

Front Porch

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Hats Off to NHS

Northfield seniors Myra Luu, Devion Hinton, Xyla Ontiveros and Ellie Clifford aim high as they look ahead to graduation. They share some of their experiences and advice for Northfield's larger-than-ever incoming freshman class.

By Martina Will, Ph.D.

When Northfield High School opened its doors in 2015, no teams or clubs were in place for freshmen to join—they were the ones who would create them. A number of boundary families looked to East and George Washington instead, feeling

a small new school could not offer the academic rigor or varsity sports they sought. Less than half of the school's boundary students made it their first choice. Today, however, NHS has the longest waitlist of all DPS high schools. *Story on page 10.*

Ethnic celebrations, food and retail under one roof

Mango House — Where You Can Find it All



Left: Dancers celebrate the Nepali New Year at an April 13 festival at Mango House.

What started in 2012 primarily as a medical practice for resettled refugees has grown into an ethnic marketplace at 10180 E. Colfax Ave. A six-stall food court is now open, operated by refugees cooking foods from Burma, Sudan, Syria, Nepal and Somalia.

Story on page 30.

Our neighbor, the ICE Processing Center: Is it detention or prison?



Photo by Drew Perine, Tacoma News Tribune

Seeking asylum is not a crime, but detainees are held in prison-like pods that serve as living room, dining room and bedroom while awaiting their court hearing. This photo shows a GEO ICE Processing Center in Tacoma, Washington that is very similar to the one in Aurora just east of Stapleton. *Story by Martina Will, PhD on page 8.*



It's spring in Colorado. It lasts a couple of days then, bang, it's another snow storm or the temperture spikes to 90 degrees. Enjoy it while you can.

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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

The explanation of Ballot Initiative 300 in the April issue incorrectly said Together Colorado opposes Initiative 300. Together Colorado, in fact, had not taken a position on Initiative 300.

Is the Front Porch arriving on your front porch regularly?

If you're not getting it every month, if it's wet, if it's on the sidewalk, or if it's in the grass and landscaping, we'd like to know. Our contract is to have papers delivered to your front door. Email Carol@FrontPorchNE.com.

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.

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.



Summer Event Registration Opens

Wednesday, May 1, stapletoncommunity.com
Summer is just around the corner and with it we welcome another amazing lineup of community events and programming. Beginning May 1, individuals will be able to purchase tickets or register for all our summer events including the Stapleton Beer Festival 10th Anniversary and the 2019 Stapleton Kid's Triathlon. To view a complete list of summer events, and to purchase tickets or register, visit stapletoncommunity.com.

Active Minds Seminar – Tobacco

Thursday, May 9, 1pm, Sam Gary Library
The global tobacco market exceeds half a trillion dollars annually. Join Active Minds as we tell the story of tobacco, from its roots to its leaves. We will cover tobacco's initial origins, the role it has played in history as a plantation crop, and its rise and fall in the United States. As part of that, we'll discuss how tobacco's adverse health effects impacted society, consumption and created one of the largest legal settlements in history. We will end with a brief discussion of e-cigarettes and vaping.

Stapleton Community Garage Sale

Saturday & Sunday, May 18–19, 8am–12pm
The 14th Annual Stapleton Community Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, May 18 and Sunday, May 19, from 8am to noon. These times are merely a suggestion and individual participants are welcome to begin or end their garage sales earlier or later than what is suggested. Participants can decide whether they plan on having their sale on Saturday, Sunday, or both days. Registration is currently open, visit stapletoncommunity.com for more information.

Active Minds Seminar – Renewable Energy

Thursday, May 23, 6:30pm, Sam Gary Library
Energy from renewable sources (solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, etc.) is an important part of the future of energy in the United States and the world. The issues involved are complex. Join Active Minds as we survey the current state of renewable energy and look at the various forces that will influence how these resources may evolve in the future.

Sweet William Market

Saturday, May 25, 9am–2pm, Founders' Green
The Sweet William Market is a vintage and lifestyle market offering a refreshing

alternative for shoppers who are on the hunt for uncommon treasures, crafts, and one-of-a-kind finds. Each market is an event reflecting the unique, eclectic, and urban character of the Stapleton neighborhood. We host a top-notch variety of artisans, collectors, musicians, non-profit organizations, and food vendors.

Denver Arts Festival

Saturday & Sunday, May 25–26, 10am–6pm, Conservatory Green

The Denver Arts Festival is a fine arts and crafts festival that continues to be dedicated to showcasing Colorado artists as well as a premium selection of national artists. The Denver Arts Festival is proud to hold its annual premier event every Memorial Day weekend at Stapleton's Conservatory Green. Over 50,000 people attend the festival yearly. For more information visit denverartsfestival.com.

Stapleton Pools Open


Saturday, May 25, 12pm, All six pools
Welcome back to summer! All six Stapleton pools are scheduled to open for our 2019 season on Saturday, May 25 at noon. On Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, DJs will be featured at each of the pools from 12pm–4pm. Please be sure to locate your resident membership cards prior to opening weekend as each resident will be required to show membership cards upon entry to avoid paying the daily admission fee. Please note that renewing or obtaining new resident membership cards will not be permitted on Memorial Day and may not be permitted on Saturday or Sunday due to the high volume of patrons visiting our facilities. To avoid any delay accessing our pools, we strongly recommend that all residents obtain their resident membership cards by visiting The Cube (8371 E Northfield Blvd.) prior to opening weekend.

Adult Swim Conditioning & Lap Swim Upgrade

Our instructor-led adult programs offer two areas of concentration including Masters Swim and Tri-Training. Individuals who wish to swim laps without a structured program may purchase a drop-in lap swim upgrade. For more information and to register, visit stapletoncommunity.com.

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

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

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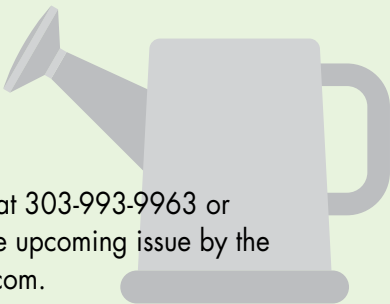
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Delivered free every month—more than 28,000 *Front Porch* newspapers are distributed in the Northeast Denver neighborhoods of Stapleton — Park Hill — Lowry — Mayfair — Montclair — East Colfax — NW Aurora.

To advertise, contact Karissa McGlynn at 303-993-9963 or KarissaMcGlynn@gmail.com. Submit ads for the upcoming issue by the 15th of the month. Or visit us at FrontPorchNE.com.





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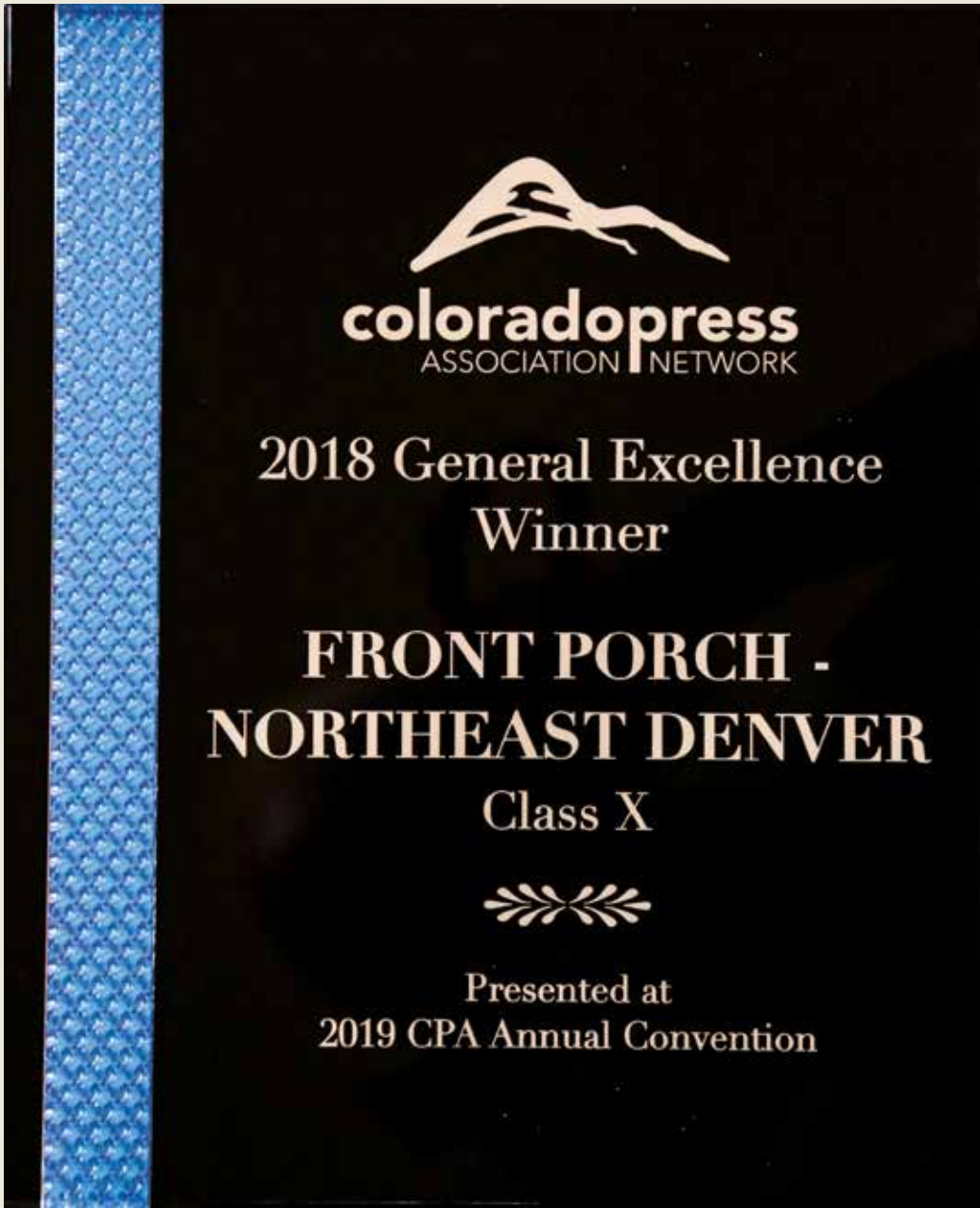
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Northeast Denver has an award-winning community newspaper because local businesses support it. While the world of print journalism changes around us, our advertisers are seeing that readers still like having an old-fashioned print version of neighborhood news—and those readers are patronizing the businesses that are making the *Front Porch* possible. We feel honored to be in a community where readers and advertisers are supporting local journalism. It’s a healthy collaboration and we’ll do our best to keep it going. Thank you.

Newspapers are traditionally divided between the business side and the news side. The business side, unnoticed by readers, does the work that creates space for the stories. We have been exceptionally lucky to have three hardworking, efficient and collaborative team members who have quietly worked together for over ten years on the business side of the *Front Porch*. Karissa McGlynn has single-handedly generated the ad contracts that are the sole source of revenue for the paper. Christie Gosch brings us the graphics and organizational skills that ensure every ad gets the same level of attention as our photos and stories. Sharon Young brings us and our advertisers the peace of mind that comes with having our books in exemplary order. This acknowledgment doesn’t come close to expressing our appreciation for the work of these three who have, for so long, been the heart of the *Front Porch* business.

While our business team has remained stable, we’ve been privileged to have a variety of writers who, through their skills and insights, have shown us how the big city, state and national issues (education, criminal justice, guns, sustainability, racism, health, to name a few) play out in our own microcosm of the world. Among monthly papers, the *Front Porch* was named “Editorial Sweepstakes Winner.” Our writers during this past year were: Melinda Pearson, Laurie Dunklee, Martina Will, John Fernandez, Todd Engdahl, Courtney Drake-McDonough, Anne Hebert, Charlie Borsos and Carol Roberts. In addition, we got the “Photo and Design Sweepstakes” award based on photography by Steve Larson and design by Steve Larson and Carol Roberts.

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Left: Rep. Diana DeGette at the GEO facility in June 2018, where she met with individuals who had been separated from their children.
Right: Rep. Jason Crow and Aurora City Councilwoman Allison Hiltz talk to a supervisor at the GEO-run ICE processing center on Feb. 20, 2019. They were turned away on that unscheduled visit but later got an official tour.



for their lives. Instead of offering them a safe haven we are detaining them in a private prison, a prison that has seven different quarantines active right now,” Lunn told the *Front Porch* in March.

Publicly Funded but Not Publicly Accountable

This facility was the first of its kind for GEO, the harbinger of a national trend towards privatizing prisons and detention centers. It helped lay the groundwork for GEO to become the nation’s second largest private correctional corporation, with total revenue of \$2.26 billion, according to its 2017 annual report.

Taxpayer dollars fund GEO, but transparency and accountability to taxpayers and elected officials are virtually nonexistent. Rep. Jason Crow (CO-06) was turned away on Feb. 20 when he arrived for a surprise visit after hearing multiple reports of poor living conditions. Crow immediately followed up with letters to then-Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen inquiring about medical and other concerns, and requested that ICE share with him a copy of its contract with GEO. In mid-April, he reported that he still had not received a response from either Homeland Security or ICE.

“The fact that they are sitting on a contract that they could easily send us...begs the question: What are they hiding? The information should be readily available.... You have a member of Congress representing a district with a large detention center and Congress appropriates funds for that facility. And this agency [ICE] is unwilling to share a copy of the contract. It is very troubling,” Crow says.

Crow did get an official tour a few weeks after being turned away, but says he was unable to speak with individuals being held there without staff looking on. Activists assert that inmates are pressured not to talk with outsiders about living conditions. Several individuals shared with visitors off-the-record that they were told by guards that their legal cases would be negatively impacted if they

The Immigrant Detention Center Next Door:
Who are they accountable to?

spoke with the media or complained about conditions.

Carl Rusnock, Dallas-based ICE spokesperson for the Central Region, however, says “There is no retaliation. We detain people to remove them,” and adds that detention can go on for months or years due to “aliens who constantly appeal their orders of removal.”

Crow shares a different view: “We have a private corporation that is making a profit off of a federal contract and detaining immigrants. You walk into this place and it’s like walking into a prison. The vast majority of the people detained at Aurora are asylum-seekers, fleeing violence and terrible human rights conditions...and seeking better lives for themselves and their families. They are locked up in what is essentially a private prison. Why do we have an immigration system that imprisons these people?”

Although the GEO facility sits outside of her district, Rep. Diana DeGette (CO-01) “unequivocally opposes” private prisons,

By Martina Will, Ph.D.

A mere mile and a half from Isabella Bird Community School, a school established with a mission to educate “newcomer” refugee and immigrant children, sits a monolith identified as “The GEO Group.” The private facility received its contract under a competitive bid process in December 1986 for approximately 150 detainees. Today, its capacity is 1,500 and its 1,322 residents are as diverse as the United Nations.

“The population consists primarily of recent arrivals seeking asylum,” says Laura Lunn, Managing Attorney for the Rocky Mountain Immigration Advocacy Network (RMIAN). “This means that the majority of people in custody have zero criminal history and have endured horrific past abuses and fear



Rep. Jason Crow and Aurora City Councilwoman Allison Hiltz talk to me-

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The *Front Porch* was unable to get inside the ICE Processing Center in Aurora but got permission to use this photo of a similar GEO-run facility in Tacoma, Washington. Immigrant detainees and asylum seekers live in these pods for months or even years. Photo by Drew Perine, Tacoma News Tribune

pods, with caging on top, where people can play handball.”

ICE spokesperson Rusnock and Denver-based ICE Public Affairs Officer Alethea Smock told the *Front Porch* that all inmates have access to the outdoors.

Criminals Get Counsel, Asylum Seekers Don't

Though some detainees have family or supporters who have raised funds to provide them with legal help, RMIAN is the only nonprofit providing legal services to those confined here. Lunn estimates that less than 10% of the population had access to counsel before the facility increased its numbers by about 40% in early 2019. This means that well over 90% of those housed at GEO navigate a complex and confusing legal system without guidance, with limited access to law books, limited English skills, and under circumstances that would be trying to anyone.

In the criminal context, most people arrested by the police are eligible to be released on bond or bail prior to trial. The same is not true in the immigration context. As a result, an individual might spend years fighting their civil immigration case while in detention. “Immigration law is administrative law, so overstaying a visa is similar in scope to getting a traffic ticket, but the repercussions are very different,” states Lunn.

Lunn would like to see an end to civil detention of those seeking asylum or otherwise hoping to appeal an immigration decision. Barring that, she says “the best stopgap is to provide people with attorneys and be able to pay attorneys for that work like we have public defenders in the civil context. If you are treating detained people as criminals, it makes sense to afford them counsel to (continued on page 29)

saying that “it’s a core duty of a democracy to make government make sure that their prisons are being run in an equitable and safe way.” She does not hesitate to equate the GEO site with a prison, saying “it absolutely has a prison atmosphere.” Crow and DeGette urge constituents concerned about ICE and GEO, to reach out to their offices.*

Prison-like Living Conditions

The facility on Oakland St. between Havana and Peoria houses men and women 18 and over in separate wings. People live in pods of approximately 80-100 during the months they are “detained.” Each pod includes cells with beds, bathrooms, and a day room with board

games, TVs for communal viewing, and dining tables. Elizabeth Jordan, Director of the Immigration Detention Accountability Project, understands from her clients that most people share a cell with 1-3 other individuals. They report being locked in their cells several times a day for head count as well as at night after lights out. Even meals and medications are brought in, so people have little opportunity to leave the pods except to see a visitor.

Visitors leave their belongings in lockers and pass through a metal detector before being escorted into a narrow visitation room. This author would describe it as looking like what one sees in prison films: thick

smudged glass partitions, dirty phone handsets that may or may not work, and uncomfortable metal stools on both sides.

Physical contact is not permitted.

Though the 2011 *Operations Manual ICE Performance-Based National Detention Standards* governing the facility recommends “at least one hour daily of physical exercise outside the living area, and outdoors when practicable,” some detainees have reported to attorneys and visitors little or no access to the outdoors. Based on her conversations with clients, Jordan says “The outside area is an entirely concrete alleyway between two adjacent



Attorney Laura Lunn, shown with a Guatemalan client released on bond, does not believe asylum seekers should be held in detention facilities.



dia after their Feb. 20 attempt to visit the GEO-run detention facility.

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Allison Trimble (left) and Lori Pace catch a windy April day when they meet to talk about their GEMS and Soulfully Stapleton brunch on Mother's Day at Punch Bowl Social.

Celebrate Mother's Day with NE Neighbors

By Martina Will, Ph.D.

Are you a busy mom feeling alone dealing with your job commitments, community groups, kids' needs, and household drudgery? Or are you a family of color or blended family wishing to connect with families like yours? NE Denver has two Facebook groups where you can connect with like-minded neighbors.

GEMS (Gainfully Earning Moms) provides "a forum that can serve as a sounding board for the issues working moms face," says founder Lori Pace. Soulfully Stapleton, also founded by Pace, helps connect families of color and blended families in NE Denver. Both are open Facebook groups; simply search by group name to join.

GEMS and Soulfully are sponsoring an open-to-the-public Mother's Day Brunch on May 12 at Punch Bowl Social (3120 Uinta St.) to bring the community together. Attendees will have the opportunity to donate to a fund to help a family that will be purchasing a home in the affordable homes program this spring. A kids' buffet will be available for \$10/per child and adults will order from the menu, which

will include special items for Mother's Day including a Bloody Mary bar and "mom-mosas." GEMS and Soulfully will host free kids' activities and crafts, gifts for moms, door prizes and family photos. Reservations are strongly encouraged; go to www.opentable.com or www.bit.ly/punchbowl2019 to secure a table. This year's second annual event will take place from 11am – 2pm.

GEMS hosts conversations among about 500 moms from around NE Denver and Soulfully includes almost 100 families. With a background in urban planning, Pace understands that community is about more than houses. In her work as a realtor, she helps families leverage their home equity. Equity is especially important for families of color, who often face a profound racial wealth gap as a result of decades of discriminatory policies and practices. "It's a social responsibility to keep our neighborhoods diverse." She feels strongly about giving back to the community where she and her husband are raising two daughters. "We all have these great resources. Everybody wants that for their kids."

For more information contact Lori Pace at Lori@kentwood.com.

By Martina Will, Ph.D.

The first class of 194 freshmen, in a city known for its large, historic high schools, were reminded daily of how small they were as they moved through a facility built for 1,000 students. Graduating senior Xyla Ontiveros says, "I remember when it was just us. The hallways were so empty! 'No one's out here' we thought at the time....Now, everyone's in the hallways, and there's so much commotion."



Devion Hinton

But small was the reason some chose Northfield. "I went to a tiny school [Bill Roberts] and I wasn't quite ready to go from a really small school to a really large school like East," recalls Ellie Clifford, who says she grew socially and academically as the school did. "It ended up that this was perfect for me." Myra Luu's parents sold her on the idea of NHS, saying, "It would be a great opportunity to start somewhere fresh, instead of someplace where the culture was already set."

Fast forward four years as that first class is preparing to graduate. With a fall 2019 freshman class of about 315 and a total projected population of 980, NHS is establishing its place among the city's high schools. Not only does it have the longest waitlist of any DPS high school, the district has committed to the construction of a new classroom building. Slated to open in fall 2020, this space will add about 900-1,000 seats to NHS.

As they anticipate their May graduation, four seniors sat down with the *Front Porch* to reflect on the school's first four years. Though longtime residents have seen every fledgling school endure some growing pains, Northfield had an especially rocky start. Its first principal

Northfield

left within a few months of the school's opening due to his mis-handling of student discipline. Even before that, a number of families had changed their first-round choice of Northfield to other schools due to philosophical differences with that principal. But since then, Principal Amy Bringedahl has steered a course for NHS that has made it one of the most sought-after DPS high schools this year, and each of the seniors we spoke with expressed their gratitude for her leadership.

The students speak fondly of many of the teachers and staff who have shaped their high school experience—and it's clear that NHS's strengths go well beyond academics.

In fact, they speak first to the support and guidance they received outside the confines of classes. Jamie Doak, the school-based therapist, receives high marks all around. Of IB Coordinator Peter Wright, Clifford says: "He genuinely cares about us...he's seen us grow and he has grown with us." Ontiveros echoes this sentiment: "He literally takes us in like his own children and really wants us to succeed."

Devion Hinton recalls Micah Porter, the school's former athletic director, and credits him and Engagement Specialist Ezekiel Oc-ansey with helping him to stay focused and on track: "When I got knocked down, they



Xyla Ontiveros

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HS Graduates Its First Class

were the first two people who helped me up; they encouraged me to get through a lot of stuff with school and family.” “He’s amazing,” agrees Ontiveros of Ocansey. In retrospect, they even appreciate how tough their Language Arts teachers—Johanna Zablocki and Julie Catalini—were on them. They recognize now that their teachers’ rigor stems from their commitment to students’ academic success.

That success looks different for each of the seniors, who share their respective post-graduation plans. Luu is one of only ten freshmen accepted into CU Denver’s 6-year BA/BS-MD program. Hinton plans to attend Metro State and hopes to work in sports medicine. Ontiveros is going to take flying lessons this summer, so she can work toward her dream of becoming a commercial pilot after completing a degree at Metro State. Clifford is entering a program in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology at the University of Colorado, Boulder after a trip to Europe this summer. She’s already taken advantage of local college classes as part of her high school education, attending regular lectures at Anschutz in her field of interest. Fully 83% of graduating seniors plan to continue their education, having applied to college and/or technical-vocational schools.

These students represent the diversity that was built into the school’s mission. In addition to being the boundary school for Stapleton and a portion of Park Hill, at least 35% of seats each year are set aside for students living in the Far Northeast

Denver zone. The Class of 2019 is 36% Hispanic, 33% White, 23% Black, 4% Asian and 4% multiple races, with almost 47% Free and Reduced Lunch eligible. These seniors represent elementary and middle schools from both the Stapleton and Far Northeast zones: Clifford and Hinton came from Bill Roberts. Ontiveros came from Farrell B. Howell in Montbello, and Luu attended Omar D. Blair in Green Valley Ranch.

Northfield’s International Baccalaureate (IB) program has been a draw for some, while other students appreciate its

Career-Connect courses, which offer career-related and college credit courses. Clifford and Luu opted for the IB diploma, while Ontiveros and Hinton chose the more traditional degree path. All participated in sports, from swimming to basketball and football—and most participated in multiple school clubs and activities, which they helped organize. “Especially being the first graduating class, it was hard. We

started off as a Council without any experience or guidance,” says Luu of her time on Student Council. “Each year we look for ways to grow and become better, getting advice...we try our best.”

The graduating seniors are eager to dispel the notion they’ve heard from area high schools that their new athletic programs are “weak” and believe that this year, in particular, they have demonstrated that NHS athletes are to be taken seriously. They brag about the school’s strong basketball, cross-country, and volleyball teams.



Ellie Clifford

The four share some advice with Northfield’s incoming freshman class. “Build good relationships with your teachers and make sure you work on your time management,” says Hinton. “Keep your mind open! With a new school there will be changes, but there’s nothing that’s ever set in place. Be better and grow better,” recommends Luu. Ontiveros shares that being open-minded is key to success in high school. Having lived through the school’s growing pains, Clifford advises incoming students: “Fight for the classes that you want. Stand up for yourself.”



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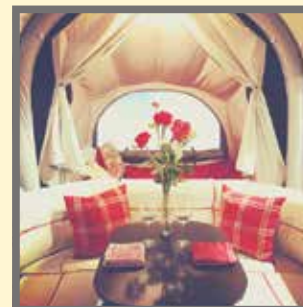


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By Sara Blanchard

At age nine, Luis Duarte, who grew up in the city of Chihuahua, Mexico, joined some of his soccer friends and classmates to volunteer in a rural community a few hours from his home. When he got there, he found homes built of cardboard, mud, and wood—and people who were both wise and humble. The first night, a woman invited them for dinner in her small home where 12 people lived. She served them a chicken. When the oldest daughter left the room crying, the woman explained, “This was the chicken that lays eggs for us throughout the year, but because you’re here to help all of us, we would like to offer this meal to you.”

As a nine-year-old, Duarte may not have truly understood the degree of their sacrifice, but something in that moment deeply affected him. He continued volunteering with that same organization for 13 years, visiting for two weeks to four months at a time, doing whatever he could to help.

“That really marked me,” Duarte says. “Because (after volunteering in the community) you go back home and you have all these things, and you ask why? Why am I not the child who was born in that home; why am I here?”

As it turned out, that experience set the path Duarte has chosen for his life’s work—how to increase opportunities for all. Now a neighbor living in Stapleton, Duarte is working to address that exact problem in the U.S. and in Chile, because many people continue to lack opportunities to change their status quo. Just in

A Life Dedicated to Social Impact

the U.S. alone, over 39.6 million people, including 12.8 million children, are living in poverty—which, in 2017, was defined as \$25,094/yr for a family of four. (Source: <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2018/demo/p60-263.html>).

Approaching Philanthropy Like an Entrepreneur

Entrepreneurial principles and leveling the playing field may seem mutually exclusive, but Duarte found the common thread when, at age 19, he took a mandatory entrepreneurship class in college. For a class assignment, he wrote a business plan to create jobs in the rural communities where he was working—and the plan won him a scholarship to Tulane that allowed him to implement the program. From that successful start, he went on to work for corporations and government, then built his own businesses following entrepreneurial principles to establish programs that help level the playing field in communities where residents had few opportunities.

Duarte’s current focus is to support and create resilient, thriving communities in both Colorado and Chile. His understanding of how to use business principles in investments and philanthropy led him to his current position as President of the ZOMA



Luis Duarte and his wife Vanessa Huerta, with their sons Luis Jr. (age 8) and Mauricio (age 6), look at a photo of Luis (white t-shirt) and his childhood friends as they're doing volunteer work.

Foundation and Chief Philanthropy Officer at ZOMALAB, the family office of Ben and Lucy Ana Walton. In his prior work to support low-income families, he was Investment Director for Gary Community Investments (Sam Gary’s family office).

Finding/Filling Gaps in Communities

Duarte’s role focuses on finding and filling gaps—identifying

communities where social impact programs are needed but have not yet been established. Areas of focus include community economic development and specific areas within early childhood development including the prevention of abuse and neglect, supporting maternal mental health, and other parental supports.

To support universal screening for maternal mental health, for example, ZOMA Foundation in ear-

ly 2018 invested \$1.2 million into a digital mental health platform. This evidence-based program headquartered in Denver, myStrength, uses proprietary machine-learning technology to offer interactive programs to individuals, in-the-moment coping tools, inspirational resources, and community support—all online. While myStrength is not a healthcare provider and does not provide medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment, it has proven to be



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very effective in improving mental health. Studies show clinically depressed users of the program created to address depression have, on average, a 43% reduction in symptoms within two weeks of using myStrength. Seventy-four percent of returning users experiencing depression show an improvement in depression scores. For a fraction of the cost, these outcomes are 83% as effective as person-to-person therapy for depression.*

However, myStrength did not have a program set up specifically for maternal mental health services, so ZOMA provided myStrength with the resources, content, and experts who would help create it.

Just last month, the platform was acquired by Livongo Health, a company that empowers people with chronic conditions to live better and healthier lives. The digital maternal mental health module is now part of the regional health plan, which has the potential to reach more than 70 million patients. The investment that ZOMA Foundation made was repaid through the acquisition, and ZOMA now has those funds to re-invest elsewhere.

Personal Guiding Principles

Among Duarte’s personal philosophies is, first and foremost, asking elders for advice. He believes they’d tell all of us to have more fun, work hard, and enjoy our lives while we can. These elders can come from many different places; Duarte speaks often to a man on the corner of Colorado Blvd. and 6th Ave., who is now homeless. The idea is that everybody has something to offer, and we all need to have the humility and openness to learn. It’s important to ask how we can be of value rather than presuming we know better than others.

Duarte also credits early exposure to people with different backgrounds and perspectives—especially those not living in the same circumstances—with shaping his world view. He explains, “(We have) a fear of what’s different—ethnicities,

cultures, religions, and people who aren’t in our same circumstances. The more we... spend time with others, the more we then know we are the same.” Duarte suggests that it’s about making a step towards the fear of the unknown, creating opportunities for ourselves to be in proximity with people we aren’t familiar with.

Openness and honesty are also among his guiding principles. Duarte says he is open with his children about his mistakes and he tells them why he’s sharing those mistakes with them. He talks with them about what he does for a living and why—planting the seed that a job is not just about creating wealth, but positively impacting those surrounding you.

Harnessing Future Technology

Duarte continues to dream big, with visions of how to use disruptive technologies for good. He says if big corporations can use cutting-edge technology to increase profits, we shouldn’t be shy about using those tools for good as well.

He’s especially excited about the potential that blockchain, virtual reality, augmented reality (AR), and mixed reality offer. Say, for example, you’re looking to help millions of parents be more aware of how they can improve their parenting skills in real time as they raise their children. Research by the Center for the Developing Child at Harvard shows that from conception to age five, the brain develops 90% of its size. Imagine if you could use AR to show you at the moment you are losing your temper with your child, how your actions are negatively affecting the neural connections and development in their brain, and see what that means long-term. Duarte’s hypothesis is this has the potential to effectively reduce negative behaviors in real time.

*<https://mystrength.com/outcomes>, <https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/national-council-strategic-partner-mystrength/>

Sara Blanchard is a happiness consultant, author, and co-host of the new podcast Dear White Women.





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City Regs Hurting Buye

By Carol Roberts

The vision for Staple-
 ton to have 10% of
 all for-sale homes be
 “affordable” has been elusive;
 it hovered around 5% for many
 years. In the past couple years,
 however, with an increasing
 number of affordable homes
 being built and the dramati-
 cally increasing need for such
 units, affordable homes in
 Stapleton reached 7.1% of all
 for-sale units as of December
 31, 2018.

Then suddenly in October,
 the steady sale of affordable
 homes turned dramatically
 downward. It wasn’t for lack
 of homes or lack of qualifying
 buyers who make 80% of the
 area median income. These
 buyers were getting qualified
 for loans with mainstream
 lenders, and then they were
 getting contracts for homes in

the affordable program
 up to the level the lenders
 approved—just as market
 rate buyers do.

But that’s where the
 similarity to market rate
 buying ends. Gene Myers,
 Thrive Homes CEO,
 came to the Stapleton
 Citizens Advisory Board
 in March to share with
 the community the mag-
 nitude of the problems
 facing affordable home
 buyers, sellers and build-
 ers—problems so severe
 they threaten to end his
 company’s involvement in
 the program.

Myers’ company,
 Thrive, has built approx-
 imately 200 homes in the
 affordable program, and
 it has had only one fore-
 closure. With rule changes
 the city made in October,



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Changes to Denver's affordable homes program has almost brought Stapleton's most prolific builder of affordable homes to a standstill. Yard signs in front of Thrive affordable homes are out to bring attention to the problem. Gene Myers, Thrive CEO, is pictured with (from left) Jeff Seibold, CFO; Stephen Myers, VP Sales and Marketing; and Bill Rectanus, VP operations.

Front Porch 2014 file photo

ment. Those aren't income. Yet those were listed as reasons for denial. It's our belief that the City doesn't have the trained personnel to properly do this evaluation of these files.

"Furthermore, all of these files are approved for loans from FHA or Fannie May or Freddie Mac. Our take is that

the city is not more competent than a mortgage underwriter and that if a low-income buyer can be approved for a loan, who is the City to intervene... even though the lender thinks you're qualified? Even though you've done everything that a wealthier American would have to do to buy a home, we're telling you, you can't. I just fundamentally have a philosophical problem. We've worked with a lot of low-income families on these homes, and they are quite capable of making intelligent decisions about their housing and their own interests, and I think our foreclosure rate proves it."

The City's rule change came because the City's

Auditor said the program wasn't following HUD guidelines. "Those guidelines are to protect the government's investment in housing," said Myers. "There is no government investment in this housing. This is a City of Denver program. We don't need, in my view, the burden of all the federal bureaucracy around housing being imposed on our system."

Myers' final words at the meeting were, "Our take is, on one hand, the City's leaning all over Brookfield to produce—and then on the other side of the City, they're making it impossible to produce. It just seems like the ultimate bureaucracy—what we hate about the bureaucracy."

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his sales went from 30 in a quarter to 3. His company did an analysis and determined that 9 out of 10 buyers he had closed on in his latest project would never have been approved under the new guidelines.

The problems plaguing him as a builder are also plaguing people trying to resell their affordable home. Myers said he had learned of a seller who ended up having 167 showings of his home before he could find a qualified buyer.

"The point here is that the program could be successful," says Myers. "This was never intended to be permanent affordable housing. This is intended to be a way for families to get into home ownership, build wealth, and move on and sell

to another family at 80% of the area income so that they could do the same. That way, of our 200 houses that we've closed here, maybe we're helping 600 families or 700 or 800 over the 15 years before the deed restriction ends. When we stop allowing the resale of these, we're going to cause these families to be ruined in these houses until the deed restriction expires because they're not going to be able to sell."

Myers also talked about buyers who, after getting their loan approval and contract, begin what amounts to a second loan approval process with the City. "We've seen some denial letters that were not denied for income. Their version of income was tuition reimbursement from their employer. Mileage reimburse-

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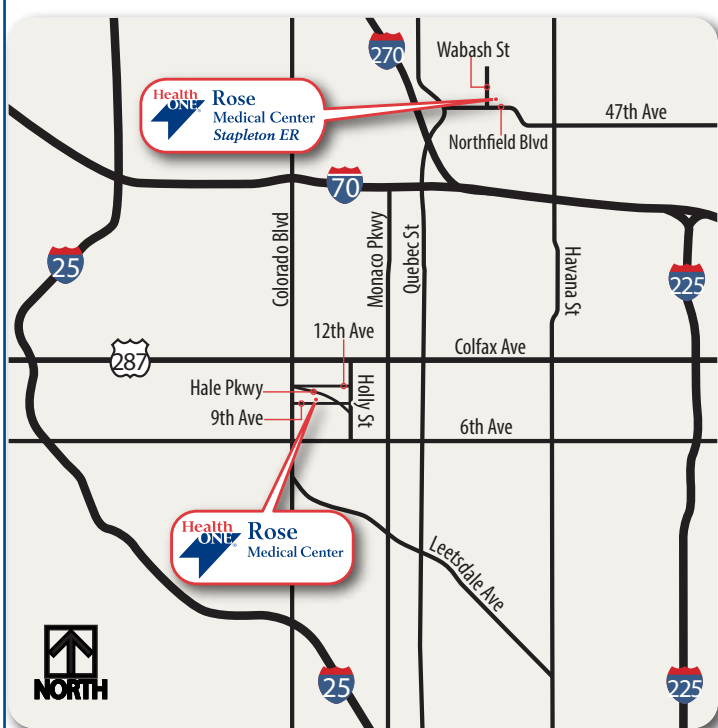
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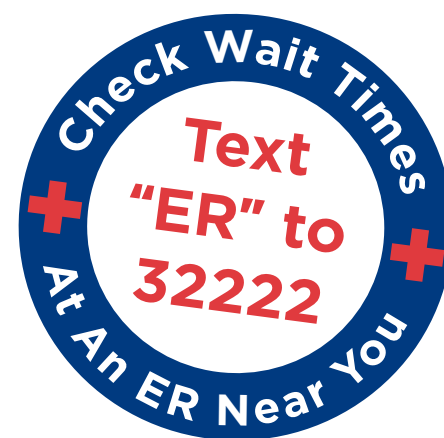
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influx of more provocative European films, the breakdown of the studio system, the mass move to the suburbs, and a sweeping generational change, the Code became obsolete. The rating system was

The Denver film community recently lost a giant with the passing of Brit Withey, the Artistic Director for the Denver Film Society. Brit was the driving force behind the Denver Film Festival, the Science Fiction Film Series, and countless other series, events, and programs at the Film Center. He was a colleague and a friend. Most notably, we teamed up on the Sci-Fi Film Series and it has become one of the most successful series in the history of the Film Society during its 9-year run. His passing leaves a gaping hole in the Denver Film Community, and he can never be replaced. I dedicate this column to him, and I review two of his favorite films of all time.

Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid (1969)

The late 1960s marked a sea change in the film industry. The old Hays Code, in effect since the late 30s, was finally abolished. This is the classic Hollywood cinema-era set of rules that all films had to follow. This included couples sleeping in separate beds, no blood, no drug use, no sex.... With the film industry dying due to an

Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid



Princess Bride, and you can see the seeds of that story in this film. (Think: the never-ending chase.)

The film is most notable for the duo of Newman and Redford, the first time

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they would be paired on screen. While Paul Newman was one of Hollywood's biggest stars of the era—rivaling only John Wayne and Steve McQueen—Robert Redford was a

The Sweet Hereafter



relative unknown outside of Hollywood. Redford attended the University of Colorado on a baseball scholarship before beginning his acting career on the NYC stage. His move to Hollywood was rocky, including several box-office failures and questionable role choices. Hill's choice of Redford would propel Redford to super-stardom.

The film is based on the true story of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, although it is not entirely historically accurate (the final "blaze of glory" shoot-out was largely dramatized). Goldman wrote the script after several years of research but still fictionalized much of it. The story follows Butch and Sundance from their final days in the U.S. being chased by a "super-posse" to their seven-year stint robbing banks in Bolivia. Despite initially negative reviews, the public flocked to the see the film, and it became a huge box-office hit. It was nominated for seven Academy Awards and won four (Cinematography, Score, Song, and Original Screenplay).

And, oh yeah, the film was damn cool.

The Sweet Hereafter (1997)

This moody film from director Atom Egoyan tells the story of tragedy in a small Canadian town. A school bus

crashes on the ice, and most of the kids die. The town is left to wallow in its grief. The big city lawyer who comes to town to represent the families finds a mixture of indifference, enmity, and sadness. He

represents a few families, and still others want no part of it. Make no mistake, this is not a procedural trial film. It is about loss, it is about grief, and it is about the base emotions that make us human. It is ironic that this film was one of Brit's favorites.

While the film is light on dialogue, it is heavy on mood, emotion, and humanity. It is not always the side of humanity we want to see, but it is the side of humanity that exists in all of us, lurks beneath the service, and rears its ugly head all too often. This is Egoyan's triumph—he shows us the open wounds and lets them fester. Roger Ebert called the film "an unflinching lament for the human condition." Our favorite films aren't always the best films, and many times they aren't the happiest. Sometimes they shine a light on the ugliness, and sometimes they bring up repressed emotions. Either way, it feels cathartic.

Both films can be found on Demand. Rest in peace my dear friend.

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. Follow "Indie Prof" on Facebook for updates about film events and more reviews.

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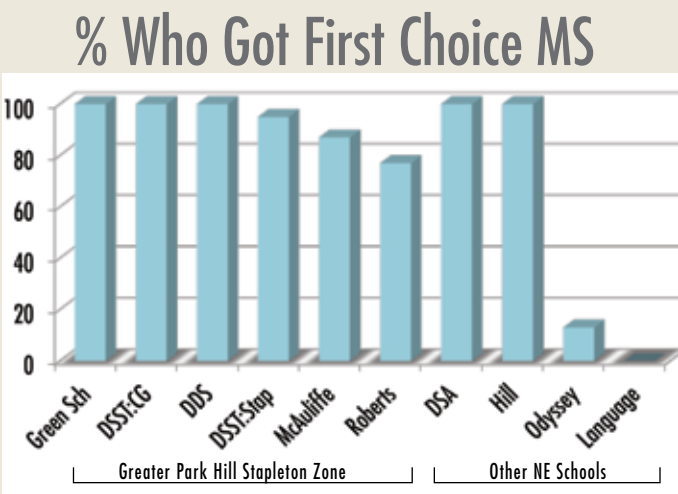
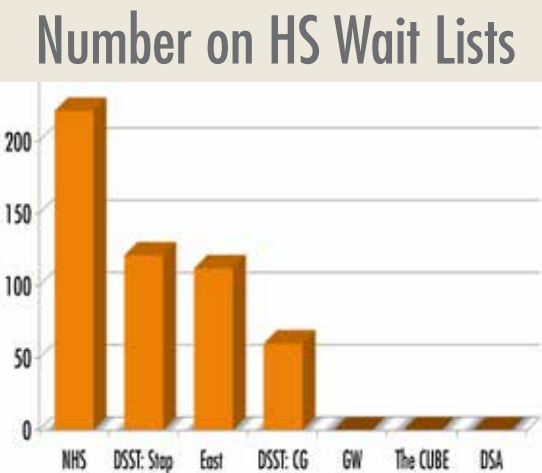
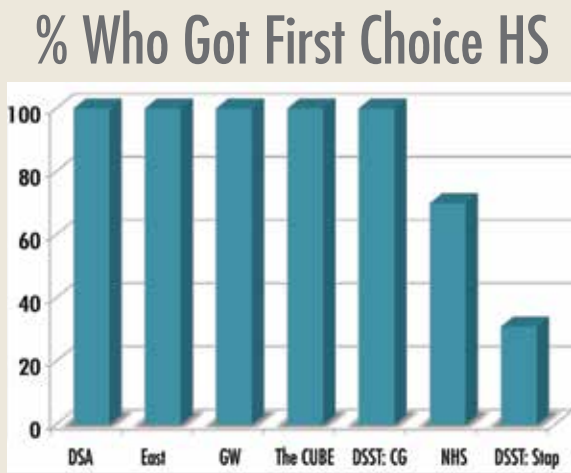
High Schools

Choice Outcom

Middle

High Schools	First Choice Requests	Accepted	Wait List
East	665	680	112
Northfield (NHS)	475	334	221
George Washington (GW)	201	400	0
DSST: Stapleton (DSST:Stap)	106	33	121
The CUBE	71	78	0
DSST: Conservatory Green (DSST:CG)	67	65	60
Denver School of the Arts (DSA)	49	50	0

If the total number accepted is greater than the number of first choice requests for a given school, then 100% got their first choice. The chart below at left illustrates the percent of students who got their first choice at each of the high schools. But if, for example, a student got their third choice, their name would be placed on the waiting lists for both their first and second choice schools. The chart directly below shows the number of students on each high school's wait list. Northfield High School differs from traditional boundary schools in that it's a boundary school for Stapleton and a portion of Park Hill, but, in addition, it has a mandate for 35% of the school's population to be composed of Far Northeast students.



If the total number accepted is greater than the number of first choice requests for a given school, then 100% got their first choice. The chart above illustrates the percent of students who got their first choice at each of the middle schools. But if, for example, a student got their third choice, their name would be placed on the waiting lists for both their first and second choice schools. The above right chart shows the number of students on each middle school's wait list. All numbers here are based on the outcome of first round choice. Changes are likely during second round choice.

20 Years of Experience



HOUSE CLEANING

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Augustana
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5000 E Alameda Ave | Denver CO 80246 | 303-388-4678
www.augustanadenver.org | Worship: 8 a.m. | 10:30 a.m.



Above photo is of a previously-built Newbridge and is for illustrative purposes only.

PARKWOOD HOMES



Move in this Summer!

5 Bedrooms | 4.5 Bathrooms | 2,550* sq ft
5988 N Beeler Court
\$657,802

Move into this west-facing Newbridge in Stapleton's Beeler Park neighborhood this spring/summer! The finished basement, complete with an extra bedroom suite, *adds over 900 square feet of livable space to the 2,550 square feet above ground! The third floor loft completes the unique feel of the home with dormer windows looking towards the mountains and a bedroom suite for added flexibility.

CONTACT US

Model home located at 59th Place and Chester Way
Open Sun-Mon from 12PM - 5PM and Tue-Sat from 10AM - 5PM

Dede Jeffery and Danielle Craven
sales@parkwoodhomes.com
(303) 320-4938

ParkwoodHomes.com

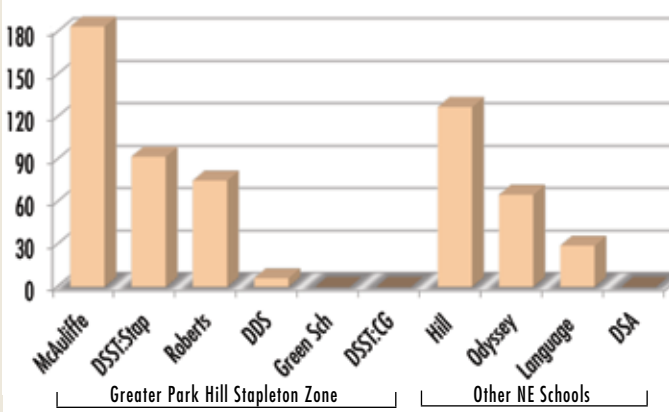


es in NE Denver

Schools

Charts by Carol Roberts. Data from Chalkbeat database.

Number on MS Wait Lists



Middle Schools	First Choice Requests	Accept-ed	Wait List
GPMS Zone			
McAuliffe Intl	650	566	184
DSST:Stapleton (DSST:Stap)	188	179	92
William (Bill) Roberts	113	87	75
DSST: Conservatory Green (DSST:CG)	101	135	0
Denver Green North-field (Green Sch)	98	121	0
Denver Discovery (DDS)	20	30	6
Other NE Schools			
Hill Campus	196	308	127
Denver School of the Arts (DSA)	132	132	0
Odyssey	24	3	65
Denver Language	11	0	29

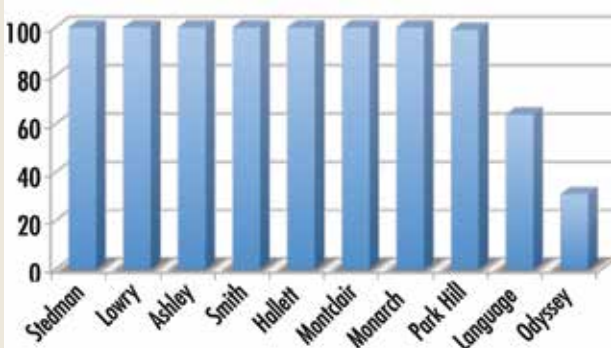
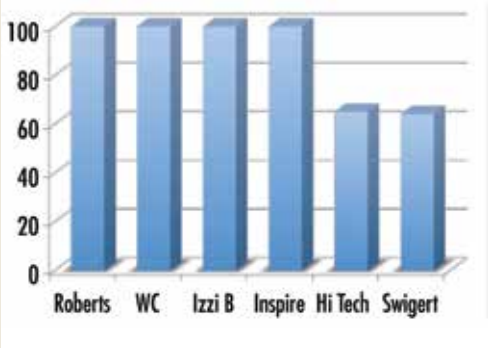
Elementary Schools – Kindergarten

Stapleton Ele Schools	First Choice Requests	Accepted	Wait List
Swigert Int'l	129	83	113
High Tech	120	78	61
William (Bill) Roberts	113	128	82
Westerly Creek (WC)	109	125	63
Isabella Bird (Izzi B)	57	91	1
Inspire	50	79	0

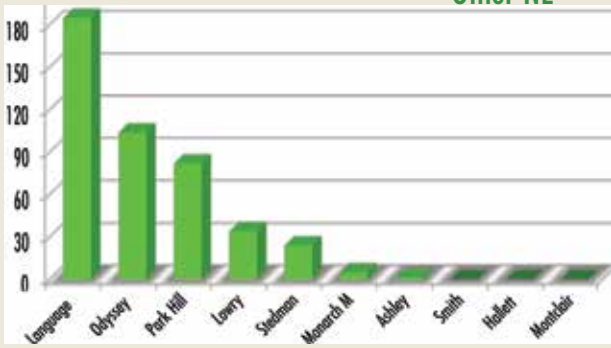
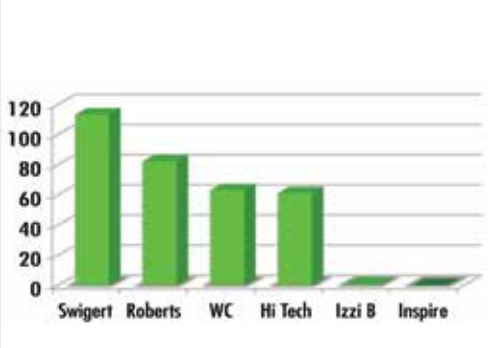
Graphs below are explained with the Middle and High School sections.

Other NE Ele Schools	First Choice Requests	Accepted	Wait List
Denver Language School	176	112	185
Park Hill	103	102	82
Odyssey School	62	19	104
Stedman	57	76	24
Lowry	53	75	34
Ashley	36	52	1
Smith	33	77	0
Hallett Academy	31	37	0
Montclair	31	63	0
Monarch Montessori	28	32	5

Stapleton % Who Got First Choice Kindergarten Other NE



Stapleton Number on Kindergarten Wait Lists Other NE



ASPEN

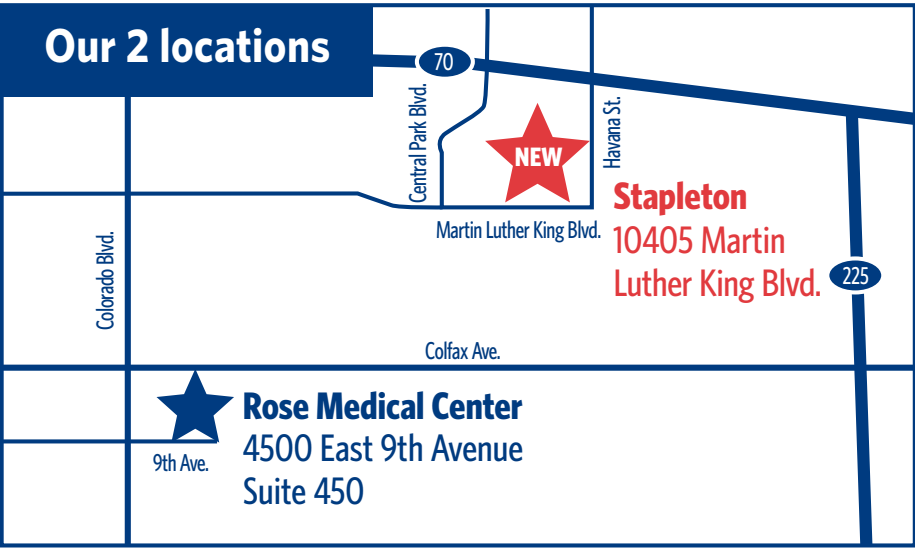
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...NE News Updates



By Carol Roberts and Martina Will, Ph.D.

1 Lucky's Market Breaks Ground in Lowry



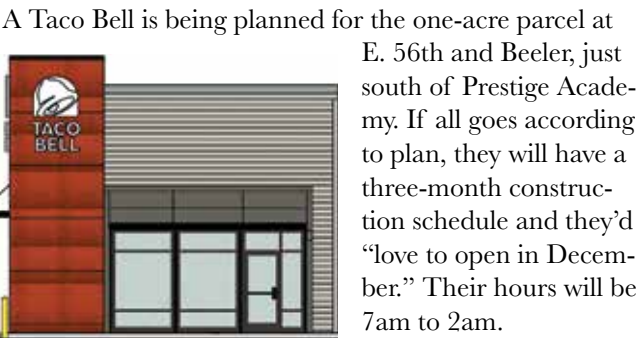
The groundbreaking ceremony for the natural foods grocer Lucky's Market in Lowry was held Thursday, April 25. Store opening is anticipated in the fourth quarter of 2020. Lucky's is the anchor tenant in The Boulevard at Lowry, a 140,000 square foot mixed use development that will offer retail, restaurant and office space.

2 Beeler Park to Get a Panda Express



The family-owned Panda Express restaurant, which started in Pasadena California in 1973 and now has over 2,000 stores in six countries, will be opening a restaurant in the retail development at 56th and Central Park Blvd. Architect Eric Abein says the owners are strong believers in personal development and leadership for their staff. They also team up with local schools for fundraising events in their stores. The building will face 56th (though not accessible directly from 56th), between the gas station on the corner of 56th and Central Park Blvd., and the retail building just east of them. Their hours will be 10am to 10pm (they don't serve breakfast). Their plan is to start construction in October and open in Feb. 2020.

3 Beeler Park Also to Get a Taco Bell



A Taco Bell is being planned for the one-acre parcel at E. 56th and Beeler, just south of Prestige Academy. If all goes according to plan, they will have a three-month construction schedule and they'd "love to open in December." Their hours will be 7am to 2am.

4 Kappa Senior Apartments at Northfield and Central Park Blvds.

The non-profit organization Kappa Housing says they will start their 13-month construction schedule in September 2019 with plans for occupancy in October 2020. The building, located on the southwest corner of Northfield and Central Park Blvds., is for seniors 62 and older or for people who are disabled. The 70-unit building will have 51 one-bedroom units and 19 two-bedroom units that will be 600 sq. ft. and 875 sq. ft., respectively. The apartments are income-qualified, for those with income that is 30% to 60% of area median income (AMI). Amenities will include a communal kitchen, a private dining room, a fitness center, a computer center, extra wide hallways for taking indoor walks during winter weather. Landscaping will include communal planting beds, shaded outdoor seating areas for picnics and cooking outside, and a dog park.



Kappa Senior Housing

5 Denver Discovery To Stay Open for 2019-2020 School Year

Last month's article about Denver Discovery School indicated there was some uncertainty about the school remaining open in the 2019-2020 school year due to low student population. On April 18, Superintendent Susana Cordova wrote a letter to families confirming the school will remain open next year for grades 6,7 and 8. The letter said, "DDS staff and community are working to select a transitional leader who will guide the school through the upcoming year..."

Scott Esserman, one of DDS' founding families who, along with other community members, has been active in the school's re-envisioning process, says DDS will be a community school with wrap-around services, a teacher-led leadership model, and project-based learning. He says, "We anticipate being close to an enrollment of 215 in 2019-20."

6 Rep. DeGette Addresses Questions and Issues on the Subject of Impeachment

As talk of impeachment increased following the release of the redacted Mueller Report, the *Front Porch* asked Rep. Diana DeGette (CO-01) to share her thoughts on the issue. "Impeachment and a declaration of war...are the most serious things that Congress can undertake. I don't think you can undertake an impeachment investigation for political reasons or because it might be interesting. I think it's really Congress' duty to determine if President Trump engaged in high crimes and misdemeanors," said the Democrat who has represented Colorado's First District in Washington, D.C. for 22 years.

"The [House] Judiciary Committee announced that they are having really aggressive hearings with [Attorney General William] Barr, [Special Counsel Robert] Mueller and [former White House Counsel Don] McGahn...to get the documents and the unredacted report, and I think that's the first step to making this impeachment determination. I think we have a constitutional duty to do that."

When asked whether there was a danger of impeachment hearings strengthening the President's base of support before the next election, DeGette said "I don't think you can make a determination based on a political assessment. If in fact he obstructed justice and Congress determines that's a high crime and misdemeanor, I think we have to go forward....On the face of it this seems so much worse than Watergate....You have a president who is attempting to undermine an investigation as to whether his campaign colluded with a foreign government to influence the election results. And that's very very serious."

7 Enterprise Car Rental Under Construction in North Stapleton

In July 2018, plans for an Enterprise Rent-A-Car branch were announced in NE Updates. That 2,300-square-foot business is now being built at 5059 Beeler St. in north Stapleton. The Enterprise plans are for a facility that can support up to 47 vehicles and a car wash that uses biodegradable soap. This location will not include repair facilities.

8 190 Apartments Coming to Beeler Park

Planning is well underway now, and groundbreaking for Brookfield's Aster Beeler Park Apartments is expected in November 2019 with the first apartments ready for occupancy in late summer 2020. The last units will be completed and ready for occupancy in 2021. The 190-apartment complex will be 52% one-bedroom, 42% two-bedroom and 5% three-bedroom units.



Aster Beeler Park Apartments

Parking will be available at a little less than 1.5 spaces per unit, with half of those being garages. These are all market rate units (none are income-qualified). The north border of the complex is E. 57th Ave. and the east border is Chester Way, with entrances on 56th and 57th. Amenities include a community garden, a kids play area, outdoor gym equipment, a lawn frisbee area, outdoor grilling patio areas and maybe a dog park.

9 What's the big construction project on the east side of Central Park Blvd at 47th?

It's a Physical Therapy Hospital project—and we'll get information about it for the June issue.

Neighbors Show Their Sympathy



Neighbors left flowers and chalk messages of sympathy on the street after a man committed suicide on the 26th Ave. bridge in mid-April. Denver Police knocked on doors at Stapleton homes nearby to talk to neighbors and address any fears or anxiety following the sad death of a man who was much loved by his family. The police passed out crisis counseling resource information including Colorado Crisis Services 1-844-493-TALK; Denver Children's Advocacy Center 303-825-3850; and the Denver Victim Assistance Unit 720-913-6035.

May and Early June 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 MEETINGS AND EVENTS

5/7, Tuesday—2019 Municipal Election Ballots Due by 7pm. Ballots should have been mailed in by April 29 but can also be dropped off any time of day up to 7pm on May 7 at a Ballot Drop-Off Box or at a Voter Service and Polling Center. For more information, email elections@denvergov.org or call 311 or 720-913-VOTE (8683).

5/21, Tuesday—Bond-funded Bike-way Along City Park Esplanade. The City of Denver is holding a public meeting to educate residents about a bond-funded bikeway that will be installed in 2020 along City Park Esplanade from 16th to 17th Ave. Check denvergov.org/bikeprogram for location and time.

5/29, Thursday—Bond-funded Bike-way Along Central Park Blvd. The City of Denver is holding a public meeting to educate residents about a bond-funded bikeway that will be installed in 2020 along Central Park Blvd from Montview to 36th. At Central Park Rec Center, 5-7pm. Visit denvergov.org/bikeprogram for other new bikeways and meeting times.

NE DENVER/NW AURORA EVENTS

5/1 Wednesday—Event Registration (including Kids' Tri) Available. Registrations will open for Kids' Triathlon, Beer Fest, and other summer ticketed events. stapletoncommunity.com/event-calendar. 8371 E Northfield Blvd. 303.388.0724

5/1 Wednesday—Spirit Messages. Join beloved psychic medium Heather Hunter for 90 minutes of connections with loved ones in spirit. 6:30-8pm.

momsnightoutproductions.com. Stapleton MCA Community Room, 7353 E. 29th, Ste. 300.

5/4 Saturday—7th Annual Park Hill Community Yard Sale. 8am-1pm. Visit the website to see the map of sales. greaterparkhill.org/events/yard-sale

5/4 Saturday—Denver Kentucky Derby Mini Derby. 1-6pm. A Kentucky Derby viewing party with a twist. The North Green 8303 East 49th Pl. denverminiderby.com

5/7 Tuesday—Kindness Club. 4pm. Our inter-generational, all-ages club will focus on kindness to the homebound. We will be decorating bags for the meals on wheels program. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St., denverlibrary.org

5/9 & 5/23 Thursday—Knitting Circle. 5:30-7:30pm. Join other crafters in conversation around the Sam Gary fireplace. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St., denverlibrary.org

5/11 Saturday—9th Annual Denver Daughter Dance. A formal/semi-formal ball for daughters and their adults to celebrate daughterhood. The Hangar at Stanley, 2501 Dallas St., Aurora. Doors open at 6pm. denverd3.org

5/17 Friday—An Evening with Ken Salazar at Sand Creek Greenway. Live music, food and drink, a silent auction and a special talk by former U.S. Senator and Secretary of the Interior. The CUBE, 8371 Northfield Blvd. Doors open at 5:30pm. Tickets \$25 at sandcreekgreenway.org

5/18 to 5/19—14th Annual Stapleton Community Garage Sale. 300+ Garage Sales held at homes throughout Stapleton. stapletongaragesale.com

5/18 to 5/19—Aurora Symphony Orchestra—Arts for a Better Tomorrow. Saturday at 7:30pm, Sunday at 3pm. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E Colfax Ave, Aurora. aurorasymphony.org

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

5/18 and 5/20-24—The Urban Farm Annual Plant Sale. 10am-2pm. 10200 Smith Rd. theurbanfarm.org

5/19 Sunday—Sam Gary Literary Book Club. 2pm. May Title: *How to Write an Autobiographical Novel: Essays*, by Alexander Chee. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St., denverlibrary.org

5/21 Tuesday—Greater Stapleton Business Association Monthly Meeting. 8-9am. 7350 E. 29th Ave. Ste 300, stapletonbusiness.com

5/21 Tuesday—SUN Annual Community Forum. 6:30-8:30pm at The Cube, 8371 E Northfield Blvd.

5/24 to 6/2—Family Festival at Northfield Stapleton. Rides, food, midway games and more. Mon-Fri 4-11pm. Sat Sun and Memorial Day 11am-midnight. northfieldstapleton.com

5/25 to 5/26—Denver Arts Festival. Conservatory Green, Stapleton. Wine and beer garden, kids' art zone, live music. denverartsfestival.com

5/26 Saturday—Sweet William Market. Founders Green, Stapleton: 29th and Syracuse 9am-2pm. sweetwilliammarket.com

5/31 Friday—Denver Municipal Band Concert. 6:30pm concert at the City Park Pavilion and bandshell, 1700 N. York St. denvermunicipalband.org

5/31 to 6/2—Lowry Yard Sale. Lowry Neighborhood. 8am-2pm. lowrydenver.org

6/2 Sunday—City Park Jazz Kick-Off Concert. Emma Mayes & the Hip at the City Park Pavilion, 1700 N. York St. 6-8pm. cityparkjazz.org

6/6 Thursday—The Lowry Beer Garden Anniversary Celebration. To benefit the Lowry Foundation. Check for details at: lowryfoundation.org. Lowry Beer Garden, 7577 E Academy Blvd.

METRO EVENTS

5/3 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Santa Fe Arts District, Ten-nyson Art Walk, River North (RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Museum, Navajo Street Art District. denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

5/4 Saturday—Denver Recycles Annual Mulch Giveaway and Compost Sale. 8am-2pm. Five dig-your-own sites and compost sale at the Havana nursery location only. 311 (720-913-1311) or DenverGov.org/mulch

5/4 to 5/5—Cinco de Mayo Festival. Civic Center Park, 10am-8pm. FREE. cincodemayodenver.com

5/4 to 5/5—The Big Wonderful 6th Annual Derby Weekend. Beer festival, Derby viewing party and Cinco de Disco. 4400 Fox St. thebigwonderful.com

5/4 to 5/5—Fly Fishing Rendezvous. Two days, access to top industry professionals, fly tiers, casting, and best brands in the biz. flyfishingrendezvous.com. 4655 Humboldt St.

5/6 Monday—Moms Demand Action For Gun Sense in America Monthly Meet-up. Find out about the ending legislative session, upcoming elections and our big Wear Orange event in June. 7pm, at Little Machine Beer, 2924 W 20th Ave.

Park Hill Events

6th Annual Park Hill Art Festival, May 17-19

At 4819 E. Montview Blvd. on the grounds of the Park Hill Masonic Lodge. Friday, 3-8pm; Saturday, 10am-5pm; Sunday 11am-5pm. parkhillartfestival.com

Greater Park "Over the Hill" 50th Anniversary Celebration! Saturday, June 1

Block party on Fairfax (between 28th and 29th) from 3-7pm with food, beverages, and activities. facebook.com/events/565294887313962

5/8 Wednesday—Inside the Orchestra Tiny Tots. Spring theme is outer space! Designed for kids 6 and under. 9:30am and 10:45am. At Denver Red Shield, 2915 N High St. Tickets at insidetheorchestra.org

5/9 to 5/12—Denver Potters Association Show. Featuring the best in ceramics, wood, glass, jewelry and more. Free admission. Sixth Avenue United Church, 3250 E 6th Ave. denverpotters.com

5/10 to 5/11—Botanic Gardens Plant Sale. FREE admission to the plant sale and gardens all day. 1007 York St. botanicgardens.org

5/10 to 5/11—Colorado Chocolate Festival. Denver Merchandise Mart, I-25 and 58th Ave. Music, kids' activities, wine tastings, cooking demos. Tickets and info at cochocolatefests.com

(continued on page 22)



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METRO EVENTS

(cont'd from page 21)

5/11 Saturday—Wash Park Home Tour. 400 block of Gilpin. 10am. Tickets: washparkhometour.org

5/17 to 5/19—7th Annual Spread The Word Music Festival. Highlighting Denver's music scene over 3 days and 8 stages. Info at spreadthewordfest.com

5/18 Saturday—Five Points Jazz Festival. Five Points neighborhood. artsandvenuesdenver.com

5/18 to 5/19—RiNo Spring BAZAAR. Shop and sip 12-6pm. denverbazaar.com

5/25 Saturday—Denver Day of Rock. 5 stages of live music along Denver's 16th St. Mall. denverdayofrock.com

5/25 to 5/27—Old South Gaylord Kick-off to Summer. Music, vendors, food and drink and activities for kids. oldsouth-gaylord.com

5/27 Monday—55th Annual Commerce City Memorial Day Parade. 64th and Newport, Commerce City, 9:30am. c3gov.com/parade

5/31 Friday—46th Birthday Bash at The Children's Museum. Annual fundraiser, this year's them is A High Seas Soirée. 6pm, 2121 Children's Museum Dr. Tickets at mychildsmuseum.org

6/1 to 6/2—Denver Chalk Art Festival. Street-painting festival where 200+ artists turn the streets of Larimer Square into a museum of chalk art. larimerarts.org

HEALTH, WELLNESS, FITNESS

5/4 Saturday—Dumb Friends League Furry Scurry. Colorado's favorite dog walk and fun run! furryscurry.org. Washington Park, 303.751.5772

5/4 Saturday—Walk MS: Denver and 5K Run. Denver City Park. Walk and run details at nationalmssociety.org

5/4 Saturday—Free Yoga for Veterans and Their Families. Comeback Yoga is a nonprofit offering free, trauma-informed yoga to veterans, active duty military and their support networks. Mats and blocks provided. All abilities welcome. Endorphin, 2212 Kearney St. comebackyoga.org

5/5 Sunday—Denver Promise Walk for Preeclampsia. No cost for any participants, all we ask is that you help us raise funds. Great Lawn Park, 101 Yosemite St., promisewalk.org/denver

5/7 to 6/18—Grief Recovery Workshop. This workshop is about grief recovery and finding completion. 2373 Central Park Blvd., Suite 100, thegriefandwellnesscenterof-denver.com

5/9 to 6/13—Anger Management Group for Women. 6-week workshop for women to learn to manage, embrace and express anger in a manner that leads to being heard and understood. 2373 Central Park Blvd., Suite 100, thegriefandwellnesscenterof-denver.com

5/15 Wednesday—Women's Infertility Support Group. Ongoing, free monthly support group. Acupuncture Denver, 899 Logan St., #109. eventbrite.com/e/womens-infertility-support-group-may-15-2019-tickets-60585523933

5/18 Saturday—4th Annual Garden in a Box Giveaway. Garden In a Box kits that include seedlings, seeds, instructions, and other tools to help novice and low-income gardeners grow vegetables in a 4x4 plot. 2823 Fairfax St, 303.388.0918, greaterparkhill.org/programs/garden-in-a-box

5/18 to 5/19—Colfax Marathon. 2 days, 7 races. Details at runcolfax.org

5/27 Monday—Bolder Boulder. 10K road race. www.bolderboulder.com

6/1 Saturday—Denver Heart & Stroke Walk. Mile High Stadium featuring

a 5K Run, Yoga, 5K Walk & Survivor Mile, health expo, and Puppy Parade. 1701 Bryant St., 866-430-9255, DenverHeartWalk.org

KIDS AND FAMILIES

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

Every Thursday—Star K Kids. 9:30 and 11am; kids 5 and under. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. auroragov.org

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

5/1 Wednesday—Poetry Party (rescheduled from April 10). 4-5pm. Celebrate the creation of Denver Public Library's Children's Poetry Core Collection with a poem party! Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St., denverlibrary.org

5/2 to 6/29—Denver Puppet Theater. Silly Jack. 3156 W. 38th Ave. denverpuppettheater.com

5/4 and 6/1 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

5/4 Saturday—Montview Community Preschool/Kindergarten Annual Carnival. 1980 Dahlia St., Park Hill. 303.322.7296, montviewpreschool.org

5/12 Sunday—Junior Rangers. Age 6-12, 1:30-3pm. Learn about plants/animals of Star K Ranch. RSVP required, 303.326.8650, aurora.gov/nature

5/14 Tuesday—Little Wings: Let's Be Gliders. 9-10am. Kids 2-4 with adult. Learn the difference between flying and gliding. Wings Over the Rockies Museum. wingsmuseum.org

5/14 Tuesday—Toddler Box Party. 10:15-11:45am Come play with crayons and paint, music and cardboard boxes. For ages 1-4. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St., denverlibrary.org

5/14 to 5/15—STEAM: Cardboard Construction. 4-5pm Gr. 1-3. Learn the

basics of construction by building with simple tools and cardboard. Registration Required. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St., denverlibrary.org

5/16 Thursday—Bill Roberts Family Fun Carnival. 5:30-7:30pm. William "Bill" Roberts K-8 School, 2100 N. Akron Way. squareup.com/store/billrobertspta/

5/21 Tuesday—Let's Build It: Rockets. Make a simple rocket out of paper and pipettes. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St., denverlibrary.org

5/22 Wednesday—Write & Talk for Teens with Lighthouse Writers. 4-6pm. New genre or topic each month. Registration required. Ages 13-18. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St., denverlibrary.org

6/1 Saturday—International School of Denver Bash. 10am-4pm. isdenver.org

6/3 Monday—Magic is from Mars, Juggling is from Jupiter. Ann Lincoln will use comedy, magic and juggling to show the importance of reading, learning and the universe of stories available at the library. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St., denverlibrary.org

LECTURES, CLASSES, INFORMATIONAL EVENTS

5/7 Tuesday—Active Minds presents: Benjamin Franklin. Trace the life of this extraordinary man and hear some of the stories that mark his legacy. 10-11am at the Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. activeminds.com

5/9 Thursday—Active Minds: Tobacco. 1-2pm. The story of tobacco, from its roots to its leaves. We will end with a brief discussion of e-cigarettes and vaping. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St., denverlibrary.org

5/13 Monday—Special Screening of "The Human Element." Doors 6:30pm, film 7pm. Photographer James Balog uses his camera to reveal how environmental change is affecting the lives of everyday Americans. Panel discussion to follow. Sie Film Center, 2510 E Colfax Ave. secure.denverfilm.org

5/14 Tuesday—Active Minds presents: Lebanon. Trace the history of the current situation in Lebanon. 1:30-2:30pm. Rosemark Senior Living, 2526 E Colfax, activeminds.com

5/23 Thursday—Active Minds: Renewable Energy. 6:30-7:30pm Energy from renewable sources (solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, etc) is an important part of the future

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MUSEUMS

Memorial Day thru Labor Day—Kids Free Summer! Kids 18 and under get free admission. History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway. historycolorado.org

5/3 Friday—Cultural First Fridays – The Heart and Soul: The Mariachi. 5-9pm. Museo de las Americas. www.museo.org

5/4 Saturday—Star Wars at the Hangar. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry wingsmuseum.org

5/5 to 8/25—Serious Play at the Denver Art Museum. Serious Play: Design in Midcentury America presents the concept of playfulness in postwar American design as a catalyst for creativity and innovation. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy. denverartmuseum.org/exhibitions/serious-play

5/9 Thursday—Salon Series: Nevertheless She Convened. Molly Brown House Museum, 5:30-7pm. 1340 Pennsylvania St. Free event but you must register at mollybrown.org

5/11 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. 10am–2pm, Wings over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. wingsmuseum.org

MUSEUM FREE DAYS

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

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

5/1 Wednesday—Molly Brown House Museum Free Day. 1340 Pennsylvania St. mollybrown.org

5/2 Tuesday—The Children’s Museum Free Day. mychildsmuseum.org

5/4 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free SCFD 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

5/10 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park SCFD Free Day. 12-4pm. fourmilepark.org

5/22 Tuesday—Clyfford Still Museum SCFD Free Day. clyffordstill-museum.org

5/25 Saturday—The Urban Farm SCFD Free Day. Plant, Eat & Get Local. 10am–2pm.10200 Smith Rd. theurbanfarm.org

6/1 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free SCFD First Saturday. Free general admission tickets are avail-

able on-site starting at 10am. Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy. 720-865-5000, denverartmuseum.org

6/2 Sunday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science SCFD Free Evening. 2001 Colorado Blvd. dmns.org

6/4 Tuesday—Botanic Gardens SCFD Free Day. 1007 York St. botanicgardens.org

PERFORMANCE AND THEATRE

5/4 Saturday—Shakespeare In The Parking Lot. 2pm: Ford Warren – Denver Public Library Branch. Presented by Denver Center For The Performing Arts. denvercenter.orgUCealthUUurora

5/4 to 6/15—Sanctions. As the Cats come off sanctions, the racially-divided staff battle out how far they are willing to bend the rules to ensure a win. Every Saturday afternoon. curioustheatre.org/event/sanctions/

5/10 and 5/11—This is Me Starring Jalyen Courtenay Webb. 7:30pm,Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave,Aurora. aurorafoxartscenter.org

5/11 Saturday—Écho D’Afrique. Dance and music showcase that highlights African roots and

influences on popular culture. 7–10pm. Su Teatro, 721 Santa Fe Dr. echodafrique.com

5/11 Saturday—Colorado Women’s Chorale: Carnegie Hall Masterworks. 5000 E Alameda Ave., augustanaarts.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. arvada-center.org

5/18 to 5/19—Aurora Symphony | Copland. A celebration of the American West. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E Colfax Ave,Aurora aurorasymphony.org

5/20 Monday—Creating Serial – An Evening with Sarah Koenig & Julie Snyder. Paramount Theatre. tix.paramountdenver.com

To 5/26—The Boys in the Band. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St,Aurora. vintagetheatre.org

6/1 Saturday—Ivy Street Ensemble with Guest Harpist Rachel Ellins. 5000 E Alameda Ave., augustanaarts.org

6/2 Sunday—The One Night Stand with Jeffrey Neuman. 7pm at Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St. in Aurora. onenightstandtheater.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

5/18 Saturday—The Great Denver Cleanup. Sponsored by Keep Denver Beautiful. 9am-2pm. Clear your clutter and recycle it. 4 Denver locations including NE Denver at PW Roslyn Facility, 5440 Roslyn St. C all 311 for more info or denvergov.org/KDB.

6/1—Sand Creek Greenway Volunteer Work Days. Sand Creek Park in Aurora. More info: sandcreekgreenway.org/upcoming-volunteer-opportunities/

Volunteers Needed at Ronald McDonald Family Rooms at Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children. At Presbyterian/St. Luke’s Hospital. Seeks volunteers for once-a-week commitment, 6-month minimum. 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.

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May 2019

By Martina Will, Ph.D.

If you've driven down Dayton Street towards Montview, you may have seen them playing. Or riding their bright yellow tricycles in a small fenced-in schoolyard. Or perhaps they were walking in a line, paired with a buddy as they returned from a neighborhood park. They are the next generation, the children of the young women and men who study each day at Aurora's New Legacy Charter School to earn their high school diplomas.

New Legacy completes its fourth academic year this spring, a milestone for the school as well as for two generations: students and their children. Each day, approximately 100 pregnant and/or parenting teens from Aurora, Denver, Cherry Creek, and Adams County defy national statistics by coming to class and working towards graduation. Whereas nationally only about 40% of teen parents have a diploma by age 21, according to Executive Director Steven Bartholomew, 78% of New Legacy students graduate.



New Legacy student Cece Burgess recalls being a student at East High School and

Young Mothers Celebrate Success in School and in Parenting

enjoying its freedoms so much that she ending up “ditching” a lot. At 15, she became pregnant. “I thought that was the end for me.” A Google search turned up New Legacy, and now both she and her 5-month-old daughter, Azariyah, are students. While Burgess finishes high school, her daughter benefits from the research-based curriculum at the Early Learning Center in the same building.

Burgess acknowledges that a traditional school could not have met her needs, given where she was in her life. New Legacy’s guidance and parenting helped shift her perspective. “Now I want a career, and not just a job,” she says. She is determined to go to college, and has already decided she wants to become a medical assistant. “I will be more than a statistic. Before New Legacy I was on the fast pass to



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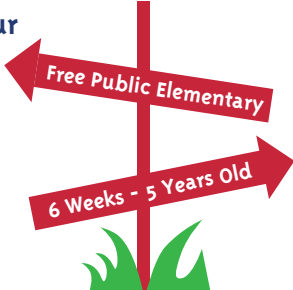
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Left: New Legacy alumnus Julissa Martinez shares her story at an April fundraising breakfast. She credits New Legacy with giving her a second chance, and will be the first in her family to earn a college degree.

Right: Martinez holds a photo of herself receiving her diploma while her daughter looks on. “Yes, I am a Latina teen mom. But I am proud to say that I broke the cycle, a cycle that my daughter...will never have to live.”

self-destruction, but now I have a future,” says Burgess.

This determination to make a better life for their children is a theme for many of the students. “All of our graduates have applied to college, with some going to college, others working, and still others taking advantage of technical-vocational programs,” says Bartholomew, who is completing his first year as the school’s Executive Director.

Alumnus Julissa Martinez began at New Legacy at age 16, when she was 5 months pregnant. She doubted that she could graduate, but the “outstanding” teachers and staff at the school helped her transform her expectations. When she graduated in 2017, she had been accepted to two universities, and could choose her next steps. She is now a sophomore majoring in Social Work at Metro State University, where her daughter Isabella is enrolled at the Auraria Early Learning Center. With a career in Child Protective Services, she hopes to advocate for children who are in vulnerable situations.

New Legacy, an independent charter, includes seven high school classrooms as well as a clinic space. The curriculum features core classes as well as parenting classes, a parenting lab, and a robust health and wellness program. Physical and mental health resources, attendance support, academic counseling, and substance abuse prevention round out the school’s offerings. The school’s Early Learning Center has eight classrooms for children ages 6 weeks to age 5. “We’re not just here for high school,” states Britta Carlisle, a certified doula and the school’s maternal and mental health manager. “We are here for the next generation, so that they are more prepared for kindergarten and have the social and language skills to succeed; they have the foundations for learning, which is equally part of our mission.”

New Legacy hopes to purchase its building next year. An anonymous donor has offered to match the first \$1 million raised by spring 2020, to boost the capital campaign. To donate, go to: <https://www.newlegacycharter.org/donate/>



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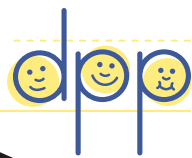
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Sixth graders Eianna Jackson and Griffin Lawrenz tackle the contents of a Mathbox as creators-entrepreneurs-teachers Dusty Starr, Katherine Kopp and Nikki Steffen offer guidance.

By Karyn Cole

As families head full steam into summer, many parents will be looking for ways to keep their children engaged academically whether to stop “summer slide,” provide extra support, or move ahead. While the focus over the summer has typically been on reading, a group of math educators from McAuliffe International School want to keep students’ math skills sharp as well.

To that end, teachers Nikki Steffen, Dusty Starr, and

Katherine Kopp started Mathbox. Their company’s aim is to keep kids immersed in mathematics throughout the summer months. The kits, which are available for students in grades kindergarten through 6, are specifically designed to help kids practice, learn, and love math.

“Each year, students come in at a lower place than they left,” said Kopp. “One of our big goals is to help avoid that summer slide.”

Combined, Steffen, Starr, and Kopp have almost 50

years teaching experience and have taught kindergarten through eighth grade. They began working on their unique business idea prior to the teachers’ strike earlier this year. “Veteran DPS teachers were literally taking steps backward in pay,” noted Steffen. “We wanted to find another avenue to earn extra money using our expertise.” The team worked nights and weekends to put together their “passion project.”

Each Mathbox includes a literature component and hands-on learning tools—and all promote higher-level thinking skills rather than rote drills. Their goal is to help students, especially girls, feel more confident in math and show them how much math they use in their daily lives. The group worked diligently to design activities that not only promote grade-level standards, but that appeal to children and their parents.

The teachers say lessons are meaningful and engaging. Each kit includes things kids want to do, such as games, crafts, scavenger hunts, and recipes. Kids can complete the activities more than once for extra practice.

“We were very intentional as we developed the activities,” added Starr. “We want parents and kids to be able to complete them with little to no preparation, using materials from the box or things they most likely already have around the house.”

“We’ve developed a one-stop shop to help parents know how to talk about math more, how to incorporate more math into their everyday lives,” said Steffen. “We want to build kids’ confidence and show them math can be fun.”

Mathbox kits are available online at <https://mymathbox.com>. Prices start at \$34.95 for a two-book activity package. Three- and five-book packages are also available.



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The new Constellation Ice Cream kiosk in the Eastbridge Town Center has a 75-foot wing that extends over the sidewalk by the street. "I wanted to do something that spoke to the (airport's) history like a punch to the head!" says owner Paul Tamburello.



Julio Mino takes a photo of his kids, Catalina (10), Vicente (4), and Julie (7) as they eat their cones on the steps by the Constellation kiosk.

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

There was a time when you could drive through a part of the old Stapleton International Airport, park your car, and feel your bones vibrate as planes came in for a landing overhead. It was thrilling and something those who grew up in Denver remember fondly. Paul Tamburello was one of those people. He combined his love of aviation and roadside attractions into his newest project, The Constellation Ice Cream shop, which opened in March in Stapleton's Eastbridge Town Center.

The 355-square foot walk-up kiosk is named after the Lockheed Constellation ("Connie") airplane, an icon of the mid-20th century that Tamburello says was the first Air Force One. His team bought the design plans to build the 75-foot airplane wing replica that forms the shop's roof, providing a dramatic and gleaming helm at the west end of the Town Center. "Stapleton has this incredibly rich history in aviation so when we thought about what we wanted to do, when we were looking at different

airplanes to use, we thought 'this is the one.'

"Aviation has always been such a magical thing for me and my family and for lots of people. Airports were where you said goodbye to loved ones, where you received loved ones, where you sent them off to college, to war... and it happened here over and over again for decades.

"I wanted to do something that spoke to the [airport's] history like a punch to the head! If you had no idea what Stapleton was, you'd think 'What in the hell is this airplane wing doing in this neighborhood?' That's why we did it."

Creating iconic structures has become the Little Man brand, according to Tamburello.



Three-year-old Polly grins with delight after her mom, Natalie Nokoff, gets her an ice cream cone.

"The saying 'familiarity destroys wonder,' is our operating ethos," he says. "You can get ice cream anywhere, so why would anybody stand in line and take the time to get it other than that it's experiential, communal and appeals to all five of our senses."

An aeronautic theme infuses Signature Flavors of ice cream such as Turbulence, which has a touch of food-grade charcoal swirled with vanilla ice cream, chocolate pearls and marshmallows, to mimic a stormy sky; and Cruising Altitude, taking the best of airline snacks, mixing butter cookies, peanuts and pretzels into Tamburello's new, personal favorite flavor. One of the Novelty treats harkens back to

a flashy, mid-century dessert, Baked Alaska. A chocolate ice cream popsicle is partially dipped in merengue and torched to get the iconic browned tips.

The Constellation Ice Cream shop is a sister concept of the Little Man Ice Cream Company, famous for its silver milk can building in north Denver. The company sources products to various Colorado ice cream stores and restaurants. Their other businesses, Sweet Cooie's, and Old Town Churn (in a building shaped like an old-fashioned ice cream maker) will be joined this year by DANG's soft serve concept in Oneida Park, a Little Man (minus the can) in Concourse C of Denver International Airport, and the opening of their commercial factory for tours and tastings. Each location has the "Scoop for Scoop" program, donating a scoop of rice or beans for every scoop of ice cream sold, to help fight hunger around the world. The Constellation will also support STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math) programs by donating to local schools and relevant nonprofits through each scoop purchased.



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SUN Annual Community Forum May 21

Agenda: Doors open at 6pm; Meeting time is 6:30-8:30pm. The meeting will begin with welcoming comments from SUN, followed by a vote on the slate of SUN board candidates (see below). Next, Denver police, the Stapleton MCA, and representatives from the City of Denver will speak, followed by brief Q&A. Brookfield will have the floor in the latter portion of the meeting. Representatives from DPS and other development projects in and around Stapleton have also been invited. Final details of the agenda will be available closer to the event. Please note that most



May SUN News

SUN Annual Community Forum

May 21, 6:30 – 8:30pm
The Cube, 8371 E Northfield Blvd

third Tuesday SUN meetings are held at the Central Park Recreation Center, however the location for this meeting is at The Cube (8371 E Northfield Blvd).

Election of SUN Board Candidates at Annual Forum

At the May 21 annual community forum, the community will be asked to vote on a slate of five candidates for the SUN board with four current board members rejoining: Geoff Horsfall, Erin Jones, Mark Mehringer, and Ben Whitney; and one new candidate, S Tally Lawing.

Biography for new SUN board candidate S Tally Lawing: I relocated to Stapleton with my wife Kasia, daughters Kennedy and Zosia, and our beautiful Briard dog “Major” in January 2017. We came initially seeking more space, an intimate sense of

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community, and the fabulous IB school curriculum that Swigert, McAuliffe, and Northfield High Schools offer to the northeast area neighborhood residents. I am a full-time real estate professional specializing in residential and commercial investment properties with a background in sales/finance, marketing, and event production. I'm very passionate about culturing a diverse and inclusive community with a specific focus on maintaining authentic, equitable, and sustainable growth for our Stapleton residents. I volunteer as a Stapleton Neighborhood Watch Block Captain and administrate various private neighborhood social media page(s) in effort to foster a sense of camaraderie, communication, and connectedness within our community.

Biographies on returning SUN board members are available at StapletonUnitedNeighbors.org. Each SUN board member serves a two-year term. Board members remaining on the board, but not up for reelection this cycle are: Amanda Allshouse, Jea Arzberger, Jeffrey Barron, Jeff Ederer, Damon Knop, Bryan Penny, and Mandle Rousseau. After the election, the board will consist of 12 members. Per bylaws, the board size should be between 5 and 15 members.

The procedure at the annual community forum for voting on the slate will be that the slate is presented to the community, and the entire slate is voted on at once with a show of hands. If the slate is approved by majority vote, all the individuals in the slate shall become Directors. If the slate is not approved by majority vote, nominations for each open position shall be taken from the members present at the meeting, including other Directors. Of the individuals so nominated, those receiving the most votes shall become Directors. All members of SUN are volunteer, and must reside (rent or own) in the footprint of Stapleton in Denver.



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Detention Center: Who are they accountable to?

(continued from page 9) preserve their due process rights.”

Rusnock, an 18-year ICE veteran, has a different perspective: “We are in the business of enforcing immigration laws. Individuals who violate them must be detained in a facility to ensure they are removed to their country of origin as soon as practicable.”

DeGette counters that “Most of the individuals being held right now are being held because they have a claim for asylum. They are not being held on a criminal charge.” The former attorney shares, “I think they’re trying to wear them down so they give up, and they’re trying to dissuade other people from coming.”

Jordan agrees. “Asylum-seekers are not risky or dangerous. They overwhelmingly turn up for court....ICE is trying to pressure people to give up their claims by putting them in prison. The whole system is rotten.”

Addressing Health Issues from Chicken Pox to Trauma

On April 9 the ACLU sued ICE for information on the death of Kamyar Samimi while in custody at the GEO facility in 2017. Another man formerly held at the facility is also suing, claiming he received inadequate medical treatment while in detention. Jordan says the facility only has one full-time doctor and even an issue as simple as repairing a hearing aid required several months of legal advocacy on behalf of a client. For people with more serious needs, care is even more challenging, as bulging hernias and respiratory issues remain untreated for up to a year. “Very little mental health support exists for people housed there, most of whom have experienced trauma. In addition to a lot of language barriers, there is a lot of cultural incompetence on the part of staff.” Jordan shares.

Earlier this year, several outbreaks of chicken pox and mumps led to quarantines at GEO. Crow recalls learning about these cases as a result of a lawyer in the waiting

room sharing the information with him. “I remain concerned as to why there wasn’t proper disclosure from GEO and ICE to local health officials,” says Crow. The quarantines in turn impeded lawyers’ access to clients, resulting finally in the introduction of video conferencing. In cooperation with Tri-County Health Department, GEO began providing vaccinations to employees as well as people detained at the facility. As of mid-April, the total number of confirmed cases were: 15 cases of mumps and 9 cases of chickenpox.

Stapleton mom Dr. Janine Young, who is the Co-Medical Director of the Denver Health Human Rights Clinic (HRC), along with her HRC colleagues regularly see clients at the GEO facility. Since October 2018, they have been performing physical and mental health forensic exams for those interned at GEO who may qualify for legal status. “We diagnose signs of torture like blunt force trauma, broken bones, and concussions as well as PTSD, sexual abuse, rape, female genital cutting and other conditions that are grounds for asylum.”

According to Dr. Young, in combination with appropriate legal representation, skilled medical and/or mental health evaluations significantly increase the success rates for those seeking asylum. “These are all people who are seeking better lives for themselves and their kids like any of us would. They have the same concerns with their children that we do—are they growing, thriving, eating well?” She expresses gratitude for funders including Denver Health, the Rose Family Foundation and Caring for Colorado; however, the need is great and donations and skilled professionals are always welcome. Reach out to Robin Engleberg at the Denver Health Foundation if you would like to support the program: robin.engageberg@dhha.org.

*Contact Reps. Crow and DeGette:
https://crow.house.gov/contact/email-me,
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During a Nepali New Year's festival on April 13 at Mango House, a full screen thank you to Dr. PJ Parmar stood out among the images in the slide show.

By Carol Roberts

Dr. PJ Parmar laughs as he looks around Mango House, located in a 56,000 square foot building at 10180 E. Colfax that used to be a JC Penney's. Mango House, now the home of six food-court style restaurants, offers ethnic dining you won't find under one roof anywhere else in metro Denver.

Parmar knew while in medical school that he wanted to care for people who are underserved—and in 2012, he opened a private practice to exclusively serve refugees. Since then, he has seen over 50,000 patients, 90% of whom are on Medicaid. Though many doctors accept few, if any, Medicaid patients, through innovation and efficiency, he has created a profitable practice that is responsive to the needs of refugees.

In July 2018, Parmar took on a \$3.7 million mortgage to turn the former JC Penney building at Colfax and Galena in Aurora into a marketplace where refugees can operate their own businesses, get medical, dental and other services, and have a place for community events. Parmar guided months of renovation and city inspections—and now some of these resilient and hard-working entrepreneurs are

happily sharing their food and their stories with neighbors in their new country.

For more information, check the Mango House website at <http://1532galena.com>. Hours for each stall are different and evolving as the businesses grow. The sixth restaurant, Golden Sky Sushi, has not yet opened.

Food court stories by Karyn Cole

Urban Burma



Siri Tan, whose friend Tin Tin Aye works for him, is proud to have opened the first Burmese restaurant in Denver. "I want to introduce Burmese food to my new Denver neighbors," said Tan. But Tan's journey from his childhood in Burma to restaurant owner had a few detours. After leaving his home in 2007, Tan lived in Thailand for seven years working for a non-profit, helping his fellow Burmese refugees. He met his American wife there, and together

the two came to Denver in 2014.

In the U.S., Tan continued working in the non-profit sector, but dreamed of owning his own restaurant. When Parmar first showed him the food stalls, Tan left his job to drive for Lyft and save money to cover the initial investment. His brother, who currently lives in Oklahoma, is a co-investor. Tan hopes he will move to Denver soon and join the business full-time.

Tan's goal is to serve healthy, flavorful food that is affordable to all. The menu includes curry and noodle dishes, which he serves alongside spicy sauces. He proudly tells of a family that drove over 30 minutes to get to his restaurant. "They had eaten Burmese food 10 years ago in San Francisco and came as soon as they heard there was a Burmese restaurant in Denver."

Ayny's Kitchen Bakery Cafe



Aine Mohamed Aweis and her husband Fauzy Ali Sayid are both survivors of Somalia's civil war and a traumatic border crossing into Kenya. Sayid, who walks with a brace due to polio, escaped to Nairobi when he was a child, while Aweis arrived in her teens. Sayid came to Denver on an immigrant visa in 2012. He subsequently met his wife in Nairobi and brought her to the United States. Though the couple has three young children, when the opportunity to open their own restaurant presented itself, they knew they had to take it.

New Ethnic Foo



Mango House, located in a former JC Penney store on East Colfax in Aurora, now has a food court with six ethnic restaurants, most owned by refugees. Back row, from left: Urban Burma – Tin Tin Aye and owner Siri Tan; Jasmine Syria Middle Eastern Restaurant – the Alnouri family, with

The business was Aweis' idea. "She always used to be invited to friends' weddings to cater the food and just put a lot of sweets on the table," said Sayid. In September 2018, she started baking in a shared commercial kitchen and selling her goods to Somali-owned stores, but longed to expand her business.



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d Court on Colfax



Mohamad Alnouri at left in the front row; Nepali Mountain Kitchen – Dharani Dhakal and Sarda Siktel; Ayny's Kitchen Bakery Café – Aine Mohamed Aweis; Taste of Sudan – Sara Hamid; not open at the time of the photo, Golden Sky Sushi. Dr. PJ Parmar is at right in the front row.

The new restaurant serves pastries and Somali cakes alongside samosas and rice with chicken. The couple's goal is to continue to add menu items, expand their baked goods selection, and eventually hire additional staff. "We want you to stop by," said Sayid. "We definitely have a variety of food to teach people about."

Nepali Mountain Kitchen



Husband and wife Dharani Dhakal and Sarda Siktel's new food stall strives to introduce Nepali food to the Denver community. The name Nepali Mountain Kitchen is an homage to Dhakal's love for the mountains, both in Nepal and Colorado. Dhakal, who can speak nine languages, left Bhutan at age five or six, and lived in a refugee camp in Nepal for over 25 years. After getting a scholarship to study in India, where he met his wife, he had the chance to follow his parents and settle in the U.S. in 2014.

Siktel and Dhakal are delighted to have the opportunity to showcase Nepali cuisine. "We serve food that is Nepali, ethnic and good," said Dhakal. "Everything we are selling is grandma's recipe. A recipe from the home." Specialties include chicken curry served Nepali style and Dal-Bhat Tarkari, a lentil and rice dish. The menu also includes several vegetarian options.

The couple has a one-month-old baby girl and a 12-year-old son. Siktel's parents are visiting from India to help with the baby as they turn their restaurant aspirations to reality. Dhakal has big dreams—he hopes to one day open other Nepali Mountain Kitchen locations in cities across the U.S.

Taste of Sudan



Owner Sara Hamid came to the U.S. as an immigrant in 2009, following her husband who is Sudanese but an American citizen. She has a passion for cooking and holds degrees in both food science and human nutrition. Last year, she decided she wanted to be more involved in the community—so when Parmar approached her with his food hall idea, she knew it would be a perfect fit.

Hamid's restaurant serves things she loves alongside items that are pure Sudanese. Agashe, a traditional Sudanese treated meat, is only available locally at her food stall. Hamid also offer family-style meal options.

Hamid said things have gotten worse in Sudan since she left, and she sends much of her profit back home to support her family. She is hopeful her restaurant will teach people about her homeland and its food. "I would like them to feel what we feel back home and sit down and eat together. Having that group of people that can share the same plate together, talk and sit down for a long time. It's better than Facebook, or your cell phone, or your computer."

Jasmine Syrian Food



The Alnouri family emigrated from Syria to Colorado just two years ago. Following the Arab Spring, they spent five years in Egypt before being granted refugee status. Son Mohammed immediately enrolled in classes to learn English. Soon after, he participated in the University of Denver's food safety program and began working in a restaurant downtown. He quickly worked his way up to a position as a chef, which was when he first dreamed of opening his own place. In February, just two years after he arrived in the U.S., his dream became a reality.

Today, Mohammed continues to hold down two jobs, working at the downtown restaurant in the mornings and at Jasmine Syrian Food well into the night. He says he works as hard as he does for his parents. "I have to do this for them because they protected me when I was a child."

The restaurant serves traditional Syrian food, made fresh each day using family recipes. The menu includes tabbouleh, falafel, and shwarma. Mohammed hopes his restaurant will "help people know us, to know the Syrian people. And I hope to make my parents proud of me."

Golden Sky Sushi

Khaing Tun and Htwe Aung, who are Rakhine refugees from Burma, will be opening soon.

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