

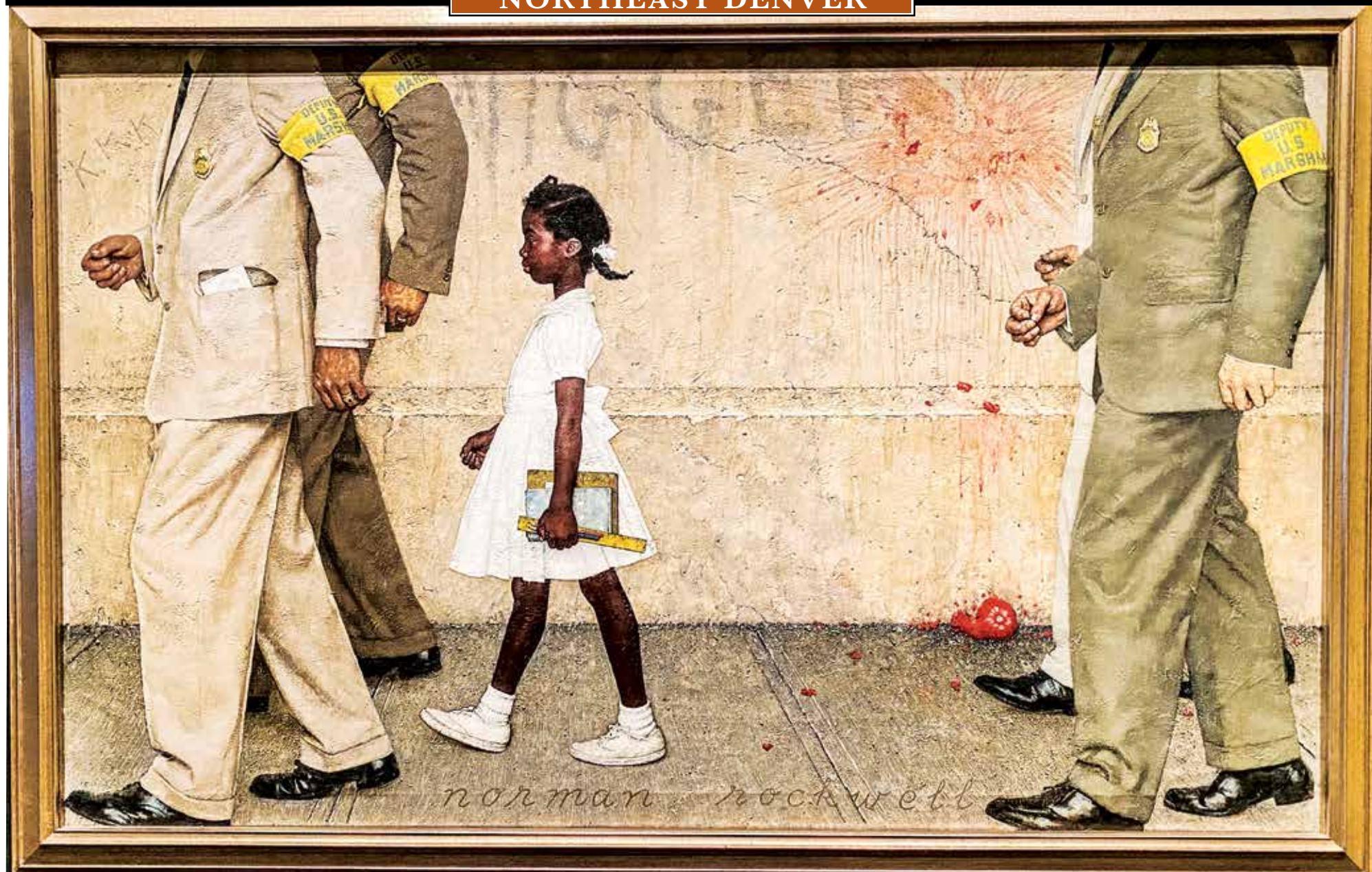
# Front Porch

80238, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair, NW Aurora, East Colfax

DENVER, COLORADO

NORTHEAST DENVER

AUGUST 2020

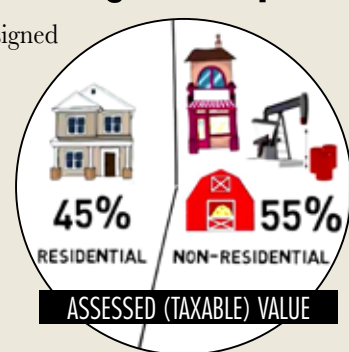


## DAM: Rockwell's Work Speaks to Our Times

Norman Rockwell fans will see his most famous paintings at the Denver Art Museum, through Sept. 7. But the show goes deeper, exploring his later scenes of racism and violence in America. The presentation resonates with current events and invites reflection and discussion. In the image above, *The Problem We All Live With*, 1963, for *Look* magazine, Rockwell depicts 6-year-old Ruby Bridges' march to her first day at an all-White New Orleans school in 1960, escorted by US marshals. Bridges, the first Black child to desegregate a Southern elementary school, was shielded from the violent crowds protesting her attendance. *Story by Laurie Dunklee on page 14.*

## Voters To Decide on Gallagher Repeal

The Gallagher Amendment, designed to ensure that businesses pay their fair share in taxes, mandates that statewide property tax revenue must be 45 percent homeowner taxes and 55 percent commercial taxes. That has kept residential property taxes low and withheld billions from Colorado schools and public services. *Story by Tracy Wolfer Osborne on page 11.*



## Why Reparations?

"The Civil War of 1861-65 ended slavery. It left us free, but it also left us homeless, penniless, ignorant, nameless and friendless. . . . Russia's liberated serf was given three acres of land and agricultural implements with which to begin his career of liberty and independence. But to us no foot of land nor implement was given. We were turned loose to starvation, destitution and death. So desperate was our condition that some of our statesmen declared it useless to try to save us by legislation as we were doomed to extinction."

—Ida B. Wells, *Class Legislation*, 1893

Read our article, "Repaying Our Nation's 'Original Sin'" by Martina Will PhD on page 6.



Above: Ida Wells (1862-1931) was an educator, civil rights activist and investigative journalist who challenged segregation and advocated for women's rights and suffrage. Born into slavery, she eventually co-owned a newspaper in Memphis and at great personal risk published her research on lynchings.

—Photo courtesy of Cihak and Zima/University of Chicago Photographic Archive

## Save Yellowing Trees

If the leaves of your maple, oak and crabapple trees are turning lighter green or yellow and have dark green veins, it is because the soil is alkaline and the trees can't absorb the needed iron. You have a couple options to save your beautiful mature trees. One is EDDHA iron (sprint 138), which you can purchase online. Simply mix a cup in three gallons of water and pour on the ground at the base of the tree once a month during the growing season until leaves return to dark green. Due to the alkaline nature of the soil, re-treatment will be needed when evidence of chlorosis (yellowing) returns. When leaves are just turning lighter green with veins becoming visible, re-greening will likely be visible in a couple months. Yellower trees take longer. Some, unfortunately, may be too far gone to save. Sulphur is another treatment option. For more information and links to resources, visit [FrontPorchNE.com](http://FrontPorchNE.com).



MAPLE





Parks, particularly with the recent cool evenings and colorful sunsets, have become a popular place for small-group, (somewhat) socially-distanced outdoor gatherings.

## Visit FrontPorchNE.com

- Upload and view events in our online calendar
- Comment on and share stories
- Read letters to the editor



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

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Pick up a *Front Porch* at Lowry and Mayfair Safeways and Other Rack Locations: <https://frontporchne.com/more/rack-locations/>

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

Need Old Papers for Pets and Projects? Call or text 303-526-1969

## Events & Announcements

### DRIVE-IN MOVIE: FROZEN II

Friday, August 7th, 7-10:30pm,  
Dick's Sporting Goods Park - LOT G

Join us for a good old-fashioned drive-in movie! We will be showing Frozen II, the exceptional follow-up to its predecessor with enough fast-paced action, heartwarming moments, and a wonderful soundtrack to please both young and older viewers alike. This event is free and open to the public. SPACE IS LIMITED. Vehicles are welcome to arrive as early as 7pm.

#### Guidelines for Attendees:

- To maximize viewing tall trucks, vans, SUV's should be parked in the back rows, low profile cars in front rows. Please follow the directions of the parking attendees.
- Drive into the lot at a low speed. High-speed driving is unacceptable.
- Turn off all lights, especially head lights.
- An FM transmitter is used to broadcast audio directly into vehicles. The transmitter will be 95.1 FM.
- Attendees will need to turn on their vehicles halfway through the movie to avoid battery drainage.
- There will not be a concession stand, so please come prepared with your food. No alcohol is permitted.
- **Attendees must wear coverings (e.g., cloth mask or bandana) over their mouths and noses if you must leave the car for any reason.**
- Follow all social/physical distancing requirements. Attendees need to stay in their vehicles and avoid gathering.
- Portable restrooms will be available on site. No more than 10 people can congregate.

### 2020 KIDS TRIATHLON: SPECIAL EDITION!

Go the distance while keeping your distance!

Registration: \$25 Open July 22-August 14

We are excited to announce that we will be holding a special edition of the 2020 Kids Triathlon. Sign your child up for the Kid's Triathlon by reserving a swim block at Runway 35 pool on Saturday, August 22nd, or Sunday, August 23rd between 8-11:30am. Participants will check-in at the front desk of the pool, swim the distance required by age, then exit the back gate to pick up their swag-bag and Tri-Card. (The "Tri-Card" acts as a report card of completion for each activity. Stickers will be provided.)

Participants have a week to complete the running and biking portion, supervised by a parent or guardian. On Sunday, August 30th, come by the North Green with the completed "Tri-Card" to receive a medal and have your picture taken by professional photographers. We will not be timing contestants or awarding champions at this year's event.

- **6-8-year-old:** 25-meter swim, 2.5-kilometer bike, 1-kilometer run
- **9-10-year-old:** 50-meter swim,

3.5-kilometer bike, 2-kilometer run

- **11-year-old:** 100-meter swim, 5-kilometer bike, 2-kilometer run
- **12-13-year-old:** 100-meter swim, 5-kilometer bike, 2.5-kilometer run

Take pictures of your triathlon progress and post to social media using the hashtag #kidstri2020.

### FARMERS MARKET

Every Sunday, 9am-1pm, Founders' Green

Come check out the new and improved 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 the neighborhood and the surrounding communities with an experience where fresh and wholesome products are easily found. For a complete list of vendors, please visit [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com).

### AQUATICS

#### Pool Reservations Tips:

Reservations open at noon for everyone. There are thousands of people logging in for 50 spots in each time block at each facility. Here are some tips we are learning along the way!

- If possible, connect with a lap or desk top computer. If you must try for a reservation with a mobile device select the "full site" option.
- Check back after 2pm when any incomplete transactions are re-released into the system.
- Consider a smaller group size. Groups of 2-3 are more available than groups of 6.

In order to share the summer fun with everyone we will begin putting a 2-day reservation hold on any resident accounts that successfully reserve open swim space. Refunds will NOT be issued.

We are continuing to make updates to the reservation system to help as many people access our facilities this summer as possible! Go to [stapletoncommunity.com](http://stapletoncommunity.com) for the most up-to-date information.

### FACILITY AND PARK RENTALS

**If you see something, say something: Parks are closed from 11pm-5am. If you see any activity in community parks or pools after hours, call 911!**

*The Cube and Community Room:* Closed to reservations through August 2020.

*Outdoor Sport Fields and MCA Parks:* Inquire about availability by emailing [jvaleta@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:jvaleta@stapletoncommunity.com).

Carry on bravely,

**Lawrence Uhling**

Administrative Assistant

[luhling@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:luhling@stapletoncommunity.com)  
303.388.0724

Master Community Association

#### PUBLISHERS:

Carol Roberts – Editor  
Steve Larson – Photography

WRITER: Martina Will, PhD

AD SALES: Carol Roberts  
303-526-1969, [Carol@FrontPorchNE.com](mailto:Carol@FrontPorchNE.com)  
Letters to the Editor: [Carol@FrontPorchNE.com](mailto:Carol@FrontPorchNE.com)

# Front Porch

[www.FrontPorchNE.com](http://www.FrontPorchNE.com)  
[FrontPorch@FrontPorchNE.com](mailto:FrontPorch@FrontPorchNE.com)  
303-526-1969

*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 80238, 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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Jody E. Donley  
720.290.8917 | Jody@NPReco.com

Kim Kouba  
303.204.8215 | KimKouba@NPReco.com

Melinda S. Howlett  
303.657.9528 | Melinda@NPReco.com

Susan Ingle  
720.771.4783 | Susan@NPReco.com

Tiffany Burke  
720.272.2672 | Tiffany@NPReco.com

Ashley L. Howlett  
720.298.9525 | Ashley@NPReco.com

Megan Davis  
720.244.5536 | MeganDavis@NPReco.com

Laura Hudgins  
720.480.9692 | laura.hudgins@compass.com

Marcy Eastman  
720.436.5494 | marcy.eastman@compass.com

Danelle Morgan  
720.810.7752 | danelle.morgan@compass.com

Dianna May  
303.941.9632 | dianna.may@compass.com

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# Our August issue is courtesy of these businesses!

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Churches	Augustana Lutheran Church	9
Community Organization	Stapleton Master Community Association	2
Dental	Nestman Orthodontics	14
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Pets (con't)	Paws 'n' Play	8
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	Modena Cherry Creek by Solera Senior Living	14
	Pegasus Senior Living - Courtyards at Mountain View	11
Travel	Suzanne Beverly Dayton	5

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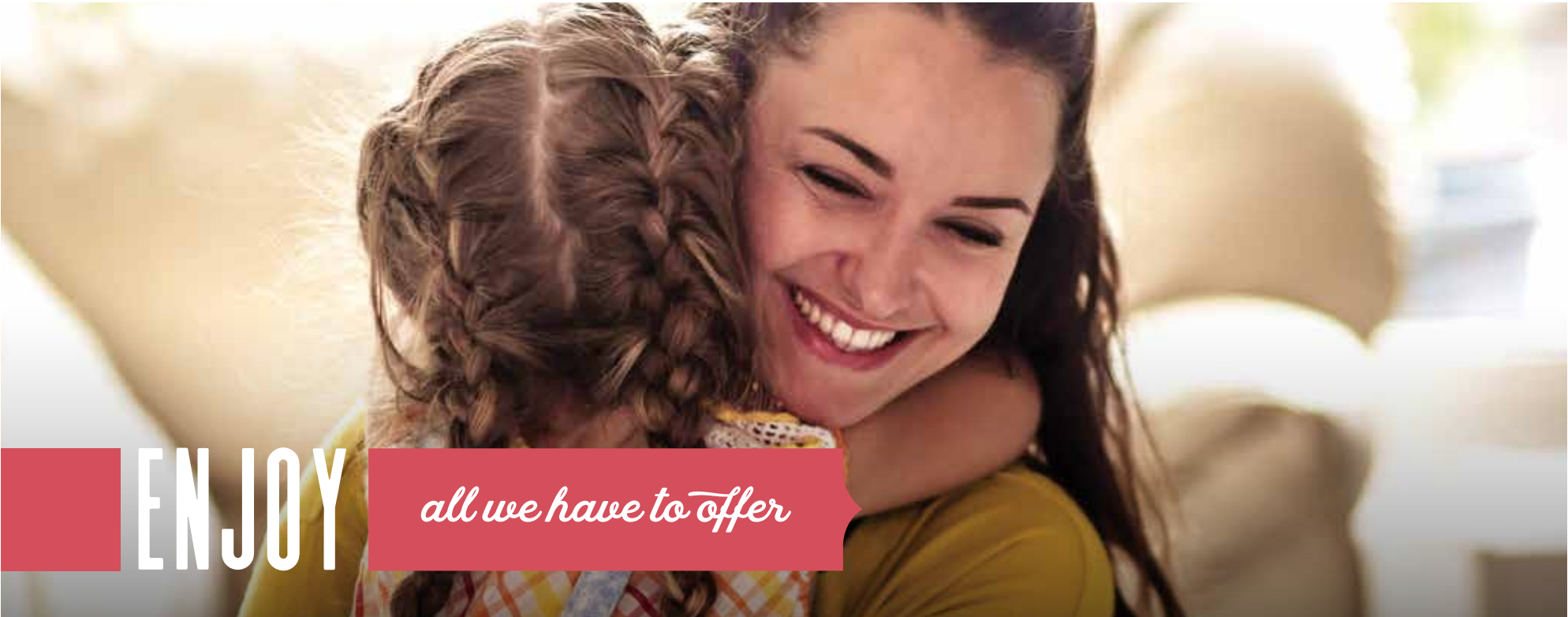
## Our Name is Changing, but Our Mission Remains the Same!

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Above: The Portuguese ship *Diligente*, seized in 1838 with 600+ enslaved people aboard, was engaged in illegal slave trade.



Below: Abolitionists in 1788 published this image of how captured people were packed into the British slave ship *Brookes*.



The Slave Trade Exhibition, three stories below ground level, was designed to feel dark and claustrophobic in acknowledgment of the conditions enslaved people experienced on ships. The sign on the auction block (above) in the Domestic Slave Trade Exhibition includes: "African Americans endured being sold on the block and being devalued to mere laboring hands, feet, backs, and wombs."

Most visitors to the National Museum of African American History start at the Slave Trade Exhibition, which shows the horrific and inhuman conditions enslaved people experienced.

# Paying for Our Nation's "Original Sin"

By Martina Will, PhD

The son of a Tulsa plumber, longtime Park Hill resident and former software designer Harold Fields uses a plumbing metaphor to describe the need for reparations for African Americans. "We have pipes that are deep underneath these buildings and underneath our streets. The pipes are decaying, they're old. They're leaking, and they are only distributing resources to certain places. You've got to be able to dig up those pipes and re-do the system. It's not a matter of changing the washers on faucets or putting in a new shower head, but changing the system."

Fields heads the Denver Black Repara-



"Reconstruction tells us more about America and who we are than 1776," says Harold Fields.

tions Council (DBRC), established this year to collect and distribute funds for reparations locally, and to show what people can do in the form of "micro-reparations." Fields emphasizes that reparations is not an event but a process of repairing and healing paired with compensation for hundreds of years of institutionalized injustices that began with enslaving Africans and continued for generations after abolition.

Ta-Nehisi Coates' 2014 essay, "The Case for Reparations," brought renewed attention to reparations. In a 2019 interview, Coates summarized: "Virtually every institution with some degree of history in America, be it public, be it private, has

a history of extracting wealth and resources out of the African-American community...behind all of that oppression was actually theft. In other words, this is not just mean. This is not just maltreatment. This is the theft of resources out of that community."

## Why Reparations? The Racial Wealth Gap

Fields grew up in Tulsa, among survivors of the brutal 1921 Tulsa Massacre in which White mobs killed an estimated 300 Black people, destroyed 1,200 homes and decimat-

Harold Fields and Fields Plumbing photos courtesy of Harold Fields



Fields' father established a successful plumbing company in Tulsa in the years after the Massacre. This early-1940s photo shows a dapper Abraham Fields, (left end of the back row), with his Fields Plumbing Co. employees, several of whom were family members.

ed "Black Wall Street." Though one of the most ferocious assaults on Black wealth and Black lives, the Tulsa Massacre is not the only or most recent example of racist assaults on African American wealth accumulation. Throughout US history, overt and covert mechanisms that enjoyed the sanction of law and respectability have conspired to

undercut African Americans' efforts to attain the



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Racially restrictive covenants such as these from 1940s Denver—pictured here with Prof. Tom Romero—were one of many governmental and nongovernmental mechanisms that restricted African Americans’ access to homeownership.

American dream.

Long after abolition, federal, state, and local governments constrained African Americans’ movement, enfranchisement, and access to housing, education, and economic opportunity. A growing body of scholarship excoriates a host of policies often lauded for growing the American middle class, which deliberately excluded Blacks even as White middle-class wealth grew.

Duke University economist William Darity Jr. and co-author A. Kirsten Mullen offer

a variety of means for calculating reparations and determining beneficiaries in *From Here To Equality* (2020). By all measures, the final figure would be in the trillions of dollars. This calculation would eliminate the racial wealth gap, which the authors see as “the most robust indicator of the cumulative economic effects of White supremacy.”

### But I Oppose Government Handouts

“We have a long-term history of massive government subsidies in favor of White people, from the giving of land to preferential treatment to become citizens to preferential treatment for things like being able to organize a union,” says University of Denver law professor and Central Park North resident Tom Romero, Ph.D. Romero points to the Homestead Act as one of many examples wherein the federal government distributed free land to those considered White and

largely excluded African Americans. “US policy since its founding...had a whole host of policies and practices that led to massive government subsidies that benefited exclusively White people.”

Romero, who specializes in post-World War II Denver’s unequal housing and educational patterns, enumerates a long list of formal



Lotte Lieb Dula (left) believes “everybody’s complicit” in White supremacy because even immigrant ancestors “knew what they were buying into.” Dula’s great-great-grandfather at right, Elisha Paxton (1795-1867), put his sons through law school with proceeds from his plantations. Below: A page from the ledger she discovered listing people her ancestors had enslaved.

No.	Names	Age	Value	Owner	Remarks
21	Constitution	8	1000.00	Dr. H. Pugh	
22	John	15	1000.00	"	
23	John	15	1000.00	"	
24	John	15	1000.00	"	
25	John	15	1000.00	"	
26	John	15	1000.00	"	
27	John	15	1000.00	"	
28	John	15	1000.00	"	
29	John	15	1000.00	"	
30	John	15	1000.00	"	
31	John	15	1000.00	"	
32	John	15	1000.00	"	
33	John	15	1000.00	"	
34	John	15	1000.00	"	
35	John	15	1000.00	"	
36	John	15	1000.00	"	
37	John	15	1000.00	"	
38	John	15	1000.00	"	
39	John	15	1000.00	"	
40	John	15	1000.00	"	
41	John	15	1000.00	"	
42	John	15	1000.00	"	
43	John	15	1000.00	"	
44	John	15	1000.00	"	
45	John	15	1000.00	"	
46	John	15	1000.00	"	
47	John	15	1000.00	"	
48	John	15	1000.00	"	
49	John	15	1000.00	"	
50	John	15	1000.00	"	

and informal government subsidies to Whites extending into the late twentieth century. “The suburbs wouldn’t have been able to be developed without massive government subsidies tied to the interstate highway system, low-interest federal housing loans, and more.” Discriminatory practices prevented Blacks from moving into communities and White families grew their wealth from homes that appreciated significantly over the years.

Redlining, blockbusting, covenants and other practices that promoted segregation and reduced Black wealth accumulation “set us up for decades later, for the same areas to be gentrified. The property values had been lowered, and then younger, richer White people could come in and buy those properties up and raise the taxes and force people out of those neighborhoods,” says Fields.

### Segregation By Another Name

By the time Fields grew up in Tulsa, Massacre survivors and others had rebuilt and again created a vibrant Black community. But here and across the nation, the postwar years’ focus on “urban renewal”



Photos courtesy of Lotte Dula

saw municipalities, urban planners, lenders, and realtors undermine those gains. Urban renewal “recreated segregation and disenfranchised people once again, putting in the highways that would separate neighborhoods and [were] specifically designed to break up and destroy Black neighborhoods.”

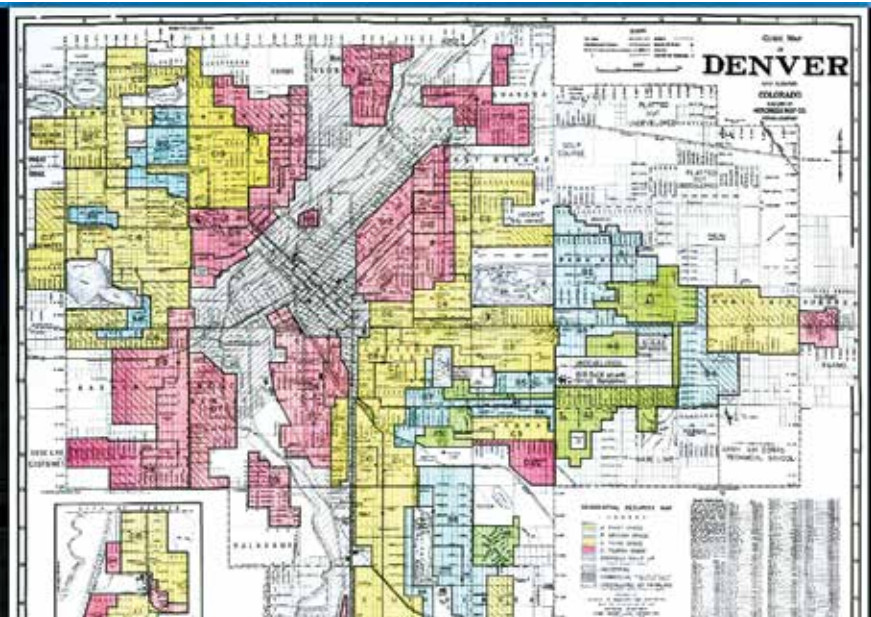
Today, zoning often maintains the status quo that emerged out of this continuum of predatory, race-based practices. “It doesn’t matter if you have a black mayor or a gay governor. The plumbing has been devised to distribute things differently to people,” says Fields.

He sees the current calls to maintain single-family zoning in his South Park Hill neighborhood as stemming from the same impulse, “to keep things White. You can’t get the mixture of incomes if you keep single-family zoning. We need to start allowing duplexes and triplexes in South Park Hill.” Fields points out that current zoning laws magnify the accumulation of past disadvantages.

### Coming to Terms With Our Past, Looking to the Future

The racial wealth gap is reproduced across generations, often in ways that are invisible or taken for granted by Whites. For Denver’s Lotte Lieb Dula, it became visible a few years ago, when she

(continued on page 8)



The Home Owners’ Loan Corporation (HOLC) made homeownership a possibility for working- and middle-class families but largely excluded non-Whites. This 1938 HOLC map shows the practice of “redlining”: minority neighborhoods (in red) were deemed risky even if middle-class, and a home in red was unlikely to receive a loan. Map courtesy of Denver Public Library.

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Paying for Our Nation’s “Original Sin”

(continued from page 7) discovered a nineteenth-century ledger among her mother’s possessions. The financial strategist in her was thrilled to read her great-great-grandfather’s “perfect penmanship” detailing the prices of tools and cotton. Until she came to page 27. There, he began listing the names of the people he owned and their estimated dollar values.

“I was stunned. I realized the stories about my ancestors had been glorified, built up like imaginary monuments to a hallowed but false Southern heritage. Just as Civil War monuments need to be torn down or reinterpreted to match history, the same is true for the narratives families like mine grew up with,” says Dula. Though a self-described “fiscal conservative,” Dula realized “I had to make reparations.” The wealth she had inherited from her maternal grandfather, she now saw, had its roots in slavery. “Generations of my family had gone to law school on money that came from plantation operations,” so she determined to “repatriate” half a million dollars.

“I analyzed the typical vocations my family had pursued over generations—law, civic service, and medicine—and the damage done to African Americans in those fields. Then I worked to create a path toward repair.” She established The William Paxton Cary Scholarship, housed at the United Negro College Fund, for African American students who wish to study law, medicine, or political science.

At the time that Dula’s ancestors were operating plantations in Mississippi and Virginia, Colorado was not yet a state. When President James Buchanan created the Colorado Territory in 1861, the South was seceding. “Our origins and our founding were at the very center of the fight for White supremacy in the US,” says Romero. He reflects on territorial governor and DU founder John Evans’ advocating for “the eradication of indigenous people,” and Colorado’s earliest

governing documents.\* “We embedded Jim Crow in our legal system from the very beginning. We had laws in the books in our territorial government that required White and Black schools, that prevented marriages between Whites and non-Whites.” White supremacy, Romero says, “is directly tied to the DNA of the state.” After statehood, as elsewhere, federal agencies collaborated with Colorado municipalities, school boards, lenders, businesses and others to maintain residential and educational segregation.

Dula’s soul-searching led her to recognize how little contact she had with African Americans. “Like many people, I didn’t consider myself racist, but if you looked at my life, that wasn’t the case. I avoided race as an issue.” She credits Fields, in part, for her new understanding that “true racial healing comes about when Black and White people work together in relationship. That’s a really critical step. You can’t do this by staying in your White bubble.” She encourages Whites to examine their own histories and “start by making small reparative contributions.”

Reparations is not a partisan issue. “President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which acknowledged and paid reparations to Japanese-Americans who were interned and removed from their homes all along the West Coast,” says Romero. About 82,000 US citizens of Japanese descent received one-time payments and an apology from the federal government for what the Act deemed were actions based in part on “race prejudice.”

Fields is working locally to change hearts, minds, and perceptions. Rather than wait for federal leadership on reparations, the DBRC will work to shift the local picture of reparations. “That’s how movements really gain traction. They have local, grassroots things going on and connect to each other,” he says. The DBRC will support nonprofits as well as “the edgewalkers—those who are trying to bring something new into existence—and give them an opportunity to get their momentum going and begin to grow and germinate.”

\*Note: All those interviewed spoke to the need for reparations to the Native Americans whose land we live on. The East Colfax Neighborhood Association maintains a reparations fund in recognition of Denver’s original inhabitants, including the Ute, Cheyenne, and Arapahoe tribes. To donate go to <https://www.eastcolfaxneighborhood.org/copy-of-our-neighborhood-history>.

What Can You Do?

EDUCATE YOURSELF

Find numerous educational resources on Lotte Lieb Dula’s website: [Reparations4Slavery.com](http://Reparations4Slavery.com)

Coming to the Table is a national organization with area chapters that works to bring together descendants of both slaveowners and enslaved people: Visit [ComingToTheTable.org](http://ComingToTheTable.org)

DONATE TO LOCAL MICRO-REPARATIONS

The Fund for Reparations Affinity Group at the Denver Foundation—Contact Kelly Purdy at [kpurdy@denverfoundation.org](mailto:kpurdy@denverfoundation.org) or 303.300.1790 ext. 142.

The Denver Black Reparations Council, LLC: P. O. Box 5232, Denver, CO 80217

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Back to (Ho

By Martina Will, PhD

If you were listening carefully on July 17, you could almost hear the city-wide moan as DPS announced its decision to postpone in-person learning until at least after Labor Day. Following remote learning in the spring and a long hot summer, everyone seemed eager to return to the classroom. DPS administration continues to work on the details of what the year will look like. Starting July 27, parents were asked to select a learning track: a remote, in-person, or hybrid model.

“There is no right decision. There is no good decision,” says Shelby Dennis, principal of Swigert International School. “I think our biggest challenge, at least at the elementary level, is thinking about working families that have younger kids who aren’t able to stay home.” She appreciates that along with crucial academic content, schools fulfill vital social and emotional needs that cannot be fully met through an online platform. As a parent herself, she says: “The challenge is parents are having to make decisions without all the information.”

Dr. Sean O’Leary, who helped author the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations released in June, agrees that “the downside of not having kids in school is enormous.” A pediatric infectious disease specialist who works at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Children’s Hospital, he says, “You will never be at zero risk until there’s a really effective vaccine and we’ve eliminated the virus.” Still, if the virus is “circulating at a very low level—or ideally, not at all—within a community, then that’s where I think that with risk mitigation measures, it’s relatively safe to open schools.”

O’Leary encourages parents to look at the daily updates provided by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), and to specifically consider the hospitalization rate and the “percent positive” rate in testing. Denver reported a positive test rate of 3% for much of June; it went up to 4.5% in mid-July; and averaged 4.3% in the week prior to July 23. O’Leary believes ideally this figure would be 5% or below. “I think if we can drive the infections down to a manageable level where we have adequate testing capacity and good contact tracing, we can have some semblance of normality within our schools.” A father of two, he also is watching the numbers and is planning to send his kids to in-person learning.

In a July Zoom conference, the CDPHE’s Dr. Brian Erly stressed that “cohorting is essential” to any in-person learning. Cohorting reduces the risk of exposure to Covid-19 while also facilitating contact tracing. Kurt Dennis, principal of McAuliffe International School adds, “When you have to shut down, you’re only shutting down that one cohort of kids; just those 30 kids will have to go home and get tested and quarantined, whereas if that student has been traveling around the building and had classes with multiple cohorts and even lunch with their friends,” it would be a much more comprehensive school closure.

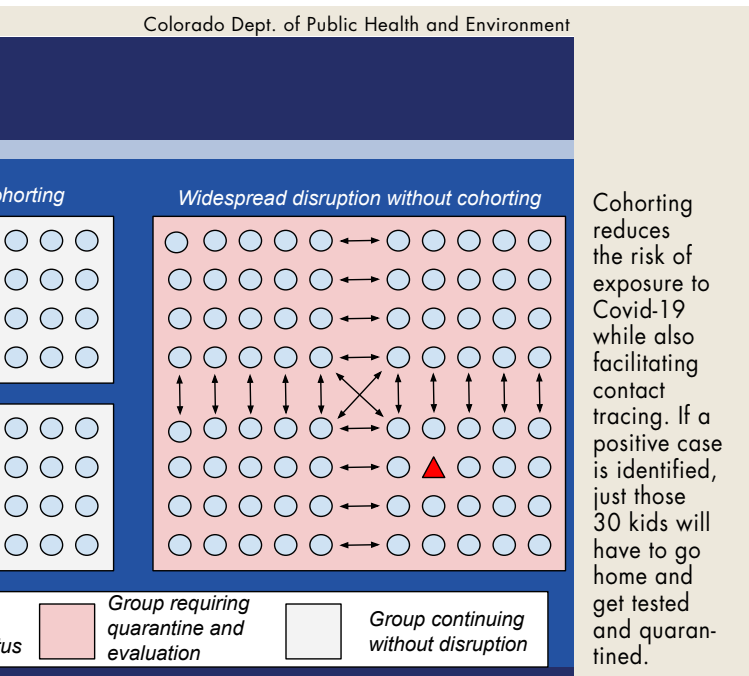
A DPS planning document earlier this summer proposed that secondary (middle and high) school students learn in cohorts of up to 30 students each, and interact with up to 4 cohorts. The recent uptick in Covid-19 cases in Denver, however, may impact how many teachers will return to classrooms in person—information administrators need to begin creating student cohorts.

In mid-July, DPS announced \$4.9 mill. in HVAC upgrades



Children’s Hospital pediatrician and infectious disease specialist Dr. Sean O’Leary.





# me) School

across the district. Seven companies will undertake the monumental task of assessing and cleaning ventilation systems at over 150 buildings district-wide, including upgrading air filters to mitigate the spread of the novel coronavirus. “We’re exploring the possibility of moving classes outside, if we can do it safely and we have the resources to purchase shade structures,” says Kurt Dennis. Even in a new building, Shelby Dennis says, “Air-conditioned rooms aren’t the best either with Covid...we’re really limited as to what windows we can open and how much.”

In addition to keeping on top of the numbers and talking with their pediatricians, O’Leary encourages parents to talk with school leadership to better understand school policies and mitigation measures. “I don’t think DPS will open schools if we’re in a bad place at that time,” he says. “No one is taking this virus lightly.”

# Changing a Neighborhood’s Name

By Carol Roberts

A call to the public for new name ideas brought in more than 300 options for Stapleton residents to consider. Community members, in a straw poll online, expressed their preferences from *strongly agree* to *strongly disagree* on all those possibilities. Individuals formed opinions of which names they thought should be on the final list—then found themselves surprised at the nine they saw on the ballot. “That is an asset, a good thing, not a defect,” says Geoff Horsfall, vice president of SUN, the registered neighborhood organization. “What a 36- or 37-year-old White guy would choose is not necessarily reflective of our whole community that we wanted to make sure was invited to the table. We were fully prepared for people to have their personal preferences on this name, but what the list reflects...is that those diverse perspectives were heard and represented.”

The two main entities that represent the neighborhood, Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) and the Master Community Association (MCA), had tried, each under its own set of rules, to remove Stapleton from its name in the past two years. This year, in mid-June, the elected leaders of the two organizations agreed that the time was right to collaborate and act. “It became clear society was pushing the community forward regarding the name change,” says SUN board member Rick Leuthold.

The legal name of the community, the one in property titles, resides with the MCA. Though the MCA is primarily responsible for operations, its board has the authority to recommend a name change to the developer, which makes the final decision.

In mid-June, the 11 elected delegates to the MCA voted unanimously to support the SUN process for choosing a name. “We’ll take their name and run it through our process. That’s a commitment we made,” says MCA Board President Dana Elkind. “SUN’s process is excellent.” Elkind thinks if people

are unhappy, it’s because they aren’t informed. “They need to do more research. It has been transparent. Everyone who wants to know the truth about how this is being done can find out.”

SUN suggested an advisory board of diverse stakeholders could whittle down the long list of submitted names through a collaborative process. SUN provided the straw poll data, community comments, and basic criteria for name ideas: they were to be aspirational/inspirational, business-friendly, unique, and suitable to the community at large. And a professional mediator through the City worked with the group.

“We had to reconcile the perspectives of different constituencies. Rather than majority rule, we sought to have consensus,” says Vince Bowen, the Black Lives Matter representative to the board. “We had diverse opinions about the names and good rigorous discussions to come to names that capture objectives we think are good.”

As an example of the collaborative process, Bowen said Black Lives Matter’s choice was Justina Ford, a doctor who served people of all backgrounds—and a woman, in recognition that Black women have been erased in large parts of our history. But in the straw poll, another Black leader, John Mosley, received a higher level of interest, so that name made the final list instead.

Both Bowen and Leuthold spoke to the value of the professional mediator. “Through education and discussion, we were able to understand why some names were more important than others,” says Leuthold.

The advisory group agreed on nine names that were put out for community-wide online voting in early July. Over a series of three votes, the names were reduced to the final two, Central Park and Skyview, with the winner announced August 1 on SUN’s website, StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com. SUN’s bylaws require the submission of a petition to change the organization’s name, then the name change needs to be voted on at a community meeting (see page 12 for more info).

Central Park and Skyview were the final two choices.

Stapleton’s new name was posted on Aug. 1 at [StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com](http://StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com)


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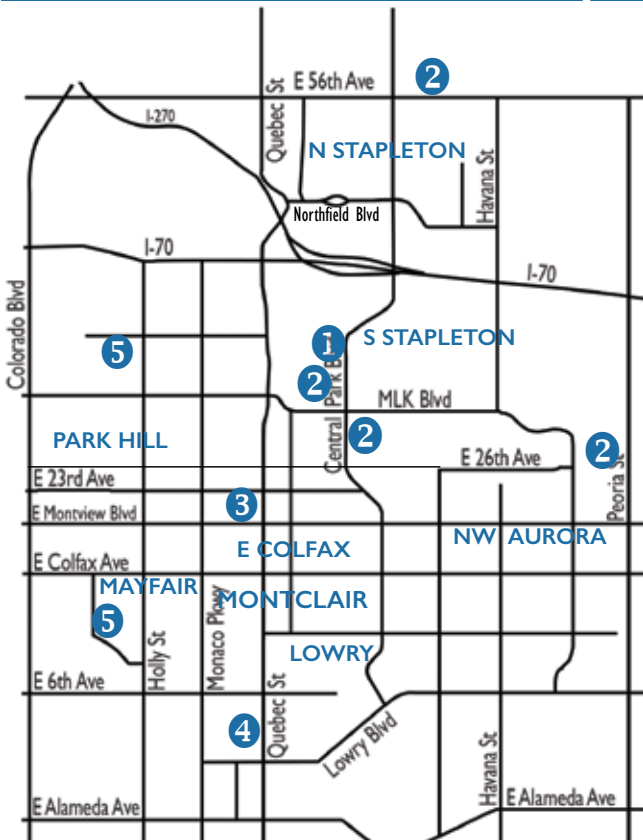


## STAPLETON HOME SERVICES

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# ...NE News Updates



By Carol Roberts and Martina Will, PhD

## 1 Sprouts Update

The newest Sprouts at 3555 Central Park Blvd. (just north of MLK) still doesn't have a firm opening date. The latest information is that it will be open by August 19. Check the Sprouts website for updates: <https://www.sprouts.com/store/co/stapleton/central-park-blvd/>

## 2 Lots of New Apartments Coming to 80238

Two-hundred-eighty apartments recently opened at Solana Stapleton, located just across Peoria from the Anschutz Medical Campus. The one-, two- and three-bedroom luxury apartment complex offers multiple amenities for residents, including club house, pool, fitness center, beer garden and co-working space. The same developer, ReyLenn Properties from California, has filed plans with the City of Denver to build an additional 500+ apartments in two locations in 80238. One proposed apartment project will be just north of the old control tower formerly occupied by Punch Bowl Social at Central Park Blvd. and E. 32nd Ave. The proposed four-story project would have 307 units. The other ReyLenn proposal is also a four-story project—this one with 246 units located in Beeler Park at E. 56th Ave. and Boston Court. Another developer, Price Development Group from Kansas City, has proposed a building with approximately 300 units at the southeast corner of MLK and Central Park Blvd. Plans call for the south and east sides of the

building, which face residences, to be three stories, while the north- and west-facing sides of the building will be five stories.

## 3 Johnson & Wales Closing

JWU's Board of Trustees in late June announced it would close the Denver campus at Montview and Quebec effective summer 2021. As a result, the campus is not allowing any new students in the 2020-21 academic year; would-be students have been referred to the university's Charlotte, NC and Providence, RI campuses instead. JWU's press release on the closing indicated that the university was shifting to become "a more comprehensive university that is focused on a broader array of academic offerings." It remains unclear what will be next for the neighborhood campus, which has had many incarnations. As plans for the site become available, we will update readers. In the meantime, for more information, see <https://www.jwu.edu/sustainablefuture/>

## 4 Lowry Boulevard One Update

Lowry's Boulevard One, located at Lowry Blvd. and Quebec, held its topping-out ceremony in June. Discussions with specialty grocers and alternative general merchandise retail anchors are underway, according to Celeste Tanner, chief development officer of Confluent Development. The project will also have smaller retailers including a café, eateries, and fitness businesses. "We anticipate having an update on named tenants by late summer," Tanner said by email. And despite the pandemic, on-schedule



June topping-out ceremony at Lowry's Blvd. One.

completion of the 135,000 sq ft initial phase is anticipated for the spring of 2021. The project broke ground in April 2019. The overall mixed-use project will be 200,000 sq ft on a 70-acre parcel and will have about

500 parking spaces, including a 231-stall underground parking garage, bicycle and scooter parking and electric car charging stations. Confluent Development and Kelmor Development are the project co-owners and co-developers. Brinkman Con-



Johnson and Wales University has announced that after the 2020-21 school year they will be closing their Denver campus at Montview and Quebec. Plans for the campus are unknown at this time.

struction is the general contractor and Open Studio Architecture designed the project. The project has been a collaborative vision with support from the Denver Urban Renewal Authority and Lowry Redevelopment Authority.

## 5 Denver Days Parades

Denver Days, originally created to bring neighbors together, has changed from block parties and gatherings to a 2-mile parade in each council district to accommodate physical distancing during the pandemic.

In District 8 (neighborhoods north of Colfax), the parade will be held Sunday, August 9 from 2-4pm. It will begin and end at the Dahlia Campus for Health and Well-Being, 3401 Eudora St, Denver. The route heads west from the parking lot to Dahlia St, turns south on Dahlia to 29th Ave, turns east on 29th to Holly St, then north on Holly to E 35th Ave and west on 35th Ave to Eudora St.

In District 5 (neighborhoods south of Colfax), the parade will be held on Monday, August 3, from 6-8pm. It will begin and end at Lindsley Park. The route heads west on E 12th Ave to Clermont St, turns north on Clermont to E 14th Ave, turns east on E. 14th Ave to Holly St, then goes south on Holly to E 12th Ave, west on E. 12th, and ends at Lindsley Park.

## State Update

### CO Ban on Large-Capacity Magazines is Legal

After the 2012 Aurora theater shooting, the Colorado legislature, in 2013, enacted HB1224, a ban on large-capacity magazines (LCMs). Rocky Mountain Gun Owners sued, alleging it violated their right "to keep and bear arms in defense of [a person's] home, person and property," as stated in the Colorado Bill of Rights.

The June 29, 2020 decision by the Colorado Supreme Court said the plaintiffs failed to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that HB 1224 violates the state constitutional right to bear arms and held that HB 1224 is a reasonable exercise of the police power that has neither the purpose nor effect of nullifying the right to bear arms in self-defense as provided by the Colorado Constitution. The court noted it leaves available ample weapons for self-defense and said the right to bear arms is not an unlimited right and is subject to reasonable regulation.



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Gallagher impacts funding for schools, fire departments, libraries and other public services

# Voters Will Decide Whether to Repeal this Amendment



Brenna Farrell, after homeschooling, says, “I wish they [teachers] could get paid a million dollars. She is shown here with Conor, 10, Beatrice, 7, and her husband Patrick.

By Tracy Wolfer Osborne

In the chaos that came from homeschooling two children during a pandemic, Brenna Farrell had a running joke with her husband. Overwhelmed and weary, she would look at him and state the obvious: “We are not thriving.” It created a moment of levity in what had otherwise become an ubiquitous American scene—parents once used to a morning commute or a library story hour were now relegated to the kitchen table teaching common core math and social studies, often while working from home themselves. Farrell’s day consisted of simultaneous Zoom calls, homework checks, IEP meetings, ESL lessons—and then on top of that—more Zoom calls. “It was a lot,” Farrell says, but admits she came away with a deeper understanding of her children’s academic strengths and struggles. It also strengthened her empathy muscle. “You really know [now] how hard they work. Most of my kids’ teachers have kids, so they’re managing their own children plus a classroom of online learning. They’re honestly our heroes. I wish they could get paid a million dollars.”

A million might be a pipe dream, but this November there will be a ballot measure designed to ramp up revenue for Colorado schools. The bipartisan measure, which was sponsored by two Republicans and backed by at least a dozen more, asks voters to repeal the Gallagher Amendment, a 1982 law that has done two things: kept residential property taxes low and withheld billions from Colorado schools and special services. The Gallagher Amendment, designed to ensure that businesses pay their fair share in taxes, mandates that statewide property tax revenue must be 45 percent homeowner taxes and 55 percent commercial taxes.

**As the population has grown and property values have increased, residential rates have dropped to maintain the ratio. According to the Joint Budget Committee, Gallagher could trigger an 18% residential property tax cut next year—which would mean an additional \$491 million in cuts to schools and \$204 million in cuts to county governments.**

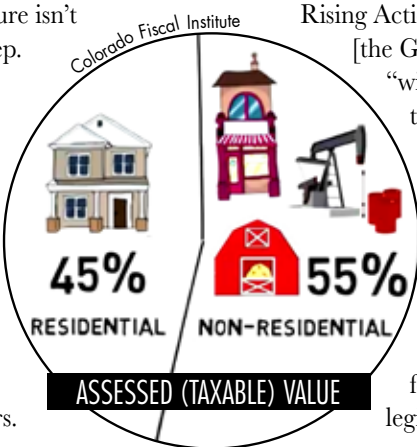
To fully understand Gallagher, you have to understand its entanglement with three other amendments. It’s complicated. Just like teaching one kid literacy, while attending a Zoom IEP meeting for another, while writing a report for your boss, while trying not to burn the spaghetti on the stove is complicated. Like Gallagher, TABOR (Taxpayer Bill of Rights) often limits revenue through its provision that taxes cannot be increased without a vote of the people. The Senior Homestead Act, by giving a tax exemption to senior citizens and others, also restricts revenue. Conversely, Amendment 23 calls for the legislature to increase educational funding annually by the rate of inflation plus one percent. This leaves Colorado with three parts of the constitution that suppress the ability to collect revenue and one that demands an increase in expenditures. Lois Court, a former state senator who spent much of her career trying to untangle this fiscal knot (often called the Gordian Knot), says, “It’s like having one foot on the accelerator and the other on the brake.”

Rep. Daneya Esgar, one of the bill’s sponsors, says “We’ve had to ratchet down the residential rates to 7.15%. That’s an issue. We heard the assessment rate was going to drop next year to 5.88%. Ask your local law enforcement, ask your local fire departments, ask your local school districts what that drop will do to their budgets. You think we’re living in hard times now, folks? [If we don’t repeal], your communities are going to feel an impact.”

Court echoes that sentiment about the impact on schools, libraries, fire departments, and other public services. She says Gallagher “makes it so rural Colorado has no money because they don’t have the kind of commercial property we have on the Front Range. We need to repeal Gallagher so we can get a more equitable property tax structure into place.”

However, the measure isn’t without opposition. Rep. Rod Bockenfeld says, “Gallagher is doing exactly what it’s supposed to do. If you want to look at some of these districts who are screaming because their residential assessed valuation has

gone down...look at the real numbers. They’ve grown their revenue every year. My Democratic colleagues don’t believe their constituents should have a right to determine what level of service they desire from their special districts....if you believe the local people get to determine the level



The Gallagher Amendment requires that total tax revenue be divided 45% – 55% between residential and business taxes.

of services they’re willing to pay for...let this remain a local issue. I’m gonna call this what it is—a money grab.”

Michael Fields, Executive Director of the conservative group Colorado Rising Action, tweeted [the Gallagher repeal]

“will be a property tax increase for the residential side...Why would we be raising taxes during a recession?”

The Democrats have responded to that argument by citing TABOR’s limitation on tax increases and by introducing a companion bill that would freeze the current assessment rate for four years at 7.15%. The counterargument is that legislators could repeal the freeze and rubber-stamp a new rate.

Understanding the impact of repealing the Gallagher Amendment is complicated. Voters will need to do their homework to make an educated vote on this November ballot question. A video about the Gallagher amendment can be found at [www.coloradofiscal.org/video-library](http://www.coloradofiscal.org/video-library).



Former State Sen. Lois Court, shown here speaking in Park Hill about a ballot question in 2019.

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# The SUN Spot

The *independent* voice of Stapleton

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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)

## August SUN News

By Amanda Allshouse, SUN President

### A new name has been selected, now what?

On August 1, SUN announced the final name that emerged from the community-driven process for choosing an alternative to the name Stapleton. That name can be viewed at [StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com](http://StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com).

For SUN to change the organization's name, it must act in accordance with SUN's bylaws Article VII, which will include explicitly stating the new name in the title, preamble, Article I section 1, and elsewhere. To make those changes in the bylaws, SUN would need a petition signed by 100 members of SUN\* requesting this set of changes. This petition will be available for signatures later in August on SUN's web site: [www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.org](http://www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.org)

After collecting 100 signatures on a petition, SUN will propose a date on which members of SUN\* could vote on this change, and the mode(s) by which votes may be cast. A notice of 30 or more days is required for this vote. Finally, SUN will host the community meeting for the vote to take place, and determine the results of the vote.

SUN's bylaws are available online, as will be the proposed revisions. <https://sites.google.com/site/sunwebsite1/Home/sun-board/sun-bylaws>

\*A member of SUN is defined as an adult renting or owning in the footprint of SUN Denver.

### SUN's August Monthly Meeting: Tues. Aug. 18, 6:30pm-8:30pm (hosted virtually on Zoom)

SUN's monthly meetings begin with updates from community partners (Denver Police, Northeast Transportation Connections, Denver Public Library, and Denver City Council District

8), followed by announcements, after which a speaker or topic is featured. In August—that speaker will be Dana Hoffman, Transportation Project Manager at City and County of Denver, with discussion on the subject of safe streets for cyclists, pedestrians, and cars.

### Seeking Candidates for a Diverse SUN Board

In the summer months, several community members have expressed interest in one of three open seats on the SUN board of directors. SUN welcomes all who are interested to join monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of most months from 6:30pm-8:30pm at the Central Park Rec Center if in-person, or during physical distancing via Zoom.

An interested candidate should consider how their background would enhance SUN's role in the community, and should submit a brief biographical statement (up to 250 words) describing interests and relevant experiences. SUN seeks to have a board diverse in geography within Stapleton, sex, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, rental/ownership status, and professions. Interested candidates should have a passion for civic engagement, public service, and community. SUN is comprised solely of volunteers and is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community.

Each May at SUN's Annual Community Forum a slate of candidates is elected to begin a 2-year term on the SUN board of directors. Any candidate brought onto the board off-cycle would be filling in a term that ends in May of 2021, and would be up for reelection at that time. Potentially filling currently open seats will be discussed at the September 2020 meeting, or later.



With an unfortunate dearth of new content these days, I give one extended review this month. It may be a while until new films make their way back to our homes or screens, but in the meantime, I will continue to find great content where I can.



Yellowstone

(Fredo), and the prodigal son Kayce (Michael). We even have the adopted son (a la Tom Hagan) in Rip, who serves as the Luca Brasi-enforcer. The comparisons to *The Godfather* are obvious.

The top-notch production starts with the writing and trickles down from there: the cinematography is gorgeous, the sound is particularly good, and the performances pop. Aside from Costner, Kelly Reilly sizes as Beth, Wes Bentley

### Yellowstone

(Peacock/Paramount)

I think of *Yellowstone* as *The Godfather* of the Range. *The Godfather* is one of the great, classic films of all time: it is not just an operatic view into a large and powerful crime family (the Corleones), it also an allegory for the American Dream and the American experiment. Released in 1972, it spoke to the rising influence of corporations as well as a corrupt government in the Nixon



Administration. America, and the world, was at an inflection point with multiple movements fomenting. *The Godfather* reflected how the power was concentrating in the hands of a few, in league with government. It was a warning.

Fast forward to today. Corporations have more power than ever, a corrupt administration works hand-in-hand with business to solidify power/influence, and we have a new culture/social war. It is into this mix that *Yellowstone* is born—an operatic, Shakespearean family drama that plays out among the magnificent vistas of western Montana. The Wild West on the edge of the city with a ranching family as the Corleones. It's a volatile mix, and the drama plays out furiously.

The patriarch of the family is John Dutton, realized perfectly by the grizzled and hoarse Kevin Costner. Pun intended, because horses figure prominently in an epic where they are as prominent as black Suburbans. His brood includes the fiery Beth (Sonny), the hapless Jamie

is the perfect sap, Luke Grimes is quietly good as the ex-Navy lethal killer outcast Kayce, and Cole Hauser steals scenes as the hardened tough-guy Rip. With multiple storylines inside the episodes as well as across them, the writing and performances seamlessly allow us in.

The main through line of the series is the family's struggle to keep their wide swath of land intact. They collide with a number of adversaries: a billionaire developer, the neighboring Native American tribe, the local gangsters, and an investment firm

that wishes to build an airport and ski area. The conflicts are as bloody and deceitful as the Corleone family's war, sans cannolis.

That brings us back to theme: a corrupt patriarch uses his wealth and position, in league with the rest of the government (the Governor is Dutton's paramour), to enrich himself and keep his adversaries at bay. Throw in some nepotism, and it is the perfect allegory for our time; much like *The Godfather*, it is a cautionary tale of the American Dream gone off the rails. *Yellowstone* speaks to our own world, its inequities, and a rigged system that laughs at us. Is the family redeemable? Or caricature? Are they representatives of the conservative, hard-working foundation of our Republic? Or are they opportunistic criminals? Check it out and decide for yourself.

You will like this show if you enjoyed *Game of Thrones*, *Sons of Anarchy*, and/or *Longmire*.

Now playing on Peacock and Paramount networks.

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

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# Covid-19's Long-Term Impact on Politics

By Martina Will, PhD

As Rep. John Lewis' death on July 17 reminded the nation, the civil rights movement shaped a generation of leaders that transformed politics. Does the current historical moment likewise represent a watershed in US history? Will the confluence of Covid-19 and the ongoing wave of social movements redefine our political life for the generations that follow? Will future historians point to this moment as the one that created a new style of politician?

State Senator Chris Hansen (D-31) views the current "extraordinary" circumstances— anxiety and widespread unemployment from the pandemic coupled with George Floyd's brutal murder that opened long-festered wounds and expanded public awareness—as signals that Coloradans will turn out in record numbers to vote in the fall, and reconfigure politics.

"What happened to him [Floyd] has happened to thousands of people over our history, and the underlying conditions of unemployment, the feeling of disenfranchisement...added intensity to what we're seeing now," says Hansen. He is optimistic that this new energy will be transformative in a positive way.

"I think there will be leaders who emerge from this who have sharpened their message, their skills, and their ability to reach people, and that's always been true throughout American history," says Hansen, anticipating how current unrest, combined with a pandemic that



Rep. Jason Crow, shown here in a march from City Park to the Capitol on June 19, says he is encouraged by the young leaders he sees.



State Sen. Chris Hansen speaks with optimism about the future of politics. File photo from 2019.

has disproportionately devastated Black and Brown communities, will transform domestic politics.

"I think we are witnessing a sea-change in politics," says State Rep. Leslie Herod, who represents District 8. "I think we're witnessing a recognition of the lack of diversity, and, I think, respect for Black lives in politics—and we're seeing folks who want to rectify the damage that has been done."

Herod is genuinely excited at the young people she sees assuming the mantle of leadership, who have a different political style than traditional politicians. "We are bolder. We are goal-oriented. And we are unapologetic," she says, citing Tay Anderson (DPS School Board) and Shontel Lewis (RTD Board) as "people who have really stepped up" and who are suggestive of the changes ahead in politics as well.

US Rep. Jason Crow (D-06) says he has

seen incredibly talented young people taking the lead on gun reform and climate change, and he expects they will lead the charge for racial justice, which has been "deferred for too long." "I hope we see a new wave of leaders and elected officials come out of these movements," he says, reflecting on the entrenched politicians and resistance to change he has observed in Washington, D.C.

"We need new faces. We need people who are willing to be bold and to force change in a positive direction, so I hope it [the current wave of activism] inspires people. One of the biggest challenges that we face right now in politics is apathy....I really hope that instead of that apathy continuing that this is emboldening people and encouraging them to step forward."

Even before the recent events in Portland, when asked about a possible political backlash and the implications of calls for "law and order," US Army veteran Crow said, "I think we have to be extremely careful and vocal on the use of any military in a situation like this; there's obviously a historical precedent for how it can go wrong. The military just shouldn't be politicized and shouldn't be used on our streets."

For Hansen, new legislation that increases police accountability is only part of the picture at the state level. He points to the budget discussions as carrying profound weight as well: "The budget is ultimately the moral document, the moral priorities of the state, and has a huge impact on

people's daily lives, their welfare, their ability to seek out economic opportunity. And we're having a very robust discussion about the budget, including how to make the tax code more progressive and less regressive."

Crow emphasizes the importance of

getting involved, saying, "Decisions are going to be made that are going to greatly impact your life and your family's life, they will be made whether you are engaged or not. The question is whether you're going to have a seat at the table. Either you're going to be at the table to help make those decisions and have a voice, or somebody else is going to be filling that seat. But the process will go forward with or without you so, it's better that it goes

forward with you."

Herod is optimistic that the current momentum will lead to lasting change, but she is also cautious. "One bill doesn't equal equality. One march doesn't equal equality." She recalls walking the streets of Denver with Lewis, and draws from his inspiration. "He was a very optimistic person, and he never stopped fighting."



State Rep. Leslie Herod believes we're witnessing a sea-change in politics.

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View a video of the exhibit at FrontPorchNE.com

# Norman Rockwell: Imagining Freedom

A talented visual storyteller, Norman Rockwell (1894–1978) captivated the popular American imagination with his advertisements, posters, and magazine illustrations. Displayed in the exhibit entryway are some of the 300 cover illustrations he created for *The Saturday Evening Post* between 1916 and 1963.

By Laurie Dunklee

“I just wanted to do something important,” Norman Rockwell wrote in his autobiography. The famous illustrator strived to use his considerable skills as a tool for good.

“He was empathetic to the core,” says Timothy Standing, curator of *Norman Rockwell: Imagining Freedom*, on display through Sept. 7 at the Denver Art Museum. “We show Rockwell as not just a brilliant illustrator, but also a gifted sto-

ryteller who was socially involved.”

Rockwell’s most famous works, including paintings that became covers for *The Saturday Evening Post*, show his penchant for lovable characters and domestic ritual. His later illustrations address the harsh realities of racism and violence in America. The exhibition includes videos and historical documents. “This is a different kind of show for the Denver Art Museum, a hybrid between

art and history,” says Standing.

Standing calls it “prescient” that the exhibition was planned four years ago to run this year. He says it was intended to stimulate discourse in the election year. But the events of 2020 make the timing optimal to stimulate thought and discussion around racism and human rights. “Even our banner image, the multi-racial *The Right To*



*Barbershop Quartet* was the cover of *The Saturday Evening Post*, Sept. 26, 1936. Rockwell’s lovable characters made him a household name.

*Know*, connects the show’s subject matter to what’s going on in 2020,” says Standing.

*Rockwell* was slated to open May 1, but the coronavirus lockdown closed the museum until early July. For the new opening, a few works were eliminated to allow more space for social distancing. In addition, Rockwell designers added prompts throughout the galleries, highlighted with thick yellow stripes to draw attention to questions on the theme “Has Anything Changed?”

“The bilingual prompts are intended to stimulate critical thinking and dialogue around such issues as racial and economic equality, privilege and war,” Standing said.

The exhibition includes about 125 works and opens with Rockwell’s depictions of American life during the Great Depression of the 1930s, a time of economic hardship. Despite the Nazis’ aggression in Europe, most Americans were concerned about solving domestic problems and reluctant to get involved in the war. President Roosevelt hoped to garner support for the war by proclaiming “four essential human freedoms” as a basic standard not just for America,



Rockwell’s *Rosie the Riveter*, 1943, became the heart of a World War II campaign aimed at recruiting women for defense industry work.

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but “everywhere in the world”: freedom of speech and worship, and freedom from fear and want.

A video shows Roosevelt’s impassioned *Four Freedoms* speech in 1941. It was followed by an aggressive propaganda campaign, but support for the war still lagged until Rockwell published his *Four Freedoms* illustrations in *The Saturday Evening Post* in 1943. Using his Vermont neighbors as models, Rockwell depicted the four freedoms in everyday scenes. “He controlled the settings, the light and the staging,” says Standing. “The paintings are brilliant visually in a way that speaks to us.”

The *Four Freedoms* paint-

ings sparked investment in the war. But the faces depicted were overwhelmingly white, drawing criticism from Americans who wondered if the four freedoms applied to them. “[Your] posters . . . have crystallized in the minds of Negroes the realization of freedoms denied in large measure to most of them,” wrote Roderrick Stephens, Chairman of the Bronx Inter-Racial Conference, in a letter to Rockwell in 1943.



*Freedom of Speech* depicts a lone dissenter’s remarks at a town meeting. Rockwell appears in the scene at the corner of the blackboard to the left. Above: The 1943 *Saturday Evening Post* article with the illustration.



Rockwell painted *Freedom from Fear* while Europe was under siege. If not for the headline on the father’s newspaper, it might be read as a peaceful bedroom scene. Rockwell wanted to convey the promise of safety.

For the duration of the war, Rockwell’s illustrations emphasized people rather than battles, creating a rich and poignant documentation of the time.

In the 1960s, Rockwell threw himself into the documentation of social issues. When he left *The Saturday Evening Post* in 1963, he was finally able to correct the editorial prejudices that had permeated his work. For example, Rockwell once had to paint out a Black person in a group picture because of the *Post*’s policy that people of color appear in service-industry roles only. The more progressive *Look* magazine allowed him to create forthright and confrontational images of racism, human rights violations and calls for moral decency.

Paintings including *The Problem*


*We All Live With, The Golden Rule, Blood Brothers* and *The Right To Know* promote his progressive ideas on civil rights, human rights and global equity.

The final gallery presents contemporary artists’ reactions to Rockwell’s work, including re-creations of his *Four Freedoms* as more representative of diverse races, cultures and sexual orientations. Shepard Fairey’s *We the People* poster series features portraits of women of different racial and cultural backgrounds, reinforcing and updating Roosevelt’s four freedoms concept for today’s America.

“We hope this presentation helps us all to reflect on our assumptions,” says Standing. “Maybe we haven’t done some things right as a country. Some people will be uncomfortable, but it’s a dialogue we need to have, with civility.”




*Freedom from What? (I Can't Breathe)*, 2015, by artist Maurice “Pops” Peterson. Peterson’s take on *Freedom from Fear* explores the idea that not all American families enjoy the privilege of safety, and depicts a newspaper headline with the words “I Can’t Breathe.”



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