

Front Porch

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NORTHEAST DENVER

MARCH 2019

How Teachers Won



Swigert Elementary first grade teacher Becky Garreau speaks at a City Park event organized by the teachers' union to thank all who showed support for them during the three-day strike, which ended with an agreement on February 14.

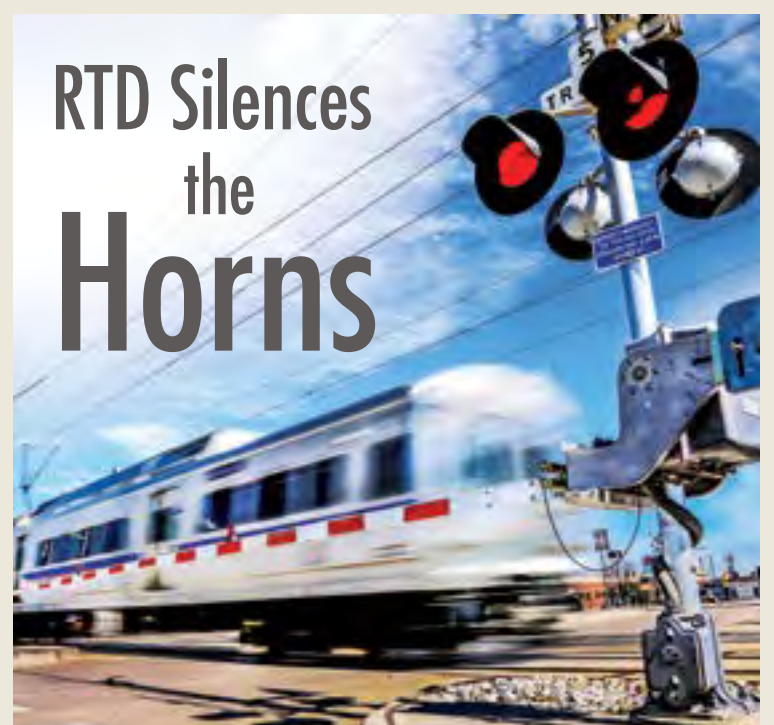
The lead negotiator for the Denver Classroom Teachers Association, Rob Gould, shares his story with the *Front Porch*: how his years as a teacher-coach helping others become better teachers contributed to his knowledge and passion about the union's causes; and what went on behind the scenes during the negotiations with DPS. *Story on page 8 by Carol Roberts.*



Yoga: Stress Management for Sheriff Trainees

Recruits at the Denver Sheriff Department's Roslyn Training Center near Northfield learn Yoga For First Responders, a national model based in Denver that helps first responders manage their stress and focus on their own

wellbeing so they can better serve others. This year's academy class is the first to experience the full YFFR series as part of their curriculum. *Story on page 10 by Martina Will, Ph.D.*



At a press conference on February 8, RTD General Manager Dave Genova announced that the quiet zone on the A Line in Denver will begin March 1. Flashing lights and bells will continue at crossings—and train operators will sound horns if conditions call for them. *Story on page 18 by Carol Roberts.*

Denver Election is May 7
Compare the mayoral candidates' positions on key issues. *See page 30.*



Kids take advantage of official snow day with no school to go sledding in Stapleton's Central Park.

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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.

Correction

Stedman School was misspelled in the SUN Spot interviews with parents about SchoolChoice in the February issue. Our sincere apologies to Stedman students, parents and staff for the error.

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.



Stapleton Aquatics

The 2019 aquatics season is approaching fast and to ensure everyone splashes into summer with ease, we would encourage you to take note of these important upcoming dates:

Swim Team Parent Meeting – March 5, 6:30pm, *The Cube*

Is your swimmer new to swim team? Do you want to know more about the Stapleton Stingrays? Join us to get your swim team questions answered! The Aquatics Team will go over the different swim team options (recreation league vs competitive league), an overview of the season, volunteer roles and requirements, registration dates, communication and merchandise.

Swim Team Registration Opens – March 6, Noon

Resident Swim Program Registration Opens – March 13, Noon

Pool Reservations (Party Pad & After Hours) Available – April 1

Non-Resident Program Registration Opens – April 17, Noon

Event Registration (including Kid's Tri) Available – May 1

Photography Seminar: *Storytelling through Photographs*

Wednesday, March 6, 7pm, *The Cube*

In celebration of Denver's Month of Photography, we are thrilled to welcome photographer Mike Holtby to The Cube for a photography seminar that will easily appeal to photographers, travelers and adventure seekers alike. Holtby will share some of his most fascinating images and the unbelievable stories behind them, including shots from swimming with great white sharks, and so much more!

Whiskey Education Night

Thursday, March 7, 7pm, *The Cube*

From the early days of prohibition to its rapidly spreading modern revival, whiskey has become one of the most celebrated spirits available today. Our Whiskey Education Night will highlight the educational aspects of whiskey and its tasteful history. This sit-down tasting led by a Leopold Bros. whiskey expert, will feature some their most distinguished labels including their American Small Batch, Maryland-Style Rye, and much more! Tickets are \$20 and will increase to \$40 the day of the event. To purchase tickets, visit stapletoncommunity.com. You must be 21+ to attend and no refunds will be permitted.

Active Minds – Italy

Thursday, March 14, 1pm, *Sam Gary Library*

After a contentious election one year ago

that included rumblings about possibly leaving the European Union, Italy has formed a fragile government under the leadership of Giuseppe Conte. Join Active Minds as we review the rich history of Italy and its current turmoil. We'll visit Italy's roots in the Roman Empire, its rich artistic and scientific contributions of the Renaissance, its role during and after World War II, and its economic and political struggles over the past decade.

Active Minds – *Biography of a City (Chicago)*

Thursday, March 28, 6:30pm, *Sam Gary Library*

Join Active Minds for an intricate look into the complex history of the Windy City. We'll begin with a look into the French explorers, missionaries, fur traders and Native Americans that inhabited the region in the early 1800s and proceed to explore the Great Chicago Fire and its impact on the future development of the city. As we bring things up to the present, we'll cover the politics, crime, food, culture, and architecture of the "City of Broad Shoulders." It's the next best thing to physically being there!

Photography Walk

Friday, March 30, 2pm, *The Cube*

To close out Denver's Month of Photography, we invite you to join two of our resident photographers, Cari Nichols and Jason Cross, as they guide participants on a journey to discover the best techniques for capturing Stapleton's rich scenery. As the owners of 1215 Photo, Nichols and Cross have been behind many of the breathtaking images captured at our events. Participants must bring their own photography equipment in order to participate.

Canine Courtesy: The Doo-Doos & Don'ts

Though it is not illegal to allow your dog to poop on someone else's property, **it is illegal if the excrement is not removed immediately.** Be a good neighbor and bear in mind that some people put a lot of work into maintaining their landscaping. It is best to avoid any conflict by steering your canine to the tree lawn, which is public right of way. Denver Ordinances (Sec. 8-73.) requires that all dog excrement be removed immediately from any property that is not your own, public or private! **To report complaints or City Ordinance violations regarding dogs or other animals call Denver's Animal Control at 3-1-1 or 720-913-1311.**

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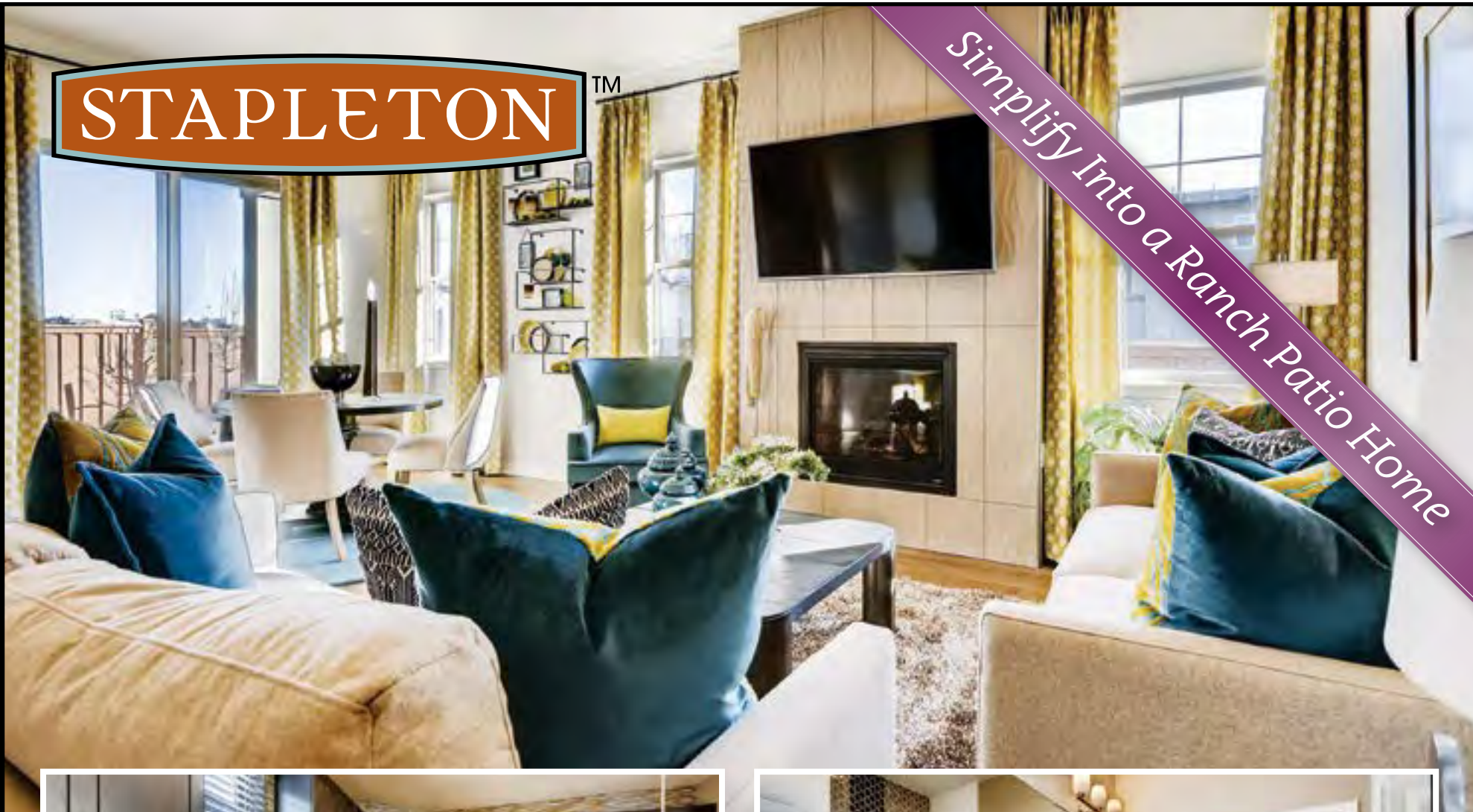
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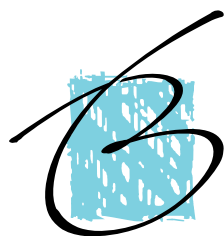
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A homeless man walks his dog along the Sand Creek Trail at the I-70 bridge.

Ballot Issue 300: Where can homeless people sleep?

a home. The fact of their homelessness doesn't make it any different, except that they have to do it in a public space."

"Homeless Whack-A-Mole" or Comprehensive Solution?

The Sand Creek Trail encampments represent a microcosm of what takes place across the metro area, with each new evacuation and cleanup simply moving the encampments to a new location. As people relocate in response to their eviction, the burden of cleanup shifts from one jurisdiction or agency to another, creating a sort of "Homeless Whack-a-Mole," as Howard terms it.

The crux of the issue is the need to create solutions for our growing homeless population so that camping is no longer the most viable option. Commerce City's Emergency Manager Kirk Dominic observes "We need a comprehensive regional strategic plan combining local, county, state, and federal resources and dedi-

By Martina Will, Ph.D.

A 14-mile open space trail for cycling, hiking, birdwatching and even horseback riding is a luxury in an urban neighborhood. Northeast Denver residents who love the outdoors are lucky to have the Sand Creek Greenway and Trail close by. But this recreational amenity has long been a popular site for those who are homeless. Though camping in the Greenway is prohibited, people experiencing homelessness have traditionally been able to live there fairly discretely. Development and population growth, however, have changed the dynamics. According to District 5 Denver Police Lieutenant Kevin Hines, "The city has come to the homeless camps rather than the camps coming to the city."

Initiative 300: Urban Camping

In May, voters will see Initiative 300, the Right to Survive, on the ballot. The question is whether urban camping should be allowed under Denver's Municipal Code. The current ban that began in 2012 makes it illegal to use "blankets or any form of protection from the elements other than one's clothing." Opponents of the ban contend it criminalized homelessness. Central to Initiative 300 is its guarantee within the City and County of Denver of "the right to rest and shelter oneself from the elements in a non-obstructive manner in public spaces."

"If this ballot measure passes, it will make it impossible to enforce specific ordinances and Denver Park Rules & Regulations," according to an email from Scott Gilmore, Deputy Executive Director of Parks and Recreation. "These include curfew, trespassing in closed areas, erecting of

tents and other structures, managing permitted events, and public health and safety issues that impact all citizens of Denver."

Rights of Homeless People

Longtime activist Terese Howard, who is part of the nonprofit advocacy group Denver Homeless Out Loud that is behind Initiative 300, appreciates people's concerns relative to urban camping, but counters, "The reality is people do that [use drugs, own weapons, etc.] if they live in houses or tents or shelters or anywhere. There are people with real problems who are dangerous and people who struggle with drugs, but the big issue here is that we as a society have decided that... it's somehow different if it's someone who's homeless who is doing those things versus someone with



A bicyclist passes under I-70 on the Sand Creek Trail.

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cated outreach teams to provide a coordinated approach to the problem, with options for people with different needs.” He cites the example of cities with sanctioned encampment areas that provide sanitation services in a controlled space as one possible approach. Shelters with daytime hours, tiny homes and more affordable housing may represent other elements of a solution.

Dominic emphasizes that these efforts must be regional to be effective, and not place an inordinate burden on any single municipality. In the end, a comprehensive regional approach with pooled resources might cost taxpayers about what is now spent on the combined efforts of law enforcement and others while offering a more humane and dignified way of life for people experiencing homelessness.

“That could be my mom or dad, my kids,” Dominic says. “I have talked to a lot of the people I meet along the Sand Creek Trail and elsewhere, and in hearing their stories it is clear that one major medical issue or job loss is all it takes. Most of us are just a paycheck or two away from living out of our cars. It’s a complex problem with economic, social, and political dimensions. We need an approach that balances people’s dignity with public health and other considerations.”

Maintaining the Trail for All

In most cases now, law enforcement is called in to clean out an encampment after receiving reports from park rangers or community members. Colorado Department of Transportation’s (CDOT) Superintendent for Region 1, John Lormé, says his agency works closely with other stakeholders to humanely address these calls. “We don’t come in like Stormtroopers.” People receive 7 days’ notice

of their eviction, and at this point, advocacy groups, DPD’s Homeless Outreach Team, and law enforcement try to connect them to appropriate resources. Each of the representatives from these different agencies emphasize that they prefer to connect people with resources rather than fine or arrest them. Unless someone is engaged in criminal activity or has an active warrant, police will refer them to service agencies. “It’s not illegal to be homeless,” Hines affirms.

By the time law enforcement returns 7-14 days after serving notice, the camps have usually been evacuated; however, the resultant cleanup is time-consuming and expensive, requiring protective gear to retrieve used syringes and collect human waste, and multiple dump truck trips to remove garbage and biohazardous materials.

Lormé has a staff person dedicated to homeless camp cleanup who coordinates CDOT efforts with six metro counties. “You really feel bad because many people are not there by choice,” he says. His mission, however, is to maintain highways, bridges, and other transportation resources. “My budget for maintenance today is the same as it was in 1992 under my predecessor, but cleaning up the encampments is taking a larger portion of it each year.”

Though he would prefer to spend all of his \$37 million annual budget on maintaining roads, bridges, and other CDOT priorities, Lormé spends \$3.2 million a year removing trash and debris from the highways, including cleaning up homeless encampments.

Beth Nobles, Executive Director of the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership, would like all residents to be able to use and enjoy the trail, and describes its puzzle-like composition as part of the challenge in enforcing existing laws. Multiple entities, including Denver, Commerce City, Aurora, CDOT and Brookfield Asset Management (new owner of Forest City properties), own the land that comprises the trail corridor. The complexity of the trail’s ownership makes it difficult to get a handle on the scope of the camping issue and its attendant environmental and other risks.

When asked about possible solutions, Howard says “The answer is not to do what cities have considered a solution—pushing folks around from place to place like a game of Homeless Whack-A-Mole—which is

completely ineffective.” Ticketing people and relocating them periodically means “they’re just moving people and their associated needs from one area to another. We absolutely need to address those concerns; we need to add trash cans and clean the areas in a dignified way like anyone living in a house gets... chasing people further away and telling them they can’t exist doesn’t solve the problem.”

Nobles and Hines ask that community members who see something of concern like trash, graffiti, or fire hazards, call 311. Hines also suggests calling the station at 720-913-1400 or the non-emergency line at 720-913-2000. For the complete text of the ballot initiative, go to: <https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/denver-elections-divison/campaign-information/initiated-ordinance-process.html>.



A Sand Creek Trail volunteer took these photos of homeless persons’ belongings found along the trail.



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The Strike: Behind the Scenes



East High School teachers picket on the first day of the strike. Right, supporters rally at the Capitol on the first day of the strike.



By Carol Roberts

By Monday, February 11, when the teacher strike started, the names Rob and Susana may have become as familiar to Denverites as the names Chuck and Nancy are to political junkies. Two days earlier, on Saturday night, after 15 months of negotiating, Rob and his team decided they had had enough. “What’s it called when you keep doing the same thing over and over and expect different results?” he asks as he reflects back on that night. “Insanity.”

Rob Gould, lead negotiator for Denver Classroom Teachers Association (DCTA), and his team walked out of negotiations with Susana Cordova when she had barely been in the job of Superintendent of Denver Public Schools for a month. He took some flak for it among observers in the community.

The Denver Community gained some familiarity with Cordova during her recent superintendent selection process, but who is this person who led 3,900 Denver teachers into a three-day strike and came out with what his team wanted? We asked Gould to talk about his past, the negotiation process, and the fu-

ture working with DPS. He agreed quickly and was generous with his time.

Background

Gould has been a DPS teacher for 21 years and he’s been on the union’s bargaining team for 12 years. He has taught special education and special needs kids from grades K through 12. Now he’s a teacher on special assignment—a peer observer and coach working with teachers in his field who have asked for support to improve their skills. He goes to about 50 schools throughout the year.

Starting in 2008, Gould was part of the team working with DPS that developed the teacher-coach role he’s in now. Teachers wanted the people who review and evaluate them to know the job. And, says Gould, “Peer evaluation doesn’t always make them better, you have to have the coaching component.” Gould says the union and DPS worked cooperatively for the first 2-3 years, but then the union felt the administration stopped listening and the system became punitive.

Also during that time he observed three

different studies over a 5-year period on whether bonuses and incentives motivated teachers. He says results were mixed. Some said the money kept them teaching, but the majority said working conditions were most important.

“There’s always been this misconception about unions—that unions are only there to protect teachers. This [coaching and evaluation] is something that we developed over years. It’s not

perfect, but we want to support teachers and grow them in their practice....Evaluation is a big deal. Sometimes I have to say to teachers, you’re not at the level we want you to be at. The union is not there to protect bad teachers. The union and the contract are there to make sure that due process is followed and everyone gets a fair shake.”

The Negotiations

Gould’s background had solidified



The media turned out en masse for a late morning press conference with Superintendent Cordova on the first morning of the strike.

his belief in what the union was asking for. What good would it do to improve teachers’ skills through evaluation, coaching and professional development if the teachers left the district because the salary scale didn’t reward those efforts.

“We’ve had a 20% turnover rate for many years,” he says. “This cause [the strike] was about what teachers are paid. But it was about having experienced teachers in DPS classrooms. It was about recruiting and retaining them. Everyone wants to have the consistency of an



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McAuliffe International School teachers are shown here picketing on the first day of the strike.



Lead Negotiator Rob Gould gets (and gives) a hug with a supporter at the gathering in City Park the day after the strike was settled.

experienced teacher for their kid. That's what this was about."

After walking away from the negotiations Saturday night, Gould let the first day of the strike unfold. The magnitude of the teacher turnout and community support was overwhelming. He went back to negotiations Tuesday—and by the time he left that night, he felt there was "light at the end of the tunnel."

What had changed? "Honestly I don't think the district thought teachers would go

out on strike that way ... The strike worked. It woke them up. They shifted their thinking around the salary structure ... We're like, ok, you're finally getting this ... We can start moving toward them because they're moving toward our core principles."

Gould says the strike was the number one reason they were able to get to agreement so quickly. "...the reality was there ... there was a sense of urgency..."

The number two reason, he says, was Kayla Mack, the federal mediator. The two sides had come together 15 months earlier with Mack to do "interest-based bargaining, where both sides come and talk. They tried to work through things with Mack in the role of facilitator. Federal mediators are not allowed to bargain in public, but they can act as a facilitator in public.

"We went through as much of the process as we could with her. And then, when we knew we couldn't go any further, we

needed a mediator. That's when we had to get a different person. But Kayla was able to get special permission to be the mediator publicly. Because she'd been through so many of the discussions early on as the facilitator, we didn't have to catch her up ... In her role as a mediator, she could poke and prod and do different things to kind of get you to agreement.

"She's the meanest person you'll ever meet and the nicest person you'll ever meet. When she's in that role as the mediator she can say, 'Hey look. You're asking for this. It's not going to happen.' Or if you're asking for that and that's important to you, 'Well, you've got to look at this piece.'

"Because we have a relationship with her, we trust her. The district has a relationship with her. They trust her. At one point on Wednesday, she's saying, 'Why don't you make the move?' ... I was able to say, 'If you can give us the salary schedule that we're asking for, we are open to your ideas around the incentives.'"

"Kayla was going between the two caucus rooms and carrying back and forth

concepts and saying, 'You, know, here's this. What about that?' Or she'd say things like, 'No that's not going to work.' And we'd say, 'Well, go try it anyway.' And she'd come back and say, 'It didn't work, I told you so.' In that way, she was able to get us to an agreement."

A tentative agreement was announced Thursday morning, February 14—early enough that the teachers went back to school that day. They had achieved what was most important to them: A salary structure with an 11.7% increase in base salary that is fair and transparent and competitive with other districts. They retained their system for professional development. And they agreed to work jointly on a study of retention ... "and make sure that our schools of the highest need can retain and attract great teachers."

The Future

"... we need to build trust. We will get there. It happens over time. It woke up a lot of people to say, 'These are our schools.' Not just teachers, not just students, also the community and the parents. We all care deeply about this. Passionately I feel excited about where we're going."



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Denver Sheriff Patrick Firman

A Man with a Mission

By Martina Will, Ph.D.

Running the state’s largest sheriff’s department is no small task, but arriving from out of state with a mandate to implement change would undoubtedly be daunting. Denver Sheriff Patrick Firman, however, recalls his arrival in Denver not just as challenging, but as a welcome opportunity and the logical next step in a long career.

“Corrections is my passion....I came up through the ranks working in the jail, started as a deputy on midnight shift and worked my way up, just really fell in love with the work that they did and the people that worked there.” When he speaks of his staff here, he is equally enthusiastic. “To see how these deputies interact with a very, very challenging population is just,” he pauses, “to this day, I get excited about it. It’s such a unique skill set that they have.”

After a nationwide search for the best candidate, Mayor Michael Hancock appointed Firman sheriff in October 2015 and tasked him with leading a department rich in history and culture but also in serious need of change. Approximately 418 changes, in fact. When Firman came to Colorado from northern Illinois, he was charged with addressing a list of 418 reform recommendations for his department.

Implementing Reforms

Firman’s first order of business was to identify how to implement the most

critical reforms at the same time that his office maintained its duties to the City and County of Denver, including overseeing two detention centers, a wing at Denver Health Medical Center, district and county courthouse security, and state inmate transportation.

After hiring about 100 new deputies in 2016, Firman made it a priority to add training for all staff and deputies that same year. With an estimated 50% of all inmates suffering from some mental health issues, training staff to safely interact with those in crisis was a critical need. “Everybody that comes in here is in crisis somehow. They’re at pretty much the lowest point of their life. We’re dealing with all of that, which is why it’s so important that our staff have the training that they do ... to deescalate and be able to understand

how to relate with that population,” Firman says.

Just three weeks after Firman’s arrival in Denver, the acute need for ongoing training was made tragically clear with the death of Michael

Marshall while in Denver Sheriff Department (DSD) custody. Marshall suffered from schizophrenia and had been arrested for trespassing and disturbing the peace. He was held at the Van Cise-Simonet Detention Center downtown for several days before deputies’ efforts to restrain him during an episode of erratic behavior



The jail is NE Denver’s neighbor. The man who runs it, Sheriff Patrick Firman (right), has been charged with reforms not just in this jail, but across the department. Training Academy Commander Captain Anthony Gettler (left) is enthusiastic about one of the reforms. Yoga is helping deputies use mindfulness and resilience in dealing with stressful situations.

resulted in him losing consciousness and aspirating on his vomit. Marshall spent nine days in a coma before he died. The Office of the Medical Examiner characterized his death as a homicide. In 2017, the City and County of Denver settled a lawsuit with Marshall’s family for \$4.65 million and agreed to change some of the practices at the jail relative to the care of inmates with mental health issues.

Responding to Mental Health Needs in Jails

In the wake of Marshall’s death, the DSD spent over \$1 million to give its 700 deputies Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). DSD now requires CIT for all new deputies. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, CIT is key to helping people with mental illness receive the services they need. It also reduces first responders’ injuries during interactions with those in crisis. By diverting people in need of mental health services from jails, communities can also save money by focusing resources on treatment rather than incarceration.

To move forward, Firman sees a shift in culture, both toward inmates and also for deputies, as essential. Employee well being

is high on his list of priorities. Deputies are with inmates for about ten hours a day; it’s an intense and demanding job, and the stress level can be very high.

Employee Wellness

Yoga For First Responders (YFRR) has been part of the menu of employee wellness efforts since 2017, when representatives of the City and County of Denver Safety Department underwent a 60-hour training. Training Academy Commander Captain Anthony Gettler, who has been with the Sheriff’s Department for almost 22 years, speaks with genuine enthusiasm about the yoga program. “This isn’t about stretching and doing phenomenal poses; it’s more about mindfulness and resilience and being able to process stress....When you get in a high-stress situation, you can use your breathing to get through those situations.”

“We want to make sure that employees are taking care of themselves,” says Firman. “... it’s incredibly important that they understand ... if they’re not taking care of themselves on the outside, if they’re having bad relationships with





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Olivia Mead founded and teaches Yoga For First Responders to recruits at the Sheriff's Academy and at the Fire Academy.

She says "The true intention is to have mastery over the mind and your entire psychophysiological system, including strength and mobility."



their family members or with their spouse, if they've got financial issues on the outside, if they're not healthy and they come in here, that's going to affect the decisions they make."

Olivia Mead, who established YFRR in 2013, sought "to serve my community by serving first responders." She developed job-specific and culturally-informed protocols tailored to help first responders. "They see more trauma, loss, destruction and death in one day than most people see their whole lives. There's a lot of cumulative stress; however, we're not therapists and we have to be careful that we don't trigger or unlatch that trauma in our yoga practice, but stay in our lane and help people to process that stress."

Mead praises Denver Public Safety's commitment to YFRR across all its departments. "They are really fantastic, and Denver is a flagship for us as a result." She emphasizes that YFRR is an investment in long-term employee wellbeing. "We're really teaching mental and neurological fitness. We're not there to touch toes. We're there to process stress, build resilience, and improve job performance." YFRR is the only nonprofit offering this type of specialized training according to Mead. To learn more, see <http://yogaforfirstresponders.org/>

Firman reports that DSD has taken action on 99% of the 418 reform recommendations, with the last recommendation being the implementation of a new Jail Management Enterprise system that is expected to go into effect at the end of 2019. In addition to CIT and wellness programs, DSD established a Data Science Unit to improve data collection and analysis and modernized its computer systems. It created a Change Pod at the downtown facility for "inmates that are highly motivated to make positive changes in their lives," with targeted interventions and services to facilitate their transition upon release. Firman says collaboration with other departments has been pivotal to many of the positive changes DSD has seen since his arrival. "I think it's one of the reasons why Denver is making such headway in this whereas other cities may not be able to is because there's such a sense of collaboration and cooperation in Denver. A big part of that is because we all work under the umbrella of public safety. We're all going towards the same thing as part of the same team."



After anti-sheriff signs stolen from a critic were retrieved and returned by the sheriff, the victim wrote this message at the entrance to the sheriff's office building.



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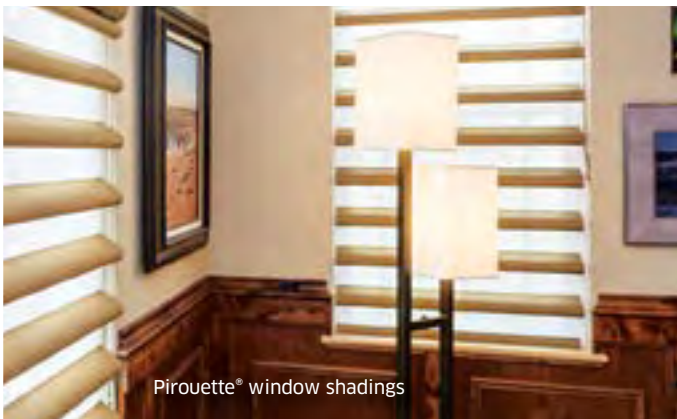
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Kids' Biz Legislation



By Carol Roberts

When State Senator Angela Williams, a former business woman, learned the lemonade stand of a constituent's kids was shut down for lack of a permit, she started looking into how other states and municipalities regulate (or don't regulate) kids' businesses.

Following the shut down of that stand operated by Jennifer Knowles' three boys in Stapleton last May, the Denver City Council approved a legislative



Nerdy Crochet, one of the young entrepreneurs' businesses on display at the Capitol, assembles kits with materials and patterns to make a variety of appealing items.

change so kids' temporary businesses no longer need to be permitted. Williams' believes such a bill encourages creativity and entrepreneurship. Kids can try different ideas, selling products and services over summer break, for example, without violating licensing requirements.

Williams is proposing SB19-103, Legalizing Minors' Businesses, which applies to youth under age 18, the business must be occasional (does not operate more than 84 days in one

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Left: State Senator Angela Williams (left foreground) chairs a meeting of the Senate Business, Labor and Technology Committee to hear testimony about Senate Bill 19-103, Licensing Minors' Businesses.

Middle: Williams invited a group of young entrepreneurs to display their products in the West Foyer of the Capitol throughout the morning of Feb. 11, prior to the committee hearing at 1:30pm. Matthew (12) and Sophia (10) Layden of Stapleton show their origami products inspired by a prior origami business.

Top right: Jack Bonneau (12), whose business, Jack's Stands and Marketplaces, is fully licensed, testifies against the bill that allows minors to have a temporary business without a license.

Lower right: Nick Parker Formby testifies in favor of the bill. His business, Fire Puppy Films, offers writing, directing, filming, editing, acting and music.

calendar year), and it must be located a sufficient distance from a commercial entity that is required to have a permit, so as not to compete with it. It does not prohibit a local government from enacting local laws, except they cannot require that a minor obtain a permit.

Williams invited young entrepreneurs from the metro area to a Business Expo to show their products in the West Foyer of the Capitol through the morning of Feb. 11, then attend and speak at the Senate Business, Labor, and Technology Committee hearing on the bill that afternoon.

Josephine Stockton, who owns Nerdy Crochet, testified that the bill is important because it allows youth to “get their feet into owning a business in a way that is neither long-term binding or requiring the upfront cost of a permit.”

Surprisingly, 12-year-old Jack Bonneau, “founder and CEO of Jack’s Stands & Marketplaces” came to testify against the bill. “I believe kids can have their own businesses in their yard or front porch, but there are certain rules and regulations that apply when you go to different places.... those rules and regulations are there for a good reason

such as safety concerns. At a lemonade stand...kids are a little germly and messy when they’re touching the ice and the cups and the lemons....I have had thousands of kids operate my stands that are properly permitted.”

The bill’s co-sponsor, Sen. Jack Tate, responded to Bonneau, “Thanks for your testimony. We have to consider different points of view. It’s helpful to have someone come up and provide a different opinion.”

Editors note: A web search brought up a Forbes article that Bonneau had been on Shark Tank and was offered, and accepted, a \$50,000 loan.

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Above: Jordan Casteel's exhibit at the Denver Art Museum. Photo at left: Denver native Jordan Casteel paints the people in her Harlem community, including Yvonne and James, left. "They were selling their wares on the street and it was cold," says Casteel. "I went home and brought back some hot soup. I wanted to hang out with them because I was feeling far from home."

Above right: Casteel's first subjects were her family and friends in Denver. *Marcus and Jace* depicts her family's barber and his young son, Jace. "I love paint and color—being an observer and articulating my experience," she says.

By Laurie Dunklee

“The essence of my work is seeing people who haven't been seen—people we might not notice,” says painter Jordan Casteel. “I want viewers to see their humanity and be empathetic. To know that everyone has a story: a past, present and future.”

Jordan Casteel: Returning the Gaze, at the Denver Art Museum through Aug. 18, presents a collection of about 30 paintings by the Denver-born artist, who now lives in Harlem, New York. The larger-than-life portraits depict people in her immediate community, including the subway, restaurants, on the street and in their homes. “All my subjects are alive and well and all are connected to me in some way.”

Casteel, 30, identifies her subjects by walking around her Harlem neighborhood and taking photos. “I stop and introduce myself and tell them what I'm doing. Almost everyone says ‘yes.’ They want to help me as a young person; they want to part of it.”

Casteel's subjects return the viewer's gaze, inviting us into their lives and reflecting the genuine exchange between painter and subject. “As I take non-stop photos, all I ask is that they look at me,” Casteel said.

Her subjects remain part of the process after their painting is done. “They come to the shows and they know when the paintings move around.”

Casteel grew up in Park Hill and attended East High School. Her mother lives in Stapleton. “When I was growing up we had overnights in the old [DAM] museum building,” she says. “I never dreamed that my paintings would be on display here.”

“Jordan was drawn to shape and color for as long as I can remember,” says Lauren Casteel, Jordan's mom. “As the years went by, her proclivity to be a ‘maker and creative’ was clear, as she moved from project to project including coloring, pastels, clay, beading, sewing, ceramics, and pinhole cameras. Oil painting brought her the greatest joy.”

Casteel's first subjects were her family and friends in



Yahya, one of Casteel's *Visible Man* series. Yahya's body reflects the firelight in the room. Casteel plays with skin tones, which may include blue, green, red or orange. “I try to get past skin color in order to see their humanity,” she says.

Denver. *Marcus and Jace* depicts her family's barber (Marcus Pope's House of Hair in Park Hill) and his young son, Jace. “Jace is asleep and Marcus has his arm around him. There's a tenderness there.”

After earning her Master's in Fine Art at Yale, Casteel

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The Baayfalls sell jewelry and hats on the street. The people in Casteel’s paintings look straight out at the viewer. “It’s almost as if they’re asking a question or demanding your attention,” said Rebecca Hart, DAM curator of modern and contemporary art.

moved to New York in 2015. “I was drawn to Harlem because of the energy and entrepreneurship there. I was inspired to paint the people who made their homes on the street—like *Charles*, a fur-seller, who looks so glorious sitting on a fallen newspaper stand.”

Her *Visible Man* series depicts men in their personal spaces. “The intent is to expose my vision of Black men as I see them: as fathers, sons, brothers, cousins—as individuals with their own unique stories to share.”

Some of Casteel’s men leap off the canvas in vivid green, red or yellow skin tones. “I play with skin color to dispel assumptions people might make; to get past skin color in order to see their humanity.”

Sometimes her photos reveal details that she didn’t see at first. “I notice the words on t-shirts, like the woman’s in *The Baayfalls* that says, ‘I’m not interested in competing with anyone. I hope we all make it.’ It’s a powerful statement to wear language on your chest, like a shield.”

Casteel’s current paintings depict

women, especially women entrepreneurs. *Benyam* features a matriarch in a family-operated Ethiopian restaurant that Casteel frequents.

“I feel a responsibility to give respect to living people. This is about us, not just me. Being an empathetic observer in the world will always be valuable, whatever your practice may be.”

For more information see denverartmuseum.org.



Casteel speaks in a video about her practice and her philosophy: “Everyone, whether in a bar or at a bus stop, is worthy to be celebrated. What does it mean to stop and say ‘Hello’?”



Above: Lauren Casteel, Jordan’s mom, poses in her home in Stapleton with a print of the painting Jordan did of her. Lauren says Jordan’s depth of connection to others was reinforced by three years of volunteering monthly at The Gathering Place while she was in middle school at The Logan School.

Left: A group of school children ask questions about Casteel’s *Twins*. On finding subjects for her paintings, Casteel says, “I make connections with people and build community because friends refer me to friends.”

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U.S. Rep. DeGette Outlines Her Priorities

By Martina Will, Ph.D.

Representative Diana DeGette has served District 1 since 1997 and won reelection in November 2018. As the new legislative session began, she sat down with the *Front Porch* and other community newspapers to share some of her priorities for this session. In January, DeGette was named Chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Oversight and Investigations subcommittee and she was appointed to serve on the House Natural Resources Committee. In addition she serves on subcommittees on the Environment & Climate Change and Communications & Technology.

DeGette cites the wide-ranging reach of the Energy and Commerce Committee: "...the Energy and Commerce Committee has very broad jurisdiction over everything relating to the Commerce Clause of the Constitution, so what that means is energy policy, environmental policy, all of healthcare policy, and jurisdiction over drug issues ... consumer protection, food safety, telecommunications and

the internet—and part of that is net neutrality. In fact, we have jurisdiction over sports." She cites the hearings on the sexual assaults in gymnastics in 2018 and the establishment of SafeSport as examples of the Committee's work.

A host of federal agencies fall under the Committee's purview, including: the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration and the Department of Energy. "The theme for our Oversight subcommittee is science," DeGette states. "We are bringing in experts and documents; I don't think you can legislate unless you have a strong scientific foundation."

DeGette's immediate priorities include:

Family Separation: In early February, the Oversight subcommittee began hearings on the family-separation policy



U.S. Congressional Rep. Diana DeGette speaks and takes questions about her work during a previous meeting with local newspapers.

launched under President Trump in 2018. The panel sought to establish the total number of children still waiting to be reunited with parents and/or guardians, and learn from psychologists and other experts about the long-term consequences of family separation on children.

Climate Change: The day after the State of the Union, the Environment and Climate Change subcommittee held its first hearing on climate change in over six years. Hearings will also investigate the Trump administration's rollbacks of the Clean Power Plan, the Clean Air Act and other environmental protections including methane emissions.

Drug Pricing: A 2018 report on insulin pricing co-authored with Rep. Tom Reed (R-NY) recommends that "Congress should pursue a handful of legislative actions to increase price transparency, promote competition among insulin makers, and encourage the use of value-based contracts." The report defines value-based contracts as "arrangements between different entities along the supply chain that pay higher rates for better patient health outcomes, instead of higher sale volume."

Women's Health: In Spring 2019, hearings on women's health issues including family planning, abstinence-only programs, and Title X (Population Research and Voluntary Family Planning Programs) restrictions will take place. DeGette said she would ultimately like to enact a program at the national level like Colorado's highly successful Family Planning Initiative with Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC). While bringing in scientists and experts to testify should not be "news," says DeGette, "Previous discussions of family planning, fetal tissue research and other issues have never had scientists testify."

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State Legislators Ponder Education & Transportation Funding

By Todd Engdahl

Colorado Democrats, now in control of both houses of the legislature and the governor's office, are trying to figure out how to achieve long-sought policy goals within the limits of the state budget and how to make those new programs sustainable during future economic downturns.

The two initiatives at the top of the Capitol wish list are full-day kindergarten and increased transportation funding. But the question of overall K-12 funding and how to pay for expanded probation and community corrections programs also are part of the financial debate.

Full-day Kindergarten

A majority of kindergarten-age students now attend full day, paid for by a patchwork of some state money, local district funds and parent tuition. Funding varies by district (some are free for all). Unlike most states, kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in Colorado—not even half-day. Gov. Jared Polis is proposing that the state pick up funding of full-day kindergarten for all children whose parents want it. That would cost about \$227 million a year to start – plus another \$25 million for district startup costs in the first year. Part of the debate about kindergarten will be whether to build the money into the overall school funding formula, where it would be harder to cut during a recession, or to put it in a separate account that could be suspended during hard times.

Preschool

The Colorado Preschool Program offers preschool to four- and five-year-olds with economic and family risk factors. The program has never had enough funding for all eligible kids. A side effect of Polis' kindergarten plan would increase preschool coverage. That's because school districts now can use some state funding for *either* preschool or full-day kindergarten. If schools get new funding for kindergarten, then they'll have more to spend on preschool. The governor's plan also provides some additional new preschool funding.

Transportation

Raising the amounts of money needed for serious transportation funding requires debt, like bonds, and that, in turn, requires a steady stream of revenue for two or three decades to pay off the bonds. Voters last November rejected raising taxes to pay off bonds. Republicans have suggested setting aside a portion of regular state revenues (called the General Fund) every year to pay off bonds. Democrats are considering various options, including whether to offer another plan to voters.

The Conflict

Democrats fear that committing to an annual bond payment without new revenue could squeeze education and other spending in a recession, when state revenues slow or decline. There's added concern the squeeze would be more painful if the budget includes a new, ongoing obligation to kindergarten.

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...NE News Updates



By Carol Roberts

1 Quiet Zones Begin March 1

After announcing that quiet zones will start March 1 and thanking the partners in the project (including the Federal Transit Administration for granting over a billion dollars), RTD General Manager Dave Genova said, “I offer our biggest thanks to the community. We know you’ve been waiting for this day for a long, long time.”

While residents were living with the horns from 144 trains a day, they were doing a public service, said Chief Communications Officer Pauletta Tonilas. “It’s tough being a trailblazer, you take the hits on the front end as you’re paving the path for those who come after you. The transit industry is going to benefit from what RTD is going through—the lessons we’ve learned.”

Getting the quiet zone waiver was a significant process, says Genova, and they got it because their continual improvements brought the timing of their street crossings to the high ninety percent range, as required. Genova says he doesn’t think their numbers will drop. “We anticipate an environment of continuous improvement.... It’s just going

to continue to get better.”

“We are the first to build positive train control (PTC) from the ground up—that gives us a lot of features that conventional systems don’t have. One of those, for example, is our system is the only PTC system that can guarantee that a train will not arrive early at a crossing. We’re the only system in the country that’s got that ... All the major railroads are contacting us because they want to go to this technology.”

Train operators will still sound horns if they see conditions that call for them.

2 Sprouts or No Sprouts?

The Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) neighborhood survey of almost 1,000 residents revealed the single most-desired future retail amenity in Stapleton is Sprouts (survey on page 28). Flash back to June 2017. A community meeting was held announcing Forest City’s development plans next to Central Park Station. At that meeting, David Friedman showed plans for a 7.2 acre retail and residential development on the southeast corner of Uinta St. and 36th Ave. called The Village at Central Park Station. Sprouts was announced as the anchor store of Friedman’s development. In fall 2017, Friedman shared additional details of the project, printed in the October 2017 *Front Porch*. At the beginning of June 2018, Forest City confirmed Friedman had purchased the property.

Flash forward to February 2019. After multiple phone and email attempts requesting information from the developer, we have not received a single response. An inquiring resident, however, found a commercial real estate firm soliciting tenants for a project called The Shops at A Line Square. Their brochure shows it to be Friedman’s project with a new name. But instead of a Sprouts, the brochure just indicates an unnamed 30,000 square foot grocery store. When the inquiring neighbor contacted Sprouts, they replied that they had no confirmed information for a store at that location in Stapleton, but to “check the website for the most up-to-date information on all new grand openings.”

So...maybe no Sprouts.

Or...maybe there is hope. Further checking revealed the real estate firm’s online listing of the project does include a brochure with the Sprouts name and logo, and the listing cites an occupancy date of September 2019. With no ground moved as of now, we know the project won’t be completed in September. But we don’t know anything more. Let us know if you get further information.



RTD called a press conference at Union Station on February 8—and RTD General Manager Dave Genova spoke the words NE Denver residents who live near the A Line have awaited for almost two years, “The quiet zone for train horns will begin March 1.”

3 New Wrinkles in Affordable Program

At the Feb. 21 Citizens Advisory Board meeting, Damon Knop, a realtor knowledgeable about Denver’s income-qualified homes program, shared concerns about a recent change in the allowed ratio of housing-debt to income for buyers. Knop says prior to October, the program used 30% as a guideline that could prevent a potential buyer from eligibility if staff felt a person’s financial circumstances showed them to be at risk of foreclosing. When a buyer in the affordable program forecloses, the home falls out of the affordable program and goes to the lender; the program does not want that to happen.

In October, the program started *requiring* a ratio of no more than 30% housing debt to income. With that change, far fewer buyers qualified. Knop said the increasing housing prices in Denver have pushed the average debt ratio for housing to 40% or higher. He adds that many prospective buyers have had an even higher debt ratio as renters. When they’re disqualified, the program that’s designed to help them often pushes them back into a more expensive housing option—even though they had proven they could responsibly manage that debt ratio as renters. In the face of so many buyers being disqualified, Denver’s program in mid February raised their allowable debt ratio for housing to 35%. Knop doesn’t think that’s enough. (The website loanlimits.org, says, “In 2018, most lenders will set the bar somewhere around 43% – 50% for the *total* debt-to-income ratio.”)

The problem created by stricter enforcement, however, goes further than the buyers. Brian Fennelly, former Forest City Stapleton CFO (now with Brookfield) said Gene Myers, owner of Thrive, (Stapleton’s biggest builder of affordable homes), told them the change disqualifies 80% of his buyers from purchasing. That goes right to the heart of his ability to build the homes. With a list of buyers under contract (and a waiting list behind them), Myers has been able to get construction loans



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Syracuse To Gain Bike Lanes, Lose Traffic Lanes



Conventional Bike Lane, 8th to Montview



Buffered Bike Lane, Montview to MLK

and pay them off quickly when the homes are sold. This change leaves him with unsold inventory, an outstanding construction loan, and unable to continue building for income qualified buyers. Further, existing homeowners in the affordable program will also have difficulty finding buyers.

4 Syracuse Bike Lanes

Plans for bike lanes on Syracuse from 8th to MLK were shown at a community meeting on Feb. 2 at Sam Gary Library. The bike-friendly route that will connect Stapleton and Lowry (and neighborhoods between) is part of the City’s “Denver Moves Bikes” program. The changes are described as a “lane diet” (fewer lanes) and “road diet” (narrower traffic lanes.) In summary:

- 8th to Montview will have one lane in each direction with a six-foot-wide conventional bike path in each direction
- Montview to 24th will change from two lanes each way to one lane each way and have buffered bike lanes in each direction
- 24th to MLK will continue to have two lanes in each direction and a bike lane
- The vehicle lanes will be 10 feet wide
- Flashing beacons will be added at E. 24th Ave. for safer bike and pedestrian crossing at Greenway Park
- There will be no parking on the west side of the street from Montview to 17th (by McNichols Park)
- There will be a stop sign where westbound traffic on Montview turns north into the single lane of Syracuse



A rendering of the new classroom building for Northfield High School (NHS) is visible at the far left of the image above (taken from an LOA Ar-

chitecture video showing their work on Sandoval Campus). Watch the new building rise from the ground at [youtube.com/watch?v=V166hnpYdtY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V166hnpYdtY).

Design and planning are continuing, but the improvements are projected to be done in 2019. Plans shown at the public meeting are posted with this article at [FrontPorchNE.com](https://www.FrontPorchNE.com) Search [denvergov.org](https://www.denvergov.org) for Syracuse Corridor Study or email Dan.Raine@denvergov.org

5 Design Underway for Additions to Sandoval Campus for 2020

Architectural design has begun on a \$50 million addition to the Paul Sandoval Campus that is scheduled to open in August 2020.

The project consists of a second U-shaped building with up to 50 class-

rooms, similar in appearance to the existing classroom building. The project will also include: two auxiliary gymnasiums to the current main gym building; a music/drama addition that will be attached to the current commons building; a new soccer field; and four tennis courts.

LOA Architecture, which designed the existing buildings on Sandoval Campus, has announced they were selected for these additional projects on the campus that is located on the southeast corner of E. 56th Ave. and Central Park Blvd. Eidos Architecture will assist in the design. Adolfson & Peterson Construction will be the contractor.

Let’s Talk About Lady Business

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A woman’s gynecologic health changes as we age. Accidentally pee when you do jumping jacks? Dryness? What on earth is vaginal prolapse?? And there are other factors, too – women who have had breast cancer have all kinds of other gynecologic changes after treatment.

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Rose Medical Center invites you to join our experts in gynecologic health – *aka, lady business* – for an evening of education and empathy. Rose OB/GYNs Valerie Ginsburg and Sarah Silver Payne, urogynecologist Kristinell Keil and physical therapist Joyce Fairbanks will share information about conditions you are experiencing and helpful treatment options.

You can’t live your best life when you are experiencing this kind of discomfort. Join us to talk lady business and let’s get you back to those jumping jacks.



Rose Medical Center
The Center for Women’s Health

JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center
350 S. Dahlia St. Denver • The Elaine Wolf Theatre
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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.

Roma (2018—Netflix)

This is one of the most stunning movies to come out in years. The title *Roma* makes it sound like an Italian production (or that at least it would be set in Italy), but it actually refers to the middle-class neighborhood in Mexico City where writer/director Alfonso Cuarón grew up. He looks back on his youth with wonder, poetry, and a reality reminiscent of the best of cinema history. This is must-see moviemaking of the highest quality.

In 1948, just after the end of WWII, one of the most beautiful film movements was born. Known as Italian Neorealism, it focused on the struggles of everyday people. It would become one of the most influential film movements around the world for many years; it was a breath of fresh air and a corrective to the too-perfect Hollywood cinema of the period.

There were no easy resolutions nor simple good/bad people characterizations. In the wake of WWII, many people

around the world were struggling, and Neorealism examined those struggles.

Alfonso Cuarón now gives us *Roma*. He tells the story of a family in Mexico City in the early 1970s. Everything we

the mother struggles with being a single parent, and we view most of it through the eyes of the maid (played by wonderful newcomer Yalitza Aparicio). That description doesn't give the film justice, however. To watch the film is to feel the film, and I bring up Italian Neorealism because it is not only stylistically similar, it is also emotionally similar. Cuarón gives his own explanation of the film as thus: “It’s a year in the life of a family and a country ... For me, this film has always been difficult to describe. It was

Cuarón not only wrote and directed the film, he also shot it and edited it as well. I am guessing he probably also baked the cookies for the crew. This was his life and his film, and he spent a few years making it. It is easy to see his painstaking work throughout every aspect of the filmmaking—from the *mise-en-scène* to the cinematography to the editing. The director of *The Prisoner of Azkaban* and *Gravity* has turned into one of the greatest directors of our era. Think about Hitchcock making *Vertigo*, think about Kubrick making *2001 A Space Odyssey*, or think about Federico Fellini making *8 1/2*. We are watching one of the great directors at the height of his powers, and what a joy it is to watch!

The historical context of the film is important and prevalent, but it is never wallpapered. Cuarón has talked about the race, gender, and class issues of the period, but it always surrounds the family. He wants you to know when something important has happened outside the frame, but he lets you feel it for yourself.

The great director Fellini said his job was to take you to the train station by the end of a film—and where you chose to go from there

was up to you. Cuarón leaves us with so many options, everyone will be satisfied with their journey.

It is currently available on Netflix after (a very short) theatrical run.

You will enjoy this film if you liked *Bicycle Thieves*, *Rome*, *Open City*, and/or *Nights of Cabiria*.

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.



Roma

need to know is in the first few frames of the film: a dog sits in a driveway, a maid sweeps the alley, we hear a plane go by in the distance, the maid cleans the house as

the kids and parents move about. Nothing is overly explained; Cuarón's story is his own and he tells it with the nostalgia of knowing. The details are succinct. The touches are impeccable. We are less watching a movie than engaging with memory. It is the most beautiful, masterful, and epic film that we have been given in years. That may sound like hyperbole, but it is true. There are few artists who have the guts to tell such personal stories. Cuarón's images are imbued with a touch of reality and beauty that we rarely see. If nothing else, Cuarón will most certainly win his second Best Director at the Oscars this year (not yet held by press time).

The story is simple: the family at the center is falling apart, the father leaves,

a process of following the character of Cleo [the maid to a middle-class family, based on his own] and through her exploring wounds that were personal—family wounds. Then I realized these were wounds that I shared with many people in Mexico. And then I came to the conclusion that they are wounds shared by humanity.” That humanity is pure Neorealism (if you think about the great films from the era, such as *Bicycle Thieves* or *Rome, Open City*).



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March and Early April Events

For Summer camp offerings, search our online calendar under the category Summer Camp Guide (or any secondary categories: arts, sports, etc.) at www.frontporchne.com > Events > Upcoming Events or check out our February camp guide: frontporchne.com/article/2019-front-porch-guide-summer-camps/

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

CIVIC EVENTS

3/26 Tuesday—Denver Mayoral Candidate Forum. The Mayor of Denver is arguably the most powerful city official. This office sets the city budget, establishing funding priorities for things like affordable housing, transportation and public health. Please join us to hear some of the Candidates for Denver Mayor. Election will be May 7 (mail ballots go out 4/15/19). This will be an exciting opportunity to hear Candidates Lisa Calderon, Penfield Tate, Jamie Giellis and Michael Hancock. <https://www.facebook.com/events/2064975303588855/> 3:30–5pm at the Sam Gary Library Community Meeting Room, 2961 Roslyn St.

NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS

3/1 Friday—Family Classics Film Series is Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. No kid will want to miss a trip to see this chocolate factory on the big screen. Dr. Vincent Piturro will provide viewers with a new perspective and exclusive industry insights relating to the film. 7pm, tickets at stapletoncommunity.com. The Cube, 8371 E Northfield Blvd.

3/1 Friday—Call for Entries – Stapleton's Got Talent Entry Deadline. Exciting opportunity for all amateur performers in Denver to showcase their unique abilities. We encourage all ages/talents to apply! Finalists, selected from video auditions, will be invited to compete in the live finals on Sat, Apr. 27. The Cube, 8371 E Northfield Blvd, 303.388.0724

3/5 and 4/2—Kindness Club. 4-5:30pm Inter-generational, all-ages club denverlibrary.org/event/kindness-club. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St.

3/6 Wednesday—Photography

Seminar: Storytelling through Photographs. Photographer Mike Holtby leads a seminar that will easily appeal to photographers, travelers and adventure seekers alike. 7pm at The Cube, 8371 E Northfield Blvd, 303.388.0724, stapletoncommunity.com

3/7 Thursday—Whiskey Education Night. Sit-down tasting led by a Leopold Bros. whiskey expert. Tickets are \$20, \$40 day of event. Purchase tickets at stapletoncommunity.com. You must be 21+ to attend and no refunds will be permitted. 7pm at The Cube, 8371 E Northfield Blvd, 303.388.0724

3/7 Thursday—Aurora Sister Cities International's 2nd Annual Winter Celebration. Come enjoy good company, great global food & beverages, and bid on fantastic silent auction items. Family friendly event! business.aurorachamber.org/events/details/aurora-sister-cities-international-winter-celebration-fundraiser-98495. Aurora History Museum, 15051 E. Alameda Pkwy, Aurora

3/9 Saturday—This Chair Rocks: A Manifesto Against Ageism, with author Ashton Applewhite. 10–11:30am. Author and blogger Ashton Applewhite is catalyzing a movement to make discrimination on the basis of age as unacceptable as any other kind. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org

3/14 to 3/28—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. denverlibrary.org

3/19 Tuesday—GSBA Monthly Meeting. We are an Association of businesses in the Stapleton area whose purpose is to support each other and our neighbors with local goods and services. 7350 E. 29th Ave. Ste 300 in the MCA Offices. stapletonbusiness.com

3/24 Sunday—Sam Gary Literary

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

Book Club. 2–3pm. March Title: Me Talk Pretty One Day, by David Sedaris. Sam Gary Branch 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org

3/30 Friday—Photography Walk. Join photographers Cari Nichols and Jason Cross as they guide participants on a journey to discover the best techniques for capturing Stapleton's rich scenery. Participants must bring their own photography equipment in order to participate. 2pm at The Cube, 8371 E Northfield Blvd, 303.388.0724, stapletoncommunity.com

METRO EVENTS

To 3/3—Denver Restaurant Week. 200+ restaurants offer multicourse meals for special pricing. Menus/pricing: denverrestaurantweek.com

3/1 Friday—A Classical Jazz Evening with the Colorado Children's Chorale. Featuring Concert Choir and Tour Choir singing in the grand tradition of the European cathedral. 7:30-8:15pm, St. John's Cathedral, 1350 Washington St. Tickets \$19-24. sing.childrenschorale.org

3/1 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Santa Fe Arts District, Tennyson Art Walk, River North(RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Museum, Navajo Street Art District. www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

3/1 to 3/3—Rocky Mountain Horse Expo. National Western Complex, tickets from \$10. Free tickets for youth and active military and veterans at coloradohorsecouncil.com

3/2 Saturday—Up with People 2019 Gala. 8th annual Gala: Turning Hope into Action. Hyatt Regency at the Colorado Conven-

tion Center. upwithpeople.org/give/annual-gala. 650 15th St, mluebke@upwithpeople.org

3/2 to 3/3—Rocky Mountain Train Show. Denver Mart, 10am-5pm Sat., 10am-4pm Sun. Adults/ kids 12 and over \$10. Under 12, scouts in uniform and active duty with military ID Free. Admission good both days. 451 E 58th Ave. rockymountaintrainshow.com

3/6 Wednesday—Women Powering Change. Bringing together more than 1,000 community members, leaders, activists, volunteers and philanthropists with more than 100 Colorado-based organizations to showcase what women are doing to catalyze social change. www.eventbrite.com/e/women-powering-change-2019-tickets-53017438586. 1399 35th St.

3/6 Wednesday—East-West Coffee House with the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Trio Arabica. Explore the rich musical history of 18th-century Leipzig and Damascus, reimagining the coffeehouses where the finest musicians of the time played. 7:30pm, Newman Center for the Performing Arts. 2344 E. Iliff Ave, 303-388-9839, friendsofchambermusic.com

3/16 Saturday—Waffles for Wishes, benefiting Make-A-Wish® Colorado. Delicious buffet with waffle bar, mimosas, bloody marys and beer. Raised funds help grant wishes to children with critical illnesses. 1325 Glenarm Pl. wafflesforwishes.org

3/16 Saturday—St. Patrick's Day Parade. Largest St.

Patrick's Day Parade West of the Mississippi. 9:30am LoDo. denverstpatricksdaysparade.com

3/16 Saturday—Denver Collaboration Beer Fest. Hyatt Regency downtown. 50+ collaborative beer projects; limited edition, exclusive brews. For tickets collaborationfest.com

3/22 to 3/24—45th Annual Denver March Pow Wow. Denver Coliseum. denvermarchpowwow.org

3/22 to 3/24—Denver Home Show. National Western Complex. Friday and Saturday 10am-9pm, Sunday 10am-5pm. For tickets and \$2 off, go to homeshowdenver.com

3/24 Sunday—The League of Women Voters of Denver Honors Women to Watch. The Women to Watch program will once again honor an amazing group of women. The fifteen women to be honored have inspiring stories of barriers faced and successes achieved. Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St., McCollum Room. info@LWVDenver.org, wvdenver.org

3/27 to 3/31—Denver Auto Show. Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th St. denverautoshow.com

(continued on page 22)

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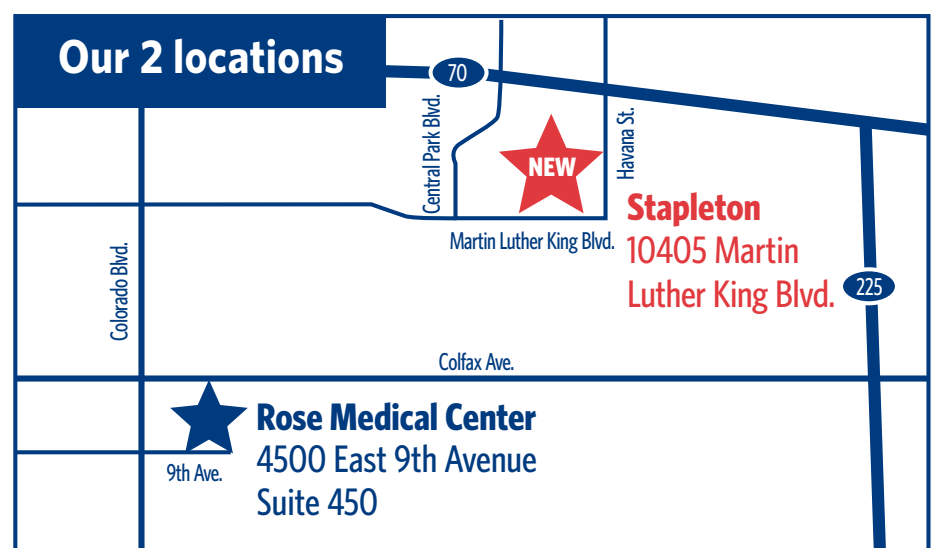


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(continued from page 21)

4/4 Thursday—2019 Spring Brass Ring Luncheon & Fashion Show. Join the Children’s Diabetes Foundation as we honor our type 1 heroes at the Spring Brass Ring Luncheon and Fashion Show at the Hilton Denver City Center. childrensdiabetes-foundation.org/event/2019-spring-brass-ring-luncheon-fashion-show/ 1701 California St.

4/4 Thursday—Inside the Orchestra for Adults, Calling All Superheros. Food, drinks, and fun 6–9:30pm. McNichols Civic Center, 144 W Colfax Ave. insidetheorchestra.org

HEALTH/ WELLNESS

3/3 Sunday—Fight for Air Stair Climb. Benefits American Lung Assoc. \$35 entry fee; \$100 minimum fundraising. Individual or team. Republic Plaza, 16th and Tremont Entrance. lung.org

3/3 Sunday—That Dam Run. 5K, 10K and half marathon, Cherry Creek Dam Rd. 9am. rundenverseries.com

3/9 Saturday—Effective Weight Loss, Intermittent Fasting and Your Body. Mom’s Night Out Productions welcomes Dr. Jason Fung for a 2-hour special talk with Q&A session. Dr. Fung is a Canadian nephrologist and world-leading expert on intermittent fasting and LCHF (low carb, high fat). Bigsby’s Folly Craft Winery, 3516 Wazee St. 720-841-2545, jasonfungmd.eventbrite.com

3/9 Saturday—17th Annual Collaborative Health Fair by The Center for

African American Health. Routine health screenings, education sessions, age appropriate health education for kids. 8:30am–3:30pm. Renaissance Denver Stapleton Hotel, 3801 Quebec St. Free. 303-355-3423, caahealth.org

3/9 Saturday—Lucky Charm 1M, 5K/10K. City Park, 8am. featonthestreet.com

3/10 Sunday—Special Olympics Denver Polar Plunge and Splash and Dash. 5K run/walk and polar plunge to benefit Special Olympics. 9:30am–3pm. Washington Park. specialolympicsco.org

3/14 Thursday—Alzheimer’s Foundation of America’s 2019 National Educating America Tour Comes to Denver. Learn about Alzheimer’s disease, brain health, and dementia caregiving, and get a free memory screening at this free educational conference. alzfdn.org/event/educating-america-tour-colorado. Hilton Denver City Center, 1701 California St. 866-232-8484

3/16 Saturday—Lucky Laces 5K/10K, Run/Walk. City Park, 8am. www.featonthestreet.com

3/17 Sunday—Running of the Green Lucky 7K and Walk. Benefits Volunteers of America, LoDo. Registration begins 7am, race 10:15. rotg.org

4/2 Tuesday—Let’s Talk About Lady Business. Rose Medical Center invites you to join our experts in gynecologic health – aka, lady business – for an evening of education and empathy. JCC Mizel Arts

and Culture Center, 350 S. Dahlia St., The Elaine Wolf Theatre 6–7:30pm. RSVP: 303-320-ROSE (7673) or visit RoseMed.com/calendar

KIDS AND FAMILIES

Every Tuesday—Tattered Tales Storytime. 30 minutes of stories, activities and snacks. 10:30am, 2526 East Colfax Ave. tatteredcover.com

Storytimes! At Bookies. Every Tues. 10:30am, Sat. at 4pm. Free. The Bookies Bookstore, 4315 E. Mississippi Ave. 303.759.1117, thebookies.com

3/2 Saturday—Home Depot Kids Workshop. 9am-12pm. FREE how-to clinics first Sat. monthly, ages 5-12. Get Home Depot apron, wooden project and project pin. Metro-area Home Depot stores. homedepot.com

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

3/9 Saturday—Snowshoeing in RMNP with GLC for high schoolers! GLC will be driving to RMNP for an afternoon of snowshoeing, providing snowshoes for the day. No experience is required. This event is free. Space is limited and registration is required. thegreenwayfoundation.org/greenway-leadership-corps.html. 610 S Jason St. glc@greenwayfoundation.org

3/12 to 3/13—STEAM: Birds of a Feather. 4pm Registration required. Grades 1-3. Tues & Wed sessions. Birds are

everywhere! In the sky, on the ground, on water! Where do they live and what do they eat? We’ll get into the real nitty-gritty of this question by dissecting owl pellets. Sam Gary Branch Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720-865-0325, denverlibrary.org

3/16 Saturday— Kidsfest 2019, Dinoroar! 12:30–2:30pm. Free admission. DJ, face painting, bouncy castles, crafts, activities, snacks, community vendor, soccer and more. Bladium, 2400 Central Park Blvd. kidsfest.bladiumdenver.com

3/19 Tuesday—Let’s Build It – Lego Party. 4pm Try your hand at paper Lego-themed crafts and use your imagination to build with the blocks. Sam Gary Branch, 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org

3/25 to 3/29—A River at Work: SPREE Spring Break Camp. The South Platte River flows through the heart of Denver. It has provided many goods and services to the city since early in its history. Learn with SPREE all the ways humans interact, experience, and work on the River! 610 S Jason St. thegreenwayfoundation.org

3/25 to 3/29—Spring Break Musical Spanish Immersion Camp. 8am–noon (drop off anytime before 9) for ages 5–8. \$230 includes all take home materials to help your child learn through music and art. Nut free snacks. Montview Church in Park Hill, musiclingua.com

3/25 to 3/29—Übergrippen 7 Summits Spring Break Camp. Fun for your kids this spring break at ÜG for our “7 Summits Camp.” Spend a week rock climbing and exploring! Camps are 9am–4:30pm, pickup and dropoff up to 30 minutes before/after camp. 8610 E. 21st Ave. ugclimbing.com/camps

3/27 Wednesday—Write & Talk for Teens with Light-house 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. Registration required. Ideal for ages 13– 18. Sam Gary Branch, 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org

3/29 Friday—One-Day Critter Camp. The Dumb Friends League offers seasonal camps for kids and teens in support of our goal to teach children and young adults the importance of treating animals in a humane way. 2080 S Quebec St. 303.751.5772, ddfl.org/youth-camps

To 11/24—Let’s Roam Denver Scavenger Hunt. There’s one place in Colorado where hip meets history. On today’s epic scavenger hunt of Denver, we make a loop around LoDo and the Business District in search of storied buildings, public art and ballparks! letsroam.com/scavenger_hunt/LoDo_Den-ver_Scavenger_Hunt/Union_Station, 833-202-7626

ver_Scavenger_Hunt/Union Station, 833-202-7626

LECTURES, CLASSES, INFORMATIONAL EVENTS

3/4 Monday—League of Women Voters Denver Presents: The Health of Denver Residents Now and in the Future. A look at the current and future health of Denver residents through the eyes of an epidemiologist and two environmental health scientists. Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St., McCollum Room. 303-321-7571, lwvdenver.org

3/5 Tuesday—Active Minds presents Aviation: From Kitty Hawk to Today. A review of aviation in the United States. This program is sponsored by JFS Senior Solutions. 10–11am. Free, RSVP: Not required; for info, call Lil Shaw: 303-316-6359. Jewish Community Center, 350 Dahlia St. 303-316-6359, activeminds.com

3/5 Tuesday—Denverite + Good-Cinema Collaboration – Art, DIY, & Gentrification. Join Denverite & Good-Cinema for a movie and thoughtful conversation about the current state and future of DIY art venues in Denver as the city grows. 4255 W. Colfax Ave. goodcinema.co

3/14 Thursday—Active Minds: Italy. 1–2pm. Review the rich history of Italy and its current turmoil. Sam Gary Branch Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720-865-0325, denverlibrary.org

3/21 Thursday—Science in the News: Optogenetics. 6:30-7:45pm. A groundbreaking technology that allows scientists to control cells and proteins in real time with light. Join three scientists from the University of Colorado as we explore the exciting world of optogenetics. Sam Gary Branch, 2961 Roslyn St. 720-865-0325, denverlibrary.org

3/26 Tuesday—Drop-In Writing at the Denver Art Museum. Explore your creativity through the written word at the Denver Art Museum in our informal writing sessions led by Michael Henry, executive director of Lighthouse Writers Workshop. Bring your own writing projects or get started on something new. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy, denverartmuseum.org

3/28 Thursday—Active Minds: Chicago: Biography of a City. 6:30–7:30pm. The story of the Windy City. Sam Gary Branch, 2961 Roslyn St. 720-865-0325, denverlibrary.org

MUSEUMS

3/1 to 8/25—Leonardo da Vinci: 500 Years of Genius. The ultimate Renaissance man remains an inspiration for the ages! Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd. dmns.org



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3/2—Fifth Annual Girls & Science Event. Oriented to children ages 8–13. Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd. Organized youth groups receive free admission with advance reservations at 303-370-6000. General info at dmns.org/girlsandscience

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

3/9 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry www.wingsmuseum.org

3/23 Saturday—Low-Sensory Morning at the Denver Art Museum. For neuro-diverse adults and children who prefer a quiet, sensory-inclusive environment, the Denver Art Museum offers regular Low-Sensory Events that enable you to visit the museum at your own pace. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy, denverartmuseum.org

To 8/18—Denver Art Museum Presents Jordan Casteel: Re-turning the Gaze. Featuring nearly 30 paintings by Denver-born artist Jordan Casteel, who is now based in Harlem, New York. Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy. 720-865-5000, denverartmuseum.org

MUSEUM FREE DAYS

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

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

3/2 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

3/5 Tuesday—The Children’s Museum of Denver Free Day. mychildsmuseum.org

3/8 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Free Day. 12-4pm. four-milepark.org

3/20 Wednesday—The Urban Farm at Stapleton Free Day. Open to the public for self-guided tours. from 10am–1pm. 10200 Smith Rd, theurbanfarm.org

3/22 Friday—Denver Botanic Gardens Free Day. botanicgardens.org
3/26 Tuesday—Clyfford Still Museum Free Day. clyffordstillmuseum.org

4/3 Monday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science Free Day. Evening hours only in April, 5-10pm. dmns.org

PERFORMANCE / THEATRE

3/8 to 3/10—Colorado Ballet – Tour de Force. This innovative collaboration features Colorado Ballet alongside Cleo Parker Robinson Dance and Wonderbound. Ellie Caulkins Opera House, 303-837-8888, coloradoballet.org

3/9 to 4/13—Skeleton Crew. 1080 Acoma St. curious theatre.org/event/skeleton-crew/

To 3/10—The Whistleblower. Space Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Speer Blvd & Arapahoe St. denvercenter.org

To 3/16—Rock of Aging Revival. The John Hand Theatre 7653 E. 1st Pl. FirehouseTheaterCompany.com

To 3/17—Life Sucks. Aurora Fox Theater, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

3/23 Saturday—Cindy and Friends- In Concert. Greatly-admired organist Cindy Lindeen-Martin and several of her friends come together for an evening of music extolling the assorted sonorities of the pipe organ in combination with various instruments for a captivating collage of sound. 5000 E. Alameda Ave. augustanaarts.org

3/23 to 3/24—Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back- Live in Concert with the Colorado Symphony. 1st Bank Center, Broomfield. Tickets \$46-85. coloradosymphony.org

To 3/24—A Gentleman’s Guide To Love & Murder. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St. vintage theatre.org

4/5 to 4/14—Colorado Ballet – Ballet Masterworks. George Balanchine’s Serenade, and the second half will include a performance of Carmina Burana for the first time in nearly 20 years. Ellie Caulkins Opera House, 14th Curtis St. 303-837-8888, coloradoballet.org

To 5/17— The Diary of Anne Frank. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. arvadacenter.org

To 5/18— The Moors. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. arvadacenter.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

3/2 Saturday—Sand Creek Greenway Volunteer Work Day at Wetland Park/ Commerce City. Removing invasive species and general park clean up projects. Jim Dorsch of Metro Wastewater will give a brief “Nature Notes” talk about creek systems and water quality. 10am–noon. sandcreekgreenway.org/upcoming-volunteer-opportunities. Go to the intersection of E. 52nd Ave and Ivy St in Commerce City. Turn onto E. 52nd Ave, this will dead-end into a parking lot.

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

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

Reading Volunteers Needed. For students in K-8 grade. 1 hour, 1 student, 1x week. During school hours. julie@partnersinliteracy.org or 303.316.3944 ext. 241.

Project Worthmore. Nonprofit organization of committed community members give, volunteer, mentor, befriending refugee neighbors. 1609 Havana St., St. 720-460-1393

Should I be worried about my teen?

Teens’ emotional issues can manifest in many ways including mood problems, irritability, stress, and anxiety. At a free and open to the public event on March 7, Dr. Aimee Sullivan, who works with children, teens, and adults, will share her work and what parents can do if they would like to find support for their teens.

Dr. Sullivan will speak on March 7, 2019 from 6:30-8:30 in the East High School Auditorium, 1600 City Park Esplanade, Denver. The event is part of the Toolbox Learning Series sponsored by the Helen and Arthur E. Johnson Depression Center, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. For more information or to RSVP, email DepressionCenterPrograms@ucdenver.edu



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Street Sushi

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

With an intentional vibe reminiscent of small restaurants in rural Japan, Misaki's space at Stanley Marketplace is compact, with an L-shaped dining area that frames the restaurant but has no walls. A large red lantern anchors the corner. Playing off the recycled nature of the Stanley itself, there's a hodge-podge of tables and chairs, including two tables with a bicycle and motorcycle as their bases, which are coveted spots, and often make an appearance in Instagram feeds.

The restaurant, which opened in December 2017, is co-owned by veteran restaurateurs, husband and wife team, Robert and Charlene Thai. They also have a location in Superior and one at the new Broadway Market. Along with four highly-trained sushi chefs, Robert is the primary face of Misaki. Charlene fills in as needed but focuses on providing fish and seafood flown in overnight on direct flights from Japan, Scandinavia and other areas thanks to her day job as General Manager of a seafood



Misaki Sushi owner Robert Thai (left) looks out at his corner restaurant at Stanley Marketplace.

supply company. She also sources more than 200 restaurants around Denver.

Misaki is named after a town in Japan, near Yokohama. It's known as the preeminent location for tuna quality and sales. "Tuna is the most ordered sushi in most sushi restaurants, so for us, it's kind of a spiritual thing," says Charlene. "So we named the restaurant for the tuna harvest and also for its quality. Plus, I've been to Misaki many times and I really have a passion for it."

In addition to the look of the restaurant, the concept for the concise menu hearkens to rural Japanese spots where people gather to enjoy small plates of food and drinks like sake. Due to the size of the restaurant at Misaki, they can't prepare some expected items such as teriyaki. "So to compete, we have some non-standard items," says Charlene. That includes Japanese fried chicken marinated in ginger, soy sauce and other seasonings, plus exotic

seafood such as sea urchin, Toro (Bluefin Fatty Tuna), Spanish Mackerel and Hokkaido Scallops. They also serve traditional items such as sushi rolls and sashimi (raw fish or seafood without rice), and dumplings.

People new to the sushi experience often come in and are unsure what to order. "I ask them about any allergies they may have, then start them on cooked sushi rolls, all really mild, nothing raw," says Charlene. Next time they come in, she suggests more adventurous items, working up to some of the raw items. "Sushi can be really fun so we want to make it fun for everybody," she says.

The Thais and their two sons live in Stapleton and are happy to have a restaurant in their neighborhood. Robert has a talent for remembering everyone's name, even if they've only been in the restaurant once. He and Charlene have gotten to know a lot of people and feel a strong sense of community. "We want it to be like you come to our house because you are not only my guest, you are my friend. That's how we like to run this place."



In the foreground, from left to right: Dylan, Lazarus (1 1/2 years) and Sierra Wilson play Risk with other Game Lounge

Board Game

By Martina Will, Ph.D.

On a Saturday night in February, getting a table at the Game Lounge means you have to arrive early. With a vibe that is a cross between your favorite retro basement hang-out and a family-friendly bar, the place is hopping by 6:30 pm, as people of all ages try to best their companions on board games while enjoying tasty treats and cocktails.

Former stay-at-home dad Adam Alleman opened the Game Lounge in September 2018 because he wanted to create a space where families and friends can gather to play rounds of everything from Scrabble to Settlers of Catan. A full bar and diverse array of menu options also mean that everyone can relax and enjoy a good meal without having to worry

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visitors. Owner Adam Alleman, behind the table, opened Game Lounge to bring people together in a way that video games cannot.

s, Beer, and Bites

about cleaning up.

Alleman sees board games as bringing people together in a way that video games cannot. “The whole point is

to get away from being connected to technology. The less digital the better. We have WIFI—we’re not total Luddites—but we really want to promote community and family, and we have nights dedicated to both.”

Alleman had worked in restaurants and had opened one with a similar concept with a partner, but finds being a solo business owner has its advantages. He admits, however, that financing was a challenge. He launched a crowdfunding campaign in 2018, but confesses that “it didn’t go as well as I’d hoped.”

Though he didn’t raise the revenue he’d wanted, the effort did suggest Alleman’s values and vision for the Game Lounge. Fully 10% of proceeds from the campaign were designated for the Delores Project, a local shelter for “un-accompanied women and transgender individuals.” In this respect, Alleman’s background (he earned an M.A. in Social Work from Metro State) informs his business practices. The Game Lounge seeks to host “dine and donate” events for area schools and nonprofits every Wednesday evening as part of its commitment to the community.

The updated space has a cozy, neighborhood feel, enhanced by music played on vinyl rather than a digital streaming service. He hopes that not only families but also book clubs, scout groups, athletic teams, school groups, and others will use the Game Lounge as a gathering spot for food and fun. The venue can also host private parties, campaign events, team-building activities, and other gatherings, with capacity to seat about 76. Local breweries periodically take over the taps to promote their beverages



Members of the Homlar family play a variety of games at Game Lounge. Scott Homlar and his daughter Sophia are in the top photo. Elizabeth and Louise (5 years) Homlar are in the lower photo. And at left are Olivia (10 years), Joe, Sarah (12 years) and Scott Homlar.

and give away goodies.

The Game Lounge is located at 1490 Eudora Street, just off of East Colfax. The building has, in the past, been occupied by DJ’s Café, Cork House, Tante Louise and, long ago, the Normandy. Alleman added recycled AstroTurf to the patio area, and plans to install a screen to show outdoor films in the summer. The menu changes seasonally, and includes vegetarian options. Staff wear Game Lounge bowling shirts, and the overall feel is relaxed and fun.

“I’m trying to make the world a better place, one board game at a time,” says Alleman. If your nonprofit or school would like to host a Wednesday night fundraiser, go to: <https://www.denvergamelounge.com/contact.php>

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Noah Eubanks, owner of Semper Fi Kennels, works with Karyne Clark's Cairn Terrier and Cane Corso dogs. Eubanks is not a vet, but he provides mobile canine services including nutrition counseling and dog training, as well as boarding in his home and board and train.

The Dog Whisperer



By Martina Will, Ph.D.

Garry “Noah” Eubanks has lived many lives, from U.S. Marine sniper to train conductor to cancer survivor. A persistent theme in his life has been his profound love and affinity for dogs. Today, he devotes himself to training, certifying, breeding, and boarding dogs; as Stapleton mom Karyne Clark observes, however, this description does not fully embody Eubanks’ gift. “He’s a dog whisperer,” Clark says. Working full-time with dogs as he does today is a true calling for Eubanks, but this dream job was decades in the making, the product of multiple hardships, tenacity, and several close calls in the U.S. Marine Corps and in oncologists’ offices.

As a child in Arkansas, his mother one day said that she was

going to do laundry and simply never returned. “She was too young,” he observes, noting that he didn’t see her again until he was in high school. After she left, Eubanks lived with extended family; however, years of abuse caused him to erupt in self-defense as a teen and he landed in juvenile detention. The courts released Eubanks to the custody of the man he now honors with the title of “father.” Though not well-educated, his new father taught him the exacting work of training hunting dogs as well as the veterinary care required to keep canines healthy. “He couldn’t fix my past; he could only help my future,” says Eubanks. Following in his father’s footsteps, Eubanks enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He turned 18 in boot camp, and about two weeks after completing boot camp, was sent to Beirut, Lebanon. What was supposed to be a benign peacekeeping mission turned into the deadliest attack on Marines

since Iwo Jima, as multiple bombings killed hundreds of U.S. Marines and French peacekeepers in 1983. In the USMC, he trained as a sniper, crash crew fireman, and EMT, but he found his vocation in the Military Police, where he was able to work regularly with dogs. Wounded several times over his 8 years in the USMC, multiple surgeries were not the only legacy of his time in uniform; Eubanks admits that if he’d known as a teen what he knows now of the brutality of combat and its lasting impacts on the soul and psyche, he would not have enlisted. “What I went through, I wouldn’t wish on anyone.” After retiring from the USMC, Eubanks accepted a job with the Union Pacific Railroad, which brought him to Denver. He began assessing and certifying dogs for police and sheriff departments as well as for airports, to ensure that patrol dogs and others met their job qualifications. Denver Sheriff Department veteran Charles English met Eubanks through this work and the two developed a friendship. “He has a unique style of training....he does the dogs like they are his children, and just has a tremendous love and passion for dogs and people.” A stomach cancer survivor, Eubanks was stunned when in 2012 his doctor told him he had stage IV colon cancer, encouraging him to put his affairs in order. Surviving this latest diagnosis, though, clarified for Eubanks what he wanted to do with the rest of his life. He decided to pursue his dream of working with dogs full-time, and opened Semper Fi Kennels to train, breed, board, and care for dogs. Eubanks is not a vet but provides mobile veterinary services including vaccines and deworming. Karyne Clark found Eubanks through a Facebook post; she now relies on him for her dogs’ care, reflecting on how “super kind and very gentle” he is with her dogs and how he shares insights on diet and canine dental hygiene. When Clark’s family found a rescue dog they wanted as a guard dog, Eubanks advised against the breed they chose due to her kids’ ages. He recommended a Cane Corso, which he trained to be good with kids but protective when needed. Watching Eubanks firmly but gently command his massive Cane Corso, Harley, with a single word to return to his kennel, it’s clear from the dog’s immediate response that Eubanks is indeed the dog whisperer. To reach Eubanks and Semper Fi Kennels see: <http://semperfidogs.com> or call 303-908-5883.

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“A lot of our co-workers have a previous life in child-care or babysitting or teaching. We really go out of our way to make sure THEY go out of their way to be friendly to people.” For diners looking for a quieter experience, Sullivan says some times and days are better than others like brunch, lunch or a later dinner. “If you come in at 6:30pm, if you don’t want a lot of chaos, that’s probably not the best time for you. We try to accommodate everyone. It’s hard to pull that off all the time but we try.”

Those familiar with Esters in Virginia Village will feel right at home in the Oneida Park location because the spaces look almost exactly alike. Sullivan’s wife, who worked in commercial interior design, worked with an architect/designer friend on both locations. “We tried to recreate everything—the reclaimed wood, walnut tabletops, the paint colors, bar, chairs—everything is as similar as I can make it,” says Sullivan. People who frequent the original location say “You can feel Esters here,” which Sullivan takes as a great compliment.

Sullivan and his wife love the Park Hill neighborhood and feel it’s the perfect place for their second location. “I felt like we had a really good thing going over in that neighborhood and I wanted to get a really good thing going in Park Hill.” When asked if he’s glad he left the beer sales business for the restaurant business, Sullivan responds, “I’m thrilled with what I’m doing. I get to talk to people, be in a neighborhood and part of that community. I always wanted to do this.”

Esters Neighborhood Pub at Oneida opened in late December, the second location for owner Paul Sullivan, who first opened Esters in Virginia Village in 2015. The pub features craft beer and scratch-made foods using local ingredients and vendors whenever possible. At left, Esters’ staff prepares for the day at a morning meeting.



“Family Friendly, Not Fancy, and Really Good”

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Paul Sullivan spent years selling craft beer to liquor stores, bars, and restaurants in the Denver area. Although he enjoyed it, he always wanted to do his own thing. “I noticed an opportunity in the neighborhood I live in because there were a lot of young families like mine,” says the father of daughters ages 3 and 8. “There wasn’t a place that was family-friendly, that wasn’t fancy and was also really good. I saw the opportunity to open a nice neighborhood family place—the kind of place I’d want to go to with my wife and my kids.” So Sullivan and his wife, Emily Brown, opened Esters Neighborhood Pub in their Virginia Village neighborhood in 2015. Successful and with a loyal following, the couple opened their second location in the Oneida Park retail area in Park Hill in late December 2018, dubbing it Esters Neighborhood Pub at Oneida.

The original concept for Esters was simple: pizza and craft beer. “My two favorite things,” says Sullivan. “It’s not an original concept, by any means, but I love it.” But then Sullivan met Robby Hyre, whom he hired as Executive Chef for both locations. Sullivan handed over his vision for the menu and Hyre made it happen, creating all of the recipes. The scratch-made menu includes appetizers, sandwiches, salads, and desserts. Options change with the season and Hyre utilizes local ingredients and vendors whenever possible.

On any given day, at either location, Sullivan says he’ll see a group of men in their ‘80’s talking over coffee or beers, next to a group of college students watching the game, near a group of parents with their kids. “We want to create a friendly, warm atmosphere,” says Sullivan and that includes making sure everyone feels welcome. Keenly aware of how uncomfortable it can be to go out to eat with kids, Sullivan makes sure his staff is ready and willing to handle any situation.



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East High Senior Named National YoungArts Winner for Songwriting

ance and mentorship to help them achieve their artistic goals, including opportunities to perform at prestigious venues all over the world. So far, Downey has been invited to participate in a performance at the Sydney Opera House in Australia. She said there may be more opportunities as the year progresses.

In March she'll attend a YoungArts workshop in Los Angeles, where she'll be coached by successful mentors in the music industry. "I'll meet a network of musicians and songwriters, which is really helpful. Also it will be super cool to meet other kids who are doing what I do," Downey said.

"The YoungArts award will help me move forward with songwriting. It helps me to be taken seriously, especially as a teenager and a female."

Downey has been singing since age 5, but she found her songwriting bug in sixth grade at McAuliffe Middle School. "I got to work with a songwriting mentor, and I got super interested; I wrote and recorded two songs."

Downey has written "hundreds of songs" in the years since then. "My coaches have advised me to write as many as I can, to get practice at it.

I write all the time."

Her songs can be heard on YouTube videos with her two sisters—Ella, 14, and Meg, 11—singing harmonies. "We started singing in choirs when we were little, so we hear the harmonies," she said.

Downey's songs can also be heard on Apple Music, Spotify and Pandora, as well as through her Instagram page, @catedowneymusic. Her new video, to be released soon, was shot in Stapleton at Westerly Creek, Westerly Creek Elementary and Bluff Lake.

Most of her songs are classified in the pop genre but Downey experiments in jazz and indie styles. "My writing changes with who I work with and my environment."

She has been accepted to Belmont University in Nashville for their songwriting program. "I like that they offer an internship in the music industry during school," she said. "Maybe I'll write more country style in Nashville."

Her goal is to write songs for other performers. "I like performing but I see myself as a songwriter for a publishing company. The publishing company works with the record company to match songs with artists. Most of what you hear on the radio is written by a team of songwriters, so I'll do more co-writing and collaboration. I've mostly written songs on my own but two minds are better than one."

At a CU Denver summer songwriting program for high school musicians, Cate Downey records a song in their studio.
—Photo courtesy of Cate Downey

By Laurie Dunklee
"Writing a song is like putting together a puzzle," says 17-year-old Stapleton resident Cate Downey. "As soon as I have a melody in mind, I find lyrics to fit until there's a song. I love when the song is finished. Recording it with other singers and instruments is so satisfying."

The East High senior was named a 2019 Merit Winner in Songwriting by the National YoungArts Foundation in January. The Foundation selects promising young artists from a pool of applicants from 44 states. Winners receive guid-

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May 7

What You'll See on the Denver Ballot

Check our event list and online calendar for opportunities to meet candidates. Go to www.frontporchne.com > Events > Upcoming Events > search Civic Events and Politics categories.

Mayor

We asked four candidates to submit their positions on the issues listed at right. Other candidates include:

- Stephen E. Evans: www.committeetoelectseku.com
- Marcus Giavanni: www.mayor2019.com
- Kalyn Rose Heffernan: www.kalyn4mayor.com
- Leatha Scott
- Kenneth Raymond Simpson

Initiatives

Just as with the Fall 2018 ballot questions, the *Front Porch* will print information about the May 2019 ballot initiatives. Learn about these initiatives* in our April issue:

- Denver Airport Minimum Wage Initiative
 - Denver Internet Initiative
 - Denver Right to Survive Initiative
 - Psilocybin Initiative
 - Let Denver Vote Initiative
- (*Final initiatives on ballot not yet confirmed.)

Auditor and Clerk

NE Denver City Council Districts 5, 8 and At-Large

The *Front Porch* will request brief statements from candidates for the above offices to be printed in our April issue and/or on our website.

MAYORAL CANDIDATES

GROWTH

How do you view Denver's growth? What current city policies on growth and development do you disagree with? What policies would you want to implement?

Incumbent: What have you done and what will you do in the future on each of the issues?

HOUSING

Denver's rising cost of housing is pushing those without high-paying jobs out of the city. What would you do that's not being done now to keep middle-income people in the city? How would you improve the affordable housing program?

TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES

What are the most important transportation issues now and what ideas and policies—that are different from what you see happening now—would you pursue to address current and future transportation issues as the city grows?

CRIME AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

What are the most important issues you see in the city's criminal justice system and what approaches and policies—that are different from what you see happening now—would you pursue to address these issues?

ONE MORE ISSUE

What one other issue is as important (or more important) to you as those listed above and what would you do about it that's not currently being done?



NAME: Lisa Calderón
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EMAIL: info@lisa4denvermayor.org

GROWTH: Denver's growth and prosperity works for some, but not for enough of us. If we continue down the path we've been on for the past eight years, many of Denver's working people and families will continue to be left behind. I know we can take a different path. Development must become more resident- and community-driven, and I will do this through shared power and accountability with residents and workers in the policy decisions that most affect them.

HOUSING: We need housing options that are affordable, attainable, and meet the needs of more people. This will require a fundamental restructuring of the city's engagement in housing, including a housing department administered by experts with deep experience; a fully supported and transparent affordable housing fund; more "missing middle" development; and the use of participant-public-private partnership initiatives. I will negotiate with developers for affordable housing requirements at the front end, and implement continued monitoring to ensure compliance with these commitments.

TRANSPORTATION: I will prioritize multimodal and environmentally responsible transportation planning. This will include improved public transit, upgrading technology to synchronize traffic lights with real-time adjustments to reduce congestion, and enforcing permitting requirements for construction sites to maintain walkways for pedestrians to improve safety. I will collaborate with municipal and state leaders to build regional support for an infrastructure plan that includes an increased and shared tax plan and socially responsible bonding.

CRIME AND JUSTICE SYSTEM: Addressing the underlying causes of crime (e.g., affordable housing, reducing barriers to employment) and shifting resources from punishment for non-violent drug offenses to treatment and services will reduce recidivism and incarceration costs. I will appoint an experienced, diverse leadership team invested in the co-production of public safety, where community members partner with law enforcement to develop holistic approaches for improved safety outcomes.

OTHER: I will advance policies that promote parity for women in the workplace: equal wages, opportunities, and protections against discrimination and sexual harassment in city government.

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NAME: Jamie Giellis
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GROWTH: The City has valued fast growth over smart growth. We have let growth define our city. I will review Denver's zoning and design requirements, and promise smarter planning that values appropriate use of density, protecting neighborhoods, and integration of transit, green space and attainable housing.

HOUSING: We must end the attainable housing crisis in a generation. I will move housing oversight to a cabinet-level position in the mayor's office, work with affordable housing developers of all types, and find ways to lift cost burdens, including permitting times/fees. I will advocate for more LIHTC tax credits, and will work with builders to identify innovations in homebuilding that can lower costs and expedite delivery.

TRANSPORTATION: Denver was built on a streetcar network that once connected our neighborhoods – that should guide our future. Transit must serve neighborhoods and be tied to appropriate high density areas. The most critical step is to find funding to build transit, and do it in a way that doesn't further burden taxpayers. I'm committed to funding that incentivizes transit use over car use, and to creating an affordable intra-city transit network.

CRIME AND JUSTICE SYSTEM: It starts with acknowledging institutionalized racism in our justice and other governmental systems. I will bring back community policing, and add appropriately to the police force. I will work with our DA Beth McCann, our police and our schools and other organizations to do early intervention for at-risk youth, including mentorship, education and job training and apprenticeships to break the pipeline-to-prison for our youth of color. I will focus on diverting people from jail who really need other services such as mental health support.

OTHER: It's time to reprioritize our commitment to our environment - to parks, to the South Platte River, to greening the environment throughout the city. It's a critical moment for us to act boldly to address climate change and implement sustainability strategies, which we have been falling behind in meeting.



NAME: Michael B. Hancock, incumbent
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GROWTH: Denver has grown quickly, and we have moved swiftly to ensure growth is sustainable, responsible and affordable by focusing on managing transportation, development and housing. We are guiding Denver's growth to preserve our neighborhoods and create a more inclusive, connected and healthy city for everyone. We should be proud of having the most vibrant economy in the country.

HOUSING: My administration launched the city's first affordable housing fund – by creating a fee on new development – and then we doubled it! Today, we're investing more into affordable housing than the state of Colorado. We've worked to improve our economy for everyone by bringing more than 100,000 jobs to Denver during my administration, developing targeted job training programs, and we're now working toward a \$15 minimum wage.

TRANSPORTATION: To keep Denver accessible, affordable and equitable, residents must be able to get around the city easier with more transportation options. I launched a Mobility Action Plan that invests \$2+ billion to address Denver's congestion and accelerate projects, policies and programs to move more people more efficiently and more safely.

CRIME AND JUSTICE SYSTEM: Denver is one of America's safest big cities. We transformed the safety departments and focused on criminal justice reform that prioritizes addressing systemic economic disadvantages that disproportionately impact communities of color. We must increase diversion and recidivism programs, help those struggling with addiction and mental health issues, and prevent crime by ensuring individuals receive access to good jobs, reliable housing and accessible education.

OTHER: I grew up poor in Denver, without a steady home. I know firsthand how important it is to provide stability to our most vulnerable residents. Homelessness is a multi-faceted issue that we must address with compassion and effective policies that can get to the root cause for every individual. We have placed 7,500 people into safe and consistent housing, are expanding Denver Day Works and connecting individuals to resources for financial assistance, drug treatment and mental health care.



NAME: Penfield Tate
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GROWTH: I am not anti-growth, and I know that Denver is going to continue to grow. However, over the past 8 years Denver has not managed, planned, or directed growth in a way that benefits residents. As mayor, I will ensure that any future growth in our city is undertaken with benefit to working people and our environment as the lenses through which it is planned, directed, and managed.

HOUSING: We need to modify existing affordable housing programs so that more people in Denver are able to qualify. We also need to explore new, creative solutions including remodeling closed schools, approving tiny homes, and requiring and enforcing affordable housing requirements in all new developments.

TRANSPORTATION: We have grown exponentially in Denver without a real transit plan. We cannot widen or build more roads, so we need to be creative in our solutions. I will create a Department of Transportation to focus on Denver's mobility needs, relying on technology and innovation.

CRIME AND JUSTICE SYSTEM: We are arresting and incarcerating far too many people in this city. Jail should not always be the first option. We need sentencing reform in our city. We also need to train law enforcement to better determine that we are not needlessly arresting people. I will also work with the city attorney and the district attorney to aggressively evaluate commuting sentences to time served and/or community corrections.

OTHER: I am committed to making Denver a national leader in combating climate change. I will implement a bold climate plan that incentivizes electric vehicles, accelerates our transition to renewable energy, and makes Denver carbon neutral by 2030. We can and will lead the nation on renewable energy while creating living wage jobs in the industry to benefit the working people of Denver.

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