

# Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

NORTHEAST DENVER

JUNE 2020

## 2020 Grads Roll into an Uncertain Future



This May 15 procession may not have been across a stage, but northeast Denver grads got cheering spectators—spaced appropriately along a 4.8 mile parade route. The Stapleton Master Community Association planned the free and open-to-the-public graduation

event, including hiring seven police officers to block intersections and escort the 302-vehicle procession. Of the 102 vehicles that provided information, 12 high schools and 2 universities were represented. With most cars having multiple occupants, total participation is likely to have been

well over 500 graduates. The route from The Shops at Northfield to Stapleton's E. 29th Ave. Town Center took a full hour—and a full 90 minutes passed from the time the first car set out until the last car completed the parade route. *Story about 2020 graduates by Grace Adams on page 6.*

## How is living through a pandemic like living through a war?

History Colorado Center Historian Julie Patterson describes how Coloradans faced uncertainty, fear and death during World Wars I and II—and finds similarities in how Coloradans are responding to the pandemic

*Story on page 9.*



We've collected graphics and explanations of what you've been wanting to know about Covid-19 in Denver and Colorado.

How is Denver doing at flattening the curve?

What symptoms are Denverites reporting and how does that help track illness in the community—even before tests are done?

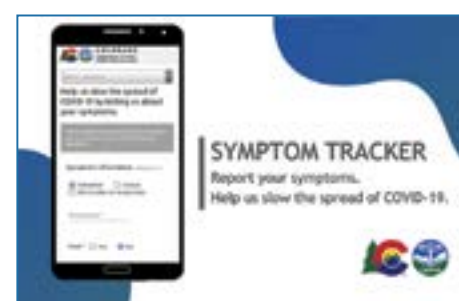
Are we having Covid outbreaks in our grocery stores?

What should we do when someone isn't wearing a mask in the grocery store?

What is the projection for how well the virus will be contained in coming months?

And, in a broader view, why do bats spread pathogens; and how are llamas contributing to possible treatments?

*Story on page 14 by Carol Roberts.*








Spectacular cloud formations add welcome variety to everyday walks in neighborhood parks. This cloud is viewed from Fred Thomas Park located along Quebec between E. 23rd and E. 26th avenues.

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

### Free Covid-19 Testing for People with Symptoms...

is now available from 8am to 4pm at the Pepsi Center. Individuals administer the nasal swab themselves. Before going, register at [denvergov.org](https://denvergov.org) and bring a document that verifies your name. Results will be provided online within 72 hours. Denver Dept. of Public Health & Environment (DDPHE) will follow up with those who test positive to do contact tracing. Enter at 7th St and Auraria Pkwy to the parking lot on the west side of the Pepsi Center, 1000 Chopper Circle. Walking or biking up to the site is discouraged. Those without internet can register by calling 311. Mobile testing in your home or neighborhood may be available if you have no transportation.

### Pick up a Front Porch at Safeway.

Even while rec centers, libraries and businesses are closed, the Front Porch is still being delivered to racks in the Lowry and Mayfair Safeways. Other Front Porch rack locations are listed in the "More Info" link on our website at <https://frontporchne.com/more/rack-locations/>

Comment on and Share Stories at [FrontPorchNE.com](https://frontporchne.com)

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

## Events & Announcements at Stapleton

### AQUATIC FACILITIES, PROGRAMS & SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT

**Facility Maintenance:** Many of you have likely noticed our pools are being filled and a handful of workers performing routine maintenance inside our facilities. This work is mandatory and must be completed every year, regardless of opening. Not completing this essential facility upkeep can result in residual, costly, and long-lasting damage. The monthly community assessments support year-round care of our aquatic facilities. Assessment fees are not linked with pool access, which is why we offer Resident Membership Cards.

**Resident Membership Cards:** No new memberships will be sold at this time. If your current membership is approaching its expiration date, please refrain from renewing it online. The MCA staff will renew any expired memberships over the phone, if and when we can proceed with opening this season.

**Aquatic Programming & Seasonal Staffing:** All swim lessons through June are canceled. The MCA staff is working hard to adapt our Swim Team and Jr. Lifeguard programs to accommodate guidelines put forth by the CDC and Colorado Department of Public Health. We will continue to update residents via our website, social media accounts, and email newsletter. In addition, all seasonal employment opportunities have been withdrawn until further notice.

Now more than ever, we need the support of this wonderful community. If you see any activity within our aquatic facilities after hours, please call the police. Times of great uncertainty and change can be hard to navigate, but we assure you that we are continuing to work effortlessly to keep Stapleton a safe and vibrant community to call home.

### FACILITY AND PARK RENTALS

**The Cube and Community Room:** Closed through June 30, and all reservations will be canceled.

**Outdoor Sport Fields and MCA Parks:** Field and park reservations will be on hold through June 30. If we receive an updated mandate from the City and County of Denver, we will reopen our parks and sports fields per their guidelines.

**Essential services and operations, including trash and park maintenance, will continue.**

### FARMERS MARKET

**First Market: Sunday, June 7, 9am-1pm, Founders Green. Recurring Every Sunday**

The MCA is thrilled to have HobNob Events as the new organizers of the Stapleton Farmers Market. The new market features Colorado-grown produce, tasty baked goods, specialty meats, gourmet

items, and so much more! We hope this market will enhance Stapleton and the surrounding communities with an experience where fresh and wholesome products are easily found. For a complete list of vendors, please visit [www.stapletoncommunity.com](https://www.stapletoncommunity.com)

### STAPLETON STANDARDS AND VIOLATIONS

The Stapleton MCA conducts periodic inspections of residential properties. This effort is to encourage all residents of our community to be conscious of the condition of their property and its importance in keeping a well-maintained and safe neighborhood.

Make sure that the outside of the home is intact and debris free.

Keep landscape free from all weeds and all uncultivated plant growth and any landscaping that is dead and/or dry.

Make sure that all vehicles are operable with current registrations and are parked in your garage or on a public street. No vehicle can be parked within 3 feet of main alley surface.

Storage of any personal property or trash that is visible from outside the fence of the property is highly discouraged.

### WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

The MCA is continuing to spotlight the incredible individuals and local businesses that reside in this delightful neighborhood. If you would like to spotlight a local business or individual that is making a positive impact in the community, let us know by contacting us via [www.stapletoncommunity.com](https://www.stapletoncommunity.com)

The Master Community Association has been proactive and diligent in adapting our procedures and events to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Going forward, we will take a safe and responsible approach as we prepare for the return of certain company operations, and as we further develop future events and programming.

Conditions, concerns, and responses related to COVID-19 are changing daily. The MCA will continue to monitor the situation and adhere to mandates set forth by the CDC, as well as our state and local authorities. For the most up to date information and community news, please visit our website. We appreciate your patience and understanding during these trying times. Please reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns at 303.388.0724 or [luhling@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:luhling@stapletoncommunity.com).

Be well and stay safe,

**Lawrence Uhling**

Administrative Assistant  
[www.stapletoncommunity.com](https://www.stapletoncommunity.com)  
303.388.0724

Master Community Association **STAPLETON**

Sponsored by Stapleton MCA

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# Front Porch

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Front Porch – NE Denver distributes more than 25,000 free papers during the first week of each month. Papers are delivered by mail and/or racks in Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair, E. Colfax and NW Aurora.

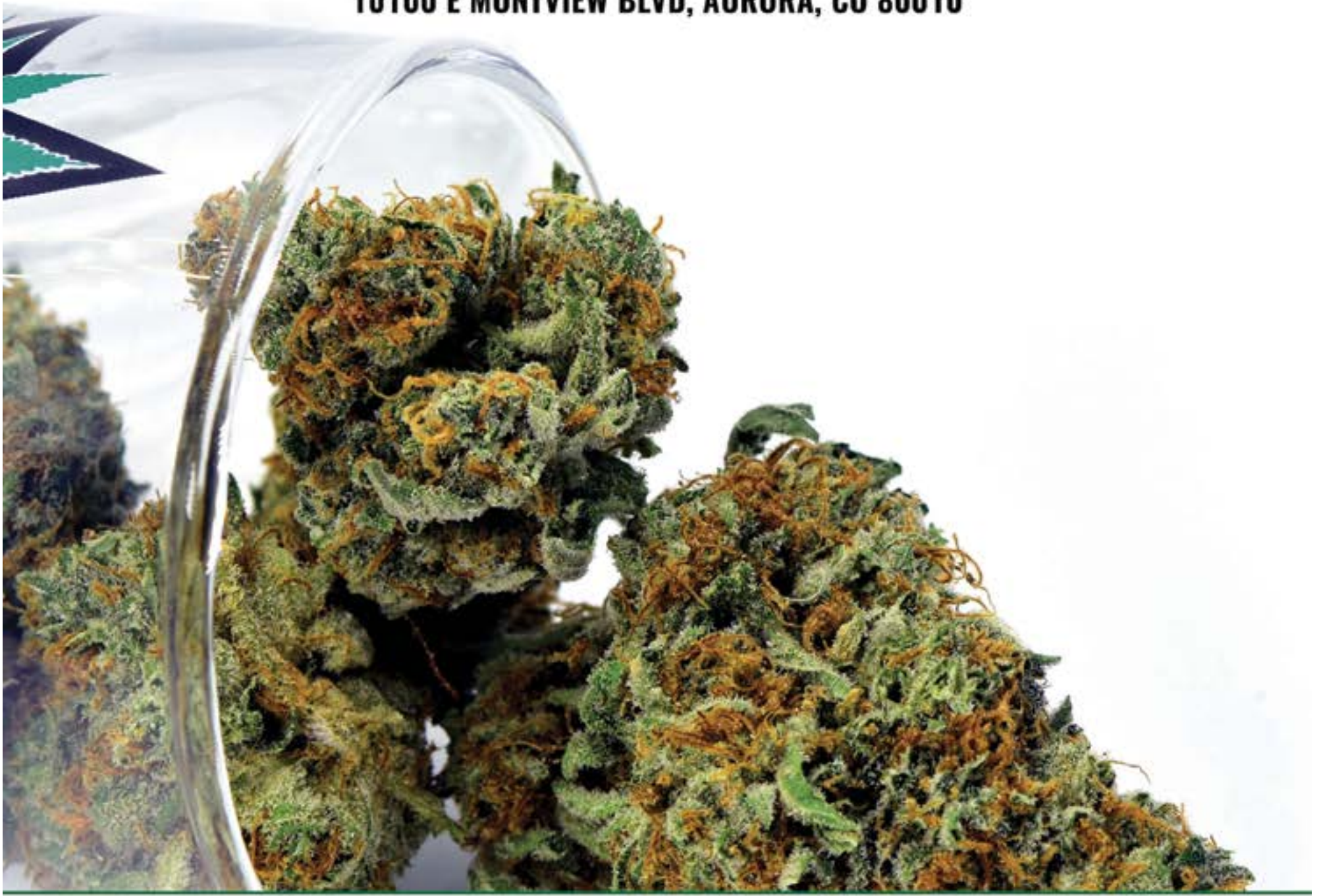
The Front Porch is printed with soy-based ink and the paper contains 30% post-consumer waste. We contribute monthly to replant trees equivalent to the amount of paper used in each issue.



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# Our June issue is courtesy of these businesses!

Click to find them at [www.FrontPorchNE.com](http://www.FrontPorchNE.com) > Business Directory

Churches	Augustana Lutheran Church	13
Community Organization	Stapleton Master Community Association	2
Dance Classes	Dance Institute LLC	12
Dental	Williams Family Dentistry	4
Design and Remodeling	Diane Gordon Design	12
Dispensary	Starbuds	3
Health and Wellness	Insight Behavioral Health	14

Home Services	Reflection Windows & Doors LLC	13
Housecleaning	Number 1 House Cleaning	12
	Stapleton Home Services	9
	White Magic Cleaning Services	10
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	Colorado Gastroenterology	8
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Museum	History Colorado Center	11
Pets	Ciji's Natural Pet Supplies	10
Pre-Schools/Childcare	Creative Learning Preschool	8
Real Estate	New Perspective Real Estate, LLC	5
	Wolfe & Epperson Real Estate	13
Seniors	The Grove at Stapleton	16
Storage	DéStow	7
Travel	Suzanne Beverly Dayton	13

**Delivered free every month**—more than 25,000 *Front Porch* newspapers are distributed in the Northeast Denver neighborhoods of Stapleton — Park Hill — Lowry — Mayfair — Montclair — East Colfax — NW Aurora.

**To advertise**, contact Karissa McGlynn at 303-993-9963 or [KarissaMcGlynn@gmail.com](mailto:KarissaMcGlynn@gmail.com). Submit ads for the upcoming issue by the 15th of the month. Or visit us at [FrontPorchNE.com](http://FrontPorchNE.com).



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- Our hygienists have streamlined their protocols so patients can return to their continuing care intervals.
- We will continue to post updates as well as tips to keep you healthy during these unprecedented times.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU SOON. OUR GREATEST REWARD  
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# 2020 GRADS

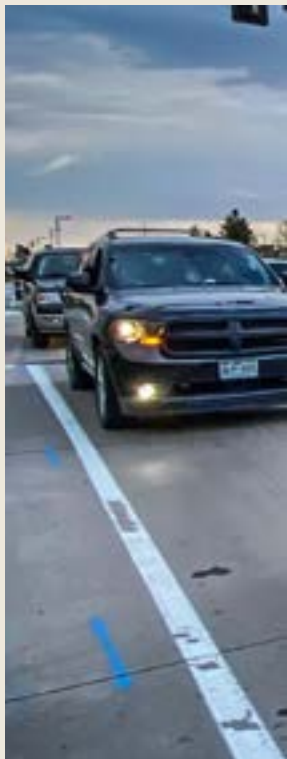
## Roll into an Unknown Future



DSST: Montview graduates decorate their car shortly before the parade.



This photo and the one at right were taken as the grads crossed Martin Luther King Blvd. heading north on Central Park Blvd.



By Grace Adams

Donning a traditional cap and a not-so-traditional pair of giraffe pajamas, Becca Hoffman set out to take her college graduation photos. Wandering around an emptying campus snapping shots, Hoffman, and friends clad in similar attire, wanted to do something fun to commemorate their last four years—they were being forced to leave Whitman College early and under entirely different circumstances than expected. As schools shut down across the country in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, students have had to adapt to a new reality—and seniors in college and high school are trying to creatively reevaluate what they had thought were firm plans for graduation and their futures.

Virtual commencements, online profiles, and Class of 2020 yard signs are some of the ways families and schools honored and celebrated their grads while under stay-at-home restrictions, albeit less



Becca Hoffman's college graduation photo was taken by friend when they learned they had to leave campus suddenly due to the pandemic. Photo courtesy of Becca Hoffman.

festively than they would have wished. But despite the pandemic limitations in their lives, NE Denver grads found a silver lining. The Stapleton Master Community Association organized an open-to-all, first-ever car parade that offered grads a memorable celebration along its 4.8 mile parade route. Escorted by cops with flashing lights, 302 vehicles traversed the route from the Shops at Northfield to the East 29th Ave. Town Center. And smiling graduates leaned out of windows and popped up through skylights to wave and acknowledge cheers from acceptably-distanced spectators. One parade participant, Abrán Romero, a senior at Northfield High School, concluded, "I actually kind of prefer this kind of graduation. The whole caravan of cars and the cheering; it was a lot of fun." He thinks the event should become a lasting tradition. The lack of a traditional in-person ceremony, however, was a big disappointment

to others. "We don't get that moment," says Jimena Cristerna, a senior at George Washington High School. "When you walk up the steps, you're in front of a crowd of over a thousand people, and they're all cheering for you. We don't get that." Along with the loss of graduations, this year's seniors have missed out on other aspects of the final semester of high school such as prom, senior sunset, senior ditch day and, for many, sports seasons. RaSheik Gaddis is a graduating senior at Northfield High School and member of the boys basketball team. The relatively new team, established only three years ago and viewed largely as an underdog, surpassed expectations this year, reaching the Final Four in the 4A state tournament. They were only one win away from earning a spot in the championship game when the pandemic forced schools to close and sporting events to be canceled. Along with the disappointment of not getting to complete his senior season, Gaddis feels that it may have affected his

### Congratulations 2020 Grads

For the July Front Porch, place your GradAd by June 19 at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/FrontPorch2020GradAd>

### RaSheik Gaddis

*Congrats!*

We are so proud of you, and the amazing person you are becoming.

Love you!




### Ben Winchell

*Congratulations!*

So proud of all your accomplishments. Good luck at Regis University!

Love, Mom, Dad & Chris






### Justin Christian-Powell

*Let the Adventure Begin!*

Justin, we are so proud of your accomplishments and look forward to seeing you grow as a US Navy man! We love you and thank you for being such a great guy!

Love, Dad, Pop, Caroline, Nick and Brooke



### Abrán Romero

*Felicidades, Abrán!*

Always be a rebel!

Love, Mom, Dad, Mateo, Kamy & Jaz



### Calvert Crum

*We are proud of you!*

Your determination in overcoming all of your challenges only reflects what you will accomplish when you set your mind to it. We love you!

Dad & Kelley, Mom & Eric, Quinten & family

### Kelcey Schwartz

*Congrats!*

You are moving on to a new and exciting chapter in your life!

Love, Dad and Vanessa



### Makara Tunstall-Runge

*May All Your Dreams Come True!*

I am so proud of who you are and all you'll become. Go make your mark on the world—you'll shine at Cal Poly! I've no doubt you will achieve your dreams.

I love you so much! Mom




### Jack Slowey

*You Make Us Proud!*

A new journey begins. Dream big. Aspire excellence. Be true to you.

Love You! Mom, Dad and Nick







Graduates in the 302-vehicle parade represented at least 12 high schools and 2 colleges.



From Central Park Blvd., the parade turned west on Montview and south on Syracuse (above), then to the 29th Ave. Town Center where the students were instructed to continue on their way—no getting out and gathering during a pandemic.



These grads, with masks pulled down for a celebratory cheer, are among the 2020 grads throughout the country who are wondering what the pandemic will mean to the plans that seemed so clear a few months ago. From left to right: Abrán Romero, Northfield HS; Lydia Loof, George Washington HS; Max Epperson, East HS; RaSheik Gaddis, Northfield HS; Emmie Weprin, GWHS. —Front Porch photo by Christie Gosch

prospects and college options. “I think I missed out on a lot of potential [college] offers.”

Gaddis is not alone in worrying about how the pandemic has and will continue to affect his future. With colleges having transitioned to remote learning and uncertainty around when in-person instruction may

resume, many members of the Class of 2020 find their previously solidified plans being put into question.

“I’m kinda conflicted on what I’m going to do about this whole situation,” says Max Epperson, a senior at East High School, planning to attend the University of Colorado, Boulder in the fall. “If college

starts in an online format, I’ll feel like we’re wasting money because half of the college experience for me is being able to actually live and interact with my peers on campus.” He says he would consider taking a gap year if in-person classes are not a reality for the fall semester.

Lydia Loof, a senior at George Washington High School is still planning to start classes in the fall at Amherst College, even if they are online.

However, she is concerned about what the pandemic could mean for her and her peers’ experiences transitioning out of high school. “I’m young and supposed to be starting a new chapter in my life,” she says. “One of the things I’m most worried about is missing out on things that I may not be able to do in the future that I’ve been looking forward to, like having a

traditional college experience.”

Hoffman is also concerned about moving into post-graduation life after college under the current circumstances. Having left Whitman and moved back to Colorado to live with her family and finish the semester online, she is grateful for the time she is spending with her family, but feels the loss of having to leave the life she built over the past four years and the independence she had established. The situation has caused her to reevaluate and ultimately accelerate her plans for the future.

“I think that being back home and feeling like I’m moving backwards really pushed me to want to move forward,” says Hoffman. “I am getting into a job much faster than I think I would have if the pandemic hadn’t happened.”

Hoffman will be moving to Seattle and starting a job as a medical assistant at the beginning of June. While she is excited about the job, she shares the anxieties of the high school seniors, including Romero, Cristerna, Gaddis and Loof, about the uncertainty of the future they are entering.

“We are living in a time that is so different,” says Cristerna. She is interested in becoming a teacher, but has recently been questioning her previous conception of what that career path would look like. “It’s really hard to continue to plan to major in education when becoming a teacher is now going to be so much different than what it was.”

*Grace Adams is a Junior at Loyola Marymount University studying Spanish and Journalism.*

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# ...NE News Updates



By Martina Will, PhD and Carol Roberts

## 1 DIA Renovation Moves Ahead

Work to modernize and increase Denver International Airport's capacity continues, but at a faster pace due to fewer flights and a 95% passenger decrease in the coronavirus era. The construction, which began in 2018 and carries a \$1.5 bill. budget, will add 39 gates, passenger amenities including new bathrooms and ticket counters, train platform upgrades, and offices for United and Southwest. On May 18, Denver City Council approved \$560 mill. in contract amendments for the project at the nation's fifth-busiest airport. According to emailed information from DIA Public Information Officer Emily Williams, "Because passenger traffic volumes are lower, we have been able to allow some construction work on the Great Hall project and other planned maintenance work on the train to the gates during the day, when normally it would have taken place in a shorter window overnight." Project information and updates are available at: [https://www.flydenver.com/great\\_hall](https://www.flydenver.com/great_hall)



DIA construction is expected to be completed in 2021. All three concourses will have new gates by the time the work is done. This rendering shows the exterior of the West Deck expansion.

## 2 Grocery Store Safety During a Pandemic

Though King Soopers shoppers won't see anyone at the entrance counting people to meter store access, the supermarket relies on Quevision, an infrared technology, "to count people coming in and out of our stores," according to Corporate Affairs Manager Jessica Trowbridge. The chain is limiting

store capacity to 50% of normal to improve consumers' ability to socially distance while shopping. "Safety is our number one priority, especially as we manage through this pandemic. All our teams are making every effort possible," says Trowbridge. When asked about customers entering the store without face coverings, she says "our teams are engaging with customers who enter the facility to remind them that there is an ordinance in place, and that for their safety and the safety of others we request they wear a facial covering."

## 3 New Rehab Hospital Coming to Northfield

Construction is well underway at Northfield's Reunion Rehabilitation Hospital, which NOBIS Rehabilitation Partners expects to open in the first quarter of 2021. Chief Business Development Officer Gina Thomas shares that the hospital will hire locally for its 150 positions, which will include specialists in rehab nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy, "as well as other required hospital clinical, quality and administrative staff." The hospital, located at 4650 Central Park Blvd., will be 48,510 sq. feet, with 40 beds.

## 4 Barber Shop Opens in Shops at Beeler Park

Box State Barbers owner Lorenzo Robledo says their goal is to bring back the old-school type of barber-shop—a business based on the principle "Your appearance is our reputation." He says they offer fades, flat tops, and everything in-between. Box State Barbers is located at 5665 N Beeler St., Suite 130 in Beeler Park. Call 720.920.9571 or book online at: <http://boxstatebarbers.com/locations/>



Box State Barbers, owned by Tim Gonzalez, Dawn McCarter and Lorenzo Robledo, is newly open in the Shops at Beeler Park located at E. 56th Ave. and Central Park Blvd.

## 5 Sprouts Opens Jul. 15/Hiring Fair Jun. 1 & 2

The new Stapleton Sprouts has announced they will open Wednesday, July 15 at 7am. The 30,000 sq. ft. store is located at 3555 Central Park Blvd. Sprouts will hold a virtual hiring fair with interviews on June 1 & 2. Apply online at [sprouts.com/careers](https://sprouts.com/careers).

Information on the new development surrounding Sprouts can be found on Facebook at Central Park Station One & Shops at A Line Square, Stapleton, Denver, CO

## 6 Mammography Center Opens in Eastbridge

Solis Mammography opened May 18 in the Eastbridge neighborhood of Stapleton, offering bone density screenings and mammography. Cathy McNamara, Account Executive with Solis says "What's really nice about our Stapleton location is it's...the perfect size for social distancing and maintaining a high level of safety protocols....[It] is perfect for this Covid-19 world because we can control the way we space our patients to not have any contact with other patients." Hours of operation for now will be from 9 – 4pm Monday-Friday. Solis is located at 10405 East Martin Luther King Blvd Suite 130; Phone: 720.279.3692. Online scheduling is available at: <https://www.solismammo.com/>

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# How is living through a pandemic like living through a war?



In 1918, the federal government commissioned an artist to design this poster to promote Victory Gardens during WWI.

By Julie Peterson, History Colorado Center

As we confront uncertainty, fear, and even death in the coronavirus pandemic, we know Coloradans experienced similar traumas in World Wars I and II. Then, the community came together to face a common enemy—but also fell prey to xenophobia and racism as they looked for someone to blame. What are we seeing today and is it reminiscent of how Coloradans responded during wartime?

Over 1,000 people in Colorado have died so far from Covid-19. During World War I, almost the same number of Coloradans lost their lives—either in battle or to disease. Nearly 2,700 Coloradans died in World War II. But death is just one aspect of trauma induced by war and

disease. Fears for our own health and safety and that of our loved ones, along with limitations on movement and commercial activity also create anxiety. In times of stress, we look for someone to blame—and one unfortunate trend across all three time periods is a rise in xenophobia and racism.

When the United States entered World War I in 1917, anti-German sentiment flourished. Schools in Colorado stopped teaching German, and some symphonies even refused to play works by German composers.<sup>1</sup> After the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, many white Americans began to distrust Americans of Japanese descent. President Roosevelt codified this anti-Japanese sentiment with an Executive Order to forcibly move Japanese Americans to concentration camps, including one at Amache in southeastern Colorado. Colorado Gov. Ralph Carr was one of few voices at the time criticizing the federal government's treatment of Japanese-American citizens (a position that may have cost him subsequent election to the Senate).

In the current crisis, President Donald Trump has referred to the coronavirus as “The Chinese Virus” despite public health officials’ concerns that attaching a country to the name of a disease engenders racism. Demonstrations over restrictions to curb the infection rate have highlighted existing political divisions, with protestors defying mask recommendations and the ban on group gatherings.

As Colorado enters a “safer-at-home” period, Denver remains under certain restrictions: masks are required in public spaces, gatherings of 10 or more people are banned, and restaurants, bars, and entertainment venues remain closed. The last time Denverites experienced restrictions on movement and commercial activity was during World War II, when gasoline



and food supplies were rationed, and the city enacted blackout drills. While many may have found the recent lockdown difficult, it had some silver linings when compared to wartime restrictions. Toilet paper may have been hard to find, but food supply chains have so far been largely uninterrupted. And while we can't be together in person, we remain connected with friends and family virtually.

Despairing in the face of restrictions designed to keep people safe or blaming others only increases fear at a time when solidarity and kindness are needed. During World Wars I and II Coloradans joined together in many acts of solidarity.

The federal government encouraged citizens to grow their own food—“victory gardens”—enabling the agricultural industry to focus on the military effort during World War I. Coloradans—from Governor Julius C. Gunter to editorialists in local newspapers—rallied support for these gardens. A generation later, during World War II, victory gardens cropped up again, this time in response to food rationing to supply the military. In our recent quarantine, home gardens started blooming again—for some because they had time, but also because grocery shopping had become an ordeal.

During World War I and World War

II, Denverites held parades for the men and women serving to keep them safe and people celebrated the official end of the war by yelling and clanging pots and pans. Massive collection drives during World War II gathered supplies for the war. In a July 1941 drive, Denverites contributed twenty tons of aluminum and all kinds of scrap metal—from toothpaste tubes to train tracks and even an old bank vault<sup>2</sup>. And after the war, the parades continued to honor both the military and those who worked on the home front.

Just as in previous conflicts, this time of crisis has brought us together in collective expressions of solidarity with those fighting to keep us safe. Even the language we use echoes that of war—“frontline” workers and health “heroes” fighting a common “enemy.” The 8pm howl, rainbows and signs in windows, chalk art on sidewalks, social media campaigns like #doingmypartCO and #wegothisdenver, and murals that honor frontline workers are all expressions of solidarity and our collective experience.

While this pandemic is still unfolding, we don't yet know how it will transform our culture and our society. We can, however, look to past times of trauma and fear to give us hope and guide us toward positive and productive responses.

<sup>1</sup>Derek Everett, *Colorado Heritage*, Winter 2018-2019  
<sup>2</sup>Stephen Leonard, *Colorado Heritage*, 1987, Issue 4

## Serious Times Call for a Serious Cleaning Company

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What it means to be housed: Finally Getting Some Sleep

By Martina Will, PhD

Getting a good night's sleep is one of the biggest changes in his life since moving into Fusion Studios, says Jesse Parris, who spent 13 years sleeping on Denver's streets. "When you're used to being told 'you can't sleep here,' and 'you can't be at a certain location for so long,' it's relieving....when I got into my place, I could finally have some peace of mind...I could finally get some sleep." He moved into Fusion Studios at 37th and Quebec shortly before the pandemic hit Colorado. Now, he says, "I have a sunrise view...It's just a beautiful thing."

Fusion Studios provides permanent housing to those who have experienced chronic homelessness, with 139 studio units of about 300 sq. ft., each with a kitchenette. Now about 70% occupied, some of the unoccupied units are set aside for transitional housing. The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless and poverty" in Denver. The City's recent success in leveraging spaces like the



Advocate and activist Jesse Parris experienced homelessness for over a decade despite having a college degree and multiple jobs. He is pictured at Fusion Studios on Quebec.

closed on the former Quality Inn in October 2019 and after renovations, welcomed its first residents in February 2020.

Parris cooks on a griddle or in the microwave that came with his room, but admits that he doesn't spend much time during the day at "the Fusion," as he calls it. He now spends his days talking to others who are experiencing homelessness, passing out pamphlets and encouraging people to seek available resources. He ascribes his good fortune in finding a space at Fusion to someone advocating for him and going with him to meetings, and hopes to do the same for others.

Parris in 2019 ran for City Council-at-large and plans to run for mayor in 2023, believing it's essential to have candidates who "have lived experience with being poor



Brownie Troop 65750 from Polaris and Willow elementary schools was among the many scouts and community members who donated household goods for Fusion residents earlier this year.

National Western Complex to provide shelter for those experiencing homelessness demonstrates what is possible when there's political will: "The City of Denver could have done this years ago," he says. His case manager, Alex Fitzgerald, agrees: "The reality is, these folks are always living in crisis....now that there's a pandemic, the general public and Congress say, 'Now we need to account for these people and make sure that there's something better in place.' It's not fair to say that crisis politics or wartime politics don't apply to regular times....it's not impossible. There's just a lack of will. But now that this [coronavirus] is in the forefront, now there's been action taken. And it's happened fast."

Photo courtesy of Jesse Parris

Parris ended up homeless at 19 when his mom told him to move out, and then had to live out of his car after coming to odds with a



Parris' 300 sq. ft. room at Fusion Studios has a kitchenette where he can cook on a griddle or in a microwave.

"slumlord." "I was working the door to door-type jobs, two or three jobs and I still ended up homeless, so it's not that people don't want to work. We [Denver Homeless Out Loud] showed last year doing the survey we had here that 60-70 percent of the homeless work." Parris says most people are unhoused due to circumstances rather than a wish to be homeless. "The majority of people experiencing homelessness are mentally ill and disabled," says Fitzgerald.

Fusion has on-site behavioral health professionals, counselors, peer specialists, case managers, and substance abuse professionals. Eviction prevention classes, resume workshops, crockpot and microwave cooking classes, and vocational training are among the programs planned, says Fitzgerald. The computer lab has remained open, and all residents have mobile phones, allowing them to stay connected online as well as search for jobs. A mobile medical clinic offers basic medical care weekly, including Covid screenings—Fitzgerald says no cases have been found at Fusion Studios to date. Fitzgerald's clients range from ages 21 to 64. Some are enrolled in college; others are unlikely to ever be able to work and will pay their Fusion Studios rent with disability checks.

"I've slept in parking garages I've slept on the bus. I've slept in retail establishments. You name it, wherever I could get some sleep or attempt to get some sleep, I've slept there," says Parris. He is happy to now sleep—uninterrupted—at the Fusion.

Funders for Fusion Studios included the state's Department of Local Affairs as well as Denver Housing Authority bonds. [See Nov. 1 Front Porch for more background on the project.]



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# Adjusting the Menu to the Times

By Martina Will, PhD

“The higher you become as a restaurateur or a chef, the less time that you’re actually spending doing what you fell in love with doing in the first place, which was just cooking food!” says Executive Chef and ChoLon Modern Asian Founder Lon Symensma.

Rather than operate during the height of the stay-at-home orders, Symensma closed shop and spent hours in his own kitchen, really savoring his creations and the downtime. By May 14, however, Symensma and his team were more than ready to reopen the Eastbridge

ChoLon for curb-side service. “We have a very limited menu that we’re able to execute with just a few of us.”

Symensma says he and his staff are poised to take the restaurant into new and creative directions to succeed in the world of the coronavirus, including a possible brunch. “Dim sum brunch is something fun that right now you can only really get out on Federal, so I think that we’ll be able to elevate that and do something that’s really special.” Chef Michelle Xiao, who came to ChoLon after decades as a dim sum chef in New York, is “developing some cool dumpling ideas...we’re using this time as kind of R&D to work on fun



Chef Lon Symensma. Right: CholOn potstickers. Photos courtesy of CholOn

new dim sum items,” says Symensma.

In light of the economic hardship so many people are experiencing, Symensma is adapting his menu, substituting chicken for duck or using different cuts of beef in a dish to offer lower price points. “I can adapt to be affordable, and I’m high-end enough and sexy enough that people are going to go there,” he says, referring to ChoLon and the three other restaurants he is a partner in.



He anticipates seeing a more European approach when restaurants re-open for dining in, as people will choose to linger over meals while reconnecting. Symensma is waiting for restaurant guidelines to be released at the end of May. He believes the large ChoLon patio will allow service at a socially safe distance, and he hopes to bring back more staff then. “We’ll be bringing people back slowly but surely. As far as our manage-



ChoLon Restaurant, Stapleton

ment, whom we’ve kept on health insurance this entire time, we’ve taken steps to keep the core team together.”

ChoLon’s menu changes with the seasons, so check the website for updates: <https://www.cholon.com/stapleton/> Online ordering is available, or call 720-550-6934. Current hours of operation are Th-Sun, 5-8pm. ChoLon Stapleton is at 10195 E. 29th Dr.

# Chicago Meets Denver Meets Mexico

By Martina Will, PhD

When Razz Cortés- Maceda was laid off from her job as a software designer in 2017, she asked herself “What’s the next chapter?” Her career working for Silicon Valley companies in the Fortune 50 was “awesome,” but she sought “something fun.” Cooking had always been a favorite pastime, and in her 20s she had owned two Mexican restaurants in Chicago, where she grew up. As she weighed her options, she noticed a building for sale on E. Montview Blvd. in Aurora. She closed on the building in March 2018, and opened her restaurant, Carm & Gia Metropolitan, on Feb. 3, 2020.

“When the lovely people at the administrative offices in the City of Aurora caught wind of our project, they became keenly interested in what we were doing,” says Cortés-Maceda. Aurora’s Restaurant Incentive Program offered some support for the building’s renovation and the City also encouraged her to apply for a low-interest loan from HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development). These funds helped support the site development, including landscaping and beautification.

“A lot of things conspired in a positive way to realize this little dream that I had,” says Cortés-Maceda. That dream materializes in Carm & Gia’s menu, which features some of the rich names and flavors from Chicago, Colorado, and Mexico, the country of Razz’s

birth. Burgers and hotdogs are the eatery’s mainstays, with toppings including onion straws, green chile, sweet peppers, hot giardiniera, crema, chimichurri, pork belly, and chorizo. Burritos filled with everything from rajas, cotija cheese, carne asada, and toasted pepitas to chicharrón offer something for everyone. A lot of these ingredients are also available in smoth-



Razz Cortés-Maceda



The Carm & Gia menu includes a wide range of burger and burrito options, along with churros, shakes, floats and other desserts. —Photos courtesy of Carm & Gia



ered fries. If you have a sweet tooth, churros, shakes and floats complete the menu.

Though Cortés-Maceda opened right before the pandemic forced many businesses to close and continues to run on a “skeleton crew,” she is moved and impressed by the outpouring of community support. “We have a lot of repeat customers and a lot of praise on social media...it is almost altruistic because customers can go anywhere for their take-out, but they’re choosing to

swing by and keep the employees employed and keep us going.” Cortés-Maceda hopes to soon be able to seat people on the patio for dining, but in the meantime, customers can order online at <https://www.carmandgiametropolitan.com/> or call 303.747.4008. Delivery is available via the website, or pick up at 9598 E. Montview Blvd.



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[h-co.org/historybuff](https://h-co.org/historybuff)





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](http://www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com). To contact SUN, email [stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com)

## June SUN News

Amanda Allshouse,  
President, SUN Board of Directors

### Composition of Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) Board of Directors

At the Annual Community Forum (May 13, 2020 6:30pm – hosted virtually), the community elected a slate of seven candidates to the SUN board: five returning and two new. In accordance with SUN's bylaws, the elected slate had been made public more than 30 days in advance. In the weeks leading up to the meeting, Treasurer Bryan Penny's plans to resign at the end of his term changed as remote meeting became necessary for conducting business in the era of COVID, however timing did not allow for inclusion on the slate presented to the community. In the week after the Annual Forum, the SUN board conducted an email vote to add Bryan Penny to an open board seat, with a term ending in 2021. With this unanimous addition, the board consists of 12 members. As SUN's bylaws allow for a board size of up to 15, three seats are currently open.

SUN is comprised solely of volunteers and serves a threefold mission: to provide a forum for our residents; to maintain a communication network between ourselves, our neighboring Denver residents, and the city of Den-

ver; and to act on issues of importance to the community as a whole. SUN facilitates community discussion of key issues, encourages in proactive steps to avoid problems and conflict, and is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community. SUN seeks to be comprised of a diverse group of community members who share this purpose and principles. If you are interested in serving the community in this manner, please join for a (virtual) meeting to learn more and ask questions, or email [StapletonUnitedNeighbors@gmail.com](mailto:StapletonUnitedNeighbors@gmail.com).

### SUN meeting in June

Now in its third month of virtual meetings, SUN's June meeting will be hosted virtually on the third Tuesday, June 16, from 6:30 pm-8:30 pm. The first half hour will be in a typical SUN monthly meeting format, with updates from community partners: Denver Police, Denver Public Library, Northeast Transportation Connections, Denver City Council District 8 Councilman Chris Herndon's office, and general announcements.

The remaining 90 minutes will be devoted to organization of the SUN Board of Directors for the upcoming year. This portion of the meeting will begin with an overview of existing roles, committees, and opportunities. Next, Directors will vote in officer elections for the roles of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Directors will set goals and priorities for what is reasonable to accomplish given the capacity each volunteer has available for this commitment. Finally, roles, work, and responsibilities will be divided among directors, and all other community members who seek to volunteer in some capacity. Committee members do not need to be members of the SUN Board of Directors to serve on a committee. All are welcome to attend this public meeting.

On SUN's web site: June virtual meeting details the week prior to the meeting, and information about SUN's existing committees. [www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.org](http://www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.org)



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conceived the Biosphere 2 project based on the ideas of futurist/inventor Buckminster Fuller. This short description does not do them justice, however; they were an eclectic, scientific, creative, and forward-thinking group that achieved remarkable things all around the world. And they were controversial.

The film efficiently documents the group's journey up to, including, and after the Biosphere 2 project. One member was an amateur filmmaker in the 60s who taught herself how to use a 16mm camera, so much of the doc is actual footage taken over the course of 25+ years, interspersed with news footage from the 90s and contemporary interviews. The verve, energy, and sheer bravado of the group bursts through the screen in this footage. When we finally see the mostly one-sided, adversarial news footage from the 90s, it seems completely discordant. That is a win for the documentary.

Were they scientists? Charlatans? Well-meaning, concerned environmentalists? Or some combination of all the above? That is the beauty of a documentary—we are given the story, and it is up to us to decide, even if the film itself, (like any good documentary), may have its own rhetorical objectives. Watch this with others and talk it out!

Available at [denverfilm.org](http://denverfilm.org).

### Spaceship Earth (2020)

You may remember the 1991 story about eight "adventurers" who lived in an Arizona biodome for two years, called Biosphere 2. Their ultimate goal was to lay the groundwork for a dome that could be reproduced as a space colony if humanity continued to destroy the Earth. The self-sustaining environment they created included animals, plants, crops, a desert, and an ocean with a living coral reef, among other things. The participants were not (all) actual scientists, but each had their own areas of specialty and experience. The experiment was fraught with problems, did not end well, and the press painted it mostly as an unscientific publicity-stunt engineered by charlatans. The real story, however, is much more complicated.

This new documentary from director Matt Wolf sorts through the complications and the history of the group behind the project. That group, led by charismatic systems ecologist John Allen and funded by billionaire Ed Bass, had its roots as a counterculture collective in the late 60s; they lived together in San Francisco where they started a theater company; they built a sustainable ranch in New Mexico; they constructed and launched a ship that sailed around the world; they started several businesses (including an art gallery in London and a ranch in Australia); and then they



*Spaceship Earth*



*Working Man*

Available at [denverfilm.org](http://denverfilm.org).

### Working Man (2020)

This new film from first-time writer/director Robert Jury is a gem. After a

midwestern plant closes, Allery (the fabulous Pete Gerety) sneaks in and continues to work. Soon, others follow. The film takes an interesting turn and doesn't necessarily tie everything up neatly. There is something alluring and evocative in its simplicity and the comment on retaining your dignity in a world with little. Viewed through the lens of our contemporary world, it has a lot to say.

Available on VOD outlets.

Vincent Piturro, PhD, is a Professor of Film and Media Studies at Metropolitan State University of Denver. He can be reached at [vpiturro@msudenver.edu](mailto:vpiturro@msudenver.edu). And you can follow "Indie Prof" on Facebook and @VincentPiturro on Twitter.

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# Rep. DeGette: We Need a National Response. Not 50 State Responses

By Martina Will, PhD

The *Front Porch* interviewed Rep. Diana DeGette in mid-May, the day before she returned to Washington, DC to vote on the new \$3 trillion HEROES Act, a stimulus package that addresses some of the gaps in the CARES Act.

**Q: What are your thoughts on the recently introduced bipartisan\* bill [HR6822] to fund a new national public health corps?**

A: I'm supporting this bill...what it would do is ramp up a national public health corps of people who could help set up a national program for contact tracing and for treatment for Covid and then follow it through. That's going to take hundreds of thousands of workers...to help bring the virus under control, including all the Peace Corps volunteers who were recalled and then so many people who have lost their jobs.

[\*2 of 23 cosponsors are Republican]

**Q: You have been vocal in advocating for a national contact tracing strategy. Has there been any progress?**

A: Unfortunately, I've seen no movement on the part of the Trump administration to undertake this at the national level, and most public health experts insist that this is what we need to do to bring the country back safely. We could do this through the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and in partnership with the state health departments. You could set up a program where you had the national health corps trained by protocols set forth by the CDC. They could be deployed to states, where they could work in partnership. The problem is if you have 50 different states' solutions, and people move from state to state; so we have to try to control this outbreak everywhere... We have had to devolve to state and local government cobbling it together...Congress has been appropriating money, but what we really need is leadership from the executive branch in helping set some of these policies.



US Rep. Diana DeGette

**Q: How do we best balance the need for economic stability and the need for safety?**

A: This is not some philosophical debate we're having. This is science. So the problem is if you don't have the ability to do testing and contact tracing and isolating, every scientist says we're going to see another upsurge, if not this summer then in the fall. So we do have to reopen our economy, but we have to do it in a way that protects the health of Americans.

The good news is because of the phenomenal commitment of the American citizens, we have now flattened the curve, and it's starting to go down. In Colorado, we actually are below the new infection level that we would need to see to start reopening. What we need to do now is identify the hot spots [meatpacking plants, senior centers, prisons and jails] and have the ability to test everybody on a regular basis. Then if we see other hot spots creeping up, we need to be able to do the same thing. I believe that within the next month or so, we will get there.

**Q: President Trump recently said, "We have met the moment and we have prevailed." Dr. Fauci and Dr. Redfield testified before the Senate the following day, and**

**they gave a different assessment. Do you see any common ground between the two sides?**

A: I don't really see this as two sides, I've got to say. Most of the Republicans that I know also agree with science. There's a lot of bipartisan agreement on this. Where we have difficulty frequently is with the White House; I think President Trump is more concerned about his poll numbers, and

he's worried about the economy. We're all worried about the economy, but the scientists say if you don't open up the economy in a way that's safe, you're only going to have a worse rebound and a worse economic impact, not to mention the health consequences later in the summer or the fall.

**Q: How do you see the pandemic impacting the election, either in terms of outcomes or how it is run?**

A: Number one, we are having an election...it's in the Constitution. Number two, some of what we're pushing for in our latest bill [the HEROES Act] is money to be able to expand voting so that it will be safe. And of course, Colorado is in good shape because we went to mail-in ballots a few years ago, but other states need to be able to loosen

their restrictions on mail-in ballots. It's really important that we conduct the election this fall and it's really important that we make sure everybody who's eligible to vote can vote. I do think it'll hurt President Trump's chances, but he still has a strong base so people will have to be active.

One thing that the coronavirus crisis has shown us is that Americans need quality health care. Support for the ACA [Affordable Care Act] is going up dramatically and of course Senator [Cory] Gardner voted to repeal the ACA, so I think that'll be a big issue in the fall.

**Q: If historians in 30 or 40 years write about this election or this period, what kind of systemic changes do you think they might write about?**

A: I would hope that this period will teach us the importance of national leadership and strong federal-state partnerships.

**Q: What gives you optimism?**

A: I actually am optimistic because I see Americans being willing to shelter at home for two months or more because they were told that would help save those who were vulnerable. It's extraordinary. The commitment of people on the front lines—not just medical providers, but grocery store workers and delivery drivers and firefighters and paramedics, so many people—has been unbelievable. And then the way people have taken care of their neighbors is just fantastic, so I'm hoping that we will retain those values as we go forward.

*Rep. DeGette's comments were edited for length and clarity.*

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Most scientists believe Covid-19 started in a bat. Bats comprise one-fifth of the world's mammals and are the only mammal that can fly. One theory is that bats' ability to fly raises their metabolism to a point that they can live with pathogens that would kill other species. Bats then pass these on to other animals that cannot tolerate them. When these other animals come in contact with humans, they can pass on a pathogen capable of causing a pandemic.

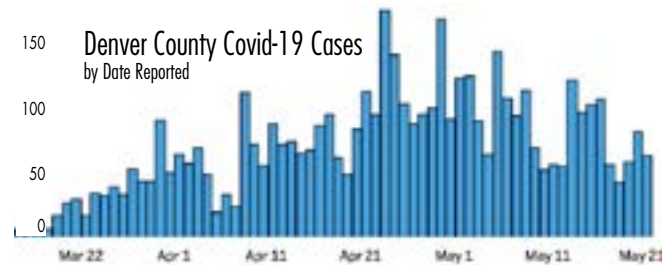
## Controlling the coronavirus: Where we stand. Where we're going.

By Carol Roberts

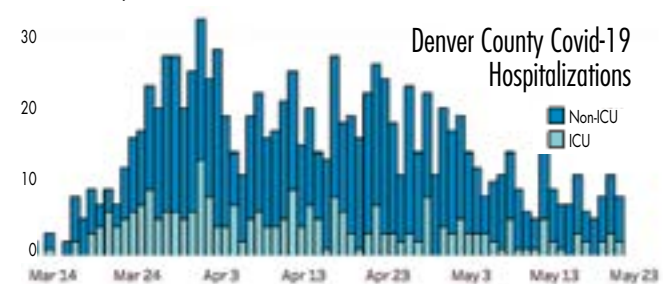
From its likely beginnings in bats, to global vaccine research using llamas, to scientists' daily discoveries about the virus's behavior, to the death toll, much about Covid-19 seems overwhelming.

**But, having experienced the stay-at-home order, we do now understand the basic principles of pandemic control.**

Despite Americans' inclination to resist government intervention in their lives, Denver residents showed they understood exponential growth and flattening the curve—and they did it. The number of new Covid-19 cases has been trending down since the April 23 peak of 177 cases. On May 21 it was 64 new cases.



Hospitalizations peaked on March 31 with 19 non-ICU admissions and 13 ICU and has also trended down since then. May 20 saw 6 non-ICU and 2 ICU admissions.

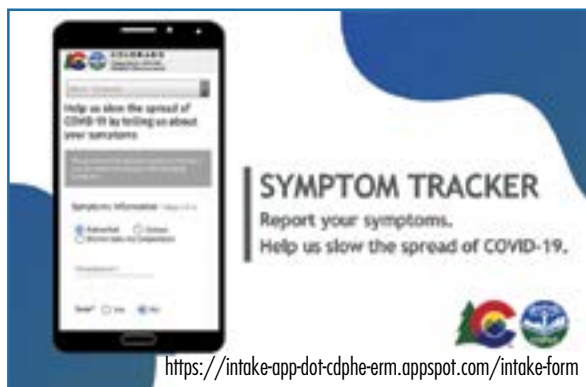


**Now, despite being one of the fastest growing cities in the country, Denver's success controlling Covid relies on the basic small town principle, "I'll help you—and thank you for helping me."**

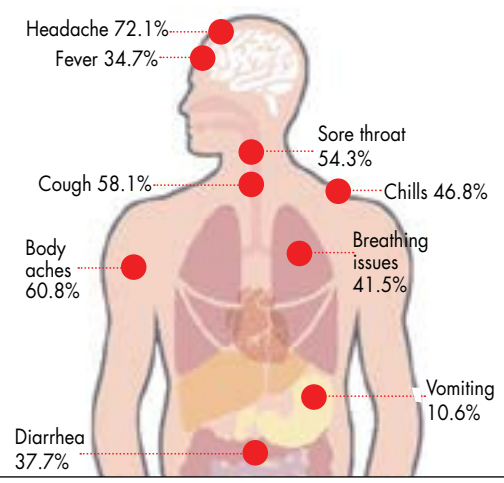
When we go out, we may see the "old normal"—cars on the roads (with our view of the mountains getting hazy again) and people on the sidewalks. But now, when our path crosses that of a fellow shopper in the grocery store, we're thinking, "I'm relying on you for my health." That person's mask and physical distancing are comforting signs that they're likely participating in the "new normal" in other ways, too: washing hands often, trying not to touch their face, avoiding crowds, and isolating themselves when they have any sign of illness.

**In the "new normal," the Symptom Tracker App gives public health experts early information about illness in the community AND it provides users with advice and information.**

When a person starts having any of the symptoms associated with Covid-19, even mild ones, the public health department encourages use of their app for sharing symptoms. Users can also participate in the



Symptoms of Illness Reported by 265 Denverites in the Symptom Tracker App as of 5/22



text messaging option that will send them a daily text asking how they are doing and pointing them to additional resources. "It gives us a bigger picture overall of illness in the in the community," says Alicia Cronquist, an epidemiologist with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). "It's an opportunity for public health and community members to interact before the testing occurs." She says every field is optional and the information is confidential, shared only with the local public health agency where the person resides

"Hearing about people when they have symptoms before testing, or before they have a positive test, can help us give them important information to get them into isolation. The nurse can give them some guidance about what they need to do. But also, public health learns about potential cases a few days before we might otherwise know about them," says Cronquist. "It doesn't answer the question about people with no symptoms at all possibly being contagious, but it provides information to people when they're feeling something, but not sure they're sick enough to go to the doctor or get testing."

The Symptom Tracker also asks app users about other diagnosed medical conditions. The responses from 265 Denverites through May 22 were:

- Weak immune system 10.9%
- Lung disease 5.7%
- Diabetes 4.5%
- Heart Disease 2.3%

For more information visit <https://covid19.colorado.gov/covid19-symptoms>. To report symptoms visit <https://intake-app-dot-cdphe-erm.appspot.com/intake-form>

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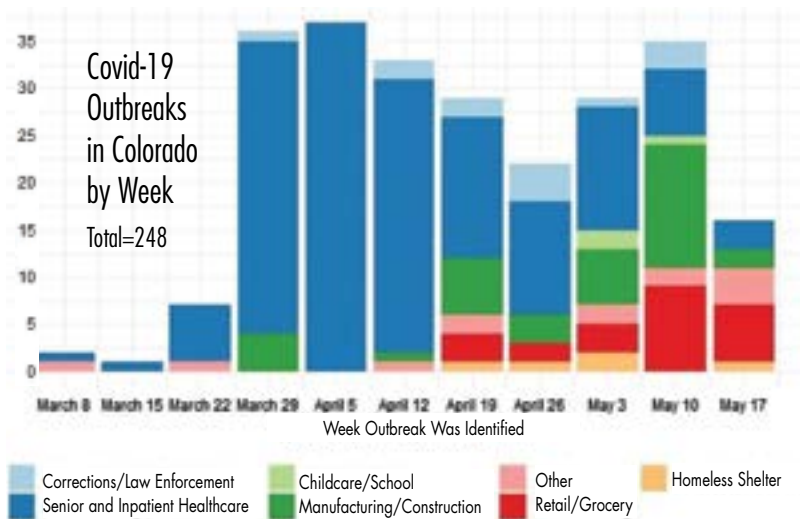
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### How are outbreaks handled?

If a facility identifies two or more Covid-19 cases with onset in a 14-day period, the facility will temporarily close and contact Public Health for cleaning, mitigation, employee screening, and reopening guidance. (CDPHE's 12-page Workplace Outbreak Guidance document is linked to this article at FrontPorchNE.com.)

We specifically asked the CDPHE media information center to respond to concerns about grocery store outbreaks as shown in the above graphic. Their response: "People have several choices about HOW they get their groceries with options that do not require entering the store if that is what they want; outbreaks there are cause for concern for everyone."

### What about issues with those who don't wear a face covering?

We asked CDPHE to respond to ongoing concerns about grocery shoppers not wearing face coverings. We received this response by email: "People who do not wish to wear masks or who can not wear masks due to medical reasons are encouraged to use delivery, curbside pickup or drive-through options."

"Challenging these safety measures threatens to undo the monumental effort that our state has undertaken to limit the spread of the virus and could put others in danger. If someone is being confrontational in refusing to follow safety measures at a business, we encourage you to call law enforcement to help de-escalate the situation rather than attempting to remove the person or continue the confrontation. Officers are trained to respond to tense situations and to keep the public safe. No one should take the law into their own hands."

"Continued urging of a masked culture by everyone is the best strategy for volunteer compliance. Local public safety is best suited to address these issues as they arise."

### What are the goals of Colorado's mitigation strategy?

- Slow down virus spread so we don't exceed hospital capacity
- Get kids back to school in the fall
- Prevent a second wave, especially during the peak flu season (Nov–March)
- Prevent having to return to Stay-at-Home

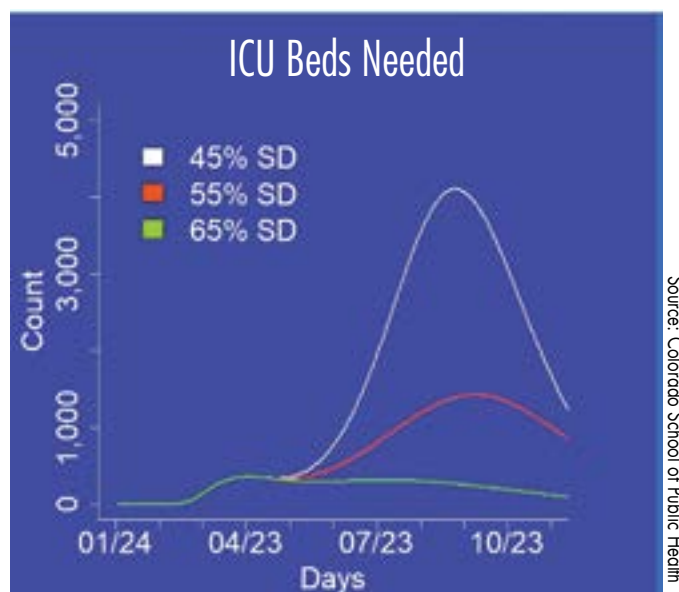
### What is the projected outcome of Colorado's mitigation measures?

Colorado's strategy for controlling Covid so it won't overwhelm the medical system is based on maintaining social distancing at 55% relative to pre-Covid normal. The projections for the number of ICU beds needed vary as shown below if social distancing (SD) is practiced more or less rigorously.

The model below assumes ALL of the following occur in addition to social distancing:

- Everyone over 2 years wears a mask in public
- Older adults stay home
- Symptomatic people are isolated

(information from Colorado Joint Information Center)



Sources:

—The bat photo is from iStockPhoto

—Denver Cases and Hospitalizations charts are from Denver Public Health Covid-19 Data Summary

—Symptom Tracker App graphic is from CDPHE

—Body Symptoms graphic by Front Porch with Denver data from the Symptom Tracker App

—Colorado Outbreaks and ICU Beds Needed are from Colorado Joint Information Center

—Photo of Winter the Llama is courtesy of the University of Texas

### Llama Research Could Lead to Covid-19 Treatment



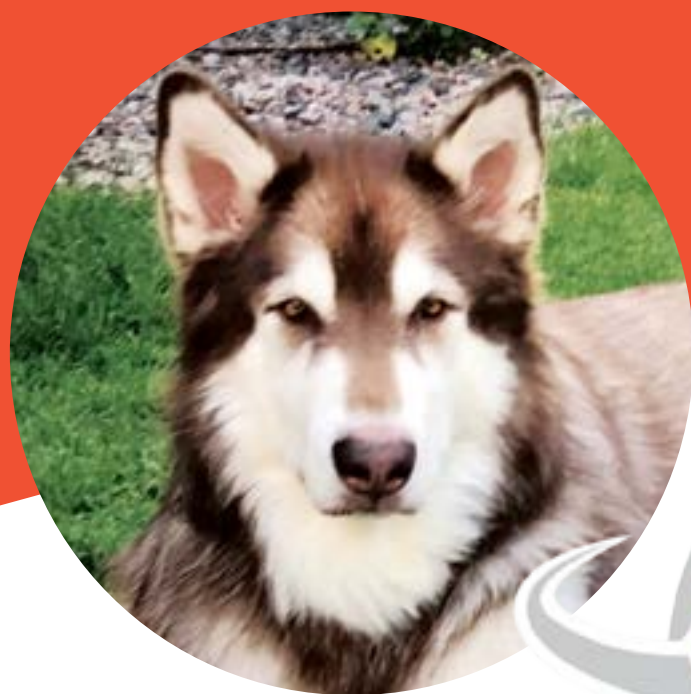
Research on possible treatments for Covid-19 is taking many forms—one of them is examining llama antibodies. In 2016, a research team studying prior coronavirus outbreaks (SARS and MERS)<sup>1</sup> learned that "spike proteins" found on the surface of coronaviruses latch onto and fuse with the host's cells and can then reproduce the virus in the host.

These researchers discovered that llamas produce specific antibodies (different from humans) called nanobodies, and they injected Winter the llama with spike proteins from the SARS and MERS viruses. Nanobodies were subsequently harvested from the llama's bloodstream and produced in the lab. Those nanobodies successfully prevented the viruses from entering cells.

With the arrival of the pandemic, the researchers tested whether any of the nanobodies they had developed for SARS and MERS could also stop the Covid-19 virus from infecting cells. Their original nanobodies were not successful, but they were able to engineer one partially successful nanobody so that it was able to stop the Covid-19 virus from entering cells in laboratory experiments.

After future experiments on animals, the researchers hope to do human trials and develop a treatment for people already infected or at high risk of becoming infected with Covid-19.

<sup>1</sup> Daniel Wrapp and Dr. Jason McLellan from the University of Texas, in collaboration with a Belgian research team.



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