

Front Porch

COLORADO

OCTOBER 2019

NORTHEAST DENVER

De-escalation – Not Handcuffs



Sgt. Kip Sixbery (right) observes Campus Safety Officer Andrew Solano role-play de-escalation strategies learned during DPS Safety staff training.

DPS came under fire last spring when the handcuffing of a 7-year-old made the news. In June, a school board resolution greatly restricted use of handcuffs in elementary schools and mandated staff

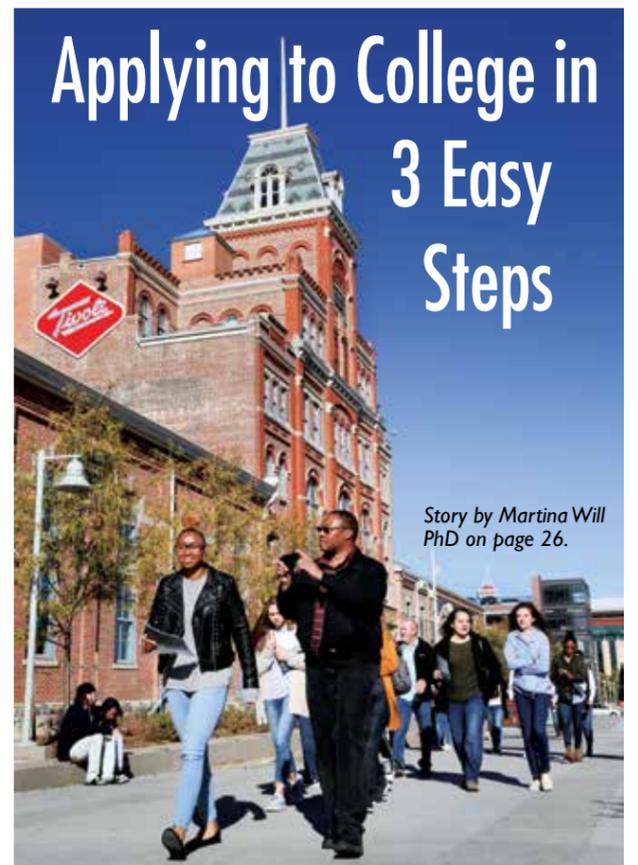
training aimed at avoiding handcuffs. Exacerbating the issue, DPS data show that Black students, who are 13% of the population, represent 45% of the students handcuffed in the past school year. *Story by Martina Will PhD on p. 12.*

Share your views on Denver's East Area Plan to accommodate future growth—meeting on Oct. 29. *Story by Martina Will, PhD on page 27.*



TABOR Refunds and Other Ballot Questions

Carol Hedges (left), Executive Director of the Colorado Fiscal Institute and State Senator Lois Court explain Proposition CC at a community meeting on Sept. 4. Learn about all the questions that will be on your Nov. 5 ballot in our article by Todd Engdahl starting on page 6.



Applying to College in 3 Easy Steps

Story by Martina Will PhD on page 26.



This Neighbor's House is Haunted!

Sean Herman (pictured above, guess which one he is) and his brother loved Halloween as kids. As grown ups, they visit the epicenter of haunted homes (Los Angeles) together every year. And Herman regularly attends the annual house hauntings convention in St. Louis where he gets ideas and buys materials. Herman's dad was a carpenter and his grandfather a designer—Herman is both. For years he has designed and built elaborate Halloween displays in his front yard. This year his entire family is taking it a step further. Not long after putting away last year's decor, he started making plans for a five-room haunted house in his garage this year. He'll have many haunting features you'd commonly see in a professional haunted house. Some of the walls have all the detail of a grand Victorian home that's now dilapidated. The entire family helps out during the Halloween season with Sean doing the building, Becki doing the painting and their two kids assisting with the decoration details. Their haunted house, to be entered from the alley, is at 9222 E 53rd Ave in Wicker Park, it will be open between 7-9pm on these dates. October 18, 19, 26, 31 and November 2, 3. Admission is free but donations are accepted and will be given to NRDC.org, a non-profit fighting climate change. Find more info at: wickermanor.com or [instagram.com/wickermanor](https://www.instagram.com/wickermanor).

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

Is the *Front Porch* arriving on your front porch regularly?

If you're not getting it every month, and if it's not on your porch and dry, please let us know. Email Carol@FrontPorchNE.com.

Letters to the Editor — Send to Carol@FrontPorchNE.com

Pick up the *Front Porch* in the Lowry and Mayfair Safeways or our sidewalk racks. Readers are welcome to take multiple papers from any *Front Porch* racks to share at local businesses and organizations.

Events & Announcements at Stapleton

Fall Film Series

Throughout October, we are featuring an acclaimed selection of thought-provoking documentaries. MSU's Cinema Studies professor, Dr. Vincent Pitarro, will present an educational discussion at each film screening. *Tickets are \$5 per person; resident membership cards can be shown for a \$4 credit at our concession stand.

Chasing Ice (PG-13)

Friday, October 4, 7pm, *The Cube*
Follow National Geographic photographer James Balog across the Arctic as he deploys time-lapse cameras designed to capture a multi-year record of the world's changing glaciers. MSU climate scientist Dr. Keah Scheunemann will also be at this screening.

The Cove (PG-13)

Friday, October 11, 7pm, *The Cube*
A group of activists, led by renowned dolphin trainer Ric O'Barry, infiltrate a cove near Taijii, Japan, exposing both a shocking instance of animal abuse and a severe threat to human health.

Saving Face (NR)

Friday, October 18, 7pm, *The Cube*
This short documentary film directed by Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy and Daniel Junge follows a group of Pakistani women and their road to recovery after being left tragically scarred by acid attacks. The film won an Emmy Award and the 2012 Academy Award for Best Documentary Short Subject.

Open Heart (NR)

Friday, October 18, 7pm, *The Cube*
Eight Rwandan children leave their families behind to embark on a life-or-death journey seeking high-risk heart surgery in Sudan. Their hearts ravaged by a treatable disease from childhood, strep throat, they only have months left to live.

The Weight of Water (NR)

Friday, October 25, 7pm, *The Cube*
This film follows the incredible story of a blind adventurer, Erik Weihenmayer, as he takes on the absurdly improbable challenge of kayaking the length of the Grand Canyon. The struggle to stay above the water can be harrowing.

Wine Education Series

Wednesday, October 9, 7pm, *The Cube*
The MCA's Wine Education Series spotlights the educational side to wine tasting. The tasting will be guided by wine expert Grant Harmsen of The Vineyard Wine Shop, who will educate attendees on the selected wines' evolution from vineyard to table. For this two-hour, sit-down tasting, Grant will highlight some of his current favorite wines from a variety of different countries and regions. Tickets are \$20/\$40 day of the event. Purchase tickets at stapletoncommunity.com. You must be 21+ to attend, and no refunds will be permitted.

Active Minds Seminar: Ragtime and the Music of Scott Joplin

Thursday, October 10, 1pm, *Sam Gary Library*

Join Active Minds for a musical journey into the world of Ragtime. We'll explore some of Joplin's most significant work, which paved the way for him to become one of the most successful African American composers of his time.

Farmers Markets & Annual Pumpkin Patch

October 6 & 13, 8:30am–12:30pm, *Founders' Green*

Find produce that is locally harvested, picked fresh and always in-season. At our final farmers market on October 13, we will also be hosting our annual pumpkin patch! For every \$5 that you spend at a vendor's booth, you will receive a coupon. Coupons can be redeemed at the pumpkin patch for a free pumpkin with sizes ranging from small to large. Be sure to get to the pumpkin patch early as pumpkin quantities are limited.

Screenagers: The Next Chapter

Wednesday, October 16, 6pm, *The Cube*
From the director of *Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age* comes *Screenagers Next Chapter: Uncovering Skills for Stress Resilience*. Filmmaker and physician Delaney Ruston uses a personal lens and professional eye to help parents flip the script on stress, anxiety, and depression.

Active Minds Seminar: Colorado Ghost Stories

Thursday, October 24, 6:30pm, *Sam Gary Library*

Join Active Minds as we tiptoe through the haunted houses and ghoulish graveyards of the area. We will tell the ghost stories associated with the Stanley Hotel, Cheesman Park and the Molly Brown House as we visit the past and the mysteries they conceal.

Pets of Stapleton 2020 Calendar – Call for Entries!

Pets who are current residents of Stapleton are eligible to participate. We only ask that the photo is taken somewhere in Stapleton, preferably outdoors, and that no people are visible. The picture must be a two-megabyte (minimum) jpeg file. Send your pet's best photo to pets@stapletoncommunity.com. Please include your pet's name, age and type and, of course, your name, phone number and Stapleton home address so we can notify you. *Entry deadline is October 15, 2019.*

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Master Community Association 

Sponsored by Stapleton MCA

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Front Porch

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The Front Porch – NE Denver distributes more than 28,000 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.

Please join us for the

Stapleton Women's Wellness Event

at Eastbridge

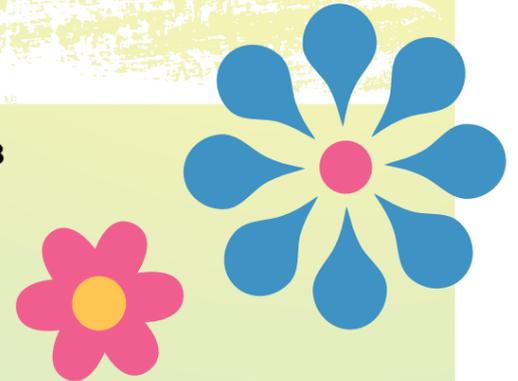
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Face painting for kids

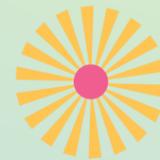
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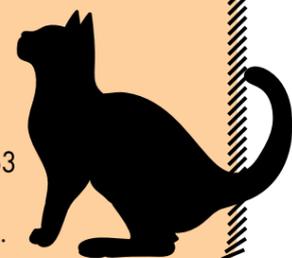


Learn more about them at www.FrontPorchNE.com > Business Directory

Churches	Augustana Lutheran Church	21
	Denver Presbyterian Church	24
	Stapleton Church	9
Community Organization	Stapleton Master Community Association	2
Dance Classes	Dance Institute LLC	8
Dental	Lowry Family Dentistry	17
	Nestman Orthodontics	22
	Stapleton Dental	24
	Stapleton Orthodontics	26
	Town Center Dentistry and Orthodontics	28
Design and Remodeling	Williams Family Dentistry	14
	Diane Gordon Design	24
	Gather and Spruce	23
	Denver Recycles	27
Events	B&B RV, Inc.	11
	HealthONE	3
Family Entertainment	Nick's Garden Center	7

Fitness	Anytime Fitness	15
	Bladium Sports and Fitness Center	21
	Ubergrippen Indoor Climbing Crag	21
Health and Wellness	Briar Rose Wellness Group	9
Home Builders	Boulder Creek Neighborhoods	5
	David Weekley Homes	19
Home Furnishings	Smart Spaces	26
Home Services	Reflection Windows & Doors LLC	10
Hospitals	Rose Medical Center	18
	Number 1 House Cleaning	21
	White Magic Cleaning Services	23
Insurance	Allstate - The Mathes Agency	10
Medical Doctors	Aspen Medical Group	8
	Colorado Gastroenterology	25
	HealthONE Premier OBGYN	12
	Stapleton Pediatrics	23

Mortgage	Thoroughbred Financial	23
Opticians	Colorado Family Eye Center - Stapleton	24
	Dirty Jobs Done Dirt Cheap	10
Real Estate	RE/MAX Momentum Stapleton	16
	The Kearns Team @ Realty ONE Group Premier	25
	Tolan Real Estate	23
	Wolfe & Epperson Real Estate	27
Restaurants	It's Brothers Bar & Grill	16
RV Sales & Rentals	B&B RV, Inc.	6
Schools	International School of Denver	22
	St. Anne's Episcopal School	20
Tutoring	Results Learning	17
Window Coverings	Budget Blinds	4
	Rocky Mountain Shutters	13



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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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Proposition CC proposes amending the Colorado statutes to allow the state government to keep all of the money it collects every year beginning in the 2019-20 state budget year. Rather than rebating money to taxpayers, it requires that any money the state government keeps over its existing revenue limit be spent for:

- Public schools
- Higher Education
- Transportation Projects

Text by Todd Engdahl

Graphics courtesy of the Colorado Fiscal Institute, *The Purple Book*, 2018 edition

What Proposition CC Would Do

The Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) currently sets annual limits on growth of state spending, so revenues above that amount must be refunded to

taxpayers. TABOR allows voters to override those limits, and that's what Proposition CC is asking citizens to do. If passed, this measure would allow state government to retain and spend all revenues it collects in a given year.

Context and History

The 1992 TABOR Amendment to the state constitution is best known for its requirement that all tax increases be approved by voters at the state or local level. But it also contains a long set of other provisions that seek to restrain state and local spending.

Proposition CC addresses the TABOR provision that limits annual spending increases by a government entity to the rate of consumer inflation plus population growth. Voters in many local jurisdictions, especially school districts, have overridden their limits on revenue growth.

In 2005, voters approved Referendum C, a five-year time-out in the state spending limit that also made some adjustments to how the spending limit is calculated. Proposition CC would be permanent, like many local government overrides are.

Whatever your philosophy about

government spending, it's important to understand that lifting the limit wouldn't necessarily create a steady, predictable windfall of new money for the state, and keeping the limit wouldn't put big bucks back in taxpayers' pockets

State revenues come in under the voter-approved limit in more years than they exceed it—and not every taxpayer will receive a refund following years when there's a surplus. The first \$160 million of refunds are used to reduce senior citizen property taxes.

How It Would Work

If Proposition CC passes, legislative staff economists estimate an additional \$310 million would be available for spending in the 2020-21 budget year, with \$342 million available in 2021-22, which is as far in the future as the estimates go.

Proposition CC

Some estimates predict larger surplus revenues in 2020-21, but economists note any surpluses would evaporate quickly after the next recession hits.

Accompanying legislation reserves the money in equal slices for public education, state colleges and universities, and transportation. So each area would receive \$103 million in 2020-21 and \$114 million in the following budget year, if those projections turn out to be accurate.

These are small numbers in the context of overall state spending, which is more than \$32 billion from all sources in the current budget year.

Current basic K-12 spending is more than \$7.4 billion, the total for higher education is above \$4.8 billion, and trans-

How much refund would I be giving up in 2020?

	Single Filer	Joint Filer
Adjusted Gross Income	Refund Amount	Refund Amount
up to \$41,000	20	40
\$41,000 to \$87,600	27	54
\$87,600 to \$136,500	32	64
\$136,500 to \$185,500	36	72
\$185,500 to \$232,100	39	78
\$232,100 and up	62	124

If Prop CC does not pass, the table above shows the latest projections of refund amounts.

Source: Legislative Council Sept 2019 forecast for fiscal year 2019-20 refund obligation (Amounts here reflect updates since the Blue Book was printed.)

Why put more funds in the K-12 education budget?

39th in U.S. in Funding*



48th in U.S. in Spending per \$1,000 Personal Income*



—51st in the nation (including Washington DC) in average starting teacher's salary compared to other professions that require the same education.**

—The state is half a billion dollars below keeping up with inflation since 2000.*

*Source: Public Education Finances 2013 from US Census Bureau published June 2015.

**Source: NEA average starting teacher salary; 2018 May OES by state average salary of all occupations.

***Colorado Fiscal Institute



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Retention of State Revenue

portation funding is some \$2.1 billion. (These totals include more than state income and sales tax revenues that are controlled by TABOR. Schools receive about a third of their funding from local property taxes, a majority of higher education revenue is generated by student tuition, and transportation is supported by gasoline taxes and federal funds.)

Who's Behind It

The 2018 elections gave Democrats control of both legislative chambers and the governor's office. That made it possible to pass the bill that put Proposition CC on the ballot. Democratic elected officials pretty much support it unanimously; Republicans oppose it, with a

few exceptions.

Lifting the state spending limit—at least in concept—also is supported by several center-liberal advocacy and research groups, including the Colorado Fiscal Institute, the Bell Policy Center, Great Education Colorado and Building a Better Colorado.

Who Opposes It

Republican orthodoxy in Colorado generally means opposing any attempts to tinker with TABOR or increases in state spending. A conservative group named Colorado Rising Action, whose director previously worked for the Koch-connected Americans for Prosperity, is campaigning against CC. But as of mid-September

there was no overt campaign activity either for or against the measure.

A pro-CC committee, Coloradans for Prosperity, was registered with the Department of State and reported contributions of \$200,000, raised by four equal donations from a teachers-union related group, a construction industry committee, liberal donor Pat Stryker, and former University of Denver chancellor Dan Ritchie. A committee connected to Great Education Colorado reported raising about \$51,000 in support of the proposal.



Carol Hedges, Executive Director of the Colorado Fiscal Institute (left) and State Senator Lois Court explain Prop CC at a community meeting in Park Hill. Hedges pointed out that Colorado has the 45th lowest taxes in the country, and due to TABOR, income taxes will be further lowered to 4.5% for 2019.

A committee connected to Americans for Prosperity has reported spending nearly \$300,000 of in-kind contributions against the measure. And a committee named No on CC reported raising about \$14,000.

(continued on page 8)

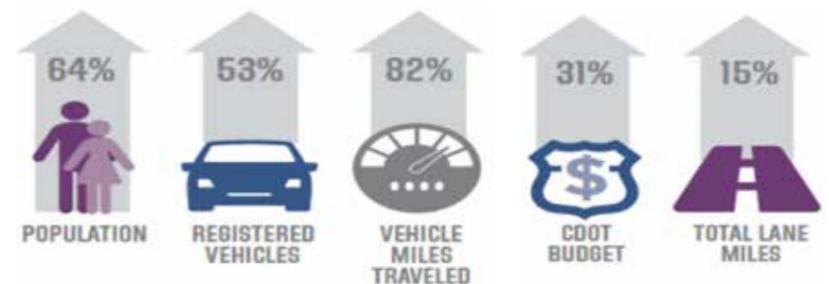
Why put more funds in the higher education budget?



The cost of higher education has shifted to students. In 2000, the state paid 68% of Colorado resident student tuition and students paid 32%. By 2016, the numbers had reversed—the state paid 35% of resident tuition and students paid 65%.

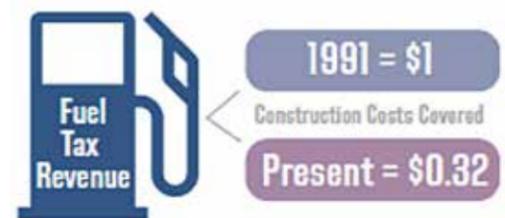
*Source: State Higher Education Finance FY 2016 by State Higher Education Executive Officers
**Source: The Institute for College Access & Success.

Why put more funds in the transportation budget?



Since 1991, the number of miles driven has increased by 82% while the Colorado Department of Transportation budget has increased just 31%. The number of road miles is now only 15% greater than it was in 1991.

Colorado fuel tax revenue has not kept up with inflation. \$1.00 of fuel tax revenue now covers less than 1/3 of the construction that \$1.00 covered in 1991.



Source: The Colorado Fiscal Institute, The Purple Book, 3rd Edition, 2018, p. 27 & p. 29



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Proposition CC (continued)

Pros and cons

Opinions about this measure are mostly driven by whether one thinks state government has too little revenue or already spends too much. Beyond that, there's not a lot of policy nuance to argue over.

Supporters agree that state revenue has grown since TABOR was passed in 1992. But they note that the subsequent events and trends have created budget needs not anticipated so long ago. Those include the mandatory K-12 increases required by 2000's Amendment 23, the ratchet down of local school district revenues caused by other constitutional amendments, steeply

rising Medicaid costs, and stagnant transportation revenues.

Opponents generally argue that state government has plenty of money and that lawmakers just need to adjust priorities.

Links to texts and advocate information

Full text of measure: Search for "Amendments and Propositions on the 2019 Ballot" at sos.state.co.us

Additional information:

At Ballotpedia.org, search for Colorado Proposition CC

Yes on CC: <https://yesonpropcc.com/>

Vote No on CC: <http://votenoccc.com>

Your STATE BALLOT

What it would do

Passage of DD would legalize sports gambling in Colorado, impose taxes on the casinos that offer such betting, and devote the tax revenues to water projects.

Context and history

Gambling measures have been a regular fixture on Colorado ballots for decades, starting with approval of bingo in 1959, approval of the Colorado Lottery in 1980, and the 1990 vote that allowed casinos in the historic mountain towns of Black Hawk, Central City and Cripple Creek. Along the way there have been an even larger number of unsuccessful gaming proposals on the ballot.

Proposition DD is the latest proposal in that long list. A May 2018 U.S. Supreme Court decision allowed states to legalize sports betting, prompting a rush by states to tap into a lucrative

Proposition DD — Legalization and Taxation of Sports Betting

but previously unregulated and untaxed activity. The 2019 legislature placed the measure on the November ballot because voter approval is required for the tax increase.

How it would work

If approved, you would be able to place bets on various sporting events through websites and mobile apps operated by Colorado casinos. Betting in casinos would be allowed if approved by voters in the three mountain gambling towns.

Betting would be allowed on professional, college, international, Olympic and some motor sports events. Bets would not be allowed on individual performances or events during a college game—you couldn't bet on whether the Buffs' quarterback will complete his next pass. And there would be no betting on high school sports.

The measure would impose a 10% tax on casinos' sports betting net proceeds—the amount left after winners are paid off and federal taxes are deducted. Legislative analysts estimate the state would earn 47.5 cents on every \$100 bet, generating about \$16 million a year for the first five years. Revenues would be capped at \$29 million a year.

The bulk of that money—about \$15 million a year—would go toward funding the State Water Plan, a 2015

document that sets goals for future water policy, but which isn't currently funded in any significant way. Small amounts of revenue would go to gambling addiction services and to a fund to compensate local governments if they lose tax revenue because other forms of gambling decline.

Who's behind it

The sports gambling bill breezed through the legislature and is strongly backed by casino interests and some environmental groups. A variety of civic groups and trade associations also have endorsed DD.

Past efforts to expand gambling in Colorado have sparked ferocious campaign fights between the mountain casino companies and other gaming firms—primarily the Arapahoe Park Racetrack and off-track betting companies. The casinos always spent more campaign cash and defeated expansion proposals.

Arapahoe Park and off-track betting parlors won't get a piece of the sports gambling action. But don't expect a big fight this year. Arapahoe Park's parent company is buying into some mountain casinos, indirectly giving it a piece of the action.

Supporters reportedly plan an ad campaign urging a yes vote.

Who opposes it

Some environmentalists oppose the measure because of differences with the water plan and fears that its implementation would lead to building large dams.

Pros and cons

As with Proposition CC, the benefits or drawbacks on DD are in the eye of the individual voter and largely depend on personal feelings about legalized gambling. The policy implications of water plan funding are hard to gauge, given that potential DD revenue is far too little on its own to pay for any large water projects.

Links to texts and advocate information

Full text of measure: Search for "Amendments and Propositions on the 2019 Ballot" at sos.state.co.us.

Additional information:

At Ballotpedia.org, search for Colorado proposition DD

Yes on DD (supporting): <https://yesondd.com>

Coloradans for Climate Justice (opposed): <https://www.facebook.com/Coloradans-ForClimateJustice>



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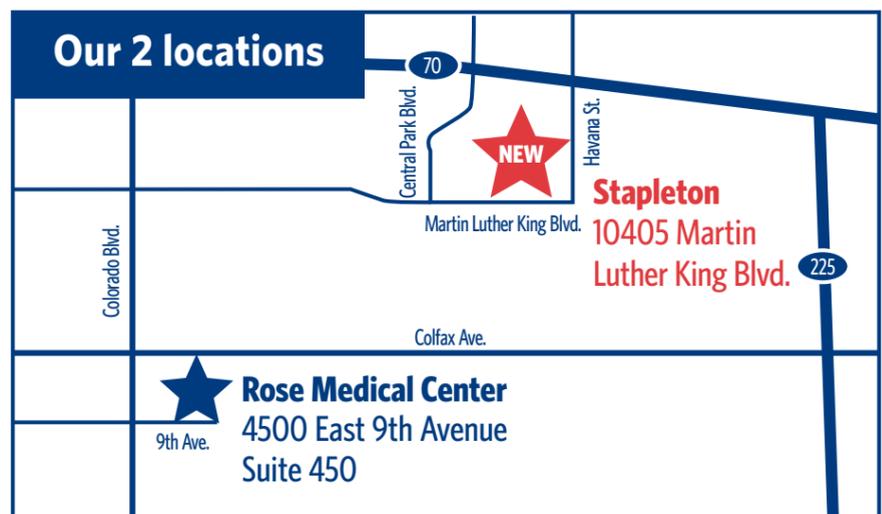
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Your DENVER BALLOT

Referred Question 2A – Establishing City Department of Transportation

What it would do – This proposal would amend the city charter to rename the existing Department of Public Works as the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Context and history – In recent years the administration of Mayor Michael Hancock has placed increasing emphasis on transportation and what planners like to call “mobility.” That includes projects ranging from the expanded and more prominent bike lanes around the city to the long-discussed proposal for bus rapid transit on Colfax Avenue. City planners also have taken steps to discourage automobile use.

Hancock earlier proposed creating a separate Department of Transportation, which was dropped in favor of the current proposal. In 2017 he pitched a \$2 billion “mobility plan” whose implementation remains somewhat vague and for which no new taxes have been raised.

How it would work – Passing this measure changes the department’s name and, in the words of the ballot title, assigns it “new powers and duties in regard to transportation services, transportation safety programs, and non-motorized transportation facilities.”

For instance, the measure includes a clause giving the agency responsibility for “Planning, design, construction, maintenance and operation of mass transportation systems and other public transportation services, either individually or jointly with the Regional Transportation District or any other public or private entity.”

The measure doesn’t request any new funding, and the department will

continue to also be responsible for its old, unglamorous duties like maintaining city streets and other infrastructure.

Long-term changes in city transportation policy depend more on obtaining future funding, the city’s relationship with RTD and what happens after Hancock, now in his final term, leaves office.

The only spending associated with the change is \$200,000 for “rebranding” the agency—new letterhead and logos.

Referred Question 2B – Arts and Venues Facilities

What it would do – This proposal removes obsolete language from the city charter that lists management of theaters, concert facilities, auditoriums and arenas among the duties of Department of General Services. Such facilities in fact already are managed by another agency named Denver Arts and Venues.

Referred Question 2C – Fire Department Ranks and Grades

What it would do – This technical proposal adds “emergency medical technician” to the list of fire department ranks listed in the city charter. It also would allow the fire chief to assign assistant chiefs to perform the duties of shift commander.

Referred Question 2D – Elected Official Residency

What it would do – The current city charter contains requirements for how long a person has to live in the city or a district before they can run for a city office. This proposal would explicitly require elected officials to maintain proper residency during their time in office.

Additional Information for Voters

Denver Ballot Guide

Search denvergov.org for “Ballot Question Guide”

State Ballot Guide

Search online for “Colorado Ballot Information Booklet 2019”

Why are we voting on these things?

People often wonder why they have to vote on obscure, technical changes in the city charter election after election.

That’s because the charter is basically the city’s constitution so can be amended only by voters, as is the case with the Colorado constitution.

The problem is that over the decades the constitution and the charter have been bulked up with provisions that probably should have been handled in state laws or city ordinances. Changing such provisions still requires voter approval.

What about other ballot measures?

You may have read about other ballot measures and wonder why they won’t be on the November ballot. Here’s what happened:

A proposed recall of Gov. Jared Polis failed to gather enough signatures to make the statewide ballot.

Sufficient signatures were gathered by the campaign to force a public vote on the National Popular Vote law passed by the legislature last spring. But that won’t be on the ballot until next year. (States that join the popular vote movement commit to casting their Electoral College votes for the winner of the national popular vote for president, regardless of how state citizens voted.)

Some council members pushed a proposal to tax energy use by Denver businesses and use the revenue for city sustainability programs. That was shelved because of Hancock’s opposition. A similar citizen-proposed plan may be on the Denver ballot in 2020.

Todd Engdahl is owner of Capitol Editorial Services, a firm that provides legislative coverage, intelligence and analysis to private clients. During a long career as an editor and public policy writer, he served as executive city editor of The Denver Post, founder of DenverPost.com and founder of Education News Colorado, which later became part of Chalkbeat Colorado.

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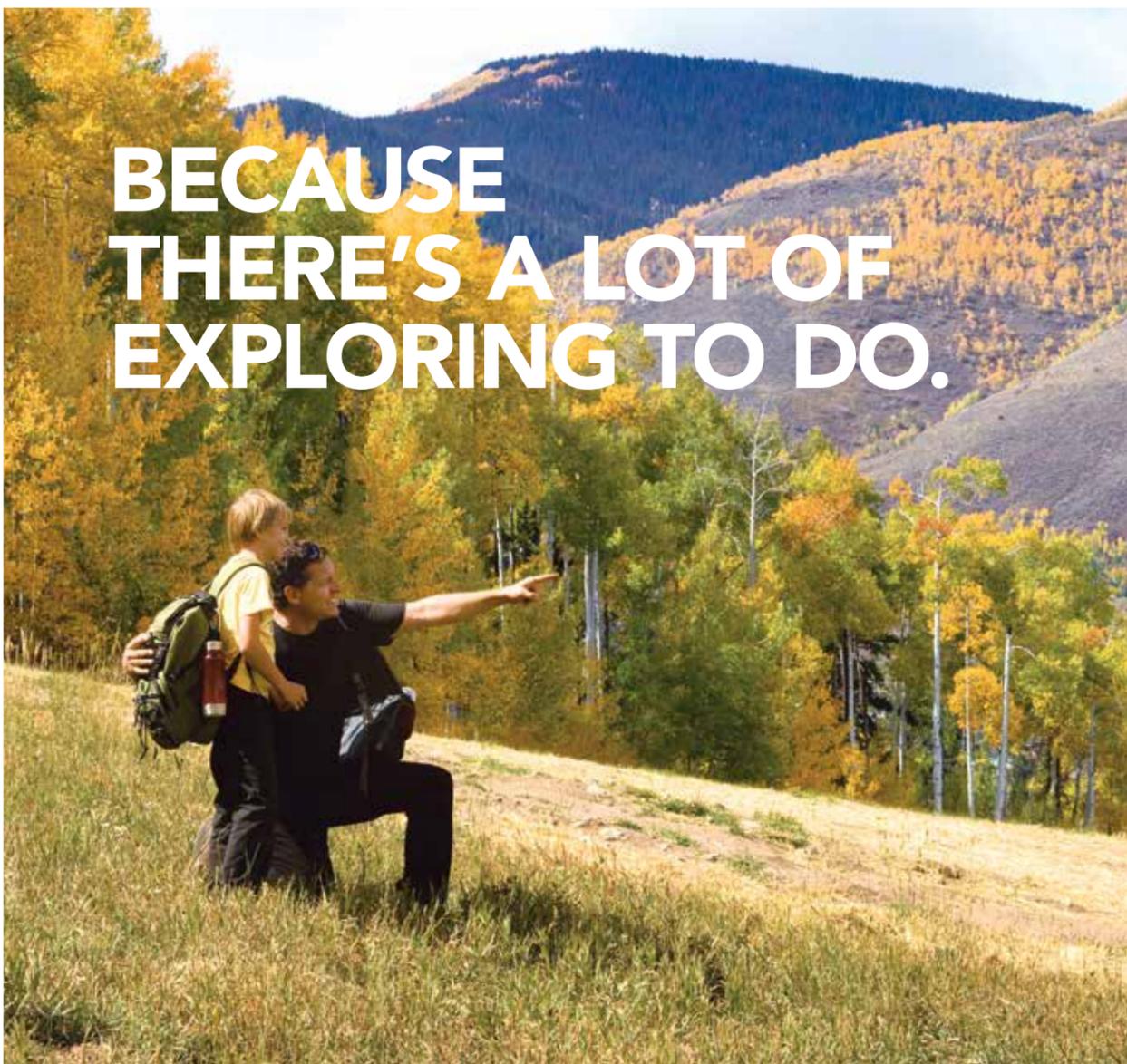
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Natela Alexandrovna Manuntseva

#1 Priority

Create an apprenticeship program with business owners, professionals and other volunteers so students can find a field that inspires them.



Tay Anderson

#1 Priority

Pass a resolution to make sure we are adequately funding for free tampons in schools and making sure that we are getting gender X restrooms in schools.



Alexis Menocal Harrigan

#1 Priority

Increasing resources so teachers are not playing five roles. Trauma-informed training. A full-time mental health counselor in every single school.



On your ballot

DPS Board At-Large Candidates — In Their Own Words

Natela Alexandrovna Manuntseva

On running for and serving on the school board—I teach acting (at John Casablancas Center) and why is it that in an acting class that I'm the first person introducing different learning styles to various juniors and seniors in high school?...My friends who are teachers are overstressed and stretched way too thin and they don't know how to help these students. The students are not feeling motivated because the teachers are not motivated, and then you factor in everything that is happening at home and...the students are not receiving the tools they need to succeed.

On being a board member—The school board's job is to choose the superintendent and [having] open communication between the school board and the superintendent. A lot of people are not even aware of what the school board does or where it is...bringing it out into the community and making sure people can feel safe so they know they can reach out to the school board if they have any questions...and someone will respond back to you.

On "Flipping the board"—I think we all need to work together; it's a bipartisan race for a reason. Once we start finding middle ground and being able to communicate, that will resolve a lot of issues...I want to make sure that everyone gets a chance to speak and a chance to listen.

On school choice—If the parents feel their child needs a different approach to their education, then it's the parents' choice to make that decision...I really want to focus on making the public schools really desirable for everyone to want to come to Denver Public Schools. When we...make sure that students are receiving a great education in Denver Public Schools, the issue of school choice won't even be an issue.

Policy Priorities

- Volunteers and Apprenticeships**—I want to create a program where...they [business owners, professionals, volunteers] can come in and...speak to students and tell them that there's this big wide world out there and they can be whoever they want to be, and they can choose an apprenticeship...that inspires them...if they don't know what they don't know, they have no idea that it's a huge world. And I have a lot of friends who are professionals who say they would love to go and talk to kids and even offer apprenticeships...so creating programs that are based on volunteers and based on people coming in and sharing their professional trades [is a priority].
- Teacher Resources**—Almost every single teacher I've talked to who teaches in public schools feels that they are overstressed and not focusing on teaching the children what they're supposed to be teaching because they're just so overwhelmed with all the paperwork they have to do and they're constantly taking time away from the classroom and not being able to...focus on children.
- Health**—The health of the children and making sure that they are feeling they are being heard, that they are feeling that they can talk to an adult whenever they need to and comfortable to express themselves in school and not get ostracized for that—and making sure they are feeling safe in school.

Tay Anderson

On running for and serving on the school board—I believe it's time we have someone who's lived the experience of our students on the board of education...I would be the only person on the board to have sat in our classrooms in the last decade. I understand where our students are coming from...and I would be a champion for our kids on the school board...I want to be able to craft a future for the next generation.

On being a board member—The superintendent adheres to the school board. The school board does not adhere to the superintendent. When elected, I'm making sure we get back to that, of making sure we insert our authority...We go tell the superintendent, "These are the measures we would love to see implemented throughout the school district," and the superintendent is supposed to implement that message throughout the different departments under them and make sure that flowers throughout the district.

On "Flipping the board"—Flip the board is about new leadership. I believe it's time that we give the district to union representation, to people that are supported by teachers' unions, labor unions and make sure we give the school board back to the citizens of Denver. Because meetings at 4:30 in the afternoon on a Thursday in downtown Denver are not accessible to community. Everybody has this negative connotation saying flip the board will close charters and end reform. Yes, we are aiming to end reform; however we want to make sure it's transformational leadership that is coming into the district. Reform hasn't worked. Reform has led us to having consistently segregated schools. Reform has led us to have high teacher turnover ratios. So reform hasn't worked. We've tried it for ten years.

On school choice—Choice is not choice for some of our kids...when I'm the kid who has to wake up at 5:30 in the morning to get across the city to get to school because the district has closed every comprehensive option in my neighborhood that's not choice for me...It's going to take years and it's going to take some work...I want to plant the seeds to benefit every community so all students wherever they are have the same resources.

Policy Priorities

- Equity measures**—My first 100 days I want to see us...pass a resolution to...adequately fund free tampons in schools and make sure that we are getting gender X restrooms in schools.
- No Cops in Schools**—I don't believe cops make our kids safer. I believe mental health resources need to be implemented throughout our district and we need to match the national average. Since 1999 we've implemented cops throughout high schools and what we've seen is that zero school shootings have been stopped by an actual cop or law enforcement officers. What we have seen is one million kids have been put in the school to prison pipeline due to the law enforcement presence in their building. And we need more restorative justice.
- Testing**—We need to rethink how we test our kids and how we grade our teachers; those play into the opportunity gap and the achievement gap. If it [testing] is not going to help them in their work or career, we shouldn't be giving it to them. We have to be sure they are using real-life benchmarks.

Alexis Menocal Harrigan

On running for and serving on the school board—Too often we've had leadership in the district and on the board—and I think that's changing now—that don't have the lived experience of our black and Latino students in Denver. And that's why I'm running. I think I'm very uniquely positioned to represent families but also do it in a way where I can bring my experience and policy expertise and my coalition-building to help create a new vision for DPS.

On being a board member—The board is the superintendent's boss. And the board should be creating vision and policy and expecting the people they oversee to execute it with fidelity.

On "Flipping the board"—We have made progress under [former superintendents Michael] Bennet and [Tom] Boasberg. The way we achieved that, I don't think, was with community...things were done to schools and to community and they were very, very aggressive reforms like closing schools; it was a one-size-fits-all, if you meet these criteria, we will close your school.

The reforms under Bennet and Boasberg have been successful when the metric is improving academic achievement for black and brown students. We have to look at a more holistic approach to what success means for students of color because there has been...a movement...to combat those reforms despite the progress that we've made. If you're a black or brown student, you're doing a little better but you're not doing extraordinarily better. But compared to where you were before Bennet...it's night and day; you're doing so much better.

On school choice—I was not able to walk to school even though I lived a block away...the neighborhoods were violent...but once I got to school, I loved my school experience...We were forced to leave the district...My parents weren't about to send me to Lincoln, where the graduation rate was abysmal in 1999. No child should have to leave their neighborhood for a quality school. I think as a parent, I should be able to choose the model that works best for my child...[but] so many schools that parents want, there's a long wait list...That is not authentic choice...until every school is a high-quality option, it's not working...I am going to be relentlessly focused on making the progress we've seen; the difference is I'm going to do it with community and empower community and help move the needle.

Policy Priorities

- Increasing Resources**—so teachers are not playing five roles. Trauma-informed training. A full-time mental health counselor in every single school.
- Community-empowered schools**—We have to create relationships with community to let them lead and then have us support them...it should be us going to them and listening. It's sort of reversing the power structure.
- Improve low-performing schools**—What can we do today, tomorrow, a year from now, to improve low-performing schools? So I am going to be willing to make those tough decisions. And if that means turning around a failing school, restarting or closing it, I'm willing to do that but only if the community in that local community is there...School closure should always be the last resort.

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By Carol Roberts

Mike Johnston, former school principal and state senator, says he spent a lot of time in the past year thinking about what's broken in our democracy—and what we can fix. After he withdrew from the U.S. Senate race, the *Front Porch* asked him to share his reflections on the state of our democracy.

He starts by asking, "Why is it that seemingly good people who are smart and care about the country are not able anymore to solve big problems that are in front of them?"

Johnston cites both cultural and structural issues that he believes have led us here.

Ideology

"As you got fewer and fewer results that actually got delivered by bipartisanship, if there wasn't real success to be had in delivering solutions, then the success was just in being ideologically pure....Now, if you can't say, look, I delivered a transportation package, or I delivered immigration reform, the way you got elected was for purity, not for progress. I think that's changed a generation of people who seek that rather than results.

"The question I always ask people is, what percentage of 100 hard issues in the world do you agree on with your own spouse? I don't know what the number is for my wife and me, but it's probably not more than 70. That is my most valued, closest, best friend in the world. If that's the most you can expect from someone you are married to and have spent half of your life with, what do you think that number is with any other human being on the planet?"

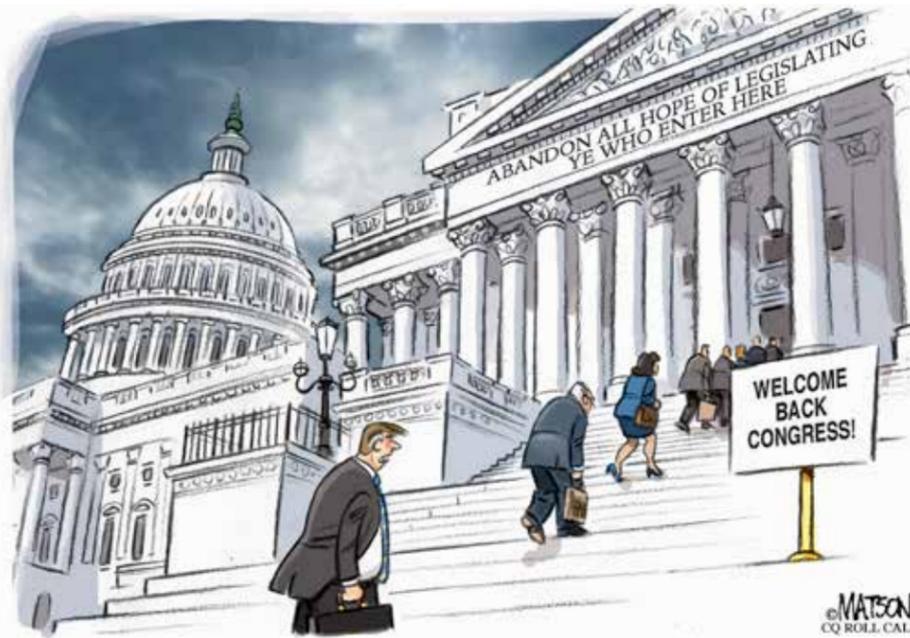
"People shouldn't be pushed towards candidates or issues that are going to require a certain amount of ideological purity. That is going to divide people...it's not where someone's headed on a single issue. It's how they're able to negotiate a broad array of issues.

"I think the studies show maybe about 15% to 20% of people on either end of the spectrum are driven by those single-issue votes. We're probably never going to agree on them. That still leaves 80 other issues to work on—those people still want roads to be paved, and they still want their schools to be well-supported and well-funded. There are a whole batch of things, even

Reflections on the State of Our Democracy

acknowledging those fundamental disagreements... I think normally what happens is you stop the conversation at abortion, and we walk away. I find it's okay to firmly disagree on that, and then say, 'But there's a whole lot else that is going to give us room to work together on.'

"If you're trying to hire for who is the person best to do the job of sitting down with folks that are different from them and taking on hard problems, failing and getting back up, and finding a way to seek common ground where people don't agree, that is, I think, a different skill set than one who might make a great campaigner."



The power of the people

"People have all of the power on this, and the reason why is the only threat you can get as an elected official is from some organization or corporation who is going to spend money against you to try to beat you. They think they can buy more people than you can build from good leadership. The corporations and the

PACs (political action committees) will write the checks that will make the difference. The regular people will get too busy. We've got lives to lead, kids to raise, jobs to go to.

"I'd say that the collective bet against democracy is the bet that we won't pay attention, and the collective bet to save it is the belief that we will be here louder and longer than any PAC or corporation will stick around. If we prove that to be true, it will change the course of American democracy. For, I think, 150 years, that was true. But as lives got busier and more complicated and corporations got bigger and more savvy, they were able to do

with money what we didn't always have the time to do with people power. But, if it becomes clear the most powerful force in politics is people, then that changes the behavior of who runs and who wins and how they govern. That is all dependent on us finding that time to vote, to make phone calls, to knock doors, to post on social media, to bring it up awkwardly



Mike Johnston

at your book club or at a cocktail party that this issue matters to you and to stay at the table....That's leveraging your actual political power in a way that matters when it's all on the line—which is in election season."

Structural Obstructions to Democracy

Johnston's first concern is that our elections are a patchwork of 50 different state voting systems that vary widely. "If there's one thing that ought to be federally protected, it's access to the ballot," he says.

For campaign finance he favors a system where everyone gets a \$50 voucher and candidates gain their financial support by going out and talking to citizens.

He says the filibuster has made us the only major democracy that doesn't allow the majority to rule—and cites the Colorado legislature as an example of how the U.S. Congress should function. "The gavel rule, which we have in Colorado, is a very powerful, very simple idea. Every legislator gets five bills. The requirement is every one of those bills has to have a public hearing and has to have a public vote....I think your job when you take the oath of office is to take hard votes.

"You want to keep building local systems of government that work effectively, that remind people that democracy is not the problem. We can get things done at the state legislature and we ought to expect our federal representatives to do the same thing. I do think showing up, voting, and remaining engaged are very, very powerful tools."

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De-escalation— Not Handcuffs



Left: DPS Campus Safety Officer (CSO) Marquaja Minor practices her CIT skills in a role-play with an actor portraying a volatile individual.

Above: CSO James Lopez observes while Coach Amir Stephen offers feedback on Minor's work in the paused role-play.

By Martina Will, PhD

“Oh my God. What was that? Are you kidding me? What the F+@\$@k is going on?” exclaims a livid young woman as she gesticulates wildly. Her expletive-laden speech escalates in tone and severity as her anger and frustration mount. A Denver Public Schools public safety staff member attempts to talk her down from the unreasonably aggressive language and body gestures. The irate woman

is an actor playing out a scene that takes place at a DPS sporting event. The DPS staff member is employing newly acquired verbal and nonverbal techniques learned during de-escalation training.

This past June, the DPS school board passed a resolution eliminating the use of handcuffs in elementary schools; the only exception is “if the student is openly displaying a deadly weapon,” according to the resolution.

School board member Jennifer Bacon says the impetus for the decision came from several incidents involving handcuffs with young students, in particular one involving a 7-year old in Northeast Denver that received widespread media attention in the spring. “We have to move from being a reactive governing structure to a proactive one,” Bacon told the *Front Porch* in June.

As the media focused on the case of the 7-year old, DPS provided statis-

tics showing 58 students had been handcuffed from 2017-2019. That number, however, almost tripled when DPS further reviewed its data and in August 2019 DPS said 155 students had been handcuffed from 2017-2019. Significantly, 45% of the 155 students handcuffed in this period were Black, though African American students make up only 13% of the DPS student population. DPS students of color are also disproportionately disciplined with

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CSO Esmeralda Galindo (standing) listens to an exchange between CSO Andrew Lozano and Coach Sarah Franz before engaging in a role-play exercise while others look on. The school board in June passed a resolution requiring five additional days of training for Safety staff across the district, part of a ban on handcuffs in elementary schools that received a lot of media attention.



suspensions and expulsions according to data on the Colorado Department of Education website.

The school board resolution on handcuffs instructs the superintendent to inform the board of each incident involving the use of handcuffs. “We can use that data to get down to zero...and ensure that we’re operating in a way that one demographic is not penalized more or more harshly,” says Bacon. A June email to the *Front Porch* from Will Jones, DPS Director of Media Relations, stated that DPS had not been aggregating its handcuff data in terms of race or ethnicity.

In cases where a student might be a danger to themselves or others but is not armed with a deadly weapon, NCI (Nonviolent Crisis Intervention) is the next step for staff, unarmed officers, and armed patrols. All schools have staff trained in NCI, which offers a variety of

“soft restraints” trained staff can use if de-escalation proves unsuccessful, says Lt. Lisa Wehrli, who has been with DPS Department of Safety for over two decades. “This is not new to our department. It’s just one of the mandates we’re going to continually update.”

Department of Safety Staff also get 16 hours or more of training in implicit bias, trauma-informed care, and behavioral response, according to Jones, DPS. The role-play with the irate woman at a DPS sporting event was just one of many roleplays DPS Safety staff engaged in as part of their mandatory 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) certification.

The Department of Safety curriculum teaches a variety of de-escalation techniques. In the training session pictured here, Safety staff spent an entire afternoon getting feedback on their skills in a wide range of tense role-play situations.

In one of the scenarios, a paranoid

neighbor confronts a DPS representative, convinced that people are nightly unloading mysterious boxes to the nearby school cafeteria. The staffer works for several minutes to build rapport with the distressed and clearly irrational man. An instructor pauses the exercise to commend her and point out areas in which she excelled. He then reminds the DPS employee to use her voice and tone to further de-escalate the situation.

When the role-play resumes, she asks “Are you taking any medications by chance?” She verifies that the man has stopped taking his medication, and her follow-up questions cause him to pause briefly, successfully de-escalating the situation.

Though the *Front Porch* was unable to observe any role-plays centering on students, the goal is for officers and staff to be able to de-escalate troubling situations with students and avoid the use of handcuffs.

The June board resolution instructs

DPS to significantly decrease handcuff use among middle and high school students, and requires the district to convene a Review Board each time handcuffs are used on a student. Beginning in August 2019, safety officers’ training increased by an additional five days. According to the resolution, “the District will utilize internal and external experts to ensure alignment with law, policy, and the District’s commitments to becoming a trauma-informed school district dedicated to the Whole Child and equity.”

Board member Dr. Carrie Olson says she recognizes that the resolution is just one step that’s needed to ensure the district is being pro-active. “The other big piece is to make sure the training is ongoing and to check in with students, schools, teachers, leaders, safety officers in the schools, and [Department of Safety Chief] Mike Eaton [and ask] how is it working? Are there tweaks we need to make? Is this what you need or is there something else?”



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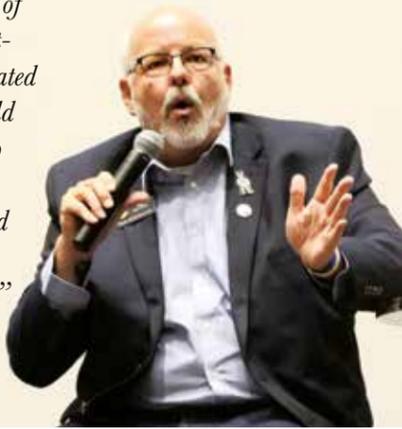
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“Three-fourths of our school shootings are perpetrated by a 14-year-old white male who has gotten an unlocked, loaded firearm from a family member.”

—State Rep. Tom Sullivan



Active Shooter Drills: Do they train or traumatize?

opportunity to opt their kids out of drills nor do they even tell the principal exactly when a drill will occur.

The mother of a Bill Roberts student, said, “I’ve been shocked by the lack of preparation around these drills. My six-year-old was sobbing at the dinner table because she was in the bathroom when the alarm went off, and she didn’t

shooting, said, “Of course that’s appalling, but our kids have come to the realization that it’s not an if but a when. It’s coming to your church, it’s coming to your theaters, it’s coming to your malls, and it’s coming to your schools, so the question is, what are you prepared to do about it? If you just want to shake your head and feel bad for the family it affected, then do nothing. But if you are concerned then you need to stand up and never sit down again.

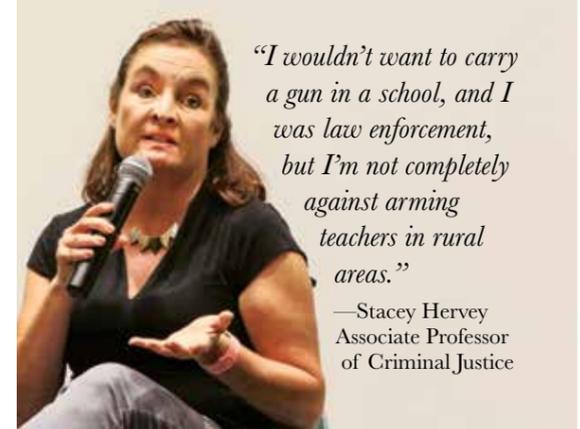
We as a community can stand up and do something about it.” Sullivan did just that last session when he drafted the Red Flag Bill, which is now Colorado law.

The state legislature’s school safety interim committee, which is bipartisan, is also standing up. They will meet on September 20 to discuss which bills to draft for the upcoming session.

Moms Demand Action is also focusing on legislation including: universal background checks, child

access laws that would raise the age to purchase a semiautomatic weapon to 21, and holding the gun owners responsible for a tragedy perpetrated by a minor using their weapon.

Conservative voices—which usually argue new gun legislation will only hurt law-abiding citizens and that the best defense for a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun—were either silent or absent at both meetings. In fact, one of the only dissenting opinions was given by Stacey Hervey, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, who said, “I worry



“I wouldn’t want to carry a gun in a school, and I was law enforcement, but I’m not completely against arming teachers in rural areas.”

—Stacey Hervey
Associate Professor of Criminal Justice

about our friends on the Eastern slope where first responders are sometimes twenty minutes away. I think if someone went through extensive training to carry a gun in that school, I would not be opposed.”

It’s been twenty years since Annette Haugh hid in a closet at Columbine High School and hoped for the best. Today she’s asking people to do more than hide and hope. She’s urging them to have open, honest, albeit potentially difficult conversations about gun violence. In a culture that’s quick to unfriend someone with an opposing view, Haugh encourages us to em-

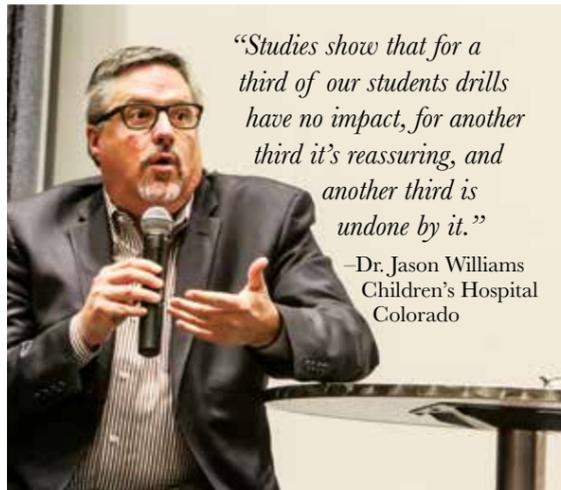
By Tracy Osborne

Annette Haugh was just seventeen when two bad guys with guns changed her life forever. “I separated myself into two parts that day—Columbine survivor and Annette—and I’ve spent the last twenty years trying to put those parts back together.” But it’s not just survivors who have to put the pieces back together; Annette wants people to understand that gun violence leaves a large wake. “There’s a ripple effect,” she says. “We’re all changed; we’re all living in a post-Columbine world.”

Those ripples of concern reached Stapleton in early September as two meetings addressing school safety were held in just one week. While the meetings addressed an array of issues including suicide prevention, safe gun storage, issues with Safe2Tell, and lack of proper access to mental health resources, no topic drew as much fervor as the lockdown drills recently conducted by DPS.

A central question of both meetings quickly became: Does the trauma of the lockdown drill outweigh the potential threat?

DPS Commander of Emergency Management Melissa Craven said DPS has been doing lockdown drills since before Columbine, and they are not the result of an active shooter alone. “We locked down a building this week because of a high speed chase.” She also said they do not give parents the



“Studies show that for a third of our students drills have no impact, for another third it’s reassuring, and another third is undone by it.”

—Dr. Jason Williams
Children’s Hospital Colorado

know what to do; she’s completely undone. This is not helping. The whole point is to make kids feel like there’s a sense of safety and control, so there need to be parameters; there needs to be communication.”

Annette’s husband, Ryan Haugh, echoed that concern. “Aren’t we just normalizing school shootings? Why are bullet-proof backpacks, lockdown drills, and specially-designed schools with wavy hallways and partial walls you can hide behind the price of going to school in this country? Isn’t that appalling?”

Representative Tom Sullivan, whose son Alex was killed in the Aurora theater



“Lockdown drills are critically important. I’m a big fan of the lockdown drill, but parents need to be able to participate in the conversation beforehand.”

—Dr. Sara Metz
Public Safety Psychologist

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Bella Smith, a junior at DSST, questions the validity of lockdown drills. She finds it confusing that sometimes teachers know about fire drills beforehand but not lockdown drills. She said not knowing if the drills are real contributes to student stress, which is essentially hindering and not helping the problem. Event host Tricia Chinn Campbell (left) listens as Smith shares her concerns.

brace one another. “I wish we lived in a world without guns, but I can understand why someone who’s been the victim of a violent crime wants to carry. We have to understand each other’s perspectives. Whether you’re pro or anti-gun, at our core—we’re all the same—we just want to feel safe.”

In addition to Haugh, Sullivan, and Hervey, Dr. Jason Williams, Children’s Hospital Colorado, and Dr. Sara Metz, a Public Safety Psychologist were panelists at the September 10 meeting. The event, held at The Cube in North Stapleton, was hosted by Tricia Chinn Campbell of Mom’s Night Out Productions (campbell@momsnightoutproductions.com).

At the September 12 meeting of Parents for Safe Schools, speakers were Abbey Win-



“A student told me, ‘Whenever I walk into a room, I have an exit plan.’ That’s tragic. I lived through Columbine, and I don’t do that.”

—Annette Haugh
Columbine survivor

ter, Colorado Chapter Leader for Mom’s Demand Action; Aaron Carpenter, Colorado Legislative Council; and Melissa Craven from DPS. The event was held at the Sam Gary Library and hosted by Rachel Baumel (rkbaumel@yahoo.com) and Dan Mitzner.

What students are saying

By Madeline Seibel Dean

Interviews with local high school students reveal a desire to have a voice in what policies are put in place to protect them. Students “definitely have not been involved enough” in gun violence issues, says Jonah Landeck, a senior at DSST: Montview. Griffin Moore, a sophomore at Northfield High School (NHS) who helped organize the walkout over school shootings when he was a student at McAuliffe, says “Letting kids have their voice and letting students have their voice, specifically for issues like this, [is needed] because we are in it, we are the students, not them.” Elliot Guinness, also an NHS sophomore who organized the walkout while at McAuliffe, says, “When all of the schools started to have walkouts, we started to have a voice. I think, if kids start taking it more seriously, adults will, too.”

Other thoughts from these students:

Arming teachers would not solve the problem says Landeck. “The teachers’ number one job is to be there for their students.” He says carrying guns would place more of a burden on the teachers and points out it would require years of training to know how and when to properly use the gun. Guinness says arming teachers would make him feel less safe. “There’s always kids in classrooms

that [could]...find a way to get the gun.”

Arming school security officers—“If the security guards had guns, that’s more understandable than the teachers having guns,” says Guinness. Landeck points out the importance of the relationship between the security officers and the students. “You want to get a security guard that will not only keep the students safe, but also get to know them and relate to them.”

Reporting possible mental health issues in other students—Moore says reporting on peers is difficult in high school. “You never want to lose your relationship with someone ... [but when] it’s so very apparent there’s something that [a person] needs help with, I think everyone I know would get help or get the person help.” Landeck, however, is not so sure. “There are people you question, but you don’t feel like it’s your business to get involved or ask what’s going on.”

“We’re never going to squash all mental health problems...so you need to... address some gun safety and some gun legislation, [and] make it harder for a very mentally sick person to get a gun,” says Landeck.

Madeline Seibel Dean is a college student at Vassar who was a Front Porch intern during the summer.

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In lieu of the normal reviews this month, I preview five documentary films—three features and two shorts—that we will screen on four Friday nights in October at The Cube in Northfield. The address is 8371 E Northfield Blvd, Denver, CO 80238 and you can buy tickets at StapletonCommunity.com > Event Calendar. All shows start at 7pm. Even if you can't make it in person, check out these wonderful films on your own!

Chasing Ice (2012) on 10/4
This fascinating film from director Jeff Orlowski tells the story of James Balog and his Extreme Ice Survey (EIS). Balog documented the alarming rate of glacier-melt in the Arctic over the course of several years in Alaska and Greenland, using time-lapse photography to chart the degradation. The stunning images literally show the glaciers melting right before our eyes; in one remarkable sequence, we

see a glacier calving off a chunk bigger than the island of Manhattan. It's hard to believe anyone could be a climate denier after seeing this powerful film. Balog, a National Geographic photographer, is a Boulder resident who has been doing environmental work since the 80s. *Chasing Ice* was produced here in Colorado, and if you've traveled through DIA, you have probably seen some of the EIS videos in monitors throughout the airport. I will be joined for a post-film discussion by Dr. Keah Schuenemann, a climate scientist from MSU Denver. Suitable for children of all ages. Available on National Geographic TV and on VOD.



The Cove (2009) on 10/11
The winner of the 2010 Oscar for Best Documentary Feature Film, *The Cove* tells the story of an annual dolphin slaughter in Taiji, Japan. Each year, the Taiji dolphin drive hunt corrals thousands of dolphins into a small bay in Taiji, where they are either killed or captured and then sold to dophinariums around the world. The Japanese government allows for such mass killing of crustaceans, and they have resisted calls to stop the

practice for years—even after the public outcry in the aftermath of the film. Yes, it is a difficult and heart wrenching story, but it is also a phenomenal film. Arranging itself as a thriller/chase film, we follow activist Ric O'Barry (former star/dolphin trainer of the hit TV show "Flipper") and a crack team of specialists as they mount a clandestine plot to film the events inside the fortified cove. Directed by Boulder resident Louie Psihoyos, the film keeps you on the edge of your seat right up to the shocking brutality of the slaughter. It is difficult to watch, but it is extremely important and well-made. Not suitable for children. Available on VOD.

"Saving Face" (2012) on 10/18
This fearless film won the Oscar

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for Best Documentary Short in 2013. Co-directed by former Denverite Daniel Junge and edited in Denver, it tells

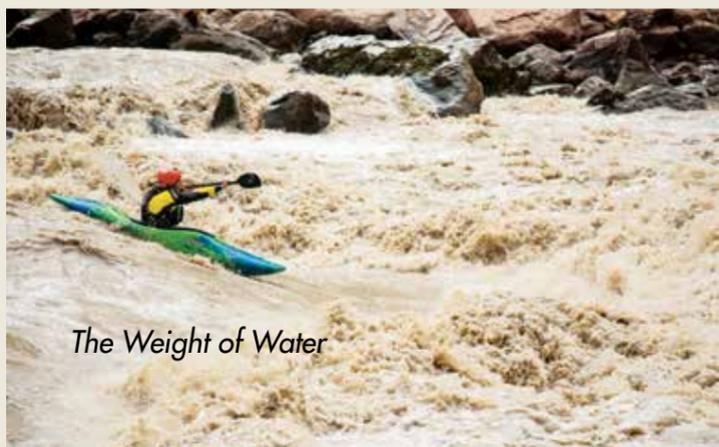
Saving Face



the story of several women who were victims of acid-throwing incidents in Pakistan. England resident and plastic surgeon Dr. Mohammad Jawad returns to his native Pakistan to perform surgeries on the women, who at the same time are fighting for justice in the Pakistani Parliament. Such acts, if done by a husband, had not been previously considered a crime. We get to see the resolution of both personal and political issues in this wonderful and touching short. Suitable for ages 16+. Available on HBO.

Kief Davidson tells the story of the miraculous Salam Center in Sudan, the only sub-Saharan hospital to perform life-saving heart surgeries on at-risk children. The kids come from all over Africa, most from penniless families, and leave everything behind to make the journey, have the surgery, and live in the hospital as they recuperate. The hospital is an unlikely non-profit run by an Italian NGO and partially funded by then-dictator Omar al-Bashir (who makes an appearance in the film). The stories are heartbreaking—intermittently

sad and happy—but the story behind the story is just as fascinating. The power of film is tangible here, as this one actually saved hundreds of lives. Come find out how. Suitable for ages 16+. Available online.



The Weight of Water

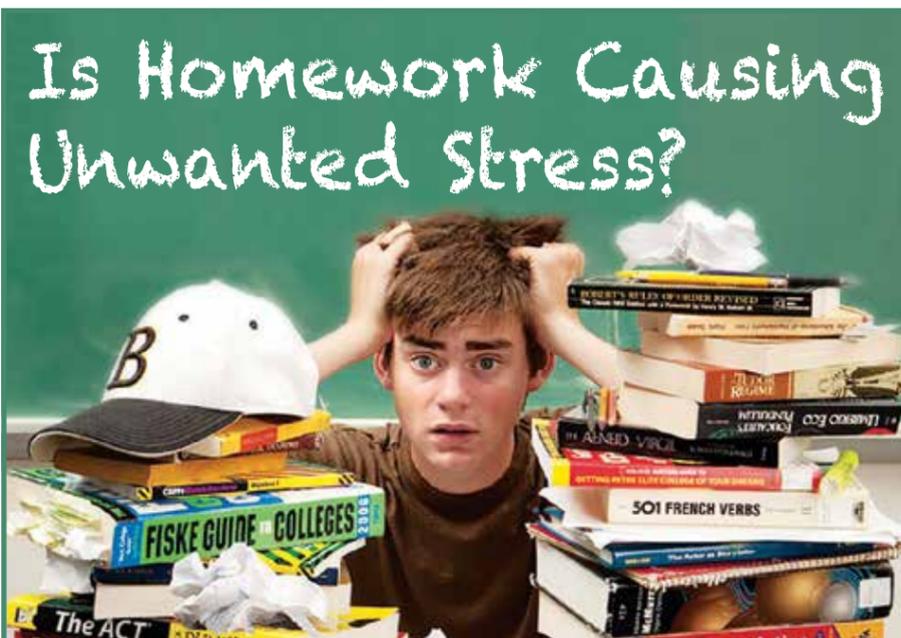
The Weight of Water (2018) on 10/25

Finally, we can breathe. Well, sort of. After all of the heaviness, we end the series on an upbeat note with the story of Golden resident Eric Weihenmayer,

the first blind person to climb Mt. Everest. But that's not the focus of this film; here, we follow Weihenmayer as he kayaks the treacherous waters of the Grand Canyon. The funny, engaging, and sometimes tense film tells Weihenmayer's life story as he trains and then attempts the trip. Weihenmayer is an enigmatic and endearing character whom I had the pleasure to meet and present with at the Denver Film Festi-

val last year. He would have joined us except that he will be climbing in Nepal. Did I mention he is blind? Suitable for all ages. Available on VOD.

Vincent Piturro, Ph.D., is a Professor of Film and Media Studies at Metropolitan State University of Denver. He can be reached at vpiturro@msudenver.edu. And you can follow "Indie Prof" on Facebook and @VincentPiturro on Twitter.



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Lowry Celebrates Its Past and Present



Thousands gathered to greet Charles Lindbergh when his "Spirit of St. Louis" touched down at Lowry Field in 1927. It was one of 82 stops in the U.S. following his flight from New York to Paris in May that year.



Above: A B-36 bomber flies over Hangers 1 and 2 at Lowry. Below left: The Black Hanger referenced below was a high security building nicknamed "The Black Shack." It was used as a training site for sensitive weapon systems. Following the closure of the base, it became Big Bear Ice Arena. Below right: Building 357, the fire station, is now the home of Colorado Free University.

Historic photos courtesy of The Lowry Foundation.

By Laurie Dunklee

Lowry Air Force Base closed 25 years ago, but the Lowry neighborhood redevelopment retains its history in 30 original buildings, as well as design elements that acknowledge the area's storied past. "Our intent was not to scrape away the history and build everything new," says Monty Force, executive director of The Lowry Redevelopment Authority. "Lowry Air Force Base was a community for nearly 70 years. Our mission has been to retain that history as we transform into a new community."

Lowry Air Force Base was preceded by Lowry Field, an airstrip built in 1926 at E. 38th Ave. and Dahlia St., where Colorado National Guardsmen received flight training. Lowry Air Force Base opened five miles



away in 1937, at 6th and Quebec, with its operations focused on technical training, including flight training, aerial photography, weaponry and metrology (the science of measurement). "More than 1.1 million people came from all over the world, from all branches of the military, to train here," said Jeane Larkins, executive director of The Lowry Foundation.

Lowry Air Force Base closed its doors in September 1994, as part of a 127-base closure during the Clinton administration. Its 1,866 acres were conveyed in parcels to The Lowry Redevelopment Authority, a quasi-governmental, nonprofit entity created by the cities of Denver and Aurora. Lowry is 89% in Denver and 11% in Aurora. "An intergovernmental agreement between the two cities set up the charter, with board members appointed by the two mayors," said Force. "Tax increment financing, now paid off, helped with the demolition and built parks and the Lowry Elementary School."

Force said the challenges of redeveloping Lowry included inheriting an obsolete infrastructure and useless runways. "We had to rebuild all of the infrastructure and tear out the runways. Runways don't make good roads because they are flat, and they don't drain." He said contaminants were remediated from the groundwater and the soil, including TCE from solvents used for cleaning airplane parts; oil and gas spills; and asbestos



from previous demolition.

The current neighborhood is home to 25,000 residents and workers and includes 100 employers. When the last 80-acre parcel of land is redeveloped, Lowry will have 5,600 residential units. About 17% of Lowry homes are in the affordable program, Force said, including 200 for-sale units and 800 rentals. Boulevard One, the newest parcel to be completed in 2022, will include 14 designated affordable for-sale units and 72 affordable rentals.



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The giant B-52 bomber at Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum, the second oldest of its kind in existence today, dwarfs the passing visitors. Hangar 1 at Lowry was given to volunteers in 1994 by the U.S. Air Force to establish the Wings Museum, which today includes more than 182,000 square feet of hangar space and 50 aircraft dating from 1939 to 1990. In the background is Hangar 2, which today houses multiple local businesses.

Boulevard One, at 1st Ave. and Monaco, was once the tail end of Lowry's Runway One. "Airplanes taxied onto the tarmac there," said Hilarie Portell, director of public relations and marketing for the Lowry Re-development Authority. "The other runways were Lowry Blvd. and Uinta St."

Lowry suspended aerial operations in 1966. "Denver was growing all around the base and it was becoming dangerous," said Larkins. "Lowry stopped aerial operations after a plane crashed into a home."

Various celebrities have been a part of Lowry's history. Charles Lindbergh landed at Lowry Field on August 31, 1927, after completing the first solo flight over the Atlantic Ocean in May of that year. The Glenn Miller Story, a 1954 movie starring Jimmy



The flag was lowered during a ceremony in Sept. 1994 as Lowry Air Force Base was decommissioned.

Stewart about Colorado's famous World War II bandleader, was filmed in part inside a Lowry hangar. During the 1950's, Lowry AFB was President Dwight Eisenhower's summer White House and the first couple attended services at Chapel Number 1 (now Eisenhower Chapel).

The U.S. Air Force Academy was located at Lowry AFB from 1955-58, while the permanent campus was being constructed in Colorado Springs.

Larkins, who leads tours of the historic Lowry sites, said former servicemen and women often visit and share their experiences

Lowry Anniversary Events

Friday, October 4, 2019

Happy Hour at Lowry Beer Garden,
7577 E. Academy Blvd., 3-6pm

Saturday, October 5, 2019

Family Friendly Day at the Museum
Regular Wings admission, 10am- 2pm
Historical tours departing from Wings

25th Anniversary Event, 5:30pm-10pm
Live music, dancing and more
Small bites and craft beverages (cash bar)
\$35 General Admission / \$25 Veterans
Tickets: LowryFoundation.org/silver-anniversary

Hosted by Lowry Community Master Association and Lowry Foundation, together with Wings Over the Rockies and others.

at Lowry. Some history will never be shared, however, since the base was under tight security because of research and development of ballistics, including bombs. "One visitor in her 80s said she still isn't permitted to talk about what she did here," Larkins said.

Building 1499, known to Lowry's military residents as "The Black Hangar," was a training site for various sensitive weapon systems, including nuclear weapons. The building has been repurposed as Big Bear Ice Arena.

Other Air Force buildings that were saved and repurposed include the Lowry Fire Department, now John Hand Theater; the steam plant with its original stacks, now 14 condos; and the prison, now part of a school. Force's office is in the former photography school and Larkins' office is in Eisenhower Chapel.

Lowry's new buildings and public spaces incorporate the flavor of the neighborhood's history. "We used elements of the original buildings to inform new construction, like the blonde brick, also barrel roofs that are reminiscent of hangars," said Portell. "The Air Force star-circle graphic is used in our public spaces, in the sidewalks, metalwork and fencing. Residents love the sense of local identity."

"This is a unique community with a character all its own," said Force.

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...NE News Updates



By Martina Will, PhD, Carol Roberts

1 Students Strike for Climate Change

From Berlin to Nairobi, youth on September 20 took to the streets to demand action on climate change. Denver School of the Arts (DSA) students were among thousands of area youth who participated in the Global Climate Strike. DSA Senior Amelia Gorman led about 200 other students who walked out of school to participate in this



Amelia Gorman (left) and Izzie Beckler, seniors at Denver School of the Arts, participated in the student climate strike at City Park on Sept. 20.

international event, the first to focus on youths organizing globally on climate change. Accompanied by five DSA staff, they marched to City Park Pavilion, where they met with City Council President Jolon Clark and Colorado Majority Leader Alec Garnett.

“I just really wanted to be part of this global movement,” says Gorman, who cited Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s Green New Deal among her inspirations. “This is the first big step I’ve taken on the climate issue,” she says. Upon returning to DSA she engaged middle schoolers in writing letters to elected officials.

Though this was Gorman’s first foray into political action, it won’t be her last. Clark has asked her to bring a group of DSA students to testify as council considers local measures to combat climate change. “My generation is the one that will have to deal with years of irresponsible climate policy by outdated politicians. Our future livelihood is on the line. We must speak openly to those in power who have refused to act and urge them to do something immediately, and if they do not, we will hold them accountable at the ballot box when we turn eighteen,” said Gorman.

Though not yet 18, Gorman registered to vote at 16 and said, “I will be voting.”

2 Paul Sandoval Campus Full Buildout

Almost a year before Northfield High School (NHS) graduated its first class in May 2019, DPS acknowledged they wouldn’t be able to wait for the 2020 bond to build another classroom building; projections showed more seats would be needed for the 2020-21 school year. The original plans for the Paul Sandoval Campus at E. 56th Ave and Central Park Blvd. envisioned additional classroom buildings and expanded music, performance, and athletic facilities beyond what was built in 2014, when the first class arrived. The DSST building has been added, and DPS was able to get the final buildout phase of construction off the ground quickly by continuing to work with the same architect, LOA Architecture, and the same builder, Adolphson & Peterson Construction.

Having made decisions on design features and materials in the first phase was a big time saver, says DPS’ Director of Planning, Design and Construction Jennifer Song Koepp. And working with the same architect and builder saved DPS the year-long RFP (request for proposal) process they went through for the first phase of construction.

The current project, estimated at \$65.7 million, is adding a 46-classroom building, 2 new practice gyms, 4 tennis courts, a new soccer field, and 2 pickleball courts as well as expanding music and performance facilities. The DPS buildings on Paul Sandoval campus, which will accommodate 450 students at DSST and 1,800 at NHS, occupy 20 acres. An adjoining



NHS teachers signed a beam and came out to see it lifted into place on the new building that will seat 1,000 students. DPS determined that the current building would not be big enough starting in the 2020-21 school year.



20 acres of land is owned by the City. The sports fields are used by the campus, by Parks and Rec youth programs, and by other program rentals by permit only. The pickleball and tennis courts are City facilities that are open to the public.

Construction is on budget and on schedule to open for the 2020-21 school year, says DPS Construction Project Manager Jim Staples. Surprises can happen, however, when building over an old airport. Staples says they recently discovered an 18” thick slab of concrete 121x127 feet buried under 2 feet of dirt during their work on the athletic fields. He estimates it will take about a week to remove it—but it won’t interfere with their ability to finish on time.

3 Neighborhood Watch: Suspicious Behavior, Not Suspicious People

“We are not reporting suspicious people. I don’t care if you’re Black, White, Hispanic, straight, gay. It does not matter...It’s your behavior that makes you suspicious,” says Denver Police Department Community Resource Officer Latrisha Guss, who led a Neighborhood Watch meeting at the Cube on September 12.

About 20 residents of all ages and diverse races and ethnicities attended the meeting. Watch is a block-by-block all-volunteer effort by individuals who wish to prevent crime by communicating better with police and neighbors.

Several who attended the meeting shared concerns that the program might lead to increased racial profiling. DPD officers, however, emphasized that only suspicious behaviors (e.g. trying door handles of parked cars or peering into car windows) warrant a call to police. Guss and other speakers also emphasized that no one should attempt to patrol an area or follow an individual. “If you’re one of those people patrolling, that has to stop,” said Guss.

DPD offers training for those who wish to serve as block captains and encourages those who wish to learn more about Neighborhood Watch to invite an officer to walk their block with them, attend a block party, or meet for small group conversations. Contact Officer Guss at Latrisha.guss@denvergov.org or 720-913-1405 for more information or to schedule a visit. For emergencies or crimes in progress dial 911; for non-emergency issues call 720-913-2000.

4 Rare Sighting of Tropical Bird: Groove-billed Ani

Local bird watcher and photographer George Ho, MD captured this photo of the Groove-billed Ani in Sand Creek. This tropical bird typically lives in Central America and northern South America, and its farthest north habitat is southern Texas—though Ho relates that sightings of the Groove-billed Ani in Colorado were reported as long ago as 1975. It is a member of the cuckoo family, as revealed by its two-toes-forward, two-toes-back foot arrangement.



Groove-billed Ani
Photo by George Ho



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parent preview

Friday, November 8, 2019



October and Early November Events

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

NE DENVER/NW AURORA EVENTS

10/5 Saturday—Lowry Foundation Silver Anniversary Celebration.

5:30–10pm. Adult event, live music, dancing, food, drink. Celebrating Lowry's history and success. lowryfoundation.org. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, 7711 E. Academy Blvd.

10/5 Saturday—I Am Denver Storytelling Lab.

1–4pm. Free workshop with story-inspiring activities and the chance to write and record your I Am Denver story in photo, video or audio. denverlibrary.org. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St.

To 10/7—Stapleton Food Drive.

Presented by New Perspective Real Estate. To volunteer/donate, StapletonFoodDrive.com

10/9 Wednesday—"The Student Experience: Raising the Curtain on Race and Inequities in Public Education"

Denver Public Schools Foundation and Denver Public Schools present the first and only showing of this documentary film followed by a panel discussion. Doors open 4pm at Sie FilmCenter, 2510 E. Colfax Ave. Tickets at dpsfoundation.org

10/9 Wednesday—The Big Quiet Denver: A Mass Meditation.

Ticketed event. 6:30–9pm. In The Hangar at Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St, Aurora. stanleymarketplace.com

10/9 Wednesday—Community Sing-Along.

6:30–7:30pm. Intergenerational sing-along with a live band. denverlibrary.org. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St.

10/10 Thursday—Active Minds: Ragtime & the Music of Scott Joplin.

1–2pm. A musical journey into the world of Ragtime and Scott Joplin. denverlibrary.org. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St.

10/10 Thursday—Financial Empowerment: Social Security.

6:30–7:30pm. Social Security is our country's single largest federal program and the sole means of

support for many retirees. Learn how you can optimize your retirement income needs with Social Security. denverlibrary.org. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St.

10/10 and 10/24—Knitting Circle.

5:30–7:30pm. Bring your knitting or crochet project and join other crafters in conversation around the Sam Gary fireplace. denverlibrary.org. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St.

10/11 Friday—Vegas Night in Stapleton.

Featuring 50 casino tables with professional dealers/regulation equipment, amazing prizes, music & dancing, full bar. Tickets at StapletonNightOut.com. Benefits Westerly Creek Elementary. Hangar at Stanley Marketplace, Aurora.

10/15 Tuesday—GSBA Monthly Meeting.

8am. Network, present your business, learn about other members' businesses, or stuff Welcome Bags. stapletonbusiness.com. 7350 E 29th Ave #300.

10/16 Wednesday—Kindness Club.

4–5pm. Meet new friends and neighbors and promote kindness through simple acts. denverlibrary.org. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St.

10/19 Saturday—Symbols Past and Present.

3pm. Learn about symbols from cave painting to modern advertising, including the history of hate symbols. denverlibrary.org. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St.

10/19 to 10/20—Park Hill Artists Open Studio Tour.

Pick-up maps at The Art Garage - 6100 E. 23rd Ave or Koko fitclub - 6231 E. 14th Ave.

10/20 Sunday—Sam Gary Literary Book Club.

2pm. October Title: From Here to Eternity: Traveling the World to Find the Good Death, by Caitlin Doughty. denverlibrary.org. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St.

10/22 Tuesday—Let's Build It: Diwali Lanterns.

4pm. Create a Diwali lantern to celebrate this popular festival of lights in India. denverlibrary.org. Sam

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

Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St.

10/24 Thursday—Active Minds: Colorado Ghost Stories.

6:30–7:30pm. Tiptoe through the haunted houses and ghoulish graveyards of the area. denverlibrary.org. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St.

SEASONAL/HOLIDAY EVENTS

Additional events outside of Denver can be found at FrontPorchNE.com/events. Set filter for Seasonal/Holiday Events.

10/4 to 10/26—Enchanted Hollows: Big-foot Festival.

Weekends, 6–10pm. Denver Zoo's Autumnal celebration. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Ages 8+. denverzoo.org

10/5 Saturday—Nick's 10th Annual Great Pumpkin Weigh Off.

Registration 9–10:45am, weigh-off 11am–2pm, live music 1–5pm. Family fun. nicksgardencenter.com. 2001 S. Chambers Rd, Aurora

10/5 Saturday—14th Annual Denver Zombie Crawl.

11am–4pm. Skyline Park. eye-heartbrains.com

10/5 to 10/6—Pumpkin Harvest Festival.

Four Mile Historic Park. Horse-drawn wagon rides, pumpkin patch, build a scarecrow. 10am–4pm. 715 S. Forest St. fourmilepark.org

10/5 to 10/26—Pumpkin Palooza.

Every Saturday and Sunday in October from 11am–5pm. Free treats and activities for the whole family. punchbowlsocial.com. 3120 N. Uinta St.

10/6 Sunday—Harvest Festival.

Pumpkins, hay rides, jump houses, games and more. 2–5pm. Benefits Isabella Bird Community School. Tickets at ibscouncil.org/harvest-festival/. 1701 N. Lima St.

10/12 Saturday—3rd Annual Halloween

Costume Swap. Recycle/swap/buy gently-used costumes. Plus games, candy and a prize drawing. 10am–6pm. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St, Aurora. stanleymarketplace.com

10/12 Saturday—Candy Crawl.

Free, 3–5pm on Main Street. Hay rides, face paint, and more. NorthfieldStapleton.com. 8340 Northfield Blvd.

10/17 to 10/26—Victorian Horrors.

Various dates/times. Molly Brown House Museum, 1340 Pennsylvania St. Register at mollybrown.org

10/17 to 10/30—Cutting Room Floor.

Join Control Group for an immersive ghost tour of the Aurora Fox—a world of spectral regrets and paths not taken. Aurora Fox Arts Center. controlgroupproductions.org

10/19 to 10/27—Boo at the Zoo.

Both weekends. Trick/treat stations, animal demos, family-friendly entertainment. Free with admission. denverzoo.org

10/21 to 10/25—Glow at the Gardens.

Select days, 5:30–9:30pm. A luminous, nighttime celebration of America's favorite gourd. York St. location. botanicgardens.org

10/22 Tuesday—Día de los Muertos/Day of the Dead.

Camp where kids can learn and do art themed around this meaningful Mexican celebration. Neighborhood Art Studio, 4890 Ironton St. neighborhoodartstudio.com

10/24 Thursday—Día de los Muertos fundraising event for the Mexican Cultural Center.

Exquisite altars, excellent food. 6–9pm at the Museum of Nature and Science. mccdenver.org

10/25 to 10/26—Übergrippen's Haunted Maze & Headlight Climbing Night.

6–10pm. It's a night of Spooks, S'mores and Sends. Climbing is optional. Climbers must bring their own headlamp. 8610 E. 21st Ave. ugclimbing.com/boo

10/25 to 10/27—Trick or Treat Street, A 3-day Fall Festival.

9am–6pm each day. Free for members. The Children's Museum. mychildsmuseum.org

10/26 Saturday—Boo on the Bluff. Trick or Treat trail at Bluff Lake Nature Center. 10am–1pm. blufflake.org

10/26 Saturday—Hauntings at the Hangar.

Halloween festivities at Wings Over the Rockies Museum. 10–2pm. Free with museum admission. wingsmuseum.org

10/26 Saturday—10th Annual Coloween.

A frightfully fantastic and fun evening. 10am–6pm. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St, Aurora. 9pm–2am. Tickets at coloween.com

10/26 to 10/27—Colorado Railroad Museum's Trick or Treat Train.

Rides/activities. 10am–4pm. coloradorailroadmuseum.org

10/27 Sunday—Trick or Treat-ing at Stanley Marketplace.

Enjoy a zombie crawl and Thriller flash mob. 2:30–4pm. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St, Aurora. stanleymarketplace.com

To 10/27—Botanic Gardens Corn Maze.

Fri–Sun, 10am–6pm. Chatfield location, 8500 W. Deer Creek Canyon Rd. botanicgardens.org

10/27 Sunday—Neighborhood Trunk or Treat.

Free and nominal charge for some activities. 1–3pm. Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E Alameda Ave. augustanadenver.org

10/30 Wednesday—Trick or Treat the Firehouse.

5–8pm. Come in costume for family fun. Denver Firefighters Museum, 1326 Tremont Pl. denverfirefightersmuseum.org

11/1—Cultural First Friday: Día de los Muertos.

4–9pm. Museo de las Americas, 861 Santa Fe Dr. museo.org

11/2 Saturday—Día de los Muertos Celebration.

Mexican celebration remembers deceased loved ones. 9am–3pm. Free with admission. Denver Botanic Gardens, York St. botanicgardens.org

To 11/9—13th Floor Haunted House.

13thfloorhauntedhouse.com

(continued on page 22)

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WARNING: Climbing with zombies has inherent risks including zombie bites; climb at your own risk.

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Visit www.augustanadenver.org for details.

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www.augustanadenver.org

(continued from page 21)

CIVIC MEETINGS/EVENTS

10/24 Thursday—DPS School Board Candidate Forum. DSST and McAuliffe International School are hosting a Candidate Forum for DPS School Board Candidates. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions of the candidates. 6pm at the Smiley Campus, 2540 Holly St. 720-425-9321.

10/29 Tuesday—Share Ideas and Concerns about the East Area Plan. South Park Hill, Montclair, Hale and E. Colfax. 6–8pm. Johnson & Wales, Univ. Academic Center, 1900 Olive St. – DenverGov.org/EastPlan

METRO EVENTS

10/4 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Santa Fe Arts District, Tennyson 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

10/4 to 10/6—Off-Grid Expo. The Premier Event for Outdoor Enthusiasts. Seminars, Activities, and Products for the Whole Family. Jefferson County Fairgrounds. offgridexpo.com

10/6 Sunday—17th Annual Balistreri Vineyards Harvest Party. Balistreri Vineyards, 1946 E. 66th Ave. Tickets: balistrerivineyards.com

10/7 to 12/6—Denver Leaf drop 2019. Weekday and weekend drop sites. 5 pack of 30 gallon leaf bags at Denver ACE Hardware stores. Dates times and locations at DenverGov.org or call 311.

10/10 to 10/12—Rocky Mountain Weavers Guild Annual Sale. Fiber arts sale and live textile demos. Kids welcome. Free admission/parking. Englewood Civic Center, 1000 Englewood Pkwy. rmweaversguild.org/fiber-arts-sale-2

10/11 Friday—The Women's Foundation of Colorado Annual Luncheon. Speakers Noor Tagouri and Maysoon Zayid. 11:30am–1:30pm. Colorado Convention Center wfco.org/connect/annual-luncheon

To 10/12—Free composting classes. Wednesdays and Saturdays thru mid-Oct. At Denver Compost Demonstration Site, Gove Community Garden, 13th Ave. and Colorado Blvd. Sign up: 303.292.9900 or dug.org/compost.

10/19 Saturday—The Carousel Ball. Raising funds for the Children's Diabetes Foundation. Cocktails, silent & live auctions, dinner and musical performances featuring Reba McEntire. childrensdiabetesfoundation.org. 650 15th St.

10/19 to 10/20—Repticon 2019. Arapahoe County Fairgrounds. Vendors offer reptile pets, cages, merchandise, live animal seminars. repticon.com

10/26 to 10/27—Westernaires Annual Horsecapades Show. Performance of world's largest precision drill team. National Western Complex. Tickets at

door or online at westernaires.org

10/29 Tuesday—Space Exploration: From the Moon Landing to Today and Beyond. Reflect on the space race, the Apollo Mission, and the role NASA has played since the lunar landing. 10–11am. Free. activeminds.com. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St.

HEALTH, WELLNESS, FITNESS

10/13 Sunday—Denver Walk to Defeat ALS. Join the movement at the Colorado Walk to Defeat ALS. Sloan's Lake, N Sheridan Blvd. als.org

10/13 Sunday—AWAKE Day of Mindfulness. Mindful meditation, gentle asana, dharma talks, a mindful lunch, qi gong/ti chi, music, chant, yoga nidra and more. awakeexperience.com. 1195 Newport St.

10/13 Sunday—The BRUNCH Run. Enjoy a fast, flat timed run around Stapleton followed by the ultimate brunch festival. brunchrunning.com. Central Park, 8801 Martin Luther King Blvd.

10/26 Saturday—MonsterDASH 10k, 5k, Kids Run. 9am start. Sloan's Lake Park – South end. monsterdashrun.com

10/27 Sunday—Walk for 1 in 100. A festive, Halloween walk for Adult Congenital Heart Association at City Park Pavilion. achaheart.org

11/3 Sunday—Fall Fest 5k (Bolder Boulder qualifying event) presented by The Goddard School. 5k Charity run is a Bolder Boulder qualifying race/walk in memory of Luke Wyatt Morin. All proceeds go to Children's Hospital Colorado to support research for DIPG. Central Park, 9651 E. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd. runsignup.com/Race/CO/Denver/GoddardFall-Fest5k

To 12/31—Yoga en Español- Yoga, delivered in Spanish. All levels Vinyasa class, entirely instructed in Spanish. Meets weekly on Saturdays at 1:15pm, \$15 drop in. Free for CorePower Yoga Members, 7485 E 29th St. corepoweryoga.com.

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

10/2 Wednesday—Firehouse Tales for Tots. Free with general admission. 11am–12pm. Denver Firefighters Museum, 1326 Tremont Pl. denverfirefightersmuseum.org

10/3 to 12/1—Denver Puppet Theater. Hansel and Gretel. 3156 W. 38th Ave. denverpuppettheater.com

10/5 Friday—Halloween for Middle Schoolers. Teens take over the museum at this totally free, uniquely teen night. 7–9pm. 2001 Colorado Blvd. dmns.org

10/5 and 11/2 Saturday—Home Depot Kids Workshop. 9am–12pm. FREE how-to clinics first Sat. monthly, ages 5–12. Get Home Depot apron, wooden project and project pin. Metro-area Home Depot stores. homedepot.com

10/6 Sunday—Family of Four: Free Family Concert with the Ivalas Quartet. 2pm. Refreshments and hands-on activities in the lobby following the program. friendsofchambermusic.com. Denver School of the Arts, 7111 Montview Blvd.

10/9 Wednesday—Create Playdate: Drop-in Artmaking Program for Kids 3-5. Meet up with other tots and their grownups for story time, art making, and more. Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14th Ave. Pkwy. denverartmuseum.org

10/13 Sunday—Jr. Rangers. 1:30–3pm; kids 6–12. Spooky Creatures of the Night. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. auroragov.org

10/15 Tuesday—Little Wings: Let's be Robots. 9–10am. Ages 2–4 with one adult. \$1 off admission. Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum, 7711 East Academy Blvd. wingsmuseum.org

10/17 to 10/31—Fall Break Camps. Art-themed camps while school is out. Neighborhood Art Studio, 4890 Ironton St. Unit 6A. neighborhoodartstudio.com

10/18 and 10/21—SPREE Holiday Camps. Friday: Tracts & Scat. Monday: Macroinvertebrates. thegreenwayfoundation.org. 610 S Jason St.

10/21 Monday—Halloween for High Schoolers. Teens take over the museum at this totally free, uniquely teen night. 7–9pm. 2001 Colorado Blvd. dmns.org

10/23 Wednesday—Inside The Orchestra's Tiny Tots Concerts. Kids get inside the orchestra as they are seated on the floor and surrounded by a 30+ piece orchestra. insidetheorchestra.org. 3509 S. Glencoe St.

10/23 Wednesday—Write & Talk for Teens with Lighthouse Writers Workshop. 4–6pm. Interested in exploring the world of creative writing? Registration Required. denverlibrary.org. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St.

10/27—Fourth Sundays at Four Mile Historic Park. Explore and enjoy story time and a craft for the youngsters. Adults \$7, youth (7-17) \$5, under 6 free. Get here early! 715 S Forest St. fourmilepark.org

LECTURES, CLASSES, INFORMATIONAL EVENTS

10/5 Saturday—2019 CIRCLE Café | Equity Out Loud. Speakers will focus on how to improve our education system to promote diversity and inclusiveness. 8:30am–2pmat History Colorado Center, 1200 N. Broadway. circlestamp.org

10/7 Monday—Bold Women. Change History. Lecture Series. Former US Ambassador to the United Nations and Professor of the Practice of Global Leadership and Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School, Samantha Power. historycolorado.org

10/13 Sunday—Little Rock Nine Student/Author. Carlotta Wallis Lanier shares her story of perseverance in the face of racial injustice and how the journey still continues today. 10am. Peoples Presbyterian Church, 2780 York St. 303-297-9071

10/13 Sunday—Love Your Neighbor – Equity in Denver Public Schools. 9:30am. Discussion on efforts to make sure all Park Hill children receive a good education, no matter the income levels of the families in their school. montview.org. Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St.

10/20 Sunday—How Adams County is Meeting the Challenge of Poverty. The forum meets at 9:30am in the McCollum Room of Montview Church. montview.org. 1980 Dahlia St.

10/26 Saturday—Ukulele Workshop. 2–3:30pm. Grab your ukulele or borrow one of ours to join us in an accessible, beginner level workshop denverlibrary.org. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St.

10/29 Tuesday—Lowry Speaker Series Presents: "Eating Recovery Center: Why Now?" A look at the increasing diagnoses of anxiety and depression of adolescents and young adults. 7–8:30pm. Eisenhower Chapel at Lowry, 293 Roslyn St. lowryspeakerseries@gmail.com

MUSEUMS

10/18 to 10/22—Fall Break Family Fun at the Denver Art Museum. Free general admission for kids every day includes hands-on artmaking and more. denverartmuseum.org. 100 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy.

10/19 Saturday—Celebrate 110 years of Old Station I. Jazz Age Ball fundraiser with music, food, drink, and a silent auction. Dress in your best 1920s garb. 6–11pm. Denver Firefighters Museum, 1326 Tremont Pl. denverfirefightersmuseum.org

10/26 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. 10am–2pm, Wings over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. wingsmuseum.org

To 1/12/20—Still: Elemental. Exhibition features multi-sensory experiences to engage visitors' emotions. Clifford Still Museum, 1250 Bannock St. clyffordstillmuseum.org

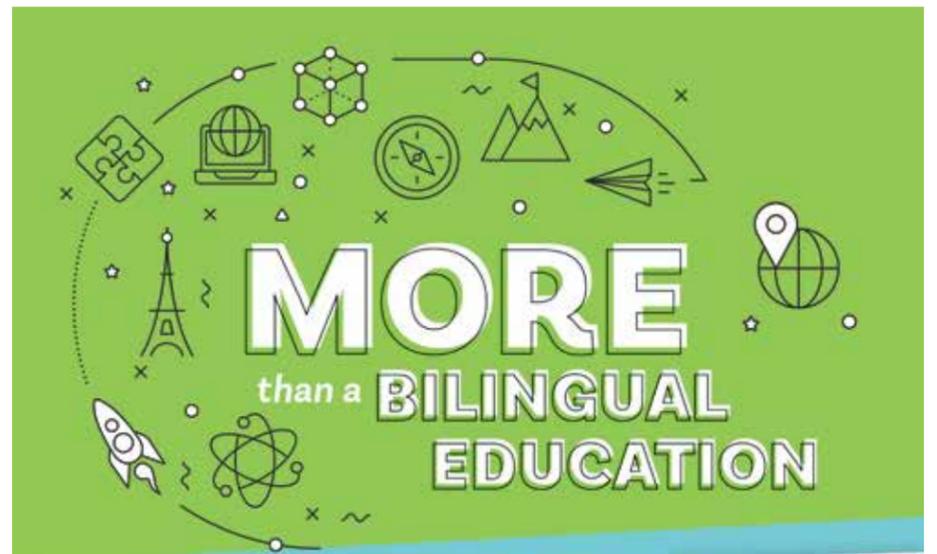
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MUSEUM FREE DAYS

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

10/1 Tuesday—The Children's Museum Free Evening. 4–8pm. mychildsmuseum.org

10/5—Denver Art Museum Free SCFD Saturday. Free for kids 18 and younger every day. Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy. 720-865-5000, denverartmuseum.org

10/5—Denver Art Museum Free SCFD Saturday. Free for kids 18 and younger every day. Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy. 720-865-5000, denverartmuseum.org

10/8 Saturday—Denver Firefighters Museum SCFD Free Day. 1326 Tremont Pl. denverfirefightersmuseum.org

10/11 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park SCFD Free Day. 715 S. Forest St. fourmilepark.org

10/14 Monday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science SCFD Free Day. 2001 Colorado Blvd. dmns.org

10/15 Tuesday—Clifford Still Museum SCFD Free Day. 10am–5pm. 1250 Bannock St. cliffordstillmuseum.org

11/1 to 11/9—Denver Arts Week. 9 day celebration of all things art in The Mile High City, featuring more than 300 events at a wide variety of art galleries, museums, theaters and concert halls, many of which are deeply discounted. More info at denver.org/denver-arts-week/

11/5 Tuesday—The Children's Museum Free Evening. 4–8pm. mychildsmuseum.org

PERFORMANCE/THEATRE

10/3 to 11/23—The Necromancer's Stone. When a boy's uncle goes missing, he begs the Voodoo queen for her help. bitsystage.com. The Bitsy Stage, 1137 S. Huron.

10/4 to 11/10—Plaza Suite. A comedy in three acts by Neil Simon. Black Box Theater. 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. Arvada. arvadacenter.org

10/4 to 2/16—Goodnight Moon. Tickets start at \$16. Ages: PreK-2nd grade. The beloved bedtime story comes to life on stage for a whimsical musical adventure. denvercenter.org. Randy Weeks Conservatory Theatre, 1101 13th St.

10/5 Saturday—Intermezzo! Lighten it Up with Puccini & Mascagni. Ars Nova Singers and Stratus perform. augustanaarts.org. Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E. Alameda Ave.

10/6 Sunday—One Night Stand Theater presents "Villains". 7pm. Performances and readings of plays and stories about bad guys, evil women, knaves and scoundrels. onenightstandtheater.org. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora.

To 10/6—Indecent. Denver Center for the Performing Arts. Space Theatre, Speer Blvd & Arapahoe St. denvercenter.org

10/12—Quiet No More: A Choral Celebration of Stonewall. Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising. Main Stage Theater. 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. Arvada. arvadacenter.org

To 10/12—Pass Over. Unflinchingly confronts the reality of young black men who hope only to survive yet dare to dream about a promise land. 1080 Acoma St. curioustheatre.org

To 10/13—Miss You Like Hell. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. aurorafoxartscenter.org

10/16 Wednesday—Charlie Foxtrot: Comedy at Stanley. A new monthly comedy show every 3rd Wednesday at 8pm. Stanley Marketplace, stanleymarketplace.com

10/16 Wednesday—Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Presenting "New World Spirit" at 7:30pm in Gates Hall, Newman Center for the Performing Arts. friendsofchambermusic.com. 2344 E. Iliff Ave.

10/19 to 10/27—Ballet Ariel presents 'Peter and the Wolf'. Classical ballet of the story of a young boy, Peter, and his animal friends. balletariel.org. Cleo Parker Robinson Theatre, 119 Park Ave. West.

10/22 to 10/27—Blue Man Group. Tickets start at \$40. Ages: 4+. The Speechless Tour. denvercenter.org. Buell Theatre, 1350 Curtis St.

10/26 Saturday—Comic Judy Gold. Emmy-winning writer/producer and stand up comedian Judy Gold. Tickets at jccdenver.org. Elaine Wolf Theatre, 350 S. Dahlia St.

10/26 to 10/27—Verdi Requiem – 35th Anniversary Celebration – Colorado Symphony Chorus. Boettcher Concert Hall. Tickets start at \$15. coloradosymphony.org

To 10/27—The Addams Family. A Ghoulish Musical Comedy. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. vintage theatre.org

10/30 to 11/10—Denver International Film Festival. 200+ films, panels, workshops and more. denverfilmfestival.denverfilm.org

To 11/24—A Doll's House Performed in repertory with A Doll's House, Part 2. Tickets start at \$30. Ages: 16+. Follow two acclaimed playwrights' distinctive takes on one woman's journey to self-discovery. denvercenter.org. Ricketson Theatre, 1050 13th St.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

10/5 Saturday—Sand Creek Greenway Volunteer Work Days. 10am–noon, in Denver. Email Mo at mfair@sandcreekgreenway.org for details. sandcreekgreenway.org

Every third Saturday—Volunteering Orientation 9–10am. Urban Farm at Stapleton offers opportunities for individuals and families. RSVP: theurbanfarm.wufoo.com/forms/zia2rpb0ou3ew1. 10200 Smith Rd.

Mentoring high-performing, low-income students. Minds Matter is recruiting our next class of college access mentors to help high-performing, low-income high school. mindsmatterdenver.org

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

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

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

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

National Wildlife Refuge Day, Oct. 19 Experience Wildlife Close to Home!

Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge week and Go Wild at Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. FREE, annual Refuge Day celebration is for the entire family. 11am–2pm at the Visitor Center, 6550 Gateway Rd. 303-289-0930 or visit us online at fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/



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**Denver Police Department (DPD)
Neighborhood Safety Initiatives**

Neighborhood Watch Program: Neighborhood Watch empowers residents to join together in monitoring their neighborhood and reporting to police any suspicious or illegal activities to help prevent crime and increase safety. Additionally, the Pups on Patrol program encourages dog owners to assist law enforcement as extra eyes and ears while out walking their dogs. After a brief one-hour training, pups can become an honorary DPD K-9.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED): CPTED helps to deter criminal behavior by changing the layout, look, and feel of places. Updating landscaping, including trimming or removing bushes, hedges or tree limbs, which may provide cover/concealment for suspicious persons, and adding outdoor lighting can deter criminal activity. DPD has officers who are certified to provide CPTED evaluations for residents and businesses.

Vacation Watch: Residents can call the District 5 station to place their home on vacation watch for officers to keep an eye on the home during the planned absence. To request vacation watch, call DPD District 5 station at 720-913-1400, and report dates of departure and return, if any lights will be

The SUN Spot
The independent voice of Stapleton
Brought to you by Stapleton United Neighbors



SUN Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 6:30-8:30pm; a break at 7:30pm allows attendees to depart after an hour, though all are welcome to stay until the end. Meetings are held at Central Park Recreation Center, 9651 MLK Jr. Blvd. For information about SUN, visit www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com. To contact SUN, email stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com

October SUN News

on, and who will have access.

Commander Meetings: Join DPD District 5 for Commander for lunch on 10/24, 12 - 2pm at Trina's Place (4611 Peoria St.) The next Commander's meeting will be in November (time and location TBD). DPD uses data to address crime in the city. For updated neighborhood statistics, visit www.denvergov.org/police.

To learn more about these programs and other safety initiatives, contact District 5 Community Resource Officer Kiarra Jenkins at kiarra.jenkins@denvergov.org.

VISION, Oct. 12, 9-10:30am Denver Green School

Join SUN for an inaugural event supporting children (ages 8-18) and caregivers. A new school year brings new opportunities to ignite children's imaginations, spark a spirit of curiosity, and learn tools to support success. Register: www.drjea.com

**October 15 SUN meeting, 6:30-8:30pm
Central Park Recreation Center**

During the first hour of the evening, attendees will hear updates from Denver Public Schools, local middle and high schools' leadership, and priorities from DPS At-Large Board Candidates during the annual fall education forum.

During the second hour of the meeting, the SUN board will vote on candidate board member Rick Leuthold. Rick states: "In 2011, my wife Cindy and I moved to Denver to be closer to our two daughters and two grandchildren. We built a home in Central Park West and family soon moved into homes within a few blocks of ours. I opened a Denver branch office and serve as Chairman and Director of Business Development of Sanderson Stewart, a seventy-employee, multi-state Community Design Firm. I began working for the company 35-years ago, graduating from Montana State Uni-

versity with a BS in Civil Engineering. My current day-to-day projects involve land use planning and design of public, residential, institutional, and commercial developments, including all aspects of federal, state and local permitting and approval. I have developed an extensive knowledge and expertise related to water, sanitary sewer, storm drain, road and street design and construction administration. Our entire family loves the Stapleton community and through the SUN Board, I will offer my services in keeping this uniquely vibrant place what it is today."

**November 19 SUN meeting, 6:30-8:30pm
Central Park Recreation Center**

Dana Hoffman, a Transportation Project Manager with Denver Public Works will address current challenges and potential solutions for traffic issues in Stapleton. With a brief presentation followed by Q/A, Ms Hoffman will be addressing concerns around Central Park Blvd. and 56th adjacent to Shops at Beeler Park and increased traffic on Emporia St. south of Martin Luther King Blvd. and other areas of the neighborhood.

Contributions for this article were provided by Denver Police Department, SUN board candidate Rick Leuthold, and SUN board members Drs. Jea and Jeff Ederer; edited by SUN president Amanda Allshouse.

Formerly Stapleton Family Eye / Optical

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Stapleton
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Retro and Mod: Ice Cream That's Fun

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Paul Tamburello likes to make an impact wherever he opens his ice cream shops, making each a destination as much as a place to get a sweet treat. His newest location, DANG, is no exception.

In addition to this first soft serve ice cream concept in the collection, the founder of the Little Man Ice Cream Company has opened multiple concepts this year, including Constellation Ice Cream in Stapleton, the Little Man Ice Cream Factory, and a location at Denver International Airport. DANG's location in the Oneida Park retail center in Park Hill presented a special challenge.

The first business to sign on and the last to open in the reinvention of Oneida Park, DANG is relatively small at 1,500 square feet and is set

back from the street. Tamburello was concerned it could be overlooked. But the name inspired an idea for how to bring the shop to the forefront, visually and figuratively.

Bold swaths of fuchsia, turquoise, purple, and royal blue decorate the building inside and out. Black and white lava lamp-like murals creep up the walls and across the ceiling. Large purple "hand" chairs welcome guests to stay a while to enjoy their colorful ice cream creations. "We hope the first word out of our guest's lips upon entering is 'Dang!'" says Tamburello.

Eight flavors of ice cream are available each day, served individually or swirled together. "We will always have some kind of vanilla, chocolate and fruity flavor and one machine that is always spinning vegans,"



Little Man Ice Cream owner Paul Tamburello is flanked by his area manager Dominiz DiCarlantonio (left) and chef Clair Fields at an opening celebration of the new DANG Soft Serve Ice Cream.



Upper left: Celine Davis, 12, photographs her ice cream from the new DANG Soft Serve Ice Cream shop in Oneida Park.

Above: Patterns and colors in and on the building were inspired by 80s pop culture.

Left: Swirls and toppings on cones are created with an artful touch.

Photo courtesy of Harry Wartens

says Claire Fields, pastry chef for Little Man. The vegan recipes use soy, coconut, rice and almond in different ratios and in different flavors, Fields explains.

Soft serve can be ordered in cups or cones and dipped in a hard shell, and customers can choose from more than 30 toppings to be patted onto the sides of the twist. Besides soft serve, the only other item on DANG's menu is French fries to capitalize on the popular practice of dipping hot French fries into cold soft serve ice cream.

Tamburello and his staff say they are glad to be in the Park Hill neighborhood and plan to hold special events and make DANG a community gathering place.

"All of our projects are a labor of love because we really love what we're doing and we're very intentional about trying to understand the community that we're being set in," says Tamburello. "I know it's just a little ice cream store, but we take it really seriously."

Letters to the Editor

Stapleton "Farmers" Market: Where are the farms?

Stapleton is the ideal community to support a robust farmer's market featuring Colorado-sourced produce, which is abundant and spectacular from mid-July through October. Peaches, peas, peppers, plums, apples, corn, melons, squash, and tomatoes are all grown in Colorado and are delicious!

Sadly, the Sunday market in Stapleton, despite an ideal location, seems unable to provide a quorum of farmers that adequately reflect this bounty. While there are a few excellent farms that sell their Colorado produce at the market, the major focus of this "farmer's" market is prepared food. Dozens of food trucks and stands surround the Green peddling interesting but frequently unhealthy and non-locally sourced products and wares. It can be difficult to even find the produce amongst the other vendors.

I am not opposed to food trucks or other prepared foods, but when the market is branded as a "Farmer's Market" and there are almost no farms, it seems to me there is a problem. The company behind the Stapleton "Farmer's" Market, Colorado Fresh Markets, has a good reputation, but they are off the ball with this market. There is more produce available outside Stanley Marketplace in a tiny space on Fridays than at the signature market for our community. If you agree with these thoughts, please help persuade the MCA or Colorado Fresh to make some changes for the better. —Anthony Gerber

Keep Children Safe

As a kindergarten teacher in Northeast Denver I work every single day to make sure my students are safe and feel secure as they learn and grow. Feeling safe as a child lays the foundation for a healthy life, yet hundreds of children at the U.S. Mexico border are being denied basic care and humane treatment.

Since the beginning of 2019, more than 500,000 children, women and men have crossed the southern border of the United States seeking asylum. Families are walking for weeks only to find themselves in unsafe U.S. detention centers.

The situation on our southern border is a humanitarian crisis. Migrants, and children in particular, deserve to be treated with dignity and to have their human rights upheld. Nonetheless, U.S. officials are systematically failing to protect asylum seekers and children entering the U.S.

Reports reveal horrendous conditions in detention centers, including children separated from their families, children denied basic hygiene services, and children charged with caring for infants. We know that such neglect is detrimental to children's well-being, and that when kids are denied basic care—blankets, nutritious food, contact with loved ones—their brain chemistry is negatively affected.

I call on our Colorado congressional delegation to stand up for children and work with the full U.S. Congress and the Trump administration to ensure the well-being of these children. The administration must release children from detention centers, safely unite them with their families, and respect the rights of all migrants to seek asylum in the U.S.

Sincerely, Kristin Enquist, Green Valley Ranch

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Applying to College in 3 Easy Steps

Zack Montez, NHS Future Center College Advisor, advises students to “be themselves” as they write their personal essays for college admission rather than attempt to answer prompts the way they think a college wants them to respond. No one wants to read a “cookie cutter” essay, he says.

By Martina Will, PhD

Now that we have readers’ attention, let’s reconsider that title. Applying for college is not easy. Nor should it be, one could argue. After all, any investment of tens of thousands of dollars (whether borrowed, saved, or awarded), reasonably requires a comparable investment in time, energy, and effort.

Perhaps the biggest hurdle for many students in applying to college is writing what is, in essence, the application’s heart and soul: the personal essay. Most U.S. colleges and universities rely on The Common Application and the less widely-used Coalition Application. Each includes a host of personal essay prompts to choose from. Students may use either or both applications, depending on which institution they hope to attend.

The exercise of writing the personal essay requires that applicants distill their lessons learned or hurdles overcome into no more than 550 or 650 (depending on the application) compelling, incisive, thoughtful, articulate, astute, and perhaps even somewhat soul-baring words. That is less than this article’s word count. Even without that list of adjectives.

So what is the secret to a great personal essay? First, resist the urge to write about a mission trip; admissions essay readers see a lot of those. Prospective students should share insights and experiences they’ve acquired as a result of a deeper commitment or ongoing engagement with an

activity, say Dr. Jeff Ederer and Denise Kupetz, principals in College Route Map Educational Consulting. Examples from Ederer and Kupetz’s decades in higher education include a high school student who works a part-time job to help support their family or cares for an aging grandparent on weekends. These can carry as much weight and show personal growth just as a well-placed internship might.

Another tip is be authentic. Authenticity in the personal essay is key, say Ederer and Kupetz. The instructions suggest as much, stating that beyond the ability to write “clearly and concisely,” the personal essay “helps you distinguish yourself in your own voice.” In other words, and at the risk of stating the obvious, do not have someone else write your personal essay. While a teacher or parent may help you refine an idea or review your essay for clarity, the words and ideas need to be your own or you will forsake the very authenticity that readers seek in your essay.

Zack Montez, who directs Northfield High School’s Future Center, concurs, adding “It’s an opportunity for the

student to express who they are to the admissions representative; it can be any component of that individual’s personality or lived experience.”

In part, the personal essay’s purpose is to help the college determine whether the student will be a good fit for the institution. Colleges and universities want a student body that is not only racially and ethnically diverse, but also diverse in perspectives, backgrounds, and majors, Ederer says. Readers are looking for essays that make them want to stop and share with other readers.

Montez says that more selective schools will typically require one or more supplemental essays in addition to the personal essay. The most common of these requires the student to reflect on what they know of the institution, to ensure that an individual has given thought to the type of institution and coursework they hope to pursue. Ederer and Kupetz share an example of an unusual supplemental essay prompt, from the University of Chicago, which they paraphrase as “Where’s Waldo and why does it matter?”

Before answering these and less existential questions, students can learn about colleges and universities by attending college fairs, meeting with campus representatives who visit high schools, taking college tours, and pursuing websites. Ederer encourages parents and guardians to build college tours into existing trips rather than wait until the summer before senior year, when applications loom.

Montez, who was a first-generation college student, appreciates that not everyone has parents who can encourage them to apply and take them on tours. He suggests that in addition to college fairs and meetings with representatives, some students can take advantage of the college tours that the Denver Scholarship Foundation (DSF) offers. DSF operates 14 Future Centers across

DPS and sponsors two campus visits each fall: one to Colorado State University and the other to the University of Northern Colorado.

Whether one selects a technical or vocational school, a two-year or a four-year degree program, an in-state or out-of-state undergraduate experience, the decision on where to apply to college is not one-sided. All of these advisors emphasize that selecting a college is not just about

getting in but also about making sure that the schools one applies to are a good fit for the individual student. Kupetz stresses “the idea that someone is not just getting there but that you can thrive and do well when they get there as well.”



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

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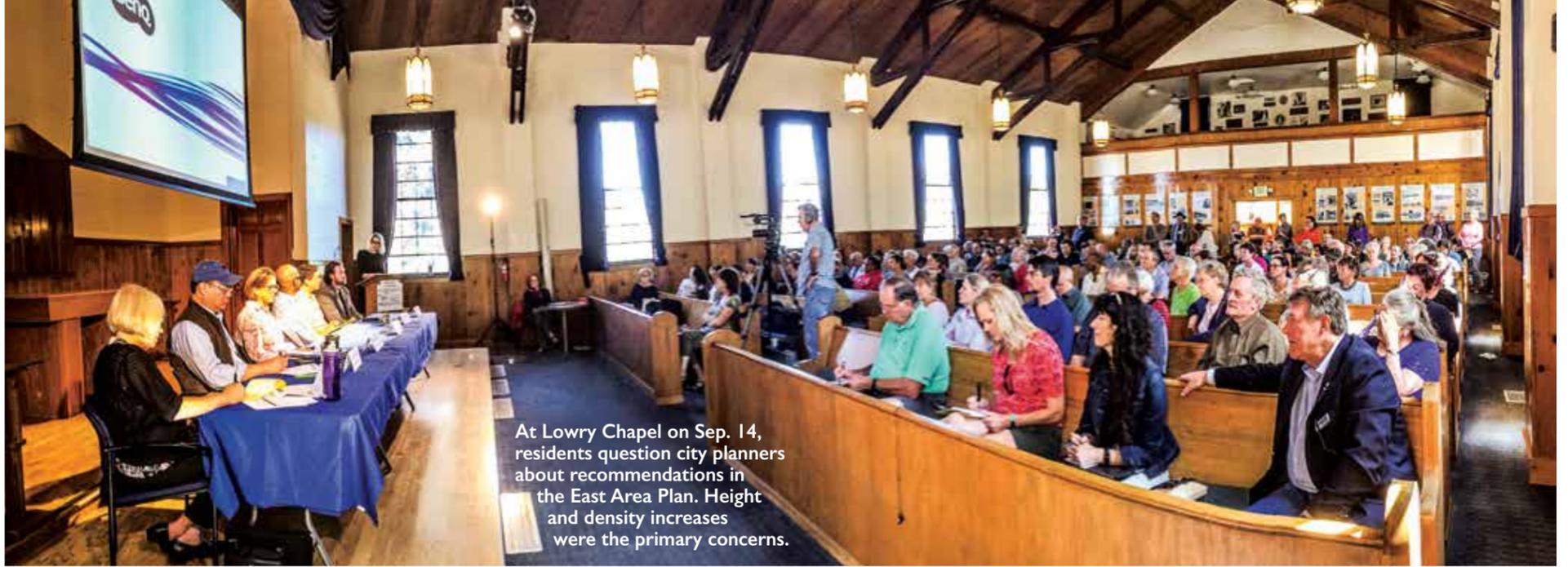
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At Lowry Chapel on Sep. 14, residents question city planners about recommendations in the East Area Plan. Height and density increases were the primary concerns.

Residents Question City About Height and Density Recommendations

RESIDENTS ON AREA PLAN COMMITTEES



Christine O'Connor

"Who frames the discussion, who frames the surveys, who frames the beginning of the process is key. Because the way the questions are asked determine what answers you get from the community."



Myles Tanglin

"Our neighborhoods are some of the most complex in the city... we [East Central Area] will be asking for more time in the planning process."



Tracey MacDermott

"I've had many community members come up to me...and say, 'Do I put my house on the market now?... This will become an unlivable place for me... This is not the Denver I moved into.'"

Upcoming meeting: Share Ideas and Concerns about the East Area Plan

South Park Hill, Montclair, Hale, E. Colfax

Oct 29, 6-8pm

Johnson & Wales, Univ. Academic Center, 1900 Olive St. — DenverGov.org/EastPlan

as homeowners butted heads with planners over height and density recommendations. Tasked with reconciling residents' concerns about Denver's need for more housing, planners walk a tightrope between urban sprawl and smart growth.

Despite heated exchanges at a June meeting, Principal City Planner Courtland Hyser emphasized that most of the East and East Central Area Plans' recommendations have widespread majority support based on meeting and online feedback. Disagreement over building height and density have dominated community conversations, however.

CITY PLANNERS



Curt Upton

Making sure that we have infrastructure and coordinating our infrastructure improvements with land use changes is actually one of the objectives in having this holistic plan.



Courtland Hyser

Neighborhood plans... are very comprehensive... so it isn't that they emphasize matters of height and density in particular... those are the two that have risen to the top as having the most controversy... disagreement."



Eugene Howard

I want to emphasize the critical role that you all play in the partnership in helping us...have conversations in the community...months before the actual planning process."

By Martina Will, PhD

"I think we're being planned out," said Christine O'Connor as part of her opening remarks at a Sept. 14 Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) meeting. Moderated by former mayoral candidate Jamie Giellis, city planners answered questions about both the processes and

substance of changes in the works for neighborhoods encompassed by two evolving city plans, the East Central and East Area Plans. The next East Area Plan meeting is Oct. 29 (see above).

The East Area Plan, which includes Hale, Montclair/Mayfair, South Park Hill and East Colfax, came under fire over the summer

"I'm getting offers for my house daily in my mailbox.... Those two blocks north and south of Colfax are at risk of being gone with this proposed development," said Tracey MacDermott, who lives in Park Hill and sits on the steering committee for the East Area Plan. The applause her comment received demonstrated that many in

attendance share these concerns, as the East Colfax corridor in particular is targeted for increased density under the Plan's recommendations.

Hyser acknowledged that the City needs to begin community engagement earlier to allow a longer review phase. The revised target date for the East Area Plan's completion is March 2020.



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