

Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

NORTHEAST DENVER

NOVEMBER 2021



Front Porch photo by Christie Gosch

Penguins Get a New Home

Zookeeper Travis Garrett assists the Denver Zoo's African Penguin colony to get acclimated to their new habitat, opened to the public on September 30, 2021. The colony consists of 17 penguins. Next year the staff hopes to expand the colony, either through breeding or acquisition, to its full capacity of 25 birds.

African Penguins, who are endangered on their native continent, face a slew of challenges in the wild including humans encroaching on their habitat, threats from other avian species, and overfishing. However, a colony at the Denver Zoo is living large in a new state-of-the-art home complete with a rocky beach and 10,000-gallon wave pool.

Story on page 7 by Tracy Wolfer Osborne.



Front Porch file photo by Steve Larson

It's Nov. 2021. Are You Ready to Apply for College?

Tours like the one shown above at Metro State in Denver help students find the right fit in their college search. College planning counselor Jeff Ederer recommends also sitting down in the cafeteria and asking students to talk about their college experiences. Story on page 14 by Martina Will, PhD.

Upcoming Development in Central Park



Front Porch photo by Christie Gosch

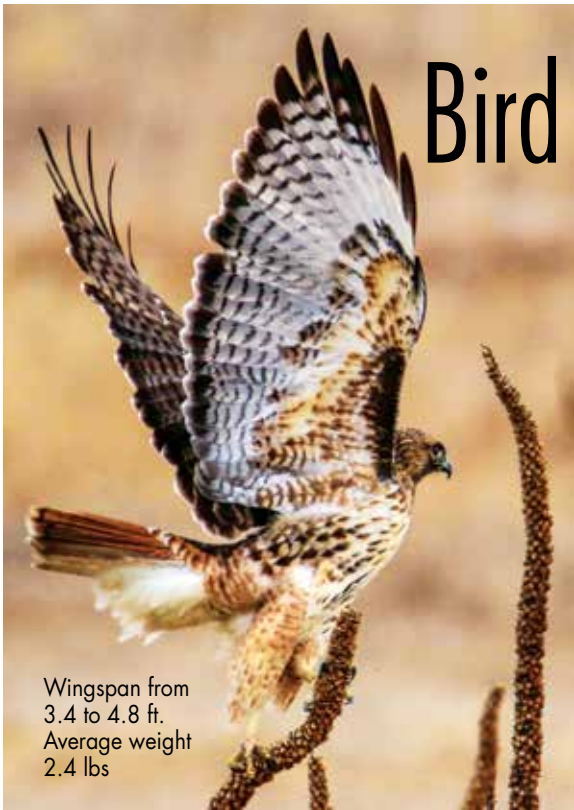
Construction is underway at the Runway North development (above), located just south of I-70 at Central Park Blvd. Much of Central Park is already built out, but significant projects remain on the undeveloped land. Our graphic on page 13 shows the location, type, and size (where known) of 19 remaining projects.

Battles Over Election Laws

Story on page 4 by Tracy Wolfer Osborne

Youth Mental Health Crisis

Story on page 8 by Mary Jo Brooks



Bird Sightings

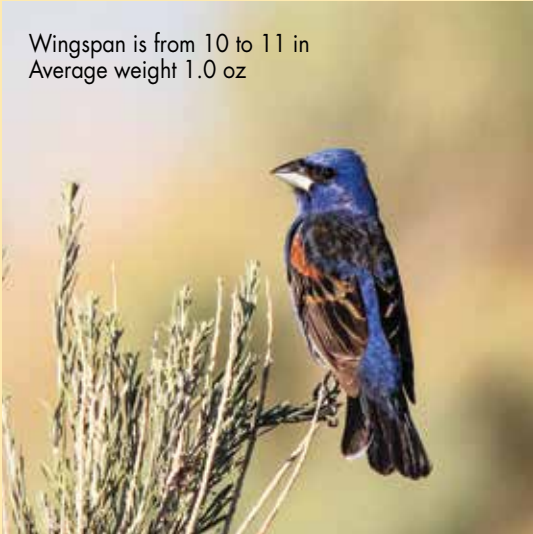
Red-tailed Hawk

The red-tailed hawk is the most common hawk in North America. Red-tailed hawks are year-round residents in Colorado. They perch atop telephone poles, eyes fixed on the ground for the movements of a vole or a rabbit. They are more often seen soaring above open fields, slowly turning circles on their broad, rounded wings. Visit FrontPorchNE.com to read a photo story of a hawk catching its dinner (a vole), by George Ho.



Blue Grosbeak

The male is blue with two brown wing bars. The female is mainly brown with scattered blue feathers on the upperparts and two brown wing bars. Blue Grosbeaks winter in Central America and breed in the southern United States and northern Mexico.



Wingspan is from 10 to 11 in
Average weight 1.0 oz
Photos and information by George Ho

Bird Walks

Nov. 6 and Dec. 4, 8 – 10am. Join George Ho and other bird experts for a free guided walk around Bluff Lake. All are welcome. Bring your own binoculars or borrowed ones will be available. 11255 MLK Blvd. BluffLake.org



HOUSE CLEANING

Many Central Park & Park Hill References

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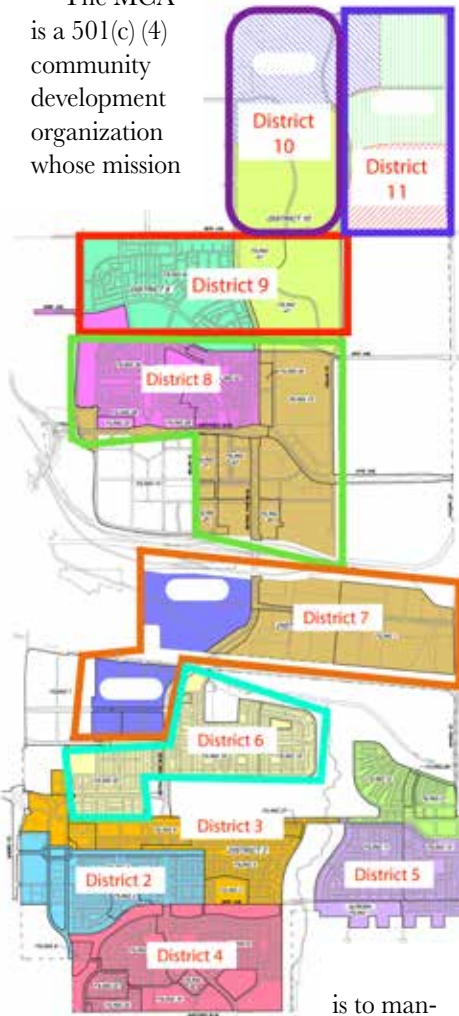
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2021 Annual Members' Meeting & Delegate Election

Notice is hereby given that the 2021 ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING and DELEGATE ELECTION for THE MASTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC. the "MCA" will be held on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2021, AT 6:30 PM, via an online web seminar which members can join and observe via www.mca80238.com.

The MCA is a 501(c) (4) community development organization whose mission



is to manage the neighborhood through comprehensive programs, events, and facilities maintenance. All owners of real property located within the development boundaries are automatically members of the MCA consistent with Article 33.3 Colorado Common Interest Act and support its mission through monthly assessments levied to all property with-

in the neighborhood boundaries. A meeting notice and Delegate ballot will be mailed to Members directly. Consistent with MCA by-laws, Members are required to elect ELEVEN (11) community Members to serve as District Delegates for the consecutive year. Delegate responsibilities include ratifying the MCA's 2023 annual budget and electing all open executive board seats.

A "Delegate" is defined in the Community Declaration as the natural person selected by Members within a Delegate District to represent such Delegate Districts and cast votes on behalf of Members within such Delegate District.

The purpose of the Delegates is to consider proposed community operational budgets. The "CCIOA budget" process allows for a veto by certain Delegates, of a proposed budget adopted by the executive board, as provided for in the Community Declaration. In the event any proposed budget is rejected, the budget last ratified is continued until such time as a subsequent budget proposed by the executive board is ratified.

Nominating a Delegate: Any Member can nominate themselves or another Member up until the Annual Members' Meeting. Any Member wishing to challenge their sitting Delegate prior to the annual meeting notice must submit a completed nomination form no later than November 1st. Any seat that has more than one nomination at the printing of the annual meeting notice will be listed as "contested" and all the voting for that seat will occur at the Annual Members' Meeting. If a quorum of the district is not present at the Annual Members' Meeting, then voting will continue until the following Delegate meeting scheduled.

Join the MCA Crew!

The MCA is currently seeking friendly, reliable, collaborative, and hardworking crew members to join our team. Crew members' responsibilities include assisting customers and collaborating with co-workers and leadership

to complete all daily tasks. Applicants should be passionate about customer service and enjoy working in a fast-paced, community-driven environment. Visit bit.ly/mcacrew for all open job descriptions and more information.



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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.

A woman and two children are walking through a tunnel of colorful Christmas lights at night. The woman is in the center, holding the hands of a girl on her left and a boy on her right. They are all looking up at the lights. The tunnel is made of metal arches covered in strings of multi-colored lights. The ground is covered in snow.

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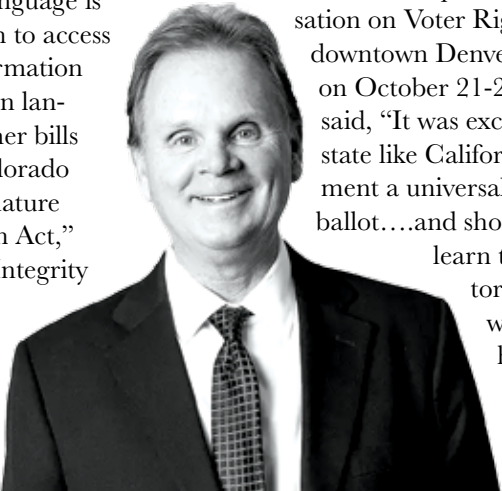
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By Tracy Wolfer Osborne

Since 2020—a year that saw a once-in-lifetime pandemic and a contested presidential election—nearly all states have introduced or passed election legislation. Politicians and advocates on the left claim new laws are a way to further suppress already disenfranchised communities of color while politicians and advocates on the right claim increased scrutiny is needed to restore faith in an election system that became upended, inviting voter and election fraud.

Governor Jared Polis Signs Eight Election Bills into Law

Since the beginning of Colorado’s General Assembly in January, Gov. Jared Polis has signed eight voting and election bills into law including one that will increase access for voters with disabilities and one that will make it easier for people whose primary language is not English to access ballot information in their own language. Other bills titled, “Colorado Ballot Signature Verification Act,” “Election Integrity and Voter Accuracy,” and “Improve Public Confidence Election Validity”—all sponsored by Republicans—failed to make it into law. A complete list of bills introduced during the 2021 legislative session concerning election laws and redistricting can be found on the Colorado Legislature’s



John Gleason said, “Colorado has one of the best regulatory systems” for disciplining lawyers. Photo courtesy of John Gleason



Mayor Michael Hancock and Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot introduced their National Nonpartisan Conversation on Voter Rights through a virtual press conference on Oct. 6. Hancock said a “tidal wave of voter suppression bills introduced in 49 states were an attempt to pack and crack people of color through gerrymandering to dilute their voices in elections.”

Battles Over Election Laws

website (linked in this article at FrontPorchNE.com).

Mayors Hancock and Lightfoot to Co-Chair National Nonpartisan Conversation on Voter Rights

In Denver, Mayor Michael Hancock, teamed with Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot to host the National Nonpartisan Conversation on Voter Rights at the downtown Denver Sheraton on October 21-23. Hancock said, “It was exciting to see a state like California implement a universal vote-by-mail ballot....and shocking to learn that legislators in 49 states were working hard introducing more than 400 bills...with expansive provisions to restrict access to voting. Eighteen [states] have already enacted laws that will make it harder for Americans to vote. It is the goal of the National Conversation to end gerrymandering, ensure safe access to

the ballot box, prevent partisan efforts to diminish voter access, and arm participants with the tools they need to reverse these restrictions.”

The lineup for the Nonpartisan Conversation on Voter Rights—which included big names such as former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, Senator Amy Klobuchar, and keynote speaker Magic Johnson did not include anyone from the Republican Party.

Colorado Attorneys Alleging Election Fraud Sanctioned in Federal Court

Since the contested presidential election, lawyers claiming election fraud have been sanctioned throughout the country. In August, a federal judge sanctioned two Colorado attorneys, Ernest Walker and Gary D. Fielder. The partners, who filed a class-action lawsuit claiming widespread election fraud, were seeking \$1,000 damages on “behalf of every American voter.” Magistrate Judge N. Reid Neuriter, who called the suit “disorganized and fantastical” and “litigation by cut and paste,” ordered them to pay the attorney

fees and expenses for the defendants, which include leaders from several states, Dominion Voting Machines, and Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg. On their website (linked in this FrontPorchNE.com article), Walker and Fielder discuss next steps including their appeal. Walker says, “If you take a look at the judge’s ruling, it becomes pretty evident that the court looked at the facts as parroted by the mainstream media as opposed to facts that were actually admitted into court.” Fielder says, “The judge wants to sanction us specifically to send the message for other parties like our clients and other attorneys like us to not bring any lawsuits alleging election fraud.”

Colorado attorney, John Gleason, says, “Colorado has one of the best regulatory systems in

the country. In Colorado, the State Supreme Court regulates attorneys, judges, and magistrates. For 14 years, Gleason worked for the State Supreme Court investigating lawyers who brought frivolous cases. “Every lawyer can be disciplined for filing lawsuits without a factual or legal basis,” says Gleason. Sanctions can include censure, suspension, disbarment, or being banned from ever filing a case within the state again. And, of course, some of the penalty is that the punishment is public. I think a culture was created where people associated with Trump...believed they were untouchable, and they’re now finding out they’re very touchable. Giuliani [whose license was recently suspended] is an example of that. There’s a lot of delusional people out there.”

“I think a culture was created where people associated with Trump... believed they were untouchable, and they’re now finding out they’re very touchable.”

—John Gleason, attorney

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	Williams Family Dentistry	11
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Energy	Suncor Energy (U.S.A.) Inc.	6
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Neighbors, City of Denver Clash Over Traffic Woes

By Tracy Wolfer Osborne

Approximately 100 frustrated neighbors who live on or near Emporia St. between MLK Jr. Blvd. and E. 26th Ave., just north of the Stanley Marketplace, are trying to mitigate large amounts of traffic flowing through their residential street. Eric Meer, one of the neighbors spearheading the effort, says, “If you want to get to Aurora from MLK, it doesn’t really matter what direction you’re coming from, it’s usually fastest to go down our street because we don’t have lights, and Google directs drivers that way.”

Volunteers from more than 20 households conducted an informal study from 7:15 to 9:45am and 3:30 to 6pm for one week and found that in one hour, an average of 120 cars drove the street in the morning and 192 in the evening. Dana Hoffman, Project Manager at the Department of Traffic and Infrastructure (DOTI), told them by email that they recognize Emporia St. carries more traffic, including large trucks and freight vehicles, than neighboring residential streets; however, two studies—one in April 2019 and one in November 2020—indicate the volume and speed of traffic is within the limits of safety. “[Our] data...showed that 85 percent of vehicles were traveling at or below 26mph (northbound) and at or below 24mph (southbound). The 85 percentile is the threshold we use (and is used nationally as a standard) to assess ‘generalized’ speeding. While you may get some flagrant speeding on occasion, DOTI is only able to address this more generalized form of speeding, [and we’ve] determined there is not a significant speeding issue on Emporia Street, and [we are] not able to take additional action at this time.”

Meer says there’s a problem with their study. “Traffic and speed has increased significantly since 2019, and their latest study was conducted in November of 2020 when people were still largely staying home due to COVID. Of course it’s not accurate.”

Meer says they’re not asking for much. “We think four speed humps would go a long way to fixing the problem.” According to the DOTI website, “DOTI does not install or utilize speed humps for traffic-calming [because] there are other measures that are more effective with fewer negative impacts to the community, including



Rob Price (left) and Eric Meer demonstrate how neighbors from twenty-plus households counted traffic for a week. Price says peak rush hour numbers seem excessive for a narrow residential street with parking on both sides. They believe new retail and apartments being built near Stanley Marketplace will significantly increase traffic and speeding on their street.

challenges for emergency vehicles, noise, cost to frequent users of the roadway, and street maintenance.” Meer asked DOTI to reconsider, citing “The City of Aurora installed two speed humps just across Montview, and it’s working quite well.” Meer says the neighbors will volunteer to pilot speed humps and even offered to pay part of the cost. Hoffman responded in an email that while the city is re-evaluating certain traffic-claiming treatments including the use of speed humps, any future programs will be piloted on streets with bikeways. Meer’s section of Emporia does not include a bikeway.

DOTI has taken some steps to remedy the situation including asking Stanley Marketplace drivers to find alternate routes, installing speed and weight-limit signs, and asking the DPD for a temporary driver-feedback sign, but Meer and his neighbors say those measures have done nothing to mitigate

the issue. “Large trucks continue using our street despite the addition of a ‘No Vehicles Over 7,000 lbs’ sign,” says Meer. “Our police have tried to tackle this issue, but they can’t be here all the time (unlike a speed hump). Speeders tear down our street all hours of the day and night, making any kind of part-timed-manned patrol ineffective. We believe the ‘negative impacts’ referenced are negligible compared to the danger of the increased traffic, aggressive driving, and large trucks. A car with children and a parent inside was sideswiped last year. Just backing out of our driveways is a dangerous endeavor.”

“We’ve been patient for years,” says Meer, who fears the problem will be exacerbated with the completion of three new apartment complexes near the Stanley Marketplace. He and his neighbors are ready to take next steps including reaching out to City Councilman Chris Herndon and teaming up with an equally-frustrated Facebook group of neighbors who represent the 2800 blocks of Emporia Ct. and Emporia St.

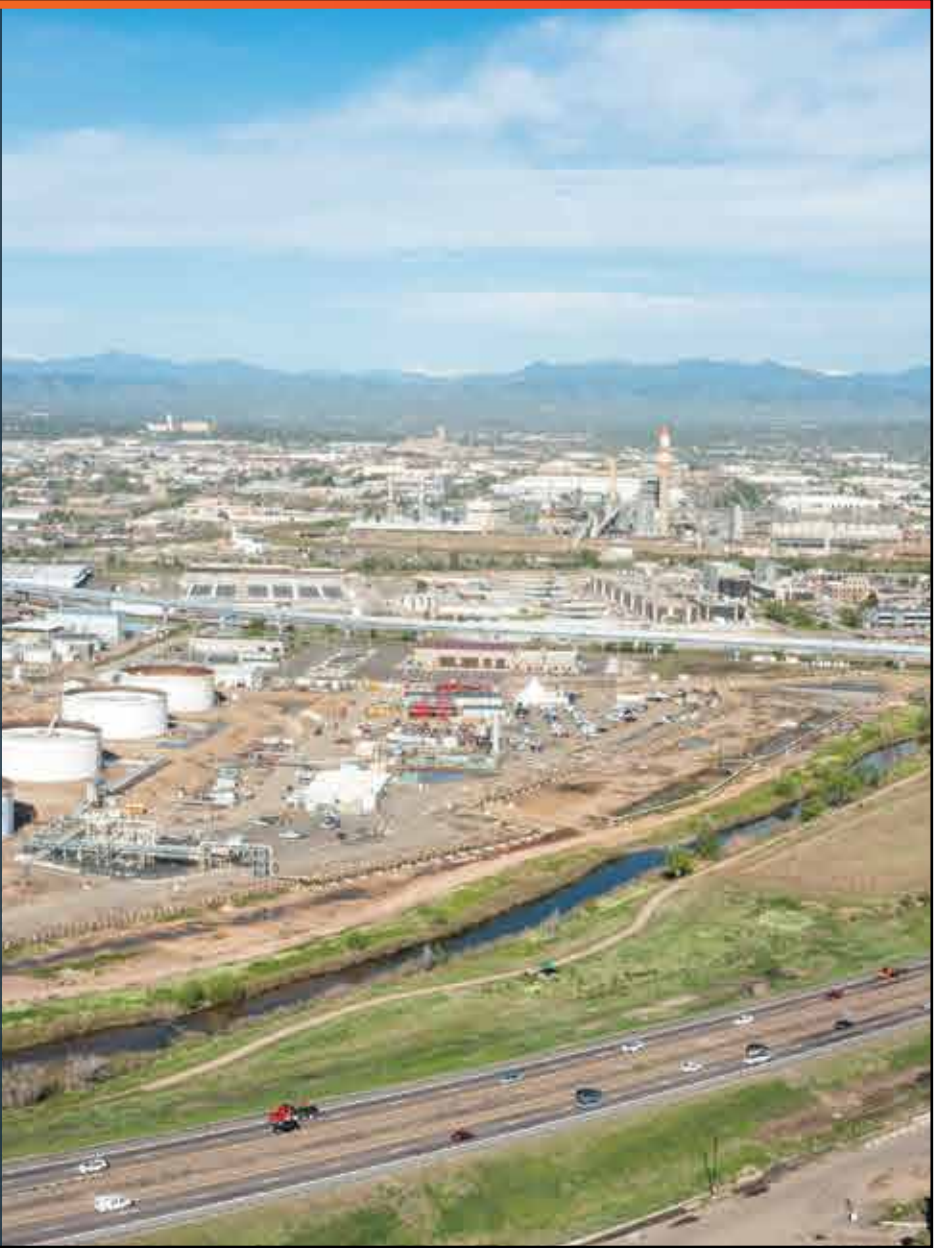
Meer says they’re getting bigger, louder, and better organized, and he remains optimistic that they’ll find the one person who says, “Just give these people their speed humps. Make this problem go away.”



Price and Meer say speed-limit and slow-down signs do little to mitigate the constant speeding.

CCND Air Monitoring is now providing continuous air monitoring information for the Commerce City and North Denver communities.

Learn more at ccnd-air.com. Mobile app coming soon.





A young zoo-goer is just tall enough to peer above the waterline. The penguin's new enclosure includes a rocky beach and a 40-foot, 10,000-gallon wave pool that provides the public with three-and-half feet of underwater viewing.

By Tracy Wolfer Osborne

Seventeen penguins have a new home at the Denver Zoo. The African Penguin has been part of the zoo's menagerie since the opening of Bird World in 1975. But with the now-defunct enclosure slated for demolition next year, the colony needed a new place to call

home. "We transformed part of Predator Ridge—which was housing African mon-goose, porcupine, and a small antelope called Dik Dik—into a state-of-the-art penguin habitat," says John Azua, Head of the Bird Department. The new exhibit, called Pinnacol African Penguin Point, was

modeled after Boulder Beach in South Africa where colonies of endangered African penguins currently live.

"The exhibit is broken into two parts," says Azua. "The west side features a 40-foot, 10,000-gallon wave pool with a state-of-the-art life-support system which includes two five-horsepower centrifugal pumps and four high-rate sand filters that circulate the water before it passes through either a chiller or heat pump to regulate temperature. The pool provides three and half feet of underwater viewing. Penguins will jump out of the water like dolphins; it's called porpoising, and the new exhibit provides a great opportunity to see one or two or the entire colony go for a swim," says Azua. "The east side is a dry land sand exhibit. It's really dynamic and tranquil. The birds are happy and adapting nicely to their new surroundings."

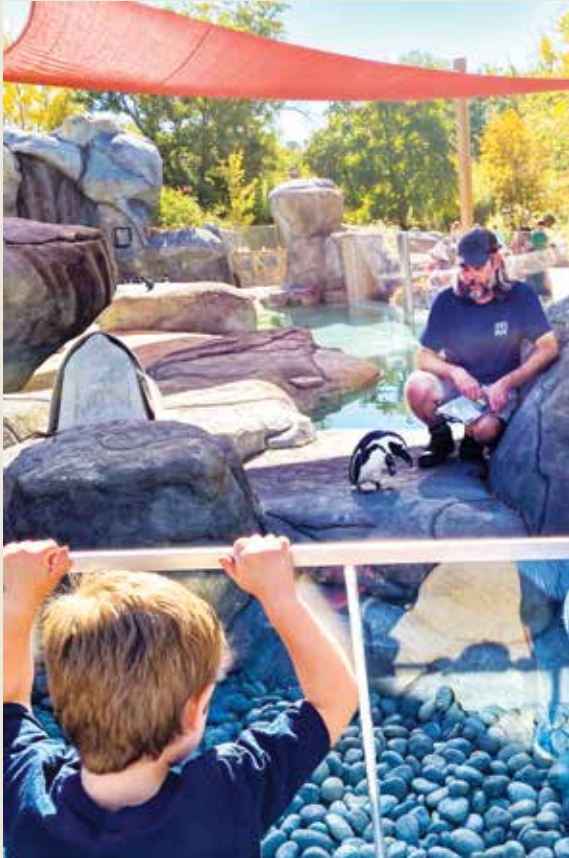
Azua says the current goal is to help the colony, which ranges in ages from two to 30, to fully acclimate to its new habitat. But eventually they'd like to increase the population, which was born entirely in captivity, to 25 birds.

"We have 40 years of successful African Penguin breeding," says Azua. "And beginning in 2022, we'd like to set the colony up for breeding, so we can acquire eight more birds either through reproduction or acquisition from other zoos."

Other goals include continuing their conservation work. "There are about

500 African Penguins in North America," says Azua. "They're part of a Species Survival Plan under the American Zoo Association. Part of our work is sending staff to Cape Town, South Africa to help with a rehabilitation organization called The Southern African Foundation for Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB). Our team will rehabilitate abandoned

African Penguin chicks and release them back to Boulder Beach or other natural habitats," says Azua. "Penguin parents may abandon their chicks for several reasons. Inexperienced pairs or pairs at the end of their breeding season may abandon a chick. Albatrosses, crows, and other avian species may stress out inexperienced parents, causing them to leave; and like so many coastal species, penguins like to nest where humans are, which can cause stress and abandonment. Nursing an abandoned chick back to health so it's capable of being released back into nature can take months," says Azua. To learn more visit <https://denverzoo.org/zootales/new-penguin-exhibit/>.



Maggie, a super-friendly member of the African colony, gets close to Zookeeper Travis Garrett. Maggie became accustomed to humans since she was hand-fed and taken home at night after her parents abandoned her to take care of a sibling.



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Clare Chavez (upper right) says it's been important for her family's mental health to eat meals together, so everyone can talk about their day. Cellphones are never permitted at the table and there are strict limits about when and where cellphones can be used. Photos by Maria Chavez

By Mary Jo Brooks

Jenna Glover doesn't mince words. She says the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a full-blown mental health crisis in children and teens, especially with issues of depression and anxiety. "I'm seeing double the rates I saw pre-pandemic. I've never seen a jump like that in terms of acute mental health problems in my entire career." Glover trains and supervises therapists at Children's Hospital Colorado and is also a clinical psychologist. For years she has led a support group for kids with depression and suicidal thoughts. Before the pandemic, there were about 25 kids on her waitlist. Now that number is 80.

Lowry therapist Sheryl Ziegler has seen a similar increase. "The level of need for mental health services is unprecedented. Parents are so frustrated when they call my office and I have to tell them there's a 3-4 month wait list." Ziegler, who is also the author of "Mommy Burnout," thinks the root of the mental health crisis was the uncertainty and social isolation caused by the pandemic. "Kids are social learners who need routines. The pandemic disrupted all of that with remote learning which led to social isolation and anxiety." And although students are now back in the classroom, she says the mental health impacts are

likely to last for some time.

While both Glover and Ziegler say parents shouldn't be expected to take the place of mental health providers, there are some things parents can do to help kids stabilize. Glover says just getting children and teens back into good routines—where they get enough sleep, nutritious food, and plenty of hydration—can help. "It sounds simple but those really are the foundations for both physical and mental health. It's a foundation for resiliency," says Glover. She also says there are ways to build resiliency with structured family activities—and the more that those activities are outside the better. She suggests finding new playgrounds for younger children, regular walks or bike rides, a family movie night, or a campout. "Anything

Pandemic Impacts on Mental Health Uncertainty & Isolation

where you can help your kids have positive interactions where they're feeling joy, excitement, or delight."

The pandemic also brought new concerns for some parents about how much time kids have been spending on screens, especially on social media accounts such as Instagram, Snapchat, or TikTok. Clare Chavez is the mother of 8 kids, ranging from 22 to 5. "Screens have an addictive quality and so when in-person activities get cancelled, it calls to them to distract them and entertain them." Chavez says she and her husband have always had strict limits about screen time. They wait until their children are 14 or 15 years old before giving them a phone—and then it's a flip-phone, not a smart phone. "We try to introduce phone use gradually and show them it's a tool that can be beneficial or detrimental." They've established digital-free zones: no phones are allowed at the dinner table or in bedrooms, and no phone use after 10pm. "We haven't gotten much pushback, especially once they see that we're not trying to punish them, but we're looking out for what's best for them," says Chavez.

Therapist Ziegler agrees that there should be some limits to screen time, but she says she doesn't see social media as the cause of all evil as she maybe once did. "During the pandemic lockdown, social media was a lifeline for some kids. I think it helped them keep connections with others when they couldn't see them in person." She recommends that parents and children sign a digital contract to navigate

issues. Common Sense Media offers such contracts for free and Ziegler, a mother of three, says she uses them with her own kids. "They're so helpful. It provides a nice neutral way to talk about these issues and it prompts you to review the terms of the contract every 30 or 60 days."

Glover says the recent news reports that Facebook conducted internal research showing that Instagram was unhealthy for teen girls didn't come as a surprise. "We as researchers have known for a long time that social media has the potential to cause higher rates of depression and anxiety. The hard thing is that people want to say that all social me-



When not in use, all cellphones at the Chavez home must remain plugged into a central charging station on the kitchen counter.

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on Are Tough on Kids

dia is bad, and that's just not true," says Glover. She argues that social media can be healthy and likens online content to consuming calories. "Not all digital calories are equal. Some are positive and nourish you and some don't do good things for you. The nourishing content allows kids to express themselves or interact with others. The unhealthy content is passive, where you aren't interacting with others. Passive is watching Tik Tok for 4 hours, not talking to anyone."

In addition to signing a digital contract and having digital-free zones in your house, Glover recommends that parents regularly sit next to their child and ask them about what they're watching, talk about what it means to be a good digital citizen, and discuss privacy and security concerns. She also advises parents to limit kids to just one social media account. "There is research that the larger the number of social media accounts, the greater the increase in depression or anxiety. With multiple accounts, kids have to spend so much time monitoring and curating their digital identity." She says by limiting kids to one account, it takes the burden off the kids and it's easier for parents to check what they're posting. "Some parents want to say all social media is bad. The reality is that it's here, it's part of our lives. So how can we use it in a healthy, effective way?"

"The level of need for mental health services is unprecedented. Parents are so frustrated when they call my office and I have to tell them there's a 3-4 month wait list."

—Sheryl Ziegler, therapist

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Central Park's Final Public Art — *Open House*



Photo by Vicki Kerr

By Barb Neal

A new public art project entitled *Open House*—celebrating housing and families—was recently installed in the Bluff Lake neighborhood. The artist, Ty Gillespie, from Paonia, Colorado, says "Families, children,

and housing are the essence of Central Park and my sculpture is about housing and for families."

Open House is an interactive sculpture that features the framework of two weathered steel house structures connected by a walkway of three roof-shaped

arches. Each 10-foot square house has a front porch and seating inside. One house is quiet; it incorporates a bench from the park design. The other house has a game table and two seats welcoming more activity. An *Open House* sign

in front greets visitors.

This artwork is the final public art project commissioned by Park Creek Metropolitan District with funding from the Denver Urban Renewal Authority (DURA).

Thanks go to the more than 145 people from the Central Park neighborhoods, the arts community, and others who were directly involved in the selection process for these artworks. From *Founders Fountain* (2003) to *Open House* (2021), the community has a public art collection with 15 sculptures that were funded by DURA to explore and enjoy.

For more information about public art at Central Park, please contact Barbara Neal, Public Art Consultant for Central Park, at barbneal@mind-spring.com.

The perfect snow day is coming! Spend your day gliding around the rink, sledding on REAL snow, sipping hot cocoa by a toasty fire and much, much more.

Visit mychildsmuseum.org for more info on our new winter experience, open December 8 – February 27.

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Please double check event dates & times using contact info provided.

SEASONAL/HOLIDAY
EVENTS

11/2 to 12/10—Festival of Wreaths. Benefiting the Aurora Museum Foundation, 15051 East Alameda Pkwy. auroragov.org

11/6-11/7—Urban Holiday Market. 10am-5pm. Skyline Park, 1100 16th St. Mall. coloradoevents.net

11/11 to 12/23—The Polar Express™ Train Ride. Take a Magical Journey and Re-Kindle the Christmas Spirit. Colorado Railroad Museum, 17155 W. 44th Ave. eventvesta.com/events/8932

11/12 to 11/14—Junior League Mile High Holiday Mart. Gates Field House, Univ. of Denver, 2201 E. Asbury Ave., Denver. Hours vary. JLD.org

11/18 to 12/31—Cherry Creek North Winter Wanderland. Cherry Creek North, 2401 E. 2nd Ave, CherryCreekNorth.com

11/19 Friday—Winter Welcome. 6-8pm. Fire pits, s'mores, food trucks and more. Many events require tickets for sale at the MCA ticket booth. 29th Ave Town Center, Central Park. mca80238.com

11/19 to 11/20—Hip Hop Nutcracker. A holiday mash-up for the whole family. Buell Theatre, 1350 Curtis St. denvercenter.org

11/19 to 11/21—34th Annual Holiday Food & Gift Festival. Hundreds of local artisans and vendors. Meet Santa Claus. National Western Complex. hfgf.com

11/19 to 12/23—Denver Christkind Market. Authentic German holiday experience. Civic Center Park, 101 West 14th Ave. ChristkindMarket-Denver.com

11/19 to 12/26—A Christmas Carol. Based on Charles Dickens' classic novel. Wolf Theatre, Speer Blvd & Arapahoe St. denvercenter.org

11/19 to 2/21/22—Winter Skate. Outdoor ice skating with holiday entertainment. 47th & Verbena St. at The Shops at Northfield. shopsat-northfield.com

View and add local events FREE at FrontPorchNE.com/events.
Submissions by the 17th will be considered for printing in the upcoming month's issue.

Nov. & Early Dec. Events

11/20 Saturday—Pumpkin Pie 5K/10K Run/Walk. City Park. 8am. Benefiting the Food Bank of the Rockies. Register or volunteer at pumpkinpie5K.com



The Denver based ArtistiCO Dance Academy is performing on Nov 30 in Fiestas Navideñas at The Newman Center

11/20 to 11/21—Sugar Plum Bazaar. A makers market featuring about 100 vendors from multiple states. The Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas St, Aurora. sugarplumbazaar.com

11/20 to 11/21—Firefly Handmade Holiday Market. 80+ creatively curated artisans. Outdoor music, drinks and food. Old South Gaylord St, Wash Park. fireflyhandmade.com

11/25 Thursday—7th Annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot. Family friendly. Featuring professionally timed 5K runs. Central Park, 8801 M.L.K. Jr Blvd. harvestinghope5k.com

11/25 Thursday—48th Annual Mile High United Way Turkey Trot. Washington Park. Register to run or volunteer at unitedwaydenver.org/turkey-trot

11/27 to 12/24—Colorado Ballet Presents The Nutcracker. The beloved holiday favorite returns. Ellie Caulkins Opera House (14th & Curtis) coloradoballet.org

12/3 to 12/19—Winter Tales. An interactive theater experience for children that brings four classic holiday

stories to life. Factory Five Five, 10255 East 25th Ave. factoryfivefive.com

12/6 Monday—City of Aurora Holiday Tree Lighting. Aurora Municipal Center. auroragov.org

NE DENVER/
NW AURORA
EVENTS

Saturdays—Bluff Lake Welcome Booth & Family Adventure Day. Activities for all ages. Later end-time, fire pit, and s'mores on select weeks. 11255 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. blufflake.org

11/16 Tuesday—In-person Memory Cafe. Guest will be Denver Botanic Gardens. 1:30-3pm. Schlessman Family Library, 100 Poplar St. denverlibrary.org

METRO EVENTS

11/4 & 11/6—The Elixir of Love in Concert. A special collaboration with Central City Opera. The Newman Center for the Performing Arts. 2344 East Iliff Ave. Tickets at denverphilharmonic.org

11/5 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Art District on Santa. 5:30-9:30pm. denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

11/6—Denver Veterans Day “Stationary” Parade & Festival. Redesignated stationary format along 16th Street Mall, 10am-3pm. Fesdenerveteransday.com

11/10 Wednesday—Bold Women. Change History. Dr. Carlotta Walls LaNier. Civil Rights advocate, author and National Women's Hall of Fame Inductee. 1200 North Broadway. historycolorado.org

11/14 Sunday—Music in the Galleries: The Noor Quartet. 1-3pm, free admission. 1250 Bannock St. clyffordstillmuseum.org

11/19 to 11/20—Kicker Monster Truck. Adrenaline-charged, family entertainment. National Western Complex. kickermonstertruck.com.

11/23 Tuesday—Active Minds presents: Native Americans of Colorado. The stories of the original inhabitants of Colorado. Free, 1:30-3:30pm. RSVP: Tobias Keller: 303-873-2038. Limited seating, social distancing, masks required. Garden Plaza of Aurora, 14221 E Evans Ave, Aurora. activeminds.com

KIDS AND FAMILIES

11/3 Wednesday—Mornings at the Museum. Ages 3-6, 10:30-11am. Aurora History Museum, 15051 East Alameda Pkwy. auroragov.org

11/4 & 11/18—After School is Cool at Pauline Robinson Library. 4:15-5:15pm. Kids and teens for arts & crafts and STEM activities. 5575 E 33rd Ave. denverlibrary.org

11/21 Sunday—Spanish Storytime at Tattered Cover Kids. 5pm. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St, Aurora. stanleymarketplace.com

MUSEUMS,
ETC.

November 6, Night at the Museums—FREE from 5-10pm. The following museums are scheduled to participate, and may require advance registration and/or have capacity limitations: The Children's Museum, Clifford Still Museum, Denver Art Museum, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, The Forney Museum of Transportation, Four Mile Historic Park, History Colorado Center, Kirkland Museum of Fine and Decorative Art, Molly Brown House Museum and Wings Over the Rockies Museum. Please check with each museum prior to your visit.

11/5 to 11/13—Denver Arts Week. Celebrating The Mile High City's arts and culture scene with hundreds of events around the city. More info at denver.org/denver-arts-week/

American Museum of Western Art. Advanced tickets required, admission is \$5. 1727 Tremont Pl. anschutzcollection.org

Aurora History Museum. Advanced reservation is required, admission is free. 15051 East Alameda Pkwy. auroragov.org

The Byers-Evans House Museum. Timed tickets required, History Colorado members are free. 1310 Bannock St. Tickets at historycolorado.org

The Children's Museum. Wed-Sun, by reservation only at mychildsmuseum.org

Clyfford Still Museum. SCFD Free Day Thursday, Nov. 18. Reserve tickets in advance. 1250 Bannock St. clyffordstillmuseum.org

Denver Art Museum. Youth 18 & under always free. 100 W 14th Ave. Pkwy. denverartmuseum.org



The 7th Annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot will be on Nov. 25 in Central Park and will benefit Harvesting Hope.

Denver Botanic Gardens. Día de los Muertos celebration Nov. 6. Advanced tickets and member reservations required. 1007 York St. botanicgardens.org

Denver Firefighters Museum. Tues-Sat, 10am-4pm. 1326 Tremont Pl. denverfirefightersmuseum.org

Denver Museum of Nature and Science. New exhibits including *Numbers in Nature: A Mirror Maze*. 2001 Colorado Blvd. Timed tickets required. dmns.org

The Forney Museum of Transportation. Mon, Th-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, noon-5pm. 4303 Brighton Blvd. forneymuseum.org

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Rocky Mountain Arsenal Five-Year Review Report
Final and Available to the Public

The U.S. Army recently completed its latest Five-Year Review (FYR) report for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA), which covers the period of 2015-2020. The FYR process includes a statutory and policy review of the RMA's 1995 and 1996 On-Post and Off-Post Records of Decision (RODs). The RODs provide detailed descriptions of the environmental cleanup approach selected for the site.

The U.S. Army established the RMA in 1942 to produce chemical weapons as a deterrent in World War II. Shell Oil Co. later leased some of those facilities to manufacture agricultural products. Common disposal practices of the time resulted in contamination of the site's soils, structures and groundwater. Contaminants included solvents, metals, pesticides and miscellaneous industrial chemicals.

The purpose of the FYR is to determine whether the RMA's cleanup remains protective of human health and the environment. A critical part of the FYR is to update any changes to environmental standards and to determine if the remedy outlined in the RODs and subsequent Decision Documents remains protective in light of those new standards.

Based on a review of documentation, site inspections and interviews for this FYR cycle, the U.S. Army has determined that the cleanup remains protective of human health and the environment. The EPA concurs with the U.S. Army's findings. Six issues and recommended actions have been identified to be addressed over the next five-year period to ensure the long-term protectiveness of the environmental cleanup.

FYRs at the RMA will be required for the foreseeable future, since the cleanup approach included landfills and consolidation areas which hold contaminated waste from the RMA's cleanup. The next FYR is scheduled to begin in 2025 and be finalized in 2026.

The 2020 FYR final report, along with the protectiveness determinations of the U.S. Army and EPA, is now posted on the RMA's website at www.rma.army.mil. The document is also available for public review by appointment at: RMA Joint Administrative Records and Document Facility, Rocky Mountain Arsenal, 6550 Gateway Road, Commerce City, CO 80022.

For more information, please contact Ms. Patty Lee, RMA, at 303.289.0300, or Patty.I.lee6.civ@mail.mil.



Winter Welcome will be on Friday, Nov. 19 this year at the 29th Ave. Town Center in Central Park.

Four Mile Historic Park. Site of Denver's oldest standing structure. Open Wed–Sun, 10am–4pm. 715 S. Forest St. fourmilepark.org

History Colorado. Some exhibits are timed entry and free with museum admission. 1200 Broadway. More info at historycolorado.org

Kirkland Museum of Fine and Decorative Art. Tue–Sat, 11am–5pm; Sun 12–5pm. Ages 13+ welcome. 1201 Bannock St. kirklandmuseum.org

Molly Brown House Museum. Tue–Sun, 10am–4:30pm. 1340 Pennsylvania St. mollybrown.org

Museo de las Americas. Tue–Fri, noon–6pm. Sat, noon–5pm. Closed Mon & Sun. 861 Santa Fe Dr. museo.org

Museum of Contemporary Art Denver. The LUMINOCITY Gala is Nov. 4. Penny admission 1st Sat. of the month. 1485 Delgany St. mcadenvr.org

National Ballpark Museum. Open during Rockies' home games, 11am–5pm. 1940 Blake St. ballparkmuseum.com

The Urban Farm. Open Fri & Sat, 9am–1pm. Fill out online waiver before arriving. 10200 Smith Rd. theurbanfarm.org

Wings Over the Rockies Museum. Dream – Innovate – Fly exhibit now open. 7711 East Academy Blvd. wingsmuseum.org

PERFORMANCE/THEATRE

Swallow Hill Music Concerts. Various Denver venues. Nov. schedule at swallowhillmusic.org

11/3 to 11/14—Denver International Film Festival. 200+ films, panels, workshops and more. denverfilmfestival.denverfilm.org

11/4 Thursday—Comedian, Singer/Songwriter Jackie Tohn. From Netflix's Glow and Best Leftovers Ever. 7pm. at the JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center, 350 S. Dahlia St. jaamm.eventive.org

Through 11/6—The East Theater Company presents “A Midsummer’s Night Dream”. 1600 City Park Esplanade, facebook.com/events/4904244056305282/?ref=newsfeed

Through 11/7—Cross Words. What's a six-letter word for speeding up an inheritance? Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. vintage theatre.org

11/6 to 12/11—American Son. Explosive new drama examines our nation's racial divide through the eyes of parents on the brink. 1080 Acoma St. curious-theatre.org

11/11 Thursday—Celebrate and Salute with Sound! Kid-friendly, patriotic Veterans day concert. Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E. Alameda Ave. augustanaarts.org

11/13 to 12/18— Ada and the Engine. Jane Austen meets Steve Jobs in this poignant pre-tech romance heralding the computer age. John Hand Theater, 7653 E. 1st Pl. firehousetheatercompany.com

11/14 Sunday—DYAO presents Epic Themes. The Conservatory Orchestra and the String at 4pm. Newman Center, 2344 E Iliff Ave. newmancenterpresents.com

11/19 Friday—Veronica Swift. One of the most irresistibly gifted jazz vocalists of her generation. 7:30pm, Newman Center, Gates Concert Hall. newmancenterpresents.com

11/26 to 12/19— A Very Merry Unauthorized Children’s Scientology Pageant. Absurdly entertaining satirical musical. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. aurorafoxartscenter.org

11/26 to 1/9/22—Rogers and Hammerstein’s Cinderella. The classic musical from the most famous of musical duos. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. vintage theatre.org

11/28 Sunday—Drums of the World. Fun for the entire family. Tickets start at \$10. Boettcher Concert Hall. coloradosymphony.org

11/30 Tuesday—Fiestas Navideñas with Fiesta Colorado, Mariachi Sol de Mi Tierra, and ArtisticO 7:30 pm. Newman Center, Gates Concert Hall. newmancenterpresents.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Denver Public Schools - Volunteer Services. Check out what services are needed at local DPS schools at volunteermatch.org/search/org/110806.jsp

Food For Thought Denver. Striving to eliminate childhood hunger by providing food for students to take home to their family for the weekend. Sign up to volunteer or donate at foodforthoughtdenver.org

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

Project Worthmore. Help bag and deliver fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy, and household necessities to refugees in Denver and Aurora. projectworthmore.org

Reach Out and Read Colorado. Help sort and pack gently-used children's books for underserved families. On the Clayton Early Learning Campus, individuals and groups welcome. Email info@reachoutandreadco.org for details.

Reading Volunteers Needed. Stedman Elementary and Bill Roberts Middle School. More info at partnersin-literacy.org

Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) For volunteer opportunities, email Cathy Law at claw@voacolorado.org

Ronald McDonald House Charities Volunteer. Go to ronaldhouse.org under “How You Can Help” for info.

Sand Creek Greenway Volunteer Opportunities. For more info, email cgarwood@sandcreekgreenway.org or go to sandcreekgreenway.org/upcoming-volunteer-opportunities/

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

Village Exchange Center A non-profit formed to serve immigrants and refugees in the Aurora & Denver. villageexchangecenter.org

Volunteers of America Colorado Branch For volunteer opportunities, email bgulley@voacolorado.org



UNDER THE STARS

CONGRATULATIONS!

The following individuals received a 2021 *be well* award and will be recognized at the 12th Annual *be well* Awards and Community Celebration on January 27, 2022. **Submit 2022 be well Award Nomination by January 3, 2022, at** <https://bit.ly/3FQeUCeBeWellAwards2022>

2020 be well Youth training participants: Sade Houston Avani Houston Daniel Luna Maile Lovett Jai Rogers Jazylyn Rogers Josue Moran Lidia Moran PJ Ricord Shane Giles Elena Becerra Garcia Leilani Ransburg Raul Nava-Bocanegra Azul Nava Susanna Reaville Josephina Lamptey	2019 be well Youth council members: Estrella Avendano Cruz Jyair Poole Jenyfer Garcia Carol Carter Cayden Carter Daniel Luna Josephina Lamptey Josue Moran Sade Houston Avani Houston 2020 Adult be well Block Captains: Lourdes Lozano Lefi Palomino Angélica Vázquez Nereyda	2020 Adult be well Block Captains (continued) Alicia Guillen Melissa Remolina Claudia Patricia Galetto Maria Saldaña Gabriela Jacobo Beryl Jones “Healthy Living Hero” Awards: Kinyata Jackson Community Advocate Award Shean Grimes Community Service Award	“Healthy Living Hero” Awards: (continued) Fit and Nu Nutrition Leadership Award Shanelle Roebuck (Adult) Cayden Carter (Youth) Physical Activity Leadership Award Emma Jackson Preventive Care Leadership Award Pamela Jiner Legacy Award
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The Denver Film Festival is back this year, and it is better than ever. The Festival runs from November 3 – 14 and includes both in-person and virtual screenings. After a completely online festival last year, the 44th annual iteration is a breath of fresh air for the entire Denver community, the film community at-large, and the film-going community everywhere. The options are varied and wide, and they include bigger films/events, international films, documentaries big and small, and great local films. I had the opportunity to review several of the smaller films, documentaries, and local films, and I give you a few of those reviews here. For the entire program and schedule, check out www.denverfilm.org.



Running with My Girls (2021)
A black single mother running for City Council. A longtime, revered, community activist running for City Council. A LatinX woman from one of the most polluted neighborhoods in the U.S. running for City Council. An Afro-Latina running for mayor in a big city that has never elected a woman to that office. This was Denver, 2018.

The feature documentary, directed by Denverite Rebekah Henderson, follows these four women as they run for office with the hope of not only making change in the city, but also with the intention of making history.

The women, in order, are Shayla Richard, Veronica Barela, Candi CdeBaca, and Dr. Lisa Calderón. We live with each of these candidates as they negotiate the long and difficult road from filing their papers, to election night, to runoffs, to the highs and lows of the final results. One never makes it to election day, two others come oh-so-close, and one finally wins her runoff and becomes a City Councilwoman. It is tense, heartbreaking, and

wonderful.

This should be mandatory viewing for everyone in Denver before election night; perhaps it should be mandatory viewing for everyone before any election anywhere. Henderson has intimate access to all of the women, and the personal interviews, the “back-stage pass,” the stage speeches, and the colorful personalities of everyone add up to an engaging, interesting, and sometimes depressing story. We see why they are running and how difficult that run is, including the financial, personal, and professional toll it takes. All along, Henderson never lets us forget the stakes.

Screenings:
Wednesday, Nov. 10: 7pm at the Sie Film Center



Friday, Nov. 12: 4pm at the Sie Film Center
Also available on the Virtual Platform

Subjects of Desire (2021)

“The most disrespected person in America is the Black woman. The most unprotected person in America is the Black woman. The most neglected person in America is the Black woman.” —Malcolm X

Such are the opening words of this illuminating documentary that “explores the cultural shift in North American beauty standards towards embracing Black female aesthetics and features while exposing the deliberate and often dangerous portrayals of Black women in the media.” Written, produced, and directed by Jennifer Holness, the film examines the historical racism of beauty pageants—including the Miss America Pageant that banned black women until 1971—to representations of Black women in movies & TV, print, and online. Interspersed with interviews of models and pageant participants as well as researchers in the field, the film paints an interesting, informative, and alarming picture of the representations.

The personal is not lost in the larger argument, however. The most arresting sequences are of women who tell their stories—stories of being verbally abused in school, to being belittled for their race, to being pigeonholed and categorized as Others. The revelations are powerful, and for young black women, they should act as both warnings and as acts of empowerment. These women fight for themselves when nobody else would, and they turn the tables on everything that is stacked against them. The words of Malcolm X still hold true today, and these women aim to change that. It is empowering for all.

Screenings:

Monday, Nov. 8: 7:15pm at the AMC 9+ CO 10 Theater
Wednesday, Nov. 10: 4:30pm at the Sie Film Center
Also available on the Virtual Platform

Come Back Anytime (2021)

This feature-length documentary features a ramen master who created a “ramen community” in Japan where people come together to eat, live, love, and laugh—all centered around the seemingly simple food. As anyone who has enjoyed ramen knows, or as anyone who doesn’t speak Japanese while trying to order ramen in Japan knows, ramen is not so simple. This wonderful documentary is very much like the food, and we follow along with everyone on the journey. I guarantee you will leave hungry, and not just for food; especially considering the last few years, we leave craving connection.

Screenings:

Wednesday, Nov. 10: 6pm at the AMC 9+ CO 10 Theater
Saturday, Nov. 13: 4:15pm at the AMC 9+ CO 10 Theater
Also available on the Virtual Platform

Vincent Piturro, Ph.D., is a Professor of Film and Media Studies at MSU Denver. Contact him directly at vpiturro@msudenver or follow him on Twitter. For more reviews, search *The Indie Prof* at FrontPorchNE.com.

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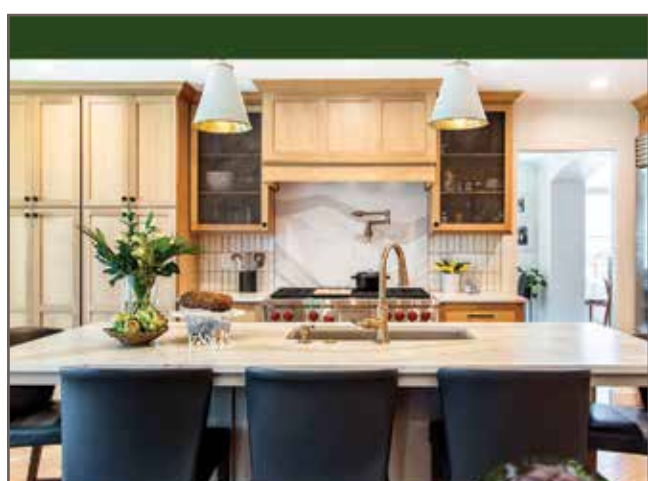
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How Does COVID-19 Affect the Aging Brain? Research Study Investigates Aging, Memory, and Immune Function.

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 to learn more.

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5280 Top Real Estate Producer



By Tracy Wolfer Osborne and Carol Roberts

In response to a request from the Central Park Community Advisory Board to learn of plans for remaining undeveloped properties in Central Park, Jim Chrisman, Senior Vice President of Brookfield Properties, presented the following information to the group on October 7, 2021.

- 1

Industrial by Brookfield
A 200,000 sq. ft. building and a 500,000 sq. ft. building, currently under construction (likely use: some combination of manufacturing, warehousing, distribution and storage)
- 2

Residential by Brookfield
Walk-up apartments
- 3

TBD by Feiner
- 4

Business by Hammes
Medical office building under construction
- 5a

Residential by Brookfield
Apartments (north five acres of lot)
- 5b

Residential by Mile Hi Properties
Income-qualified apartments (south two acres of lot)
- 6

Business by Evergreen
Runway North leases as of June 2021: Chili's, PNC Bank, Raising Cane's, SCL Health Medical Group, Go Church
- 7

Business by Evergreen
Runway South leases as of June 2021: QuikTrip (gas & convenience store), Brandt Hospitality Group (4-story hotel, 106 rooms), Superstar Car Wash

- 9

Business by Sterling Road Properties
Parking
- 10

Residential by Brookfield
Walk-up apartments

- 14

Residential by ReyLenn
Apartments (June 2020 announcement of the project said four stories, 307 units)
- 15

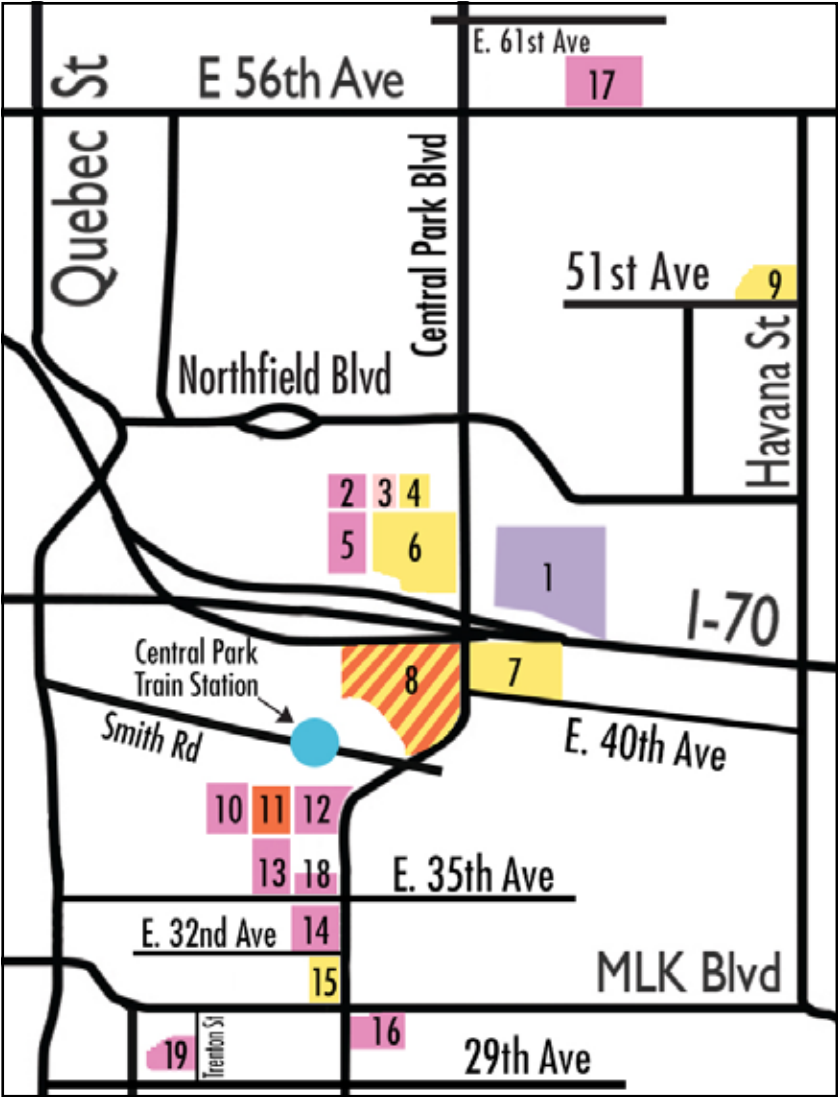
Business by FireTree Investments
Natural Grocers, retail, drugstore
- 16

Residential by Price Development
Apartments (five-stories, 288 units)
- 17

Residential by ReyLenn
Apartments (June 2020 announcement of the project said four stories, 246 units)
- 18

Residential by Northeast Denver Housing
Income-qualified apartments
- 19

Residential by CIM
For-sale townhomes



- Industrial
- Residential
- Mixed-use Residential and Business
- Business
- TBD

Note: Brookfield Properties makes no guarantees concerning future development of any remaining undeveloped sites.
Graphic by Christie Gosch.

- 8a

Business by United Properties
Credit Union of Colorado with full service, drive-up and ATM, expected to open late 2022
- 8b

Mixed-use Residential & Business by Brookfield
Rental homes, townhomes, apartments, two-acre park, two-acres of income-qualified apartments, three acres of land for income-qualified apartments, five-acre retail center
- 11

Mixed-use Residential & Business by Brookfield
Walk-up apartments, potential hotel/office, ground-floor retail
- 12

Residential by Trammel Crow
Apartments (four stories, three acres, 301 units)
- 13

Residential by Brookfield
Walk-up apartments, rental townhomes



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“Higher education should be transformational, not transactional,” says college planning counselor Jeff Ederer. Ederer and Denise Kupetz “sherpa” students and families through the complex college application process. “Planning requires parents and students have hard conversations about finances. Financial aid portals opened October 1, and the sooner the better to submit these forms.”

By Martina Will, PhD

I don’t remember applying to college, it was such a non-event in my family. My parents didn’t go to college, and I recall precisely one appointment with a guidance counselor. As deadlines loomed, I finally asked my older brother where to apply. He named four schools and without further research, I requested applications and applied to only those four, hammering out essays on a typewriter, the odor of White Out in the air.

If you recall the days of sweating over paper applications, the bell of your parents’ IBM Selectric as you reached the end of a line, and visiting a lonely guidance counselor whose office was located deep in the bowels of your high school, know that your child will have a very different experience. One click of a keyboard disseminates your student’s brilliant, insightful essays and copious list of activities to all the colleges and universities. Or at least that is the theory.

Applications and College Planning

Electronic submissions save students the stress of rushing to the post office, and The Common App streamlines applying. About 960 schools employ the Common App, some require the Coalition Application (about 150 schools), and a handful rely on the Universal Application. The names belie the fact that the applications

are neither common nor universal. Many institutions still use their own applications and others add their own essay or short answer prompts to the Common App. The University of Chicago prides itself on its unpredictable, obscure questions such as “Where’s Waldo and why does it matter?” to challenge students.

The process’s greater ease means students are also applying to more institutions, with 8-12 applications common according to Denise Kupetz, co-founder and half of the College Route Map team, a Central Park business centered on college planning. College planning services were not a concept when I submitted my applications, so Kupetz and co-founder Jeff Ederer share with me what it is they do exactly with their collective 55 years of higher education expertise. Ederer distills the mission into a single sentence: “We sherpa students and families through the process of college admissions.” Comprehensive planning includes help-

ing students create a strong best-fit college list, a well-presented activity portfolio, set deadlines and goals, and edit and provide detailed feedback on multiple essays. The pair is committed to helping identify institutions that align with a student’s academic priorities, lifestyle and learning preferences (Urban? Rural? Small liberal arts? Large state school?), and economic realities.

“It’s not just a student going to college, but it’s the family getting their students to college, and not just getting there, but helping support them so that they are a successful college student and that they graduate. It’s a far more perilous process without parental buy-in,” says Ederer.

One student who started working with College Route Map in September admitted “I feel like I would be very behind if I didn’t have them helping me. I have a deadline this Friday for a school and I wouldn’t have been prepared if I hadn’t had help.” Ederer recommends students start the process in their junior year, taking advantage of existing travel plans

“The reality is that there are about three thousand really good schools in this country. I know you might want to go to someplace because of XYZ, but if you like this place, you might also really like this place. Just to build those connections is huge for students.”

—Denise Kupetz

It’s November 2021

to tour college campuses. On a budget? Tour nearby schools like the University of Colorado Boulder and Colorado College, to experience a large state versus a small private school. Beyond the formal tours, “sit in the cafeteria with a table full of students. Students love to tell people about their college experiences,” says Ederer.

Even before writing essays and meeting deadlines, developing a curated list of colleges is fundamental. “Ask students to name schools. Most will name 30. You could name maybe the Ivy League schools, the schools that are in your state, maybe a few others. But the reality is that there are about three thousand really good schools in this country. And so most of it is just trying to help a student learn about these, you know, three thousand that they don’t even know exists,” says Kupetz. “I know you might want to go to someplace because of XYZ, but if you like this place, you might also really like *this* place. Just to build those connections is huge for students.”

“Being open-minded is important, so if a school doesn’t perfectly fit what I want, that doesn’t mean it’s not a school that I wouldn’t succeed in, or enjoy. Like Boston University...I’m willing to sacrifice the weather because it has everything else that I want,” says the senior.

Ederer and Kupetz meet weekly with each student to help them to interrogate their priorities for their college experience, whittle down a list, engage parents, review essays, and keep students on track with deadlines.

Financial Aid

The FAFSA and CSS portals opened October 1, and while most deadlines are not yet upon us, both federal aid programs (Pell Grants, student loans, work-study, etc.) and school-based aid rely on timely submission of documents. School-based aid, in particular, is time-sensitive, as it’s first-come, first-serve for scholarships and grants determined in large part by parents’ responses to the much more exhaustive (and exhausting) CSS Profile some colleges require.

Kupetz advises parents to “Be in it for the long haul. This is not a short process. It can be

Have you started your FAFSA?

A block party with a DJ along with other activities will be held on Nov. 13, 10am–3pm, with college counselors available to help you get started. The event, organized by The College Place Colorado, will be at The People’s Building, 9995 E. Colfax Ave, Aurora.

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cumbersome, and depending on the financial situation, you may have to call the financial aid office. Hopefully, they'll call you back. But there are real people that work there and they will usually help you through the process but it

is annoyingly time consuming, especially if it's not in our time zone."

For more information about College Route Map visit <https://www.collegeroute-map.com/> or call 720-422-7676.

Bill Roberts School Celebrates Award



Front Porch photo by Christie Gosh

Bill Roberts ECE-8 in Central Park celebrated being named a National Blue Ribbon School in the category "Exemplary High Performing Schools." Along with their Bobcat mascot, students, staff, and teachers gathered on the basketball courts on October 8 to form a large BR (for Bill Roberts and Blue Ribbon), have a dance party, and enjoy ice cream donated by Blue Bell Creameries.

The distinction, National Blue Ribbon School, was awarded to just 325 schools in the country, including six in Colorado and three in DPS, by the U.S. Department of Education.



Thanksgiving Eve Community Worship

November 24 | Wednesday, 7 pm

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