse rather than unified, engaging to both body and mind, in dialogue with manifold styles and genres, and collaborative. Park Hill Branch Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. 720-865-0250, denverlibrary.org

**1/29 Tuesday—Boomers Leading Change.** Our mission is to mobilize, connect and empower adults 50+ to utilize their skills and experience. Park Hill Branch Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. 720-865-0250, denverlibrary.org/event/boomers-leading-change/

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## ideaLAB: What do you want to make?

Denver Public Library is building their sixth ideaLAB makerspace in the Sam Gary Branch Library in 2019. It will be filled with tools, equipment, and people eager to help. From sewing to 3D printing to audio recording to painting, we try to fill our labs with the tools the community needs.

Please use this survey to let us know what you want to make: <https://bit.ly/sgbidealab>.  
More info: [denverlibrary.org/idealab](https://denverlibrary.org/idealab).

**1/30 Wednesday—Conflict in our Daily Lives.** Conflict is a part of every relationship, whether it is between family members, coworkers, neighbors, or friends. Learn about how to address conflict as an opportunity for strengthening relationships and for growth through problem solving. Park Hill Branch Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. 720-865-0250, denverlibrary.org

## MUSEUMS

**To 1/6—Winter Break at the Denver Art Museum.** Winter Break at the Denver Art Museum means fun for the whole family. The Print Studio, Create-n-Takes, Gallery Games, A Walk in the Woods, and much more are open every day. Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy. 720-913-0130, denverartmuseum.org

**To 1/6—"Rembrandt: Painter as Printmaker" at the Denver Art Museum.** Showcasing about 100 prints from Rembrandt van Rijn's career spanning from 1625 to 1665. The DAM will be the sole venue for this exhibition. Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy. 720-913-0130, denverartmuseum.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. Giving an insightful look at works by two extraordinarily innovative modern artists. Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy. denverartmuseum.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

**1/14 Monday—Educators Night.** 6–9pm. Your chance to play before you bring these experiences into your classroom. Cash bar, light appetizers. Reserve free tickets at dmns.org

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

**To 1/20—"Eyes On: Shimabuku" at the Denver Art Museum.** Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy. 720-913-0130, denverartmuseum.org

**1/25 Friday—Teen Lounge: Things That Glow.** 7–10pm, ages 13–18. Reserve free tickets at dmns.org

**To 3/3—"Dior: From Paris to World" at the Denver Art Museum.** Showcasing 70 years of the House of Dior's enduring legacy and its global influence. Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy. 720-865-5000, denverartmuseum.org

## MUSEUM FREE DAYS

**Monday thru Friday—The Money Museum.** Closed weekends and bank holidays. 1020 16th St. kansascityfed.org

**Tuesday thru Sunday—Aurora History Museum.** Closed January 1. 15051 E. Alameda Pkwy, Aurora, auroragov.org

**1/5 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free First Saturday.** Free general admission tickets are available on-site starting at 10am. Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy. 720-865-5000, denverartmuseum.org

**1/7 Monday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science Free Day.** dmns.org

**1/8 Tuesday—The Children's Museum of Denver Free Day.** mychildsmuseum.org

**1/10 Thursday—Denver Zoo Free Day.** denverzoo.org

**1/11 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Free Day.** 12-4pm. four-milepark.org

**1/18 to 1/19—Denver Zoo Free Day.** denverzoo.org

**1/21 Monday—Denver Botanic Gardens Free Day.** botanic-gardens.org

**1/24 Thursday—Clyfford Still Museum Free Day.** clyffordstill-museum.org

**1/27 Sunday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science Free Day.** dmns.org

**2/2 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free First Saturday.** Free general admission tickets are available on-site starting at 10am. Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy. 720-865-5000, denverartmuseum.org

**2/3 to 2/4—Denver Zoo Free Day.** denverzoo.org

**2/5 Tuesday—The Children's Museum of Denver Free Day.** mychildsmuseum.org

## PERFORMANCE /THEATRE

**1/4 to 1/6—Movie at the Symphony: Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix™.** The unforgettable score will be performed with a live symphony orchestra as the film is projected simultaneously on

the big screen. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. Tickets \$20-94: tickets.coloradosymphony.org

**1/5 Saturday—Chad Prather.** Prather is known for his way with words. He is a comedian, armchair philosopher, musician, and observational humorist. Paramount Theatre, 1621 Glenarm Pl. 802-255-1826, soundchronicle.com

**1/5 Saturday—The Whiffenpoofs.** World's oldest and well-known a cappella group, 14 Yale men. Newman Center for Performing Arts, DU campus. 2pm and 7:30pm. newmancenterpresents.com

**To 1/6/19—Mary Poppins.** Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. vintagetheatre.org

**1/16 Wednesday—Tenor Mark Padmore and Pianist Paul Lewis, presented by Friends of Chamber Music.** 65th season, 7:30pm, Newman Center's Gates Concert Hall, E. Iliff Ave. 303-388-9839, friendsofchambermusic.com

**1/10 Thursday—The Dollhouse Thieves at Larimer Lounge.** Larimer Lounge Presents a night of all female-fronted bands: The Dollhouse Thieves Nina and The Hold Tight Moses Mady Doors: 6pm Show: 7pm. 21 and over \$10 pre sales, \$12 at door: 2721 Larimer St. 303-291-1007, larimerlounge.com

**1/11 to 2/17—Betrayal.** Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. vintagetheatre.org

**1/12 to 2/16—Gloria.** Curious Theatre Company, 1080 Acoma St. curioustheatre.org

**1/13 Sunday—Beatles vs Stones – A Musical Showdown.** Tickets are \$20–35 and may be purchased online at theorientaltheater.com, by phone at 720-420-0030 or at the Theatre Box Office. VV 44th St. holdmyticket.com

**1/15—MLK Jr. Tribute.** 7:30pm. Presented by The Colorado Symphony, Boettcher Concert Hall, 1400 Curtis St. FREE event but tickets are required, request them at coloradosymphony.org

**1/18 to 2/24—Last Night and the Night Before.** Ricketson Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, 1400 Curtis St. denvercenter.org

**1/25 to 2/24—Anna Karenina.** Stage Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, 14th and Curtis. denvercenter.org

**1/25 Friday—Wanda Sykes: Oh Well Tour.** Wanda Sykes ranks among Entertainment Weekly's 25 Funniest People in America. Doors open 6:30pm, show starts 7:30pm. Paramount Theatre, 1621 Glenarm Pl. paramountdenver.com

**2/1 Friday—Silkroad Ensemble.** Founded by cellist Yo-Yo Ma in 1998, the Grammy award-winning Silkroad creates music that engages difference, sparking radical cultural collaboration and passion-driven learning to build a more hopeful world. Newman Center for Performing Arts, DU campus. 7:30pm. newmancenterpresents.com

**2/1 to 2/10—Colorado Ballet – The Wizard of Oz.** Exciting premiere of The Wizard of Oz, featuring new sets, costumes and special effects. Ellie Caulkins Opera House, 14th Curtis St. 303-837-8888, coloradoballet.org

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Denver Snow Buddy.** Volunteers are paired with seniors within a 2-mile radius of one another, helping clear their walkways after two or more inches of snow has fallen. Application to volunteer at [www.voacolorado.org/Volunteer/Snow-Buddies](http://www.voacolorado.org/Volunteer/Snow-Buddies) or contact Wayne Chitwood at 303-297-0408. Please note, there is a one-time fee of \$25 for a background check.

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

**Single Volunteers of Greater Denver.** Volunteer, not-for-profit singles group to meet others and assist nonprofit organizations for events/activities. [www.svgd.org](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, befriending refugee neighbors. 1532 Galena St., Ste. 380. 720-460-1393

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Above: The building was designed by Dan Kessler, architect and Stapleton resident.  
Right: Director Christina McGhghy and owner Dan Mitzner join in art activities with the kids.  
Below: Lincoln Lanphier and other children play in the indoor play space.



Above: Owner Dan Mitzner and student Cora Keegan stand under the suspended wood pergola that covers the entrances to the older kids' classrooms.  
Left: The school building is designed to take advantage of natural light.

out, why don't you go build more?" But for now, Mitzner says they are just excited to continue to grow into the building they have. "We want to make sure we settle into our groove before we take on anything else."

## A Place Where Kids Can Learn, Play and Just Be Kids

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Creative Learning Preschool grew from a Mommy and Me play center in 2005 to a full-

fledged preschool in commercial space in Quebec Square. Lacking a natural outdoor play area, and with changing property management and increasing rents, Rachel

Baumel and her husband, Dan Mitzner, co-owners of the school, decided it was time to build a place of their own.

On August 1, 2018, the 5,000-square-foot building with a spacious outdoor playground, parking, and additional classrooms opened at 2578 Moline Street. "We figured out that for what we were paying for rent, we could own our own building, control our own destiny and build something custom-fit for us," says Mitzner. The new building enabled them to add infant care for a total of five classrooms covering ages 6-weeks-old to 4-years-old, a 30% increase of capacity over the old location. A multi-purpose room was built for the possibility of adding a sixth classroom, but is currently a play area when it's too cold or hot to play outside.

The outside play area, with grass, trees and landscaping, is a big improvement over the small, cemented play area the school had previously. "We want kids to play and just be kids, so we designed a playground that lets them

do that. It's not overbuilt with big play structures," says Mitzner. "Our outdoor time is focused on getting your hands dirty in the sand and with projects."

The school was also designed to be very energy efficient, allowing in plenty of natural light. "We have a very high tech lighting system I'm still trying to learn how to use," says Mitzner, laughing. "We wanted to create as small of a footprint as we could when it comes to resources, not only to reduce costs but also to be more responsible as land owners and building owners."

When the couple opened a second location in Wheat Ridge in 2015, there was a waitlist from day one. There is a waitlist for most of the classrooms of the new Creative Learning Preschool location in Stapleton, too. "We think being family-owned and with a student/teacher ratio better than the state requires is a recipe the community rallies around," says Mitzner.

"We've had people say 'Now that you've figured it

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## January SUN News

### Recruitment of a Diverse and Engaged Board

Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) Outreach meetings in spring of 2019 will continue on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in Central Park Recreation Center Multipurpose room. Meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend. Specifically, residents interested in civic engagement at the community level are encouraged to attend SUN's monthly meetings. SUN is the registered neighborhood organization for the Stapleton area of Denver and is comprised solely of volunteers. Our mission is threefold: to provide a forum for our residents; to maintain a communication network between ourselves, our neighboring Denver residents, and the city of Denver; and to act on issues of importance to the community as a whole. SUN facilitates community discussion of key issues, encourages in proactive steps to avoid problems and conflict, and is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community. SUN seeks to be comprised of a diverse group of community members who share this purpose and principles. Residents can nominate themselves or neighbors for a 2-year term on the SUN

board in person at a monthly meeting or by emailing: [StapletonUnitedNeighbors@gmail.com](mailto:StapletonUnitedNeighbors@gmail.com)

### Notice of Proposed Bylaw Changes: In-person Vote February 19

In light of feedback received after SUN's May 2018 Annual Meeting, the SUN Board of Directors identified areas of its bylaws to update and streamline. Recommended changes are intended to add clarity, remove inconsistencies and modernize the By-Laws to better serve the needs of SUN and the community. Highlights of the changes are:

- Voting rules will change to allow the board of directors to permit voting methods other than in-person voting if the board believes it is necessary for a particular vote.
- Procedures at SUN board meetings will be clarified to ensure that consensus among board members is a primary goal while still ensuring the board is able to accomplish the business of SUN.
- The bylaw amendment process will be modernized to account for the growth in the area since the bylaws were originally written by requiring a larger number of people (100) to

propose amendments to the bylaws.

- In general the bylaws will be reorganized to be clearer, more precise, and more accurate in describing the roles and responsibilities of all those involved with SUN.
- At the December 18 SUN board meeting, the board voted to recommend the bylaw changes to the membership of SUN. Any changes recommended by the SUN board must be approved by members of SUN; a "member of SUN" is defined as any adult renting or owning property in the Stapleton community in Denver. At SUN's February 19 meeting, members will be asked to vote (yes/no) on recommended changes. Full bylaws are available on SUN's web site (see below).

### Stay in touch with SUN

SUN website and where to sign up for emails from SUN: [www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.org](http://www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.org)  
Follow for updates on Social Media <https://www.facebook.com/StapletonUnitedNeighbors/>

## Reflections on SchoolChoice

"The data show how you get high test scores—you come from an affluent well-educated family. Period. So your kid's going to be fine," says Laura. "If you think about be-

(continued from p. 10)

ing socially conscious around school choice the same way you are about lots of other things in your life, you might at least visit a school that you otherwise wouldn't."

### January SUN meeting

As the January meeting aligns with the first day of SchoolChoice, time will be dedicated during this meeting to a community discussion

*Come join a conversation on*  
**SchoolChoice**  
*that goes beyond color ratings*

**Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2019, 6 - 7:30pm**  
**Snacks & childcare provided**  
**Central Park Rec Center, 9651 MLK Blvd.**

6pm Snacks and Meet & Greet  
6:15 Welcome and agenda overview  
6:20 SchoolChoice: Thinking Beyond the SPF  
6:40 Reflection & Discussion  
7:10 Q&A  
7:30 Adjourn

**Communities Championing for Children**



## Training Helps Keep You Agile as You Age

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Simply bending down to pick up a box off the porch, carrying a child, or sitting at a desk calls into action what our bodies are meant to do. Yet we often do those moves incorrectly, resulting in injuries, aches, pains and bad posture. Husband and wife trainers, Chad and Esther Pinther are out to make sure people are moving correctly, so they can remain agile as they age.

The couple opened Reckoning Fitness in the early Fall in their Stapleton garage at 2615 Elmira. Training only 1-2 people at a time, the Pinthers refer to their clients as "athletes." "Truly, all of us are athletes but we haven't discovered it yet," explains Chad. "I'm not talking about winning competitions but we *are* all built to move. Most of our athletes are brand new and have never done anything. They just said, 'Today's the day I'm going to make a change.'"

Esther and Chad made the change to open the business after meeting on Instagram, drawn by their mutual passion for fitness. Both CrossFit Level 1 trainers, Esther was on the West Coast, and Chad was on the East Coast. Chad had lived in Denver before and had visited a friend living in Stapleton. Moving back to Denver and Stapleton, specifically, was his goal. Chad asked Esther to move here too and they married a month after opening the business. "I loved what I did in California but wanted to start my own business," says Esther. "We started talking and thought the two of us combined would make a good team



Top, above and below: Reckoning Fitness owners Esther and Chad Pinther, converted their garage to a training facility.

so we opened our own gym right in our community."

Chad describes the CrossFit training they provide as constantly varying functional movements, completed at high intensity. "We do a ton of different things including weight lifting, gymnastics, biking, running, carrying heavy loads over short distances and vice versa. There's never a day you come into our gym where you're going to be bored," he says.

The "functional movement" element of Pinther's definition is an essential part of their work. "We teach people how to move correctly so they can literally be strong and active well into their 90's," says Chad. He adds that people are met at the physical ability levels they're at, making

sure their form is correct and that they aren't pushed beyond their limits.

The couple has a goal of opening a larger facility but they'll keep the small trainer/athlete ratio. "It's a community," says Esther. "We're all here, working out together, rooting for each other."



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## Breaking News from Monarch Montessori of Denver

by M. Lopes with Monarch Montessori

**Denver Public Schools approved a pilot for a Spanish/English dual language path starting with a Kindergarten class for the 2019-20 school year!**

This fall, First Steps at Monarch Montessori of Denver started a dual language path in its preschool program with great success. Now, DPS has approved extending the pilot to the kindergarten, which is part of Monarch Montessori's public school of choice open

to any families in the area.

Executive Director Laura Pretty stated, "We are elated to expand the Spanish/English path into the public kindergarten. If the pilot is successful, the goal is to have bilingual and bi-literate students when they graduate 5th grade."

The bilingual kindergarten class will be comprised of 50% native-English speakers and 50% native-Spanish speakers, starting with a strong Spanish-language component, and adding English each year, so that by 4th and 5th grade, roughly half the day

is spent in each language.

When asked why Monarch is offering this track, Laura Pretty stated, "The benefits of being bilingual include: improved executive function, increased ability to multitask, appreciation of different cultures and the ability to think more creatively. When combined with the independence and self motivation that our Montessori program offers, imagine the well-rounded, innovative, worldly individuals that our next leaders will be!"

Monarch is gearing up its enrollment

for all of its programs for the next year. Families can apply to attend Monarch Montessori of Denver Charter through the Denver Public Schools Choice system. Monarch has two upcoming Open Houses for the charter school scheduled on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 6pm and Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 6pm. Tours are available every week, for both First Steps (infants-preschool) and charter (K-5th grade). Visit [www.monarchm.com](http://www.monarchm.com) to learn more or sign up for a tour.



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## Letter to the Editor

### Teacher Salaries

I'm a teacher at East High School with 7 years in the classroom, and I have watched Denver Public Schools consistently fail to address the teacher turnover crisis in Denver. DPS now has an opportunity to work with the Denver Classroom Teachers Association in salary negotiations to create a future for our students in which every DPS school provides a caring and qualified teaching staff. However, current negotiations demonstrate that DPS is not willing to invest in quality, experienced teachers.

The salary schedule proposed by the district does not compete with surrounding metro districts, and without adding a significant amount of money into the compensation system, the most experienced teachers in DPS will continue to move to other districts. In the last decade, DPS has consistently chosen to put its faith and its dollars into a business model of education, which emphasizes testing and evaluation, rather than the most valuable resource in public education-- the educators.

Please tell DPS to prioritize classrooms and come to bargaining with open minds to hear directly from educators on how our community funds can make the biggest impact for our students. Negotiations are taking place now through Jan. 18. It's not too late to reverse course on some of the lowest teacher base pay in the metro area and keep quality educators in Denver classrooms. Tiffany Choi

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The new Gaylord Rockies features 1,501 guest rooms, eclipsing the area's largest hotel, Denver's Sheraton (which has 1,231 rooms). The Gaylord brand is well known for its convention and meeting space, and this one is no exception, with 486,000 square feet of meeting and convention space, including four ballrooms. Gaylord Rockies already has over 1.1 million rooms booked, including some conventions booked through 2028.

# Gaylord Opens



By Martina Will, Ph.D.

Entering the Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center in Aurora, it's difficult not to feel awed. A massive triangular window invites natural light into the atrium while offering visitors an expansive view of downtown Denver, with the Rocky Mountains serving as a breathtaking backdrop.

For over two years, area commuters have been able to see the resort rising from the dusty landscape about two miles east of Peña Blvd. The City of Aurora in 2012 won its bid to secure the new resort, promising \$300 million in incentives. Regional Tourism Act funding sweetened the deal with another \$81.4 million. Corporate restructuring at Gaylord Entertainment that same year, however, called the project into question, and area hotels worried about the competition banded together to sue the City of Aurora in Denver District Court.

None of these (dismissed) legal matters or obstacles, however, seem to



The entrance (above) and lounge (below left) show the elegance of Relache Spa & Salon, which includes immaculate treatment rooms, an ice fountain, saunas, and steam rooms for men and women.

Right: A view of the atrium and its water features.



matter now that this behemoth is teeming with activity. Strolling through the public spaces, the smell of new carpeting and purposeful stride of busy staff suggest only the current reality: jobs and economic development.

Director of Marketing Deanne French says "Our property will host about 80% group travel like conventions and about 20% leisure travelers." To attract leisure travelers, she is developing "Stay and Ski" packages to allow visitors to acclimate to the altitude before heading to the slopes. At most Gaylord resorts, she says, the majority of leisure travelers visit during November and December, when the hotel features an ice show, ICE!, that changes each year.

Eight different restaurants permit guests and those who just want to pretend they're guests, a variety of dining experiences, from sports bar to Asian fusion cuisine to the Old Hickory Steakhouse that is standard at every Gaylord property. The resort's four ballrooms, ranging in size from 8,000 to 59,736 square feet, mean that any event you can envision, will find an appropriate space here.

For those seeking a staycation, the Gaylord Rockies will not disappoint. Almost 500,000 gallons of water fill its 22,000 square feet of heated indoor and outdoor pools, complete with water slides and lazy river. The pool areas are the only ones



The grand lobby includes screens with real-time airline information for travelers.



A waterfall, one of several water features in the atrium, with artificial trees and flowers that line the walkways, almost make one think they are in a pristine ski resort town. These landscape features along with a red Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad caboose from 1930 create the illusion of the Colorado outdoors without exiting the hotel.

reserved exclusively for overnight guests; day visitors are welcome to book appointments at the spa or make a dinner reservation.

A free shuttle bus connects guests to the A Line at 61st and Peña, assuring easy access to downtown attractions as well as the airport. It might also be a fun date night option for parents wanting to avoid driving.



Amenities include eight dining options, shops, pools, a spa and fitness center, miniature golf, tennis, pickle ball and more. Pictured: Asian fusion restaurant, Monte Jade.

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