

# Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

NORTHEAST DENVER

MARCH 2021

## Sue Stomps into Denver



A full-sized replica of Tyrannosaurus rex devouring a duck-billed Edmontosaurus gives visitors a glimpse of what life must have been like 67 million years ago when dinosaurs roamed Colorado.

**S**UE, the largest and most complete Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton ever found, has arrived at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science for a two-month visit.

Designed to appeal to dinosaur lovers of all ages, the exhibition features large-screen animations of SUE's swampy habitat, a re-creation of the archaeological dig where SUE was found,

touchable bronze casts of SUE's bones, and more than 20 fossils of dinosaurs discovered in Colorado. *Story on page 14 by Mary Jo Brooks.*

## Colorado Legislature '21 *What Lies Ahead?*



The Colorado House resumed the 2021 legislative session on Feb. 16 after working for the first month in committees. Legislators are wearing masks and have plexi-glass dividers between their desks.

*Read Todd Engdahl's summary of the bills to be debated this year on page 6.*

## Archiving 2020 *A Difficult Year*



*History in the Making documents the events of the last year for future generations. History Colorado Assistant Curator, James Peterson, holds a sign found near the museum the day after a Black Lives Matter protest. Behind him are the vaults where items are stored. Story on page 4 by Laurie Dunklee.*



Photo courtesy of CDOT



Before cars on Central 70 can be rerouted to the new below-ground-level lanes (as soon as this spring), the pump station for storm water removal needs to be completed. This pump station is about 50 feet in diameter, approximately 50 feet deep, and can hold up to 2.4 million gallons of water, which is about three and a half times the size of an Olympic swimming pool. Located north of I-70 near York, only the top will be visible when it's finished. More info on page 13.

## Visit FrontPorchNE.com

—View the '21 Camp Guide thru July!

—Upload and view events in our online calendar

—Comment on and share stories

—Find all our articles

—Read letter to the editor from Rory Donaldson re: Cordova's departure



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

Need old newspapers for pets, projects or packing? Please don't take new ones from the racks. Call 303-526-1969 or email Carol@FrontPorchNE.com.



 galileo

Photos were taken prior to Covid-19. Face masks and distancing are now required for all campers and staff.

## REDISCOVER SUMMER FUN

Ready to experience the joys of in-person camp again? At Camp Galileo, kids engage in hands-on activities that spark their imaginations, build creative confidence and deliver unforgettable fun—all in a thoughtfully reimagined, Covid-safe setting.

**Camp Galileo: Pre-K - 5th Grades**

Innovation-igniting art, science and outdoor challenges, every day.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR AWARD-WINNING PROGRAMS.

VISIT GALILEO-CAMPS.COM TO FIND THE LOCATION NEAR YOU.

The Denver-Central Park location is independently owned and operated by a local franchisee.

## Events & Announcements

### ACTIVE MINDS: BRAZIL

Thursday, March 11, 1–2pm, Online

The early 2000s was a time of immense optimism and growth in Brazil under the leadership of Presidents Luiz Inácio da Silva and his successor Dilma Rousseff, both of the Brazilian Workers Party. Corruption scandals, however, led to the impeachment of Rousseff in 2016 and the imprisonment of Lula in 2018. In January 2019, Jair Bolsonaro became President of Brazil, marking a significant shift to the right in Brazilian politics. Join us as we explore Brazil's bumpy political ride and what it may suggest for the future of the largest nation in South America.

### ACTIVE MINDS: HARRIET TUBMAN

Thursday, March 25, 6:30–7:30pm, Online

Born a slave in Maryland around 1820, Harriet Tubman escaped to freedom in 1849 and became the most famous “conductor” of the Underground Railroad that led slaves to freedom through a complex system of secret people and places. Nicknamed “Moses” for her efforts, she made over 19 trips and helped free hundreds. Join us as we review her life and legacy, including her efforts fighting in the Civil War and later fighting for Women's Suffrage.

Join in the Active Minds webinars by visiting [https://www.activeminds.com/events\\_denver.html](https://www.activeminds.com/events_denver.html)

### INTRODUCING THE 2021 AQUATIC ACTIVE PASS!

The updated 2021 Resident Membership Card, and your key to summer!

#### Active Pass benefits include:

- Convenient access from your mobile device
- 30 day advance open swim reservations
- Drop in access for day-of open swim (pending availability)
- Advance access to lap swim reservations
- Priority registration for aquatic programs

\$40 per person, per one-year membership. **Discount rate for seniors now available!**

### WE'RE HIRING

Are you interested in working for one of Denver's largest community organizations? The MCA is seeking strong team members who are highly motivated, work well with others, and exhibit strong technical skills and experience. We are currently seeking applicants for these two positions:

#### Park and Facility Maintenance Tech.

Responsibilities include inspecting and making repairs to our many playgrounds, preparing baseball fields for scheduled games, repairing fence and walkway lights, removing snow, and assisting other park staff in various projects.

**Pool Maintenance Technician.** Responsibilities include performing highly skilled work in maintaining, repairing, and replacing mechanical, chemical, or hardware in the operation of 7 outdoor seasonal pools along with 4 fountains/water features. This is a great opportunity for those looking for a fast-paced 40+ hr job in the spring and summer. The Pool Maintenance Tech position can be paired with the Park and Facility Maintenance Tech position in the fall and winter to be a full-time, year-round benefited position.

Please visit [www.mca80238.com](http://www.mca80238.com) for application details including additional job descriptions and requirements.

### ALLEY PARKING VIOLATION REMINDER

- Personal property (including vehicles) may not be left or parked in alleyways.
- Vehicles must be parked inside the designated garage or carport of the residence. Driveway Aprons (unless specifically identified as a parking apron) can be used for loading and unloading only. Vehicles should not be parked or stored in these areas as it can impact adjacent homeowners from accessing their property.
- Unregistered vehicles may never be left in an alley and must be parked inside a garage.
- All alleys must remain free of any items that would impede any other property owner or City & County of Denver authorized vehicles from free access through that alley.
- Any item left in an alley is subject to removal by the MCA at the owner's expense.

**Impeding and parking in an alley shall constitute a violation of the MCA rules and will result in a violation notice and fine consistent with the MCA covenant enforcement policy.**

### 2021 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The 2021 Sponsorship Brochure is available online at [www.mca80238.com](http://www.mca80238.com). There are a variety of ways to participate so check out how you can get your business recognized in the community. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Deeter at [ddeeter@mca80238.com](mailto:ddeeter@mca80238.com).

### BE IN THE KNOW

If you are not subscribed to the MCA's weekly email newsletter, please sign up via [www.mca80238.com](http://www.mca80238.com) to ensure all pertinent reminders are delivered straight to your inbox.

#### Lawrence Uhling

Administrative Assistant  
[luhling@MCA80238.com](mailto:luhling@MCA80238.com)

Master Community Association

# Front Porch

PUBLISHERS/EDITORS:  
Carol Roberts & Steve Larson

PHOTOGRAPHERS:  
Steve Larson, Christie Gosch

AD SALES: email [Carol@FrontPorchNE.com](mailto:Carol@FrontPorchNE.com)  
or call 303-526-1969

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

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

Front Porch – NE Denver distributes approximately 23,000 free papers during the first week of each month. Papers are delivered by mail and/or racks in Central Park, 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.

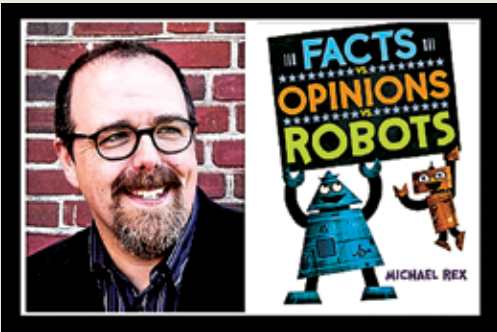


# Teach Your Children Well: *Facts vs. Opinions vs. Robots*

By Tracy Wolfer-Osborne

Mike Rex, a best-selling children's book author who's penned over 40 children's books including some adapted to television, used to face a familiar mealtime struggle—his two young boys refused to eat their greens. His oldest son, Declan, declared broccoli “disgusting” and soon a battle over nutrition ensued. Rex, who wanted his son to understand that his thoughts on broccoli were mere opinions—not facts—would tell him he liked broccoli. To which Declan would respond, “You’re wrong. Everyone has to hate it. It’s disgusting.” Rex would counter with, “That’s your opinion.” To which Declan would say, “No it’s a fact.”

The frustrating back and forth—as well as Rex’s young son’s inability to discern fact from opinion—got him thinking the topic might make a good children’s book. The idea percolated for years, and as the idea continued to brew, Rex began to see the topic’s relevance move from the dinner table into the political sphere. Rex says, “I understand that some people are more attracted to facts. That’s why certain students will go towards math and science where everything’s cut and dry and stay away from the liberal arts...but I think there’s been a crossover where people are looking for opinions in science, and I’m like ‘no, it goes the other



Michael Rex is the author of *Facts vs. Opinions vs. Robots*. A page from his book is pictured below.

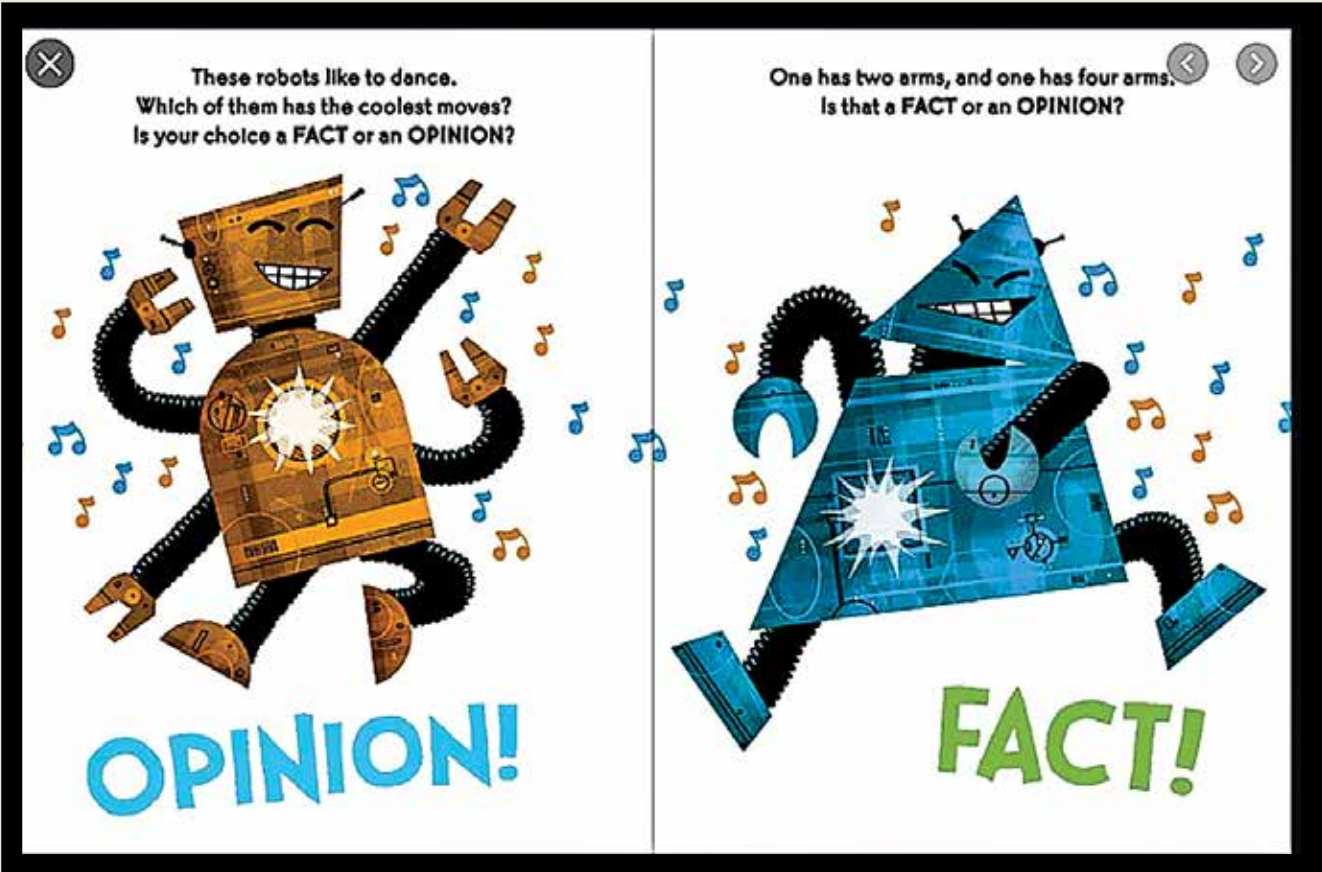
way.” His idea came to fruition in February of 2020 when Nancy Paulsen Books published *Facts vs. Opinions vs.*

book as a reminder, “that it’s nice to listen to one another’s opinions.” But Rex scoffs at that. “That’s not what the book’s about. Yes, we respect opinions as long as those opinions don’t hurt other people. This whole idea [which is taught in school] that every opinion is right and needs to be listened to has gotten people into trouble. At a certain point, you can’t tolerate every opinion. At a certain point, you have to say when facts are present, facts get

opinions deserve to be heard.” Other Amazon reviewers seemed to understand what Rex was going for. Rex’s book is described as a “Primer for kids growing up in an era when facts are considered debatable and opinions are oft expressed loudly and without empathy. It’s a welcome use of skill-building to counter an information landscape filled with calls of ‘fake news!’ and toxic online discourse.... Perhaps most importantly, Rex’s robots demonstrate that in the absence of enough information, it’s perfectly fine to wait before acting. Vital information for young media consumers; it couldn’t be timelier.” While another called it a “fun, cogent argument for informed and civil conversation.”

So when are children ready for the critical-thinking skills that enable civil conversation? Dr. Jenna Glover, the Director of Psychology Training in the Pediatric Mental Health Institute at Children’s Hospital Colorado, says children as young as five can understand the difference between fact and opinion and at age seven can separate their own experience from others to think critically about varying perspectives.

Rex’s broccoli-haters are in high school now, but he’s still encouraging them to think critically and do their own fact-checking. For more information visit [mikerexbooks.blogspot.com](http://mikerexbooks.blogspot.com).



Robots. Rex, who also illustrated the book, uses colorful, energetic robots to teach the objective difference between a fact—“Two of these robots have square heads”—and an opinion—“Which robot would you like to be friends with?” Rex said “Sometimes ideas have their moments, and it became the right book at the right time. Editors wanted it right away because of what was going on. Five or ten years ago, it would’ve been a nice book, but it wouldn’t have been as vital an issue; that’s the difference.”

One Amazon reviewer described the

priority.” He recently tweeted, “One of the points of writing this book was to introduce kids to the idea that sometimes an opinion is wrong (the election was not stolen) and that not all

**Young Americans**  
CENTER FOR FINANCIAL EDUCATION  
**SUMMER**

**FUNancial Camps**  
FOR KIDS  
Learn more and register:  
**YACENTER.ORG**

Search Gather and Spruce on f | h

More style • More joy • Less disruption

Smart design.  
Beautiful spaces.

GATHER & SPRUCE  
DESIGN • REMODEL

Simplified home remodel by  
Cherstin Toney, Creative Director  
and Interior Designer.

[gatherandspruce.com](http://gatherandspruce.com) | 720.990.5085

**COLORADO KIDS**  
PEDIATRICS

**Accepting New Patients**  
Contact Us to Schedule an  
Appointment Today!

Celebrating 14 years of Keeping Central Park Kids Healthy

Noah Makovsky, MD	Amy Nash, MD	Stephanie Dunn, MD
Brandon Davison-Tracy, MD	Richard Gustafson, MD	Katie Dickinson, MD
Daniel Kamlet, P.A.	Kara Lampe, P.A.-C	Noriko Rothberg, C.P.N.P.
Robyn Smith, P.A.-C	Jordan Wagner, P.A.-C	Maggie Wolfgram, C.P.N.P.

**COLORADOKIDSPEDS.COM | 303-399-7900**





Front Porch photos by Christie Gosch



Left: Sympathy cards sent to the family of 23-year-old Elijah McClain, who died after being restrained by police, and items from a protest collected outside the History of Colorado Center including: a tear gas canister, pepper balls, a rubber bullet, and glass from broken museum windows. Above: Curator, James Peterson, shows a poster created by two young artists, Brittany Murdock and Angela Serrano, to address prejudice and violence. "The individual icons make a collective statement that regardless of someone's race, religion, sexuality, gender, disability or size, one should not place unfair judgment onto that person," they wrote.

# Archiving 2020: A Difficult Year

By Laurie Dunklee

“2020 was a rough year for a lot of people, with big events that had an impact on everybody,” says James Peterson, assistant curator for artifacts at the History Colorado Center museum. Peterson and other museum staff spent the last year collecting items of historical interest related to the pandemic, the Black Lives Matter movement, and the election. Dubbed *History in the Making*, the aim of the ongoing collection is to help future generations understand the impact of these events. “Future generations need to refer to the past in order to learn from things,” Peterson said. In addition to artifacts—concrete items like masks and hand sanitizers—museum staff are collecting first-hand accounts in the form of journal en-

tries, audio recordings, photographs, and videos. *History in the Making* was launched in March 2020 when the museum put out a call to its email list and social media sites to collect materials. Staff were on the alert to gather items as events were happening. “Since 1879 we’ve collected artifacts as events are happening,” Peterson said. “But this year, rather than waiting for donors to come in, we were more proactive about collecting. These events were too important to leave to chance, and it was easy enough for us to get out there as we recognized what was going on.”



Early in the pandemic, Colorado distilleries converted their operations to make hand sanitizer with their alcohol.

From protest signs to photos of the empty streets, the items are being catalogued for researchers and public viewing on History Colorado’s database (go to [historycolorado.org/covid-19](http://historycolorado.org/covid-19), click on “See what Coloradans have donated already.”) Peterson, who has worked at the museum since 2003, said a lot of 2020 items were collected spontaneously. “I fished a sign out of the Highline Canal one day while walking [the sign says, ‘Keep the canal safe. Keep your distance’]. It either fell in there, or someone threw it in who didn’t want to wear a mask. “During the lockdown, I took a screen shot off my TV of Gov. Polis meeting with President Trump in Washington, D.C. Another curator saw it and said, ‘We need his mask.’ So, Polis donated his mask from that meeting.” Peterson said he wishes they had a better record of the 1918 pandemic. “Not many three-dimensional artifacts were saved from that time. Either people weren’t proactive about collecting, or medical materials weren’t available.

## SHOP LOCAL! Please support these businesses.

Follow links to all these businesses at [www.FrontPorchNE.com](http://www.FrontPorchNE.com) > Business Directory

Accounting/Taxes	Dori Suess CPA, MBA, LLC	13
Auto	Hello Car Wash	7
Barbershop/Hair Salon	Fantastic Sams	11
Children's Camps	Camp Galileo - Colorado	2
	Dream BIG Day Camp	11
	Every Child Reading	14
	Montessori Children's House of Denver	6
	Ubergrippen Indoor Climbing Crag	8
	Young Americans Center for Financial Education	3
Churches	Augustana Lutheran Church	10
Clinical Research	CU Alzheimer's and Cognition Center	15

Community Organization	Central Park Master Community Association	2
Dental	Nestman Orthodontics	7
	Trommeter Orthodontics	15
	Williams Family Dentistry	9
Design and Remodeling	Diane Gordon Design	14
	Gather and Spruce	3
Dispensaries	Livwell Enlightened Health	5
Home Audio/Video	WA.VE, LLC	12
Home Furnishings	Smart Spaces	8
Home Services	Reflection Windows & Doors LLC	13
Housecleaning	Number 1 House Cleaning	10
	White Magic Cleaning Services	12

Lawyers	Lewis & Matthews Family Law Firm	6
Medical Doctors	Colorado Kids Pediatrics	3
Real Estate	Neir Team-Kentwood City Properties	10
	New Perspective Real Estate, LLC	16
	Wolfe & Epperson Real Estate	14
Schools	Primrose School	8
Seniors	Modena Cherry Creek by Solera Senior Living	13
Tree Service	Rojas Tree Service	12

**Delivered free every month**—Approximately 23,000 *Front Porch* newspapers are distributed in the Northeast Denver neighborhoods of Central Park — Park Hill — Lowry — Mayfair — Montclair — East Colfax — NW Aurora.

**To place ads and inserts,** contact Carol at 303-526-1969 or [carol@frontporchne.com](mailto:carol@frontporchne.com). Ads are due the 15th of the month. Visit us at [FrontPorchNE.com](http://FrontPorchNE.com) for additional information and to view ad sizes and prices.



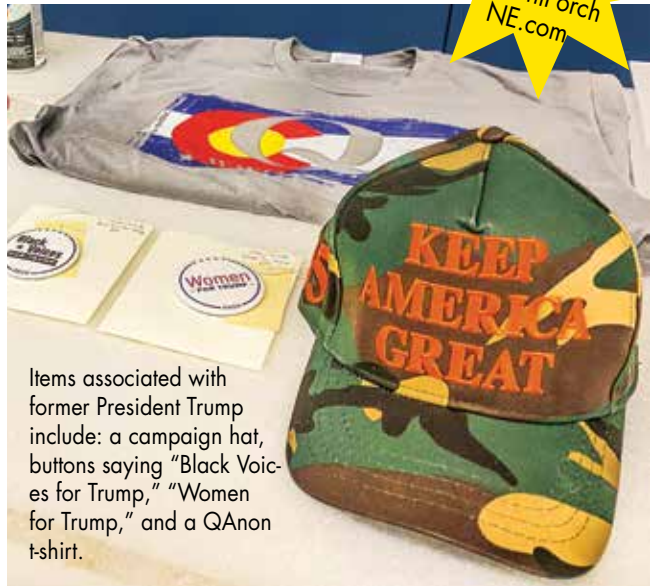


Left: A “Keep Your Distance” sign found in the Highline Canal; TV screen shot of Gov. Jared Polis meeting with then-President Donald Trump, along with Polis’ donated mask; a donated stimulus check from the first round; and masks and ski tickets from Arapahoe Basin, which reopened for just one week in the spring.

Right: Items from Republican Lauren Boebert’s campaign include a door hanger and bumper sticker, as well as a t-shirt from her Shooters Grill in Rifle. Other Colorado candidate materials were collected, as well as some presidential campaign artifacts.



View a video of History in the Making at FrontPorchNE.com



Items associated with former President Trump include: a campaign hat, buttons saying “Black Voices for Trump,” “Women for Trump,” and a QAnon t-shirt.

That’s one of the reasons we are being proactive this time around.”

He’s finding current medical items hard to come by. “We want medical equipment used for Covid for our collection, but of course much of it is still in use. We’d love to have empty vials of the vaccine, but so far no luck because those are considered medical waste.”

Peterson gathered items related to the 2020 election by attending rallies, including a Lauren Boebert rally in Nucla. “We kept up with the divisive election. We thought artifacts from this time might be important. Maybe in 20 years it won’t be considered history at all, but we just cover our bases. When we’re collecting, there’s not

enough time to know whether items are ‘historic.’”

A few items from the Trump campaign are in the collection. “We try to limit our collecting to Colorado, but this administration had an impact on all our lives.”

Peterson said physical objects can make a time period more real. “You look at 1960’s clothes, and you go back to time. Objects can bring history to life.” He emphasized the importance of the stories with the artifacts. He wants MAGA (“Make America Great Again”) caps and the stories that go with them. “Where was it worn? What did it mean to the person who wore

it? Personal stories tell the history.”

Written archives and audio-visual materials are a part of the collection. “We welcome more first-hand accounts about how these events have affected people economically, socially, and psychologically. It’s important to document these times before they disappear into the ether.”

No exhibit is planned for the *History in the Making* collection, Peterson said. “The collection is just here for researchers, catalogued with details as part of our online collections. It could become part of another exhibit in the future.”

Meanwhile, collecting is an ongoing task. “These issues are still critical, though not as active. The effects linger, like the memories of those who have lost people. We need more personal accounts of the Black Lives Matter protests. I hope we get more material about the effects on the business community.”

To donate an item or story, go to [historycolorado.org/donate-our-collection](http://historycolorado.org/donate-our-collection).



The 87-year-old El Chapultepec jazz club closed down Dec. 8 because of Covid. Depicted are some of the greats who played there, including band leader, Freddy Rodriguez, who died of Covid.



**LivWell**  
ENLIGHTENED HEALTH

ONE-STOP SHOP FOR CANNABIS

**11 DENVER METRO DISPENSARIES**

An unparalleled selection of top cannabis brands at affordable prices, including Wana, #HASH, Incredibles, Green Dot, & more!

Order ahead for faster shopping at [LivWell.com](http://LivWell.com)



**LivWell Central Park**  
3955 Oneida St  
Denver, CO 80207



**LivWell Park Hill**  
5926 E Colfax Ave  
Denver, CO 80220

©2021 LivWell Enlightened Health. All Rights Reserved. Colorado only.



# Legislature's Second Pandemic Session Shows

By Todd Engdahl

After three days of warm-up in January, Colorado's 2021 COVID-19 legislative session restarted on Feb. 16 and is now back in full swing.

Legislative leaders tried to tamp down expectations for the session, given the continuing pandemic. But the volume and variety of bills introduced after lawmakers returned indicate this will be a full and contentious session ranging over many issues.

The overriding issue is money. The state is in the anomalous position of having "extra" revenue on hand because pre-pandemic tax collections came in higher than was projected a year ago, giving 2021 lawmakers about \$1 billion more than they expected to have.

But this money is a one-time windfall. Gov. Jared Polis and lawmakers want to restore last session's cuts in state programs, and the governor also wants to fund both "stimulus" programs to help the state economy and a big state reserve going into the 2022-23 budget year, when revenues are expected to be tight.

Here are the big issues.

## The Budget

As it builds the 2021-22 budget, the Joint Budget Committee will have to figure out how to juggle restoration of the 2020 cuts, pay for the stimulus, save money for 2022-23, and pay for any other spending priorities.

The governor's budget plan reduces spending in some state programs, delays restoration of some other cuts, and diverts projected Medicaid savings in order to do three things:

- Restore cuts in K-12 and higher education spending, to the tune of about \$1 billion.
- Fund his stimulus proposals.
- Boost the reserve to create a cushion for 2022-23.

Committee members don't necessarily disagree with those goals, but they have additional priorities. For instance, the committee wants to give bigger increases to state employees and state service providers than Polis proposed.

A big wildcard is how much federal pandemic relief the state will receive and to



Senator Chris Hansen District 31 (left) and Senator Dominick Moreno, District 21 (right) both serve on the Joint Budget Committee (as does Rep. Herod, below). Moreno is Committee Chair. To find your legislator, enter your address at <https://leg.colorado.gov/find-my-legislator>. Front Porch photo by Steve Larson

what degree that money can be used to help pay for regular state programs or offset some state spending.



Senator James Coleman, Senate District 33

Two Democratic legislators from northeast Denver, Sen. Chris Hansen of District 31 and Rep. Leslie Herod of District 8, serve on the six-member committee.

## Stimulus

Polis started pitching his \$1.3 billion stimulus package in November, when he released his 2021-22 budget proposal.

During the special session in December, lawmakers approved \$382.2 million of state relief for small business, schools, childcare centers, and renters.

About \$900 million in additional stimulus plans remain before legislators including: funding for worker retraining, business development, clean energy projects, broadband expansion, and state parks. Polis would like

quick action on his plans, but some lawmakers would like to wait until the next wave of federal stimulus shapes up.

## Education

Lawmakers face pandemic-related uncertainties in deciding how much to pay for schools in 2021-22.

Polis has proposed three key ideas for next year:

- Reduction of the Budget Stabilization Factor to \$572 million.
- Bulking up the year-end balance in the State Education Fund to \$460 million as a cushion for 2022-23.
- Earmarking of any additional money for "equity" funding, perhaps such as additional money for at-risk students.

But uncertainties about projected 2021-22 enrollment, the estimated number of at-risk students, changes in local district tax

revenues, and the amount of new federal relief complicate school funding plans for next year.

Testing, an under-the-radar issue in recent sessions, is back in the form of a bill that would instruct the Department of Education to seek a waiver from federal requirements for annual state-wide testing in certain subjects.

There's other education legislation on student media literacy, the school rating system, changes in teacher evaluation, expanded civics education, and student discipline.



Rep. Leslie Herod, House District 8

## Transportation

Lawmakers have long wrangled over transportation funding, including how to provide reliable revenue from the General Fund to the Department of Transportation.

Lawmakers, Polis, and the business group A Way Forward have been working on a plan that reportedly would include an annual \$250 million transfer to transportation from the General Fund. In exchange for that, the group would support




### Sign Your Child Up for a Summer of Discovery

We live for the moments when children excitedly discover passions that drive them or talents they never knew they had. Our theme-based summer camps use hands-on, real-world experiences to give children ages 1-12 a chance to explore their unique gifts.

Visit [mchdenver.org](http://mchdenver.org) or call 303.322.8324 to learn more.





### WE BRING A COMMON SENSE APPROACH TO RESOLVING YOUR FAMILY ISSUES

Divorce/Dissolution  
Parental Rights and Responsibilities  
Parenting Time • Child Custody  
Pre-Nuptial & Post Nuptial Agreements  
Wills • Estate Planning • Mediation

**LEWIS & MATTHEWS, P.C.**  
1890 Gaylord St., Denver | 303.329.3802  
[MatthewsFamilyLawyers.com](http://MatthewsFamilyLawyers.com)



# ping Up To Be Hectic

some sort of fee increase, such as on fuel sales or on road usage. Fees don't have to be approved by voters, but minority Republicans are expected to oppose fees.

## Health Care and Insurance

Observers also expect a big legislative debate over a perennial Democratic dream – creation of a public-option health insurance plan.

The basic concept is creation of a standard, lower cost plan that insurers would have to offer statewide. Health insurance choice and cost vary widely across Colorado.

But to control costs, the state would need greater power over charges by providers, such as hospitals.

Last session, the bill was shelved for fear Republican-stalling tactics would threaten other important legislation as lawmakers hurried to adjourn last June.

Democratic supporters are pushing the concept again and say it will look different than past plans, but details have been slow to emerge.

## The Rest of the Agenda

Here's a sampling of other issues facing lawmakers.

**Criminal Justice**—Ideas in the mix include measures to ban no-knock warrants, restrict the use of ketamine on people detained by police, fine-tune the 2020 police accountability law, expand corrections reforms, change laws on suspending drivers' licenses, expand diversion for juvenile offenders, reform the felony murder laws, and modernize laws on sexual exploitation of children. Expect Herod to be at the center of many of these debates.

**Environment**—Proposals being discussed include regulation of methane leaks and other

air quality issues, helping low-income communities affected by pollution, and regulation of plastic bags and foam containers.



Rep. Steven Woodrow, House District 6

**Executive Powers**—Minority Republicans have offered several bills to curb the governor's powers during emergencies, but those won't advance.

**Gun Regulation**—Democrats are pushing again for a mandatory waiting period for gun buyers, a safe storage law, and mandatory reporting of lost or stolen firearms.

**Revenue and Taxation**—Voters last November approved a small decrease in state income tax rates. That's prompted some Democrats to consider ways to replace and enhance revenues, specifically by ending some tax deductions and exemptions. Supporters believe that can be done without voter approval, but business interests oppose such efforts. Polis is pushing for tax breaks for small businesses and lower-income Coloradans.



Rep. Jennifer Bacon, House District 7

**Other bills in the mix** are controls on prescription drug prices, capping the potency of marijuana products, easier abortion access for Medicaid clients, implementation of wolf re-introduction, allowing composting of human remains, and reform of judicial discipline procedures.

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

## Park Hill's Full-time Orthodontic Specialist



Trent Nestman, D.D.S., M.S.

nestman  
orthodontics

2206 Kearney St. | 720-735-9800 | [www.nestmanortho.com](http://www.nestmanortho.com)



# Hello!

DELUXE CARWASH

## GET SPRING CLEAN

### Become a Member

- Unlimited Washes
- Express Lane
- Member Vacuum Stalls

### Get Your First Month Membership for the Price of a Single Wash!

Download our App for a FREE \$22 Value Ultimate Wash

GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store

**HELLO DELUXE CARWASH**  
5690 N. Central Park Blvd.  
Denver, CO 80238

**HOT107.1**  
Denver's NEW Hit Music

**JOIN HOT 107.1 EVERY SATURDAY Noon-2pm**





Children from the Denver Forest School play in the "Stumpitheater," one of five new natural play areas designed to encourage learning and exploration of the wildlife habitat at the Bluff Lake Nature Center.



The large tree-branch teepee is one of the most popular play structures at Bluff Lake. Children are urged to fortify the structure with additional sticks and

# New Playgrounds in NE Celebrate Nature,

By Mary Jo Brooks

Innovative outdoor play areas are coming soon to a neighborhood near you, just as demand for outdoor activities has never been greater.

At Bluff Lake Nature Center, construction workers are putting the final touches on five natural play stations designed to encourage children to use their imaginations about the natural world. "Treetop Advantage" features a nest structure atop a tree trunk with a sign that teaches kids about various bird nests. "Burrow Discovery" has climb-through tunnels and asks children to think about what it must be

like to live underground like prairie dogs. Other areas encourage jumping on tree stumps, building structures with branches, or climbing a dirt hill.

If it sounds like good old-fashioned fun, that's the point, says Rachel Crouch, Bluff Lake's executive director. She notes that attendance at the nature center has almost doubled during the pandemic and the popularity of its summer camps has soared. "We're thrilled that we've been able to be a resource for families during this difficult time and the play structures will only enhance that experience." The play areas, funded by a grant from Great

Outdoors Colorado, were built mostly out of natural materials and are designed to seamlessly blend into the wildlife habitat.

A very different playground is nearing completion at the Stanley Marketplace. The LuBird's Light Foundation playground will be filled with vivid colors, sparkling lights, musical sounds, and play structures that can be accessed by children who are blind, in wheelchairs, or have other dis-



Lucia Dawkins in a supportive swing. Photo courtesy of the LuBird's Light Foundation

abilities. But executive director, Juliet Dawkins, is quick to point out that this is not a playground just for disabled kids. "It's an inclusive playground where all are welcomed. The simple act of play should be able to be accessed by everyone. Playgrounds are where kids learn and friendships are formed."

Dawkins started the foundation after her daughter Lucia (nicknamed "LuBird")

MURPHY BEDS • OFFICES • CUSTOM CLOSETS • CABINET BEDS • MEDIA CENTERS

SMART SPACES

We Know  
Murphy Beds -

You'll know  
the difference!

FREE

- Mattress
- Delivery
- Installation\*

\*Extra charge for delivery outside Denver Metro Area

Mention this Ad  
and get a  
Free Mattress Upgrade

CABINET BEDS  
In Stock

Over 35 Models on Display

SMART SPACES: MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR SPACE

SMART SPACES

1295 S Santa Fe Dr, Denver, CO 80223

303-777-6278 | SmartSpaces.com

Open Mon - Sat 10 am - 5 pm

Located on Northbound Santa Fe Drive, just South of Mississippi

2021 SUMMER CAMPS AT ÜG

Registration is now open!

Sign up online or at the front desk | [www.ugclimbing.com/camps](http://www.ugclimbing.com/camps)

6 unique camps for kids ages 7-13 years old!

Email [camps@ugclimbing.com](mailto:camps@ugclimbing.com) for more info.

ÜBERGRIPPEN  
INDOOR CLIMBING CRAG

Primrose School of Denver North  
is NOW OPEN!

The Leader in Early Education and Care® has arrived in North Central Park Neighborhoods!

- Serving Infants – Private Kindergarten + School Age Enrichment & Online School Support
- Industry Leading Pandemic Response Plan Sets the Highest Standard in Health & Safety Protocols
- Now Enrolling – Immediate, Summer Camp and Fall Enrollments Available

Primrose School of Denver North

9954 E 59th Ave Denver, CO 80238

[www.primrosedenvernorth.com](http://www.primrosedenvernorth.com) | 720.405.5150

March 2021

8

Front Porch – NE Denver





twigs, while contemplating how many species of wild-life use similar materials to build shelters for protection.



The LuBird's Light Foundation playground at the Stanley Marketplace will feature a trampoline for wheelchairs, a merry-go-round, and swings and slides that can be accessed by children with mobility challenges. It is expected to be completed in May.

# Inclusivity

was born with a rare genetic condition called Pallister Killian Syndrome (PKS), which limits her mobility and vision. One of Lucia's favorite activities is swinging, so the foundation's first project was to fund specialized supportive swings that have been installed at City Park, Cheesman Park, Congress Park, and Central Park.

In addition to swings, the 9,000 square foot playground at Stanley will contain slides accessed by ramps, a merry-go-round that is flush with the ground, and a trampoline for children in wheelchairs. The million-dollar project was funded by grants and individual contributions, while the land was

donated by the city of Aurora and Stanley Marketplace. It is scheduled to open in May.

Families will have to wait until next year to enjoy a natural play space that is being designed for the southeast region of City Park. (This is separate from the traditional playground on the west side of the park that is currently being reconstructed). The new \$6 million project is being funded and created through a joint partnership between Denver Parks and Recreation and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. After more than a year of listening sessions with the public, the museum's Jacqueline Altreuter says they are close to having a finished design. Covering 3-4 acres, the play area will have eight zones representing the eight eco-systems found in Colorado. "There will be water features, rocks, and stumps. We want to create a place of respite because we know that quiet places in nature are hard to come by in the city." Denver Parks' Michael Bouchard says the idea is to give children who may not have access to the mountains an immersive experience in the natural world. "You can't overstate the importance of that kind of tactile experience." Write to [natureplay@dmns.org](mailto:natureplay@dmns.org) to request email updates.



An aerial view highlighting the 3-acre area in City Park where a new natural play area will be constructed in partnership with the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.



A concept illustration of what City Park's new natural play area could look like, including water features, logs, boulders, and native plants and grasses.



*is Moving!*

We are moving. But not too far, and the move will be so smooth you may not even notice it.

Except for the new, completely cool and stylish look.

Except for the new and latest equipment.

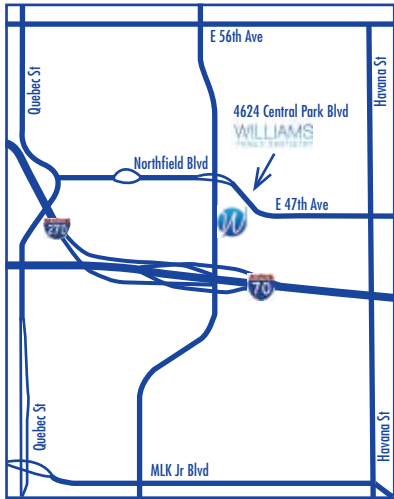
Except for the new and larger facility to accommodate the members of our growing team.

But there is no exception to our patient care, it will continue to be the best possible. And with a smile. But, with all these masks and shields, the only smile you may see for awhile is in our eyes.

The simple reason for the move is space. Not the kind of space Elon Musk shoots rockets into, but the kind needed to treat all the loyal patients we've gained over almost nine years.

The new address is 4624 Central Park Blvd Suite #102, Denver, 80238. All other contact info remains the same.

We will see you at our new location in May 2021!



Margie Williams, DDS  
Molly Johnson, DDS  
Welcoming our newest dentist,  
Nika Pesaran, DDS

**303-945-2699**  
[www.MargieWilliamsDDS.com](http://www.MargieWilliamsDDS.com)





## YOUR REALTOR MATTERS

**In the luxury real estate market, Central Park real estate agent Stacy Neir is renowned among colleagues and clients alike for her integrity, loyalty and professionalism.**

**With her 20 years of real estate experience, Stacy is recognized as one of the most trusted and admired agents in the Denver real estate market. When working with her, you can count on nothing less than a team of seasoned professionals with an intimate knowledge of Central Park real estate who are devoted to serving your needs around the clock.**



## STACY NEIR CENTRAL PARK REAL ESTATE LUXURY HOME EXPERT



720.280.3004  
www.neirteam.com  
stacy@neirteam.com

# Your Hidden Investment in Precious Metals Is at Risk

By Carol Roberts

If you have a gas-powered vehicle, you have three to seven grams of precious metals in your catalytic converter. Thieves have tuned in to the rapidly rising prices of palladium, platinum, and rhodium and, as a result, catalytic converters are disappearing from cars at a record pace. The *Denver Post* reported on Feb. 18 that catalytic converter thefts had increased 1,600% from 2019 to 2020. And the total thefts in January 2021 had already reached 42% of the 2020 thefts.

A Minnesota legislator has introduced a bill to make it harder for thieves to sell stolen catalytic converters to scrap dealers or on the black market, so police and prosecutors will have a tool to combat the rising thefts. A Feb. 9 *New York Times* article said the soaring price of the metals in catalytic converters “may be accelerating the shift to electric cars.”

Anthony, the service manager at Kearney Garage in Park Hill, says they had three cars with stolen catalytic converters the second week in February; in the prior year they probably saw a couple a month. Many of the cars weren’t even parked on the street, he says, they were in their own driveways. He suggests a car alarm could help deter the thieves, sounding off in response to someone touching the car.

Mohammed, the owner of Amina Auto Repair in northwest Aurora, has had 13 cars with stolen catalytic converters this year. “It used to be bigger cars with higher clearance to get under them more easily,” he says. But recently he’s seen Priuses, Corollas, and Honda Elements. “One family had the catalytic converters stolen off both their Elements

in the same night.” Another customer had been cleaning his garage, so he parked his Prius on the street overnight. The next morning the catalytic converter was gone,

and the car was left jacked up on a block. Older cars are just as susceptible as newer ones.

Colorado has adopted California’s stricter emission requirements. Replacement parts now need to meet the higher standard. “Where we used to get universal or after-market parts for \$600 – \$700, they are now \$1,200 – \$1,400. The repair cost for a Prius is \$3,000 with the additional damage that occurs,” says Mohammed.

A further problem is getting parts. “Currently Corollas have a three-week

back order—and you don’t know if you’ll really get it in that time,” says Mohammed. There is no temporary repair option while awaiting the parts. “It’s illegal to put in a ‘straight pipe’ to the muffler and run the car without a catalytic converter, releasing fumes into the air.”

It takes only two minutes to cut the pipes at both ends and remove the catalytic converter, says Mohammed. Amina mechanics have built customized cages to make it more difficult

to access the catalytic converter. “The thick metal would dull their blades and it would make more noise and take too long, deterring the thieves,” says Mohammed.

The reason catalytic converters need the precious metals? “Pollutant gases are made of harmful molecules, but those molecules are made from relatively harmless atoms,” according to the educational website explainthatstuff.com. Inside the catalytic converter, the gases from the engine pass through a dense honeycomb coated with the platinum-like metals. The metals cause chemical reactions that break apart the pollutant gases and convert them to gases safe enough to blow into the air.

### Precious Metals Current Prices

Platinum \$36.49  
Palladium \$76.6  
Rhodium \$681.60

\*Gold \$58.93

Values are per gram  
[28 grams per ounce]

\*For comparison only;  
not in catalytic converters



Mohammed, owner of Amina Auto, holds a catalytic converter. His shop saw five cars with stolen catalytic converters in the third week of February.



**Augustana Lutheran Church**  
Now livestreaming worship  
every Sunday at 10:30 am!

Tune in: [www.facebook.com/augustanadenver](https://www.facebook.com/augustanadenver)  
Details: [www.augustanadenver.org](https://www.augustanadenver.org)

We have online Sunday school video for kids too!

Augustana  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

5000 E Alameda Ave | Denver CO 80246  
303-388-4678 | [www.augustanadenver.org](https://www.augustanadenver.org)



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



## HOUSE CLEANING

Many Stapleton & Park Hill References

Mask & gloves worn at all times • Additional disinfectant now the norm  
Park Hill Resident • [paulinaleon22@hotmail.com](mailto:paulinaleon22@hotmail.com)  
20 Years Experience - Paulina Leon 720-628-6690





Movie releases are increasing in number and quality, but the main Denver independent theaters remain closed—the Sie Film Center, The Esquire, and Chez Artiste. The Mayan is open on a limited basis with segmented seating. The Esquire, one of Denver’s iconic theaters, is up for sale. You can still support the Sie Film Center by watching films on their virtual platform at [denverfilm.org](http://denverfilm.org). This month I review one movie and one show that excel in writing, directing, and acting.

a not-so-long-ago American past that is both ugly and illuminating—the latter in the sense that we have come a long way in a generation, but their visions have still yet to be fully realized.

The film is at turns shocking and poetic, and where it lacks in cinematic virtuosity, it punches with stinging dialogue and performances. A director’s first task while making a film is to do just that—direct, and that means working with actors. King does that masterfully, and her steady hand oozes through every scene. Turning a play into a movie is no easy task—one medium depends on

dialogue while the other depends on visuals, and the two are usually mutually exclusive. The list of great plays made into films is a short one. The execution is crucial.

That process starts with the writer and takes form through

the director and the actors. All three units work seamlessly here. Imagine trying to embody Muhammad Ali? Or Malcolm X, much less Sam Cooke and/or Jim Brown. All were larger than life and all broke ground while literally being fire-bombed or casually insulted. When we first meet Jim Brown, he is heading home to Georgia after a record-breaking season in the NFL. He is greeted as a star and fawned over by women, but when he asks an old family friend (white man) if he needs help moving furniture, the man tells him “You know we don’t allow n\_\_\_\_rs in the house.” Sam Cooke, a superstar with

a golden voice and looks to match, is met with icy stares and silence at the Copacabana. You know the stories of Malcolm X and Muhammad Ali.

Kingsley Ben-Adir as Ali and Leslie Odom Jr. (the stage Aaron Burr in *Hamilton*) as Cooke are particularly good, but King is the real star here with a dynamite future on tap. I’m not going to put this film into the “great” category, but it is very good and very interesting. It should be required viewing for, well, the entire country right now.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *Malcolm X*, *When We Were Kings*, and/or *The Chicago 7*.

Available on Amazon Prime

### *Borgen* (Netflix)

To call this show the Danish *West Wing* would be oversimplifying, but the analogy works. Netflix is carrying the three seasons (2011 – 2013) of the show named after the Danish Parliament, and it packs quite the punch; it is pleasantly surprising, sharply written, and wonderfully acted. Getting a glimpse into the inner workings of another country’s politics is fascinating, and the stories are by no means fluff: terrorism, the Afghan War, sex trafficking and sex workers, breast cancer, child abuse, domestic strife, the demands on high-profile politicians, and psychological stress on teens. Whew.

The show is anchored by newly-installed Prime Minister Birgitte Nyborg (Sidsel Babet Knudsen), a strong, independent, and forward-thinking leader who is not afraid to make the tough decisions and build coalitions where necessary. It is not just liberal fetishism, and in fact, the show often challenges modern-day liberalism and the Danish welfare state. The supporting cast is phenomenal, and if you are a regular of these pages you

know such a dynamic always moves a good show/movie into the “excellent” category. The first two seasons find Pilou Asbæk as Kasper Juul, a spin doctor and advisor to PM Nyborg; you might recognize Asbæk as Euron Greyjoy, the fierce, biting, and sadistic leader (after committing fratricide) of the Iron Islands in *Game of Thrones*. Here, he is a political veteran with a troubled past. Birgitte Hjort Sørensen (another veteran of *Game of Thrones* in addition to many other films and shows) also shines as Katrine Fønsmark, a reporter who takes on more importance as the series moves along. The cast beyond the core is quite large and diverse, and it cycles in characters at a mind-bending rate.

The show is also proficient—if not stellar—at all of the cinematic effects, but make no mistake, the writing and acting take center stage. The settings are all aesthetically pleasing, and the city of Copenhagen qualifies as another expressive supporting character. It might not have the extended, dynamic, handheld camera long takes of *The West Wing*, but *Borgen* uses the settings to its advantages. It is only three seasons, but it is dense and addictive. We may be in for a long end-of-winter and beginning-of-spring, and this show could make a good weeklong binge.

You will like this show if you enjoyed *The West Wing*, *Madam Secretary*, and/or *The Crown*.

All three seasons now on Netflix.

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.



*One Night in Miami*

### *One Night in Miami* (Amazon Prime)

This interesting film, directed by Regina King (star of HBO’s wonderful *The Watchmen*) and written by Kemp Powers, is based on his stage play of the same name. It tells the story of a fictionalized Miami meeting with Cassius Clay (soon to be Muhammad Ali), Sam Cooke, Jim Brown, and Malcolm X after Clay’s surprise win over Sonny Liston in the 1964 heavyweight title fight. The travails of the four influential and trailblazing men tell the story of

## HAIR CUTS ON SALE




### 20% OFF ENTIRE SALON PURCHASE

**FANTASTIC SAM'S**  
7341 E 29th Ave, Denver 80238  
Valid at this location only.  
Not valid with any other offers. WS

**FANTASTIC SAM'S**  
CUT & COLOR  
29th Ave. Town Center  
7341 E 29th Ave, Denver 80238  
**303-316-7701**



© 2020 Fantastic Sams Franchise Corporation.  
[www.FantasticSams.com](http://www.FantasticSams.com)



## DREAM BIG DAY CAMP

1-3-6-9 weeks of Covid safe fun!

Traditional Day Camp with sports, arts/crafts, water play and special events. Tripping Camp with hiking and ice cream. We’ve got goats, chickens, gardens, multiple fields, gyms, cooking kitchens, climbing walls and more!

Mary Stein: 303.377.1805  
[www.dreambigdaycamp.com](http://www.dreambigdaycamp.com)





# Park Hill Golf Course



Left: Community Steering Committee, Kickoff Meeting Feb. 9. Nita Moseby Tyler (top photo) is the group facilitator. Kenneth Ho (2nd photo) is the representative for the property owner, Westside. Imam Abdur-Rahim Ali is from NE Denver Islamic Center (4th photo), Laura Aldrete (5th photo) is director of Denver Community Planning and Development.

Right: The Save Open Space (SOS) group held a press conference at Park Hill Golf Course on Oct. 22, 2019. Former Mayor Wellington Webb is the speaker.



## Neighbors Speak Out

By Carol Roberts

The Park Hill Golf Course land may not be close enough to your home to make its future feel like a pressing issue—but it may, soon enough, be in front of you.

You may need to decide if you'll help—or not help—to put it on a Denver citywide ballot. Will you have enough information to make a decision that's in keeping with your values? In a state with citizen-initiated ballot questions, you may have just a moment to make that decision as you enter the grocery store.

The Northeast Denver neighbors pictured here are participating in democracy, with strongly held views being expressed on both sides of the Park Hill Golf Course land question. Here's some background and a look at the positions.

In 1997 under Mayor Wellington Webb's administration, City Council voted to pay \$2 million for a "conservation easement" on the privately-owned Park Hill Golf Course land. The conservation easement requires that the property be used solely, or at least primarily, as an 18-hole golf course. Westside Investment Partners purchased the land in 2019 with an agreement that they would take three years to explore non-golf-course uses the community may desire. After that, lacking a City Council-approved plan for other uses, the City, as the holder of the conservation easement, can require Westside to restore the land to a golf course.

Save Open Space Denver (SOS) organized four years ago to keep the land as greenspace and oppose any future development on the land. To this end, they hoped Denver City Council would refer a question about conservation easements to voters on last fall's ballot. Councilwoman

an CdeBaca proposed the initiative, but Council opposed it 10 - 3.

In December 2020, citizens, backed by SOS Denver and Yes for Parks and Open Space, submitted a petition for an initiated ordinance on conservation easements; they are currently circulating the following petition to get enough signatures to put it on an upcoming citywide ballot:

Shall the voters of the City and County of Denver adopt a measure prohibiting the following without the approval of voters in a regularly scheduled municipal or special election:

- any commercial or residential development on land designated as a city park and land protected by a City-owned conservation easement except where consistent with park purposes, conservation easement purposes, or for cultural facilities, and
- any partial or complete cancellation of a City-owned conservation easement unless for the purpose of creating a new park?

In a Zoom press conference on Feb. 8, SOS Denver spokesman Woody Garnsey, a Park Hill resident and retired lawyer, argued that a legal decision whether the conservation easement can be lifted needs to occur *before* the City should spend taxpayer resources on a Community Steering Committee to get input—and he called for the City to "cease and desist" from that planning process. Spokesperson Tony Pigford said he thinks this "can be characterized as a real estate joint venture with Hancock and Westside to have land developed" and he stated the City has created "a sham process where there's already a predetermined outcome."

We talked to other community members and two City Council members who told us they support the City's "visioning" process:

District 9 Councilman Chris Herndon—"I voted no on the proposed ballot question 1) because community leaders said there hadn't

been outreach about it in Northeast Park Hill. 2) I couldn't think of anything that remotely compares as a precedent to do a citywide vote on something that's this specific to a particular neighborhood. 3) Yes, every individual gets a vote and that's equal, but it's not equitable to the people in NE Park Hill, a community that has been historically marginalized. The primary voice and the decision-making should come from those people that are in that community."

At-large Councilwoman Robin Kniech—Speaking at a NE Park Hill Coalition meeting on Feb. 11, Kniech said her own life experiences as a part of the LGBTQ community showed why this measure shouldn't be referred to the ballot. "When a community has experienced oppression, using majority votes is not equitable. Democracy means majority wins. We didn't win anti-discrimination through majority votes. Due to redlining history, I think the community deserves to have a leading voice, and a ballot measure doesn't allow that to occur." Kniech also stated she thought the measure was poorly written in terms of the City's Charter.

Imam Abdur-Rahim Ali, Northeast Denver Islamic Center (located a block from the golf course land)—"We want to revitalize the community and rebuild the community where we have what we need like any other community would have—affordable housing, grocery store, restaurants, a nice park. Diversity is very important to us, and we want the equity that comes with that. This idea of 155 acres—the space is ludicrous. I think a 60-acre park

is very generous. But this idea, "Hooray for me and screw you, we want 155 acres," that's not going to work. It's not working. We will fight them forever on that, because it's just illogical."

Andy Sense, a Park Hill resident who served on the BluePrint Denver Task Force and the East Area Planning Steering Committee—"Literally nobody opposes protecting greenspace, so SOS is being predictably disingenuous when they try to frame it that way. Greenspace needs to be protected and incorporated into neighborhoods containing people who might make use of it. It should not be an isolated swath of land that most people will only ever drive their cars to. Welcoming and diverse communities should be fighting FOR mixed-use, transit-adjacent, affordable housing with the caveat that any planning decisions must start and end with equity as the primary concern—and that neighbors who have traditionally been left out of the discussion are the prioritized voices at the table. Instead of saying no to all development, let's talk about the role greenspace plays in the creation of complete neighborhoods. Public greenspace matters. Denver needs housing. We should fight for both."



The East Denver Golf Club was formed in 1942 by a group of African Americans from east Denver who played out of City Park Golf Course. Robert Shearer, who leased the Park Hill Golf Course land from the City of Denver and built the club in 1931 "enforced his own rules...regarding...who could play..." In 1961, a racial discrimination lawsuit by four members of the East Denver club and the "unstated threat from Denver to cancel Park Hill's lease led the club to cease its discriminatory practices." 1945 photo by Tom Woodard. *Golf in Denver - Images of Sports* by Rob Mohr and Leslie Mohr Krupa

## TREE SERVICES

Pruning • Planting • Removal  
Stump Grinding & More • Free Estimates



Rojas Tree Services, LLC  
**720-827-5588**  
Local References

## AUDIO VIDEO SOLUTIONS

EXPERIENCE ULTIMATE HOME PICTURE AND SOUND  
Serving Central Park, Lowry & Park Hill  
Local • Trusted • Experts



Chad Roberts 720.220.2899  
Brennan Alden 720.508.0765  
[www.wave-audiovideo.com](http://www.wave-audiovideo.com)

## COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL CLEANING

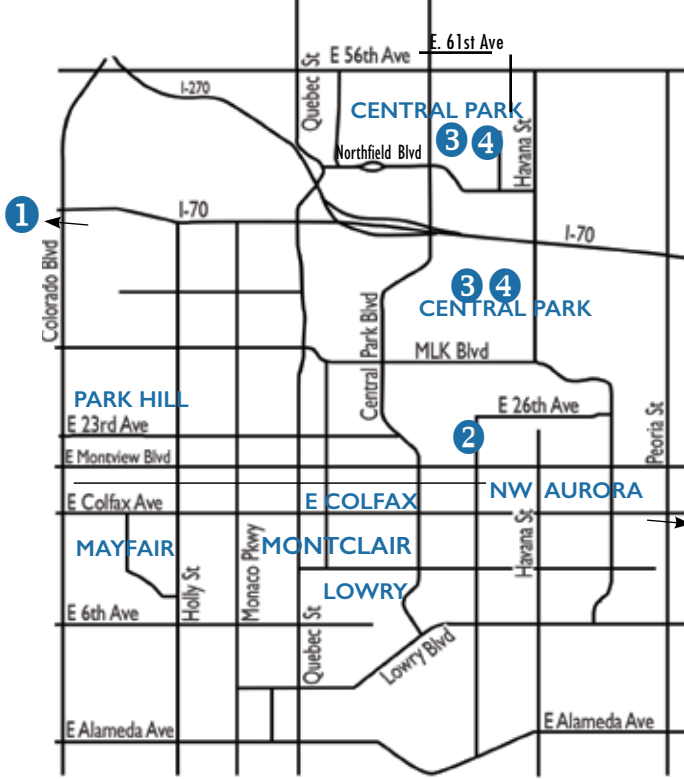
Excellent Rates & References  
Weekly/Bi-weekly/Monthly  
One Time Only Cleans



Juana Ramos - White Magic Cleaning  
Cell: 720-371-3290 | Home: 303-355-9150



# ...NE News Updates



By Carol Roberts

## 1 Central 70 Drainage System Nearing Completion; Traffic to Move to Below-Ground-Level Lanes



This photo shows the interior of the Central 70 storm water pump system. Photo courtesy of CDOT

The new below-ground-level lanes on Central 70 between Brighton and Colorado Blvds. will have a storm water system robust enough to keep the roadway drained during a 100-year storm. Water will be diverted to an underground pump station (photo at left and on p. 2) that will then send the water to a detention pond to be tested and treated before being released into the South Platte River. Water from the pump station can also be used to suppress vehicle fires. That water will be diverted into a separate section of the pump station where it will be sent to a large tank for testing to determine if it needs further treatment or can join the rest of the storm water. Once the pump station is operational, projected as soon as this spring, traffic will be rerouted to the new below-ground-level lanes, and demolition of the old viaduct can commence. Storm water from the four-acre park above the new roadway will also drain to the pump station. Visit [c70.codot.gov](http://c70.codot.gov) for more info.

## 2 168 Apartments Coming to Stanley

The Stanley Residential apartments will be two five-story buildings that, side by side, create a W shape. The east end of the complex faces Dallas St. at E. 23rd Ave., with the north side facing Stanley Marketplace. The west end faces Westerly Creek, where there's a trail to Stanley Marketplace. Approximately 4,000 sq. ft. of retail will be built on the ground level at 23rd and Dallas—with 4,000 sq. ft. of apartment amenities at 23rd and Clinton. The units are built one story above ground level, providing 157 parking spaces on the ground level.

The interiors pick up on the aviation theme of Stanley

Stanley Residential will bring 168 apartments to the the southern portion of Stanley property, with retail planned along Dallas and parking on the ground level under the raised buildings.

Below right: One of four buildings in the 2201 Clinton complex being built by Trammell Crow. The complex will have 338 units.

and the compact space-saving design of aircraft, with built-in space-saving features such as: fold-down tables, cubbies, fold-down counters, sliding walls and Murphy beds. The plans point out that replication of these functional components in all units is both cost-effective and adds "design flavor."

The units include: 44 micro units (353 – 358 sq. ft.); 80 1-bedroom units (522 – 670 sq. ft.); and 44 2-bedroom units (813 – 982 sq. ft.)

The project owner is the Westfield Company with architecture by Shears Adkins Rockmore. Jonathan Alpert of Stanley Residential says construction is expected to start mid-April and occupancy is projected for late Summer 2022.

The new apartments featured last month at 2201 Clinton St. are just across the street from Stanley Residential (both renderings are above). The two complexes together will bring 506 new units to the two blocks just south of Stanley.

## 3 Special District Taxes in Central Park. How Much Is the Debt and When Will it Be Paid Off?

Special districts submit an annual report to the state's Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). The Park Creek Metro District's (PCMD) 2020 report posted on the DOLA website shows \$51,669,250 reaches maturity in 2041 and another \$1.8 million matures in 2044. In 2051, \$172,710,000 will reach maturity.

Special district tax rates are unlikely to be reduced in any significant way until debt is paid off. After the debt is paid, Central Park will continue to have a special district tax to cover continuing maintenance of community facilities including pools, pocket parks and alleys.

Approximately 10% (310 acres) is under development now or



Renderings courtesy of the builders.



remains to be developed. Of the 310 acres, approx. 122 acres are residential for sale, the rest are rental or commercial uses. *Front Porch* has submitted an extended list of questions to PCMD about Central Park's infrastructure development and debt; we hope to have those answers by next month.

## 4 Westerly Creek Metro District collects your taxes. It has a vacancy on its board. Central Park residents can apply by 3/19.

More detail on Central Park's special districts is posted with this article at [FrontPorchNE.com](http://FrontPorchNE.com). In short, WCMD is a legal taxing district with a board now entirely composed of community residents. It is legally obligated to bring into its boundaries all the Stapleton Airport land the developer purchases from Denver and pass the collected tax revenue to Park Creek Metro District (PCMD).

WCMD tax revenue is used to fund local neighborhood development (neighborhood streets, alleys, pocket parks, pools). Tax increment financing (TIF) generated from 2000 to 2025 pays for trunk infrastructure including primary roads, drainage, water and sewer lines, and parks. PCMD is solely responsible for the financing and construction of all infrastructure in Central Park.

To view the legal announcement of the board vacancy, go to the NE Updates article at [FrontPorchNE.com](http://FrontPorchNE.com). Central Park residents interested in being on the WCMD board should email a letter to [mmurphy@wbapc.com](mailto:mmurphy@wbapc.com) by March 19 with the reasons you want to be on the board. Visit WCMD's website at <https://westerlycreekmetro.org/>



The Modena Cherry Creek is NOW OPEN and is setting a new standard in resident safety and engagement. With a lifestyle curated to improve your overall health and well-being, Modena Cherry Creek elevates the entire senior living experience.

20%  
OFF\*

Full-Service Window Cleaning

"Windows so clean you'll forget they're there!"

REFLECTION

Windows & Doors

[www.reflectionwindows.com](http://www.reflectionwindows.com)

303.426.4474

\* The full-service window cleaning experience includes interior, exterior, screens and tracks. Up to 15 windows for \$149, \$7 for each additional window.

IT'S TAX TIME!

Let me Help. Call Now.

Dori Suess CPA, MBA LLC

720-635-1040 • [DoriCPA@gmail.com](mailto:DoriCPA@gmail.com)

MODENA

CHERRY CREEK

Secure over \$20,000 in Lifetime Savings | 720.704.1994

Now leasing at [MODENACHERRYCREEK.COM](http://MODENACHERRYCREEK.COM)



# Sue Stomps into

a dozen injuries and evidence of an infection in Sue's jaw that ultimately may have been the cause of death. "We've learned a lot from Sue, but there are still many unanswered questions," says Morris. "Did dinosaurs have feathers? Did they have lips? Was Sue male or female? And what were Sue's tiny arms used for?"

Sue, named for the woman who discovered the fossil in South Dakota in 1990, is permanently housed at the Field Museum in Chicago. The traveling exhibit also includes a full-size replica of a Triceratops, a fierce rival of the T. rex in the Late Cretaceous period. The Triceratops was a heavily armored creature with a large bony frill on the back of its

head and three large horns protruding above its snout.

The Denver Museum has used the Sue exhibition to display some of its own fossils including a Torosaurus, a rare cousin of the Triceratops, which was unearthed in Thornton in 2017. Named "Tiny" by the students at the school adjacent to the site where the dinosaur was found, the fossil is the most complete Torosaurus ever unearthed and has never before been exhibited at the museum. Also on display are the tail and leg bones of a T. rex discovered in Littleton.

Morris says the exhibit serves to remind visitors that the museum is more than just a place where



Front Porch photos by Christie Gosch

3-D exhibits designer, Charlotte Wallis, puts the finishing touches on a life-size replica of a Tyrannosaurus rex, one of the largest predators to ever roam the earth.

By Mary Jo Brooks

More than 60 million years after dinosaurs roamed Colorado, a Tyrannosaurus rex has returned to the region to thrill and enlighten visitors of all ages at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. "Sue the T. rex Experience" features the largest, best-preserved Tyrannosaurus rex ever discovered. The exhibition includes an exact cast of Sue's skeleton measuring 40 feet in length, touchable bronze casts of Sue's bones, a full-size replica of a T. rex devouring a smaller duck-billed dinosaur, and giant video screens with animations of Sue's swampy

habitat. There's also a simulator to hear and feel the vibrations of Sue's mighty roar and an interactive computer game to test one's "Sue I.Q."

Vince Morris, an educator and guide at the museum, says the exhibit highlights new science that is emerging about the Tyrannosaurus rex. Sue's skeleton features belly ribs, called gastralia, which make the dinosaur appear more barrel-chested than previously believed. In a multi-media light presentation, audiences learn that Sue lived to be quite old—28 years—despite the fact that the skeleton shows more than



Jay Epperson

Realtor® | Compass  
303.886.6606  
jay.epperson@compass.com

5280 Top Real Estate Producer



After this challenging year is your child struggling with Reading, Writing, Spelling and Math skills?

Our camps build academic skills, self esteem and confidence for students who struggle in reading, writing and spelling or have dyslexia. They learn and THRIVE.

- 5-week Orton-Gillingham Intervention program
- June 7–July 16, 8:45am–12:00pm
- Reading intervention (1-1 or small group max 4)
- Limited financial aide
- Tutoring options
- 2 on-site locations or a virtual option

Denver  
1091 S. Parker Rd  
(Leetsdale near Quebec)  
Denver, CO 80231

Littleton/Lakewood  
3898 S. Teller St  
(Wadsworth & Hampden)  
Lakewood, CO 80235

www.EveryChildReading.org  
720-288-7396  
4EveryChildReading@gmail.com



**Diane Gordon**  
DESIGN

BASEMENT FINISH  
KITCHENS • BATHS  
WHOLE HOUSE REMODELS

303.355.5666 | DIANEGORDONDESIGN.COM





# Denver

items are on display, it's a vibrant research center where scientists are constantly making new discoveries. "We want to inspire future paleontologists. Colorado was once a hot-spot for T. rexes and Triceratops, so there are likely many more fossils out there just waiting to be discovered," says Morris.

Since the 100-day closure that followed the initial stay-at-home orders last March, the Denver Museum of Nature and Science is open every day at 25% capacity, with mask and social distancing requirements. The Sue exhibit requires an additional fee for a timed ticket for entry. Sue will be on display until April 25.



In 2017, construction workers in Thornton discovered the bones of a *Torosaurus*, which is now being studied at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. A replica of that skeleton is now on display on the second floor of the museum, and this *Torosaurus* appears in a mural in the Sue exhibit.

View a video of the Sue exhibit at [FrontPorchNE.com](http://FrontPorchNE.com)



Left: The head of a Triceratops was one-third the length of its entire body and sported three large, forward-jutting horns, and a menacing studded frill on top.

Above: Large video screens featuring a variety of dinosaurs show what Sue's world probably looked like 67 million years ago in the late Cretaceous period.



Right: Sue is the most intact *Tyrannosaurus rex* ever discovered with 90% of the fossil recovered. The skeleton features belly ribs (called gastralia) which helped the dinosaur breathe. Scientists believe the jaws of the T. rex were so powerful they could crush a car.

## How Does COVID-19 Affect the Aging Brain?

Research Study Investigates Aging, Memory, and Immune Function.

The University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus is looking for interested adults 60+ to participate in a research study examining how inflammation influences memory and thinking. This study is seeking older adults who have recovered from COVID-19 AND older adults who have never tested positive for COVID-19. Data gathered from this study will be used to better understand how inflammation and COVID-19 exposure impact brain health and aging outcomes.

Participation involves two research visits over the course of two years. Procedures Include: • Memory and thinking tests • Health history questionnaires • Blood sample • Spinal fluid sample • MRI of brain • SARS-CoV-2 antibody test (results provided)

You may qualify if you are: 60 years or older; In good general health; Have NOT been diagnosed with a memory disorder; Compensation Provided

Please contact Neurology Research Partners at 303-724-4644 or [NeurologyResearchPartners@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:NeurologyResearchPartners@cuanschutz.edu) to learn more.

Brianne M Bettcher COMIRB#: 18-2607

## CREATING BEAUTIFUL SMILES IN DENVER!

Dr. Trommeter is passionate about creating healthy, beautiful smiles. He makes education a priority for his patients and spends ample time providing honest answers and modern solutions. As northeast Denver's highest rated Invisalign provider, he is capable of making treatment discreet, effective, and schedule friendly.

CALL FOR A COMPLIMENTARY DIGITAL TREATMENT SIMULATION.

Offering the choice of braces or Invisalign® for children and adults.

TROMMETER  
ORTHODONTICS

8354 NORTHFIELD BOULEVARD, SUITE 2730, DENVER, CO 80238  
720.420.4320 | [WWW.TROMMETERORTHO.COM](http://WWW.TROMMETERORTHO.COM)





# Big buys are afoot!

Working, learning, and playing at home has buyers looking for **bigger spaces** to kick up their feet. (Yes, the pun is intended!)

Sellers have enjoyed **big gains** in home values in recent years and many have **big equity cushions** to use now for those **bigger purchases**.

Add that to the **big purchasing power** from our ultra low interest rates and we get a **big surge in the luxury market**.

Is it your time to make a **big move**?



Give us a shout and we can plan your next (foot) steps!

• • • •  
• • • •  
• • • •

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

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

COMPASS

NPRE is a team of real estate agents affiliated with Compass. Compass is a licensed real estate broker in Colorado and abides by equal housing opportunity laws. Rules & Exclusions apply. Compass offers no guarantee or warranty of results. Subject to additional terms and conditions. Interest rate data provided by NerdWallet Daily 10/20/20